



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
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) 745-4124
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

January 1991

Vol. 37 No. 5

Next Deadline: January 10

January Program:

A California Transect

transect \tran(t)s-ekt\ *n*: a sample area (as of vegetation) usually in the form of a long continuous strip

Bill Brophy, a former member of MDAS, will present a slide show for our **January 3** program of a transect of California from ocean to Great Basin and the habitat in between. Bill became interested in birds and natural history while living next door to the Adamsons. After receiving degrees in economics and philosophy, he returned to school for a master's degree in biology and then a Ph. D. in botany from U. C. Davis. He worked as the Botany Curator at the Oakland Museum for three years, then joined the faculty at Chabot College. He has taught biology, botany, and marine biology at Chabot for the past sixteen years. Come join us for an interesting and most unusual program.

Birding information for January will be a presentation of slides and sounds of California birds in their various habitats.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Sheree Doucette, 3642 Granzotto, Concord, 682-6278. 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

Results from the 1990 Christmas Count, which was held on December 15, will be in the February *Quail*.

REDISCOVERED

Our members will be pleased and relieved to know that Keith Hansen has found the copy of David Gaines' *Birds of Yosemite*, which he thought had been misplaced after he had presented our November program. Apparently some kind member had tried to help him after the meeting by packing the book in one of his boxes. Keith hadn't realized the book was there until after he had reported the book missing to our chapter.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WHAT WILL 1991 BE LIKE ENVIRONMENTALLY?

First, the long-awaited County General Plan will finally be completed. Will it be totally accepted? Probably not, at least not without some "strife." What will happen to projects such as Crystyl Ranch? The Alamo Summit Project of 37 new dwellings on 150 acres? The Reliez Valley Road development that proposes to do away with acres of trees and habitat as well as eliminate half a cemetery? The literally hundreds of new dwellings in the Oakley and Brentwood area, with the resultant impacts on agricultural lands, highways, and other facilities? The (already) controversial toll road to connect Livermore and Highway 80 through east Contra Costa County, with two new bridges across the bay/estuary? All those proposed projects will probably go forward (providing we don't have economic catastrophe). Impacts on birds, wildlife, fish, wetlands, and the biodiversity of the area will be cause for concern for each project. The cumulative effects spell more disaster for ecology of the County.

There is a glimmer of light. The California Policy Seminar faced the environmental issues confronting the people and the environment, which of course also includes plants, birds, and animals. "California Has Already Lost Biodiversity" headlines their report, which includes the statement: "Unfortunately, as more and more people have sought to derive more and more wealth and other benefits from the State's biological bounty, we have contaminated the air and water, dammed and diverted the rivers, filled in the wetlands, and plowed under the native vegetation." CPS proposes to solve such problems by having a **MANDATE** to develop state policies or laws for:

1. Protection of bio-diversity through state policy.
2. Establishment of a California Habitat Protection Act.
3. Establishment of the California Biodiversity Conservation Board.
4. Establishment of a California Biodiversity Research Institute.

plus six other important protection steps. The goals of CPS are far-reaching, important and **MAY BE** doable. Keep your eye on this!

WATER, WATER, WHERE DOES IT ALL GO?

Everyone knows that we've been in a drought for four years. Everyone has some understanding of the disastrous effects that will ensue IF we don't have LOTS of rain (snow) in the next few months. Some have a glimmering of understanding that LOTS of water is being sent south to the San Joaquin Valley for farming uses and to Los Angeles and San Diego for home and other uses.

The peripheral canal, once pushed hard as a solution to the State's water problems, was defeated decisively. Articles in various publication indicate the whole issue may once again have to be fought out. Further losses of fresh water flow through San Francisco Bay could turn that important asset into a morass with reduced habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife. Impacts on humans could be considerable. Even today, fish taken from south bay are oft times loaded with toxics that can be very detrimental to humans if eaten. As part of the food chain, all sorts of "creatures" are adversely affected. The state agency that is supposed to protect the people from excess amounts of toxics, pesticides, etc., in the bay is proposing to let the polluters continue to do so for **TEN** more years. Serious objections have been filed with the State Water Resources Control Board. Be prepared, the upcoming battle will affect YOU, not just the birds, bees, trees, and fish.

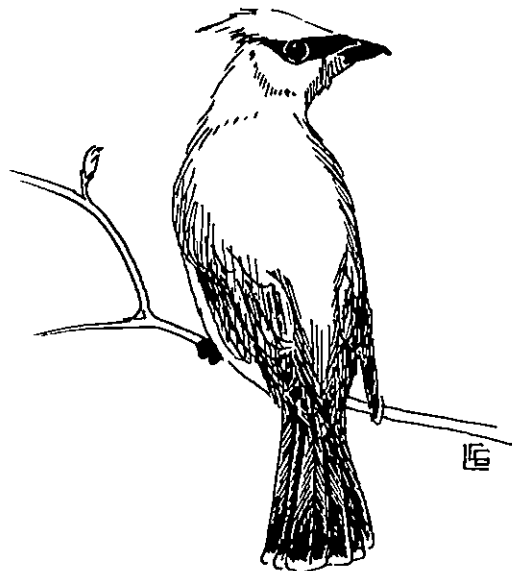
CALIFORNIA'S WILD HERITAGE

California's Wild Heritage, a recently published paperback book, gives a troublesome insight on how present practices are forming the future and what that future will be like, IF we continue to permit the elimination of habitat. Our present practices are directly affecting birds, animals of all sorts, and in the end, us humans as well. The book is worthy of a "read" by everyone interested in nature and in the future. Robert Bowerman wrote a concluding statement that is worthy of much consideration by all of us. He wrote:

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

Put a Christmas wish in the stocking hanging by the fireplace, that we as a people will become more environmentally attuned and that in 1991 we will overcome some of our profligate ways so we'll save our birds and wildlife.

Happy Christmas to all and a joyous, happy, healthy 1991.



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, January 5, **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 of the Cherry Glen exit from I-80. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. Osprey, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopepla, Hooded Merganser possible.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

Wednesday, January 9, **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. From SR24, take Grand Ave. exit, continue through stop light to T intersection with Grand, turn left. Turn right into park at Fairyland. Park in lot between boat house and the large aviary. We will see ducks and other waterbirds.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Saturday, January 19, **Sunol Regional Park**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680, in Danville. Meet 8:00 a.m. in parking lot, Sunol Park. Go south on I-80 to Calaveras Rd. Go left under I-80 and four 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 usual; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens possible.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Wednesday, January 23, **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.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980 Category 1

Thursday, January 31, **Los Gallinos**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 9:00 a.m. at entrance to John McInnis County Park. Go west to Vallejo, take SR37 west to US 101 and go south on 101 to the Lucas Valley-Smith Ranch exit. Follow Smith Ranch Rd. to its end at the park. Ducks and various water and wading birds.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE, November 1.

A pleasant, clear morning with increasing wind for 8 members and 2 guests at high tide. No Clapper Rails were seen at either Alameda South Shore or Arrowhead Marsh. The highlight was the long close look at a Cooper's Hawk perched on a yard fence adjoining the Alameda shoreline. At Alameda, there were large numbers of avocets, godwits, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plovers, and Sanderlings, 10-12 curlews, 3-4 Red Knots, and a single immature Heermann's Gull. At Arrowhead, the most interesting sight was 2 Moorhens swimming in the open water with the scaup. A total of 44 species seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, November 3.

10 members and 1 guest spent a wonderful fall day at Pt. Reyes with 65° weather, blue skies and no wind. 101 species were seen. Highlights included watching a feeding flock of Townsend's warblers, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Chestnut-backed Chickadees close enough so as to not need binoculars; excellent views of a sub-adult Golden Eagle; two sightings of a Prairie Falcon and one Merlin causing major distress among the shorebird flocks at Abbott's Lagoon. Other sightings included Canada Goose, Osprey, about 20 Snowy Plovers, an immature Lewis' Woodpecker, Winter Wren, and dozens of Red Crossbills.

Maury Stern

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, November 14.

Overcast and drizzle did not discourage 5 birders who located 43 species despite the unfavorable conditions. The best sighting was a California Thrasher which stayed in full view for about a minute at a drinking fountain. There were numerous Ring-necked Ducks and a single Redhead among the birds on the lake. Fox Sparrows were unusually abundant and easily seen scratching along the trailside.

Elizabeth Dickey

CHARLESTON SLOUGH, November 17.

Ten birders spent a beautiful, highly productive day which we dedicated to Jean Richmond who couldn't be with us. Highlights included the Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron hybrid, Blue-winged Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sora, Peregrine Falcon, Common Moorhen, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. 77 species were seen.

Steve Glover

ALTAMONT, November 28.

Six birders spent a chilly November morning wishing it were warmer and that there were as many raptors as there used to be. On the other hand, our day included 9 Ferruginous Hawks, 1 Golden Eagle, 1 Prairie Falcon, and 18 Mountain Bluebirds. The highlight of the day was a pleasant surprise: a Red-necked Grebe still retaining much of its breeding plumage at Clifton Court Forebay. Sixty-three species were seen.

Steve Glover

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.

White Pelican: 10 on 11/20 at Sunol Regional Park. (KH)
Cattle Egret: 1 on 12/11 at Lake Merritt. (FB, MJC)
White-faced Ibis: several on 12/2 at Colusa Wildlife Refuge (H&NB); several on 12/5 along Santa Fe Grade Rd. and at Merced NWR (BW).
Wood Stork: 1 on 11/20 at Sebastopol. (FB, MJC; on RBA)
Tundra Swan: 200+ on 12/2 along Woodruff Rd., Marysville. (H&NB)
"Cackling" Canada Goose: 1 on 11/20 at Royal Vista Golf Course, San Ramon. (KH)
Blue-winged Teal: 8 on 12/4 at Mtn. View Sanitary District. (KH)
Gadwall: 6 from 11/22 to 12/5 on Lake Cascade, Orinda. (H&NB)
Canvasback: 2 from 11/22 to 12/5 on Lake Cascade. (H&NB)
Redhead: 2 males on 12/11 at Lake Merritt. (FB, MJC)
Ring-necked Duck: 15+ from 11/22 to 12/5 on Lake Cascade. (H&NB)
Common Goldeneye: 1 female on 12/2 at the Dow Wetlands Preserve. (SH)
Barrow's Goldeneye: 20 pairs on 12/11 at Lake Merritt. (MJC, FB)
Bufflehead: 12-20 from 11/22 to 12/5 on Lake Cascade (H&NB); 1 on 12/2 at Dow Wetlands Preserve (SH).
Common Merganser: 1 on 11/24 at Heather Farms. (HH)
Hooded Merganser: 1 from 11/22 to 12/5 on Lake Cascade. (H&NB)
Osprey: 1 on 11/27 at Lafayette Reservoir (H&NB); 1 on 12/1 at Putah Creek (RL).
Cooper's Hawk: 1 on 12/2 at Lafayette Reservoir. (BW)
Golden Eagle: 1 on 12/1 at Sacramento NWR. (H&NB) *birds*
Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 11/13 at Doran Park, Bolinas. (H&NB)
Black Rail: 1 on 12/4 at Palo Alto Baylands. (MJC, MOb)
Virginia Rail: 1 on 11/6 at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (H&NB)
Sora: 1 on 11/6 at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (H&NB)
Sandhill Crane: 2200 on 11/27 along Woodbridge Rd. (FB, MJC); 12 on 12/2 at Butte Sink, Sutter Buttes NWR (H&NB).
Snowy Plover: 2 wintering at Alameda South Shore. (JH)
Greater Yellowlegs: 1 on 11/22 at Colusa WR. (H&NB)
Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 12/2 at Colusa WR. (H&NB)
Spotted Sandpiper: 1 from 11/6 to 12/6 at Lake Cascade (NB); 1 on 12/11 in channel at Laney College (FB, MJC).
Common Snipe: 1 on 12/2 at Dow Wetlands Preserve (SH); 1 on 12/3 at Hidden Lakes, Martinez (PR); 1 on 12/5 between Hwy. 4 and the San Joaquin River) (H&NB).
Ancient Murrelet: 3 on 11/12 in the ocean off Bodega Bay Headlands. (KH, GF) These murrelets are common this far south only every 10 years or so.

Tree Swallow: 1 at Colusa WR. (NB)
White-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 11/15 in their Orinda yard. (M&EL)
Brown Creeper: 1 on 11/7 in their Orinda yard. (M&EL)
Canyon Wren: 1 on 11/26 at Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)
Varied Thrush: 1 on 11/26 in his Walnut Creek yard (MB); 1 on 12/4 in their Orinda yard (H&NB).
Bendire's Thrasher: 1 at 333 Jahant Rd., Lodi (FB, MJC). Has been here five of the last six winters.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 10-20 in their Orinda yard (M&EL)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 on 11/15 by the Hwy. 1 bridge at the Carmel River. (JE)
Mountain Bluebird: 1 on 12/2 at W. Butte Rd. at Butte Sink. (H&NB)
Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 11/15 by the Hwy. 1 bridge at the Carmel River. (JE)
Townsend's Warbler: 5 on 11/30 in their Orinda yard. (M&EL)
Common Yellowthroat: 1 on 11/16 at Mtn. View Sanitary District. (BW)
Summer Tanager: 1 on 11/15 by the Hwy. 1 bridge at Carmel River. (JE)
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 on 12/4 at Palo Alto Baylands. (MJC, FB)
White-throated Sparrow: 1 from 11/27 through 12/6 in her Martinez yard. (DW)
Tricolored Blackbird: 1 on 11/22 at Ellis Lake Park, Concord (SF); 1 on 12/7 at Hidden Lakes Park (DW).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 25 on 11/25 at MDSP. (KH, GF)
Evening Grosbeak: 5-6 on 11/14 at Sebastopol. (MJC)

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Michael Beeve, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, Elizabeth Edgerton, George Finger, Hugh Harvey, Scott Hein, Joel Herr, Kevin Hinsa, Margaret and Emile Lacrampe, Rick Laezman, Many Observers, Pamela Ryan, Barbara Sandkuhl, Denise Wight, and Bob Wisecarver.

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

CLASSES

Norah Bain's winter field class in birding will be held on each Tuesday in March from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The class is suitable for beginning and intermediate birders. Please register at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-2445, beginning on January 8. The fee is \$37 for Orinda residents, \$39 for non-residents. For more information, please call Norah at 254-4516.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory announces a series of wildlife classes and natural history tours available to the general public throughout the coming year. The first class is Gull Identification, beginning January 16. For more information and a complete schedule, please call or write SFBBO, P. O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002, (408) 946-6548.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

"Existing/Living?"

Raptors, like other life forms, do become injured once in a while. Lots of times, this is a natural occurrence...like not seeing that branch. And many of these raptors recover. But much too often humans are involved. We have built such things as windmill farms and high tension electrical lines. Even worse, there are the cretins among us who shoot raptors for fun.

Some of these birds come to the Alexander Lindsay Museum and great pains are taken to repair and heal them. The goal is to make each bird healthy enough to survive when released. However, a wing sometimes must be amputated or won't heal straight, handicapping the bird for life. Another bird which was captured as a baby and raised on an improper diet may have rickets, causing deformed wings. Yet another may have been imprinted and not know how to catch food and fend for itself. All these birds stay for the rest of their lives in the care of the museum. For years, that meant existing in a small confined area indoors secured with a short leash to a perch. This nightmare after having flown wild and free.

Several years ago, Barbara Robinson and Diana Granados, both of whom work at the museum, decided to change all that and developed a program whereby volunteers were trained and formed into Raptor Teams. These teams come to the museum every day except Monday and work with these magnificent, proud birds to make the birds' lives, agonizing as they are, a little more interesting, stimulating, and healthy.

Six days a week now, Monday being a fast day, Red-tailed, Swainson's, Ferruginous, and Harlan's Hawks, Long-eared, Short-eared, Barn and Great Horned Owls, falcons, and Turkey Vultures are taken out of their cages and out of doors to sit tethered in the trees or on perches where they can sun themselves, be exercised, and be fed. Those birds that are able to fly are flown from person to person for food, giving them the maximum in exercise and mental benefit. Even crippled birds look forward to and are flown the short distances they are able. Birds with one wing get the opportunity to walk around the ground on long tethers, although some do not always avail themselves, preferring to sit under a tree instead. All these birds are encouraged to eat while perched on a Raptor Team member's gloved fist and are weighed before and after every meal. Each day all birds are hosed down for their baths. Many times, one or two birds will go out to a school as part of an educational program. And, of course, many people big and little come to the museum to view and to learn.

Every few months, these birds are rotated. Only about half the raptors are at the museum at one time, the rest being on "R&R" staying off the premises at various team member's

homes for a few months free of crowds and stress, having to deal with no one except the team member.

This entire program has had a great beneficial impact on the birds' physical and mental health. Their weights are normal and carefully monitored. Their feathers are full and clean. Their dispositions show interest in what's left of their lives and they seem to look forward to the activity. This certainly stimulates their lives and gives them choices.

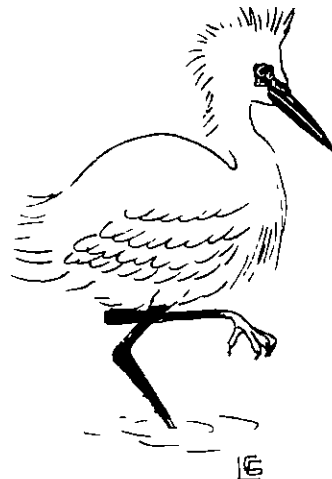
Imagine for a moment, you are going about your life and are suddenly shot by creatures you don't understand. Then you have your arm chopped off, and are confined to a box...for...ever. No reprieve. No court to decide your fate. No mother to see and give sympathy. Living? or existing?

As the team members work with these birds and as the birds tolerate us, we keep this in mind and do as much as we can to help them and maintain their dignity.

(In March, "Meet the Raptors.")

HERON AND EGRET COLONIES in CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

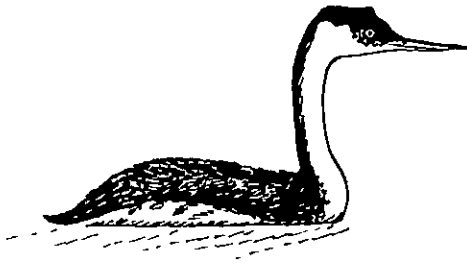
Since the announcement of the North Bay Counties Heron and Egret Project in October, some nesting sites have been located in Contra Costa County. Also the report for the 1990 breeding season in Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano Counties has been completed. If you would still like to join other birders in this project by spending two days in the May-June season, or if you'd like more information, please call or write Norah Bain at 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-4516, or John Kelly at Cypress Grove Preserve, P. O. Box 808, Marshall, CA 94940, (415) 663-8203. There will be an organizational meeting for Heron and Egret Project field observers in February. We would still like to hear about any other known breeding sites, especially on private property.



Original
sketches
by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: E. M. Alster, Pamela Baer, Ruth Barcelon, Allyson Brady, David Budde, Cynthia Campbell, Ruby Davis, Ann Douglass, Ian Dunn, Mrs. J. A. Floriotti, Linda Goad, Ronald Gruner, John Hall, Carol Harkin, Mary Heredia, Roberta A. Hussey, Mr. and Mrs. K. Kingbury, D. Larivers, Joan Lee, Bob and Diane Macdonough, Bob Maes, Mrs. J. M. Murdock, S. L. Nielsen, Mary Orr, R. Ott, Mrs. Quentin Reynolds, Mrs. John Sever, W. K. Sisson, Cynthia Stadler, George Stanley, Vernon Stricklin, Kathy Tussy, Brian Weydemuller, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilkins.



START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

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.

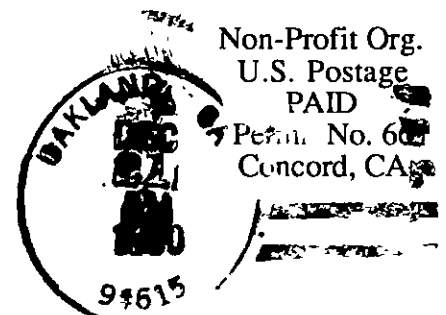
ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Diane Macario, (415) 229-0920.

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.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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TIME VALUE MAIL



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February 1991

Vol. 37 No. 6

Next Deadline: February 14

February Program:

Nature in Winter

At our February 7 meeting, Phil Gordon, noted Bay Area conservationist, naturalist, and teacher, will speak about winter ecology. The talk will highlight western winter scenery, activities, and animal adaptation. Featured will be snowshoeing in Sierra valley and recent big freeze scenes in Del Norte and Humbolt Counties.

Phil has given several excellent presentations to our chapter. He is active in Ohlone Audubon Society, serving as President and Christmas Count compiler and participating in other chapter activities. He is best known locally for his Acalanes Wednesday night bird identification class which has started many people in birding and related activities.

The time normally devoted to Bird Information in February will be given to **Sunne Wright McPeak**, Contra Costa County Supervisor for District 4. She will speak on matters of great interest and importance to Audubon members. Come and bring questions.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Shirley Ellis, 353 Westcliffe Circle, Walnut Creek, 939-9091. 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

Al McNabney will return next month with his "Conservation Notes" and Jim Lomax will conclude his three-part series on raptor rehabilitation at the Lindsey Museum. The program at the March general meeting will be given by Paul Matzner of the Natural Sounds Library at the Oakland Museum.

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FIELD TRIPS

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

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, February 2, **San Mateo Coast**. Carpool 6:30 a.m. on El Nido Ranch Rd., Orinda, just east of St. Stephens Dr. off Hwy. 24. Meet at 8:15 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.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Thursday, February 7, **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 SR 4 to Antioch Bridge (toll), go north along river to Rio Vista. Turn east on SR 12 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

Wednesday, February 13, **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 Holiday Inn. Park in parking lot. May be cold and windy. Many interesting birds turn up along this waterfront, including loons, grebes, and bay ducks.

Leader: Denise Wight, 228-2601

Category 1

Saturday-Sunday, February 16-17 (alternate in case of bad weather, February 23-24), **Honey Lake (Sage Grouse)**. Those going should call the leader for details of meeting times and places. We will bird Honey Lake NWR and other areas. Raptors and Northern Shrike are among the other possibilities. It is about a mile walk to the lek up a muddy dirt road before daylight. Bring a flashlight and lots of warm, layered clothing and hot liquids. Expect cold. Fast route (but higher pass), I-80 to Reno and US 395 north. At Johnstonville, US 395 turns east toward Litchfield and Honey Lake NWR, SR 36 goes north to Susanville and food and lodging. A slower but lower elevation route is SR 32 out of Chico to SR 36 and east to Susanville. This is also a birdier route. To reach the NWR

headquarters, turn south on Mapes Rd. from US 395 (about 3 miles east of Litchfield).

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 3

Thursday, February 28, **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 SR 37 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 SR 1; left again on SR 1 to Audubon Canyon Ranch. This round-about route should avoid most of the commute traffic. For further detail, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, December 1.

Seven observers had a clear pleasant day with a very high tide. Seven Clapper Rails were observed at close range, and a single Black Rail was seen very briefly. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was more cooperative. Over 60 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS, December 6

The dry, clear, warm! day was a great success. Nine members and guests saw 65 species, including the hoped for Spotted Sandpiper and Green-backed Heron. Overall numbers were low, probably reflecting the lack of water. The highlights of the trip were a pair of Hooded Mergansers and an immature Peregrine Falcon. We were able to put the scope on the falcon at about 75 yards and watch him for some time. He also chased an American Kestrel right over our heads. What an impressive sight!

Jimm Edgar

SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES, December 8-9.

Although the early mornings were quite cool, twenty-four members and guests enjoyed two warm and sunny days viewing the myriad of waterfowl wintering in the Butte Sink area. Ross's Geese were numerous amongst the thousands of Snow Geese, and one blue morph of the latter species was spotted flying in one of the skeins. Some 69 species were recorded for the trip total. Three Eurasian Wigeon drakes were observed and, although diving ducks are uncommon due to the shallow water, approximately fifteen Ring-necked Ducks were seen well at one point on the Sacramento Refuge. Ten people shared Saturday's birding experiences that evening over an excellent dinner in Willows. In retrospect, we were fortunate, as Monday brought much needed rain to the area.

Harry Adamson

THE RALPH HUDGINS 1990 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

The MDAS 1990 Christmas Count, dedicated to Ralph Hudgins, was held on Saturday, December 15, a day with 25° temperatures and snow at the higher elevations of Mt. Diablo. The 70 observers in 20 parties and 6 feeder watchers saw 156 species (2 short of our 158 record set last year) and 34,500 individuals (up about 1,000 from 1989). Of special note were 28 White Pelicans seen by three or four groups, only the second time in ten years this species has been seen. Four Blue-winged Teal and a Hooded Merganser seen by Florence Bennett's group in the south end of Shell Marsh were great finds. Bob Richmond's group at Mallard Reservoir had Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and first-ever Christmas Count Red-breasted Merganser and Ruff. The Ruff is a bird not even listed on the compilation form, which will tell you how rare it is this time of year. Kamran Alavi's group in Mitchell Canyon had an Orange-crowned Warbler and two male Mountain Bluebirds. They also found our only Raven, Hutton's Vireo, and Tree Swallow. Sharyn Fernandez's group, on Lime Ridge, found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, one of the few that we have recorded in the last ten years. During the count period we also saw Canyon Wren, White-throated Swift (never before missed on the count day), and a Slate-colored Junco at Jean Richmond's feeder. Thanks again to all our participants and particularly those from other chapters.

Jimm Edgar, Compiler

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

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-throated Loon: 1 on 12/31 at the Alameda Creek Quarries Regional Recreational Area, Fremont. (SG)

Redhead: 1 on 12/31 at the Alameda Creek Quarries. (SG)

Tufted Duck: 1 on 12/20 at Mallard Reservoir, Concord. (SE, TC, EB)

Hooded Merganser: 1 female on 12/13 at Shell Marsh, Martinez (FB, MJC); 6 on 12/31 at the Alameda Creek Quarries. (SG)

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 on 12/23 at Doran Beach, Bodega Bay. (SE)

Canyon Wren: 2 on 12/28 in the Sunol Regional Wilderness, Sunol. (SG)

Rock Wren: 1 on 12/29 along Northgate Rd. (KH, SF)

Phainopepla: 1 female on 12/27 at Hidden Lakes, Martinez. (DW)

Northern Waterthrush: 1 on 12/27 at Bodega Bay. (FB, MJC)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 on 12/22 along Pine Gulch Creek in Bolinas. (SG)

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 12/2 in his Lafayette backyard (MS); 1 thru 12/31 in her Martinez yard (DW).

Brambling: 1 on 12/16 in Santa Cruz. (FB; also on RBA)

Observers: Ethel Beckerman, Florence Bennett, Tom Castro, Mary Jane Culver, Shirley Ellis, Sharyn Fernandez, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Skip Johnson, Maury Stern, and Denise Wight.

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Aaron Barger, Laura Carden, Kathy Clark, Beverly A. Denny, Bill Egan, Mrs. Joseph Fox, Ken Furlow, Lisa Gandy, James R. Gillam, Karen Giorgianni, Sue Grant, Helen Grubb, Randee Isenbarger, Edwin Katibah, J. L. Lamar, Ray Manzoni, Cholly Mills, Roland Mora, Charlotte Pettey, Gerald Raftery, Anita Rama, Greg Rudolph, Karen and Dan Sandri, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Schafer, Ruth Schremp, Ona E. Shatran, James Stephens, and Linda Venturi.

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

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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(415) AUD-UBON

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

March 1991

Vol. 37 No. 7

Next Deadline: March 14

March 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 sound of cars, airplanes, and even other people are present. Our **March 7** speaker, Paul Matzner of the Natural Sounds Library at the Oakland Museum, will talk about sound recording, play examples of natural sounds, and examine the concept of quiet 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 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.

March Bird Information will be a dual presentation. John Kelly, biologist at the Audubon Canyon Ranch Cypress Grove Preserve, will speak on the "North Bay Counties Heron and Egret Project," a program monitoring heron and egret nests. Phillip Loring Green, who has exhibited at the Smithsonian and the Oakland Museum, will show his beautiful slides of herons and egrets.

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 on Thursday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jimm Edgar, 4614 Jacobus Ave., Oakland, 658-2330. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Special Note

Al McNabney, our vice-president for conservation has been selected to receive the prestigious John Muir Memorial Association Conservation Award for 1991. The award will be presented at the annual dinner of the Association on Tuesday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Auditorium in Martinez. Members of Audubon can also honor Al by attending the dinner. Advanced reservations are required. Call the John Muir Historic Site at 228-8860 for more information and for reservations.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

GEORGE MILLER TO CHAIR INTERIOR COMMITTEE
 Contra Costa County's Congressman George Miller has been named the Acting Chairman of the House Interior Committee - Interior and Insular Affairs. That's GOOD NEWS!!!!!! Miller is well known to Audubon people. His interests in wetlands, wildlife, water, and oil spills and the tragic results thereof have been tested over the past few years. Miller's legislation re San Joaquin Valley wetlands and the need for adequate, unspoiled water have been environmentally important efforts. His attention to duty and his ability to "look at the big picture" have been important assets in his service to the people of Contra Costa County, the State and the Nation. Mo Udall, the former chairman, was seen as a towering figure, based on his work with this committee. We are certain Miller's Chairmanship will carry on the Udall legacy. In the end, the people, wildlife, and the environment will be better off as a result of Miller's new responsibilities.

WETLANDS

The **NEW** Contra Costa County General Plan (the bible re land use) will, for the first time, have "some" protections for the remaining wetlands. A requirement for mitigation calls for three acres for every one used for some project or other. The **goal** set forth in the General Plan calls for NO net loss of wetlands during the term of the General Plan, i.e. 20 years. The County's Fish & Wildlife Committee proposed a VERY strong wetland policy. That proposal was later watered down by County Staff, so while the County now has a wetland use policy, it could have been much stronger. Time will tell how well the wetland protections work. Audubon folks will be watching this one closely.

McAVOY YACHT HARBOR IN THE NEWS AGAIN

BCDC will hold a hearing February 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Metrocenter, 101 8th St., Oakland, to hear and consider a proposal involving expansion of a two-basin, small boat marina (McAvoy). The proposal includes:

1. Adding about 48 open and 188 covered boat berths.
2. Improving and/or repairing existing marina facilities.
3. Changing the use of an area approved for a road to an area for trailer storage.
4. Adding dry boat storage.
5. Adding a "marine terminal" facility.
6. Adding a public access path and picnic area.

Issues in the case are somewhat complex, made more so as a result of (alleged) flagrant violations of laws, regulations, etc., having to do with usage of wetlands. The (alleged) violations resulted in BCDC acting. A \$50,000 fine was levied on June 6, 1989. That fine has not, insofar as we know, been paid.

SHELL MARSH - GOOD NEWS

A project in which MDAS has been involved for many years, i.e., ensuring that Shell Marsh does not fall to development, appears closer to final solution. Strangely enough, this good news comes about because of the disastrous oil spill almost three years ago, when thousands of gallons of oil poured from a fractured pipe in the Shell Company storage facility. The tragedy of that spill produced action on the part of many federal and state agencies and entities. Months of negotiations were finally concluded in a court settlement, with Shell agreeing to pay many millions to settle the issues. Today, the sum of about 12 million dollars is available to purchase, enhance, and upgrade wetlands in the general area where the oil spill occurred. Shell Marsh is high on the list of areas that will be looked at. The proposals have to be before the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee on or before March 1. It is virtually certain there will be a proposal to cover Shell Marsh. Audubon bird watching experts are collecting data covering current usage of the area by birdlife. That data will be compared with information developed by Audubon prior to the spill in an effort to assess the longer term results of the oil spill on bird life.

WATER, WATER: IT ISN'T EVERYWHERE, IN FACT, IT'S ALMOST NOWHERE

In this, the fifth year of drought, all sorts of governmental agencies, water regulators, water districts, wildlife experts, and political leaders are "fretting" about who will get what water there is and, further, how much of that water will be made available. The Committee for Water Policy Consensus considered the issues at a meeting February 6. They heard Roberta Gorgonovo, League of Women Voters, and Tom Fox, East Bay MUD, discussing proposed arrangements being negotiated. Cities, utility districts, etc., are asked to agree to voluntarily take certain steps to effectuate water savings. In the meantime, the State's new Governor, Pete Wilson, has called for suggestions from agencies and the public as to ways to save (conserve water). If the thoughts of one water expert are anywhere near to reality, there neither is nor will there be an acceptable solution until such time as the entire water system in the state collapses. Then it will be too late. Birdlife, as well as animals, plants, and trees, will really be in a bad way this year due to the water shortage.

ENERGY, NATIONAL POLICY, THE WAR, AND "WE, THE PEOPLE"

As this *Quail* goes to press, it appears the Administration's approach to the Nation's energy problems is to continue to do business as usual, with NO proposed energy conservation plan, but more tries to achieve off-shore drilling, and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. According to one "expert," a recent meeting in Houston produced information to the effect that natural gas supplies now known to exist would power this nation for many, many years. Additionally, the new electric light bulbs (Boy, are they hard to find in the stores!) would, if used universally, reduce our electrical energy usage to the point where we would not have to import oil.

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.

Yellow-billed Loon: 1 on 1/22 at Moss Landing. (FB, MJC)

Red-necked Grebe: 2 on 1/22 at Moss Landing. (FB, MJC)

Northern Fulmar: 1 on 1/27 at Bodega Head, Bodega Bay. (MW)

Ashy Storm-Petrel: 1 on 1/27 at Bodega Head. (MW)

American White Pelican: 12 on 1/1 at Putah Creek. (M&SB)

White-faced Ibis: 8 to 10 on 1/1 along SR 12 just east of Glasscock Rd. (FS)

Wood Duck: 1 male on 1/1 at Putah Creek (M&SB); 1 on 1/2 at MP 18 along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (GS); 1 on 1/4 at Mtn. View San. marsh ponds (GS); 1 on 1/11 at Mts. View San. marsh ponds (DB); 1 on 1/25 at Mtn. View San. marsh ponds (DB); 12 on 1/29 at Platform Bridge Rd., north of Olema (FB, MJC).

Green-winged Teal: 1500 on 1/8 and 1/22 at Moon Glow Dairy, Moss Landing. (FB, MJC)

Redhead: 1 male on 1/1 at Putah Creek. (M&SB)

Oldsquaw: 1 on 1/8 and 1/22 at Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. (FB, MJC)

Black Scoter: 10 on 1/29 at the fish docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Hooded Merganser: 10 on 1/1 (FS) and 150 on 1/15 (FB, BG), all at Putah Creek.

Common Merganser: 80 on 1/15 at Putah Creek. (FB, BG)

Tundra Swan: 400+ on 1/1 between Stockton and San Joaquin near the CCC line. (FS)

Osprey: 1 on 1/1 at Lake Solano. (FS)

Merlin: 1 on 1/23 on road into Grizzly Island and 1 on 1/31 at Nicasio Reservoir. (ED)

Sora: 1 on 1/11 at Mtn. View San. marsh ponds. (DB)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 7 on 1/29 at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, BG)

Semipalmated Plover: 1 on 1/7 at the Lake Merritt inlet at Laney College. (MB)

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 on 1/27 at Bodega Head. (MW)

Little Gull: 1 immature on 1/8 at Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. (FB, MJC)

Roadrunner: 1 on 1/5 at MP 5.75 along Mines Road. (FS)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 male on 1/3 in Nicasio. (FB, MJC, BG)

Gray Catbird: 1 on 1/8 and 1/22 at Watsonville. (FB, MJC)

White Wagtail: 1 on 1/8 at Moon Glow Dairy. (FB, MJC)

Black Phoebe: 1 albino on 1/20 at Gray Lodge. (MW)

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 1/10 along Green Ranch Rd., on Mt. Diablo. (FS)

Phainopepla: 1 on 1/1 at Lake Solano (FS); 1 on 1/28 in a mistletoe-infested tree at Oak Park Adult Center (ED).

Townsend's Warbler: 1 on 1/7 at Lake Merritt inlet at Laney College. (MB)

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 on 1/13 at Alameda South Shore. (SG)

White-throated Sparrow: 2 tan form on 1/3 at the Community Garden in Bolinas. (FB, MJC, BG)

Harris' Sparrow: 1 on 1/3 at Community Garden in Bolinas. (FB, MJC, BG)

Observers: Michael & Sonja Beeve, Florence Bennett, Dick Bogaert, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Fred Safier, and Mike Williams.

No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288

SHOREBIRD COUNT

Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Grassland Resource Conservation District are conducting a count of shorebirds in the Los Banos area on Sunday, April 21, 1991. They need people to help do the counting. This is part of PRBO's Pacific Flyway Project of censusing shorebirds from Baja to Alaska in a two-week period. Meet in the parking lot of the Los Banos Wildlife Area, on Henry Miller Ave., at 7:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. If you have questions, please call Tim Poole at (209) 826-5188 (office) or (209) 392-6766 (home). In conjunction with this count, there are plans for a dedication ceremony and luncheon on Saturday, April 20, 1991. The dedication would include the Grassland area in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. For further information on the dedication ceremony, call Tim Poole at the numbers listed above.

TRIPS AND TOURS

EXPLORE NEW MEXICO AND THE SOUTHWEST

The Randall Davey Audubon Center in New Mexico is offering both river trips and overland mini-tours in the southwest focusing on natural history and environmental issues. This spring's offerings include the Salt River in Arizona, the Rio Grande in Texas, the Rio Chama in New Mexico, Bicycling the Bosque in New Mexico, the Big Bird Bash in Silver City, New Mexico, and Exploring Southwest New Mexico. For more information, call or write the Randall Davey Audubon Center, P. O. Box 9314, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-9314, (505) 983-4609.

RAPTOR WATCH

Oceanic Society Expeditions is sponsoring a trip for Golden Gate Raptor Observatory to witness the migration of raptors from South America toward their northern breeding grounds. Raptor enthusiasts can watch these migrating raptors, as well as migrating passerines and shorebirds, in Costa Rica. The trip will last from April 14 to 28, and is limited to 15 participants. The \$2290.00 fee includes meals and accommodations as well as ground, water, and air transport within Costa Rica. Airfare to Costa Rica is not included. Call Randi Reiremo at Oceanic Society Expeditions, (415) 441-1106, for detailed information.

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, March 2, **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 left, opposite a Union station. Can be cold and windy.

Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Category 1

Thursday, March 7, **Hayward Regional Shoreline**. Carpool 7:45 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 9:15 a.m. in parking lot at end of Winton Ave. Take I-680 south to I-580. From I-580, go south on I-880 (Nimitz). Turn right on Winton Ave. This is a good area for shore birds and water birds.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 2

Saturday, March 16, **Tomales 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 State Beach (entrance fee). For more information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Category 2

Wednesday, March 27, **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: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 3

Saturday, March 30, **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.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 3

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PUTAH CREEK, January 5.

A wonderful day was had by the 18 birders. Highlights included an American Bittern, 15 species of ducks including at least 24 Hooded Mergansers, 18 Common Mergansers, 1 Wood Duck, 2 Eurasian Wigeon, 2 Redheads, and several Ring-necked Ducks, 4 Osprey, 2 Golden Eagles, a Sora, 2 Common Moorhens, 4 Rock and 2 Canyon Wrens, and 3 Phainopepla. A total of 93 species were tallied.

Florence Bennett

LAKE MERRITT, January 9.

The four members had a pleasant day. There were overcast skies with some sun. We observed 52 species, including many Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, one Ring-necked Duck, and several Redheads. The two migrant White-fronted Geese were most unusual birds of the day.

Betty Gallagher

SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, January 19.

Although Dipper have not been present in the park because of extremely low water levels, 18 birders spent a beautiful day meandering along Alameda Creek. The Bald Eagle, Snow Goose, and Wood Ducks seen during the week could not be found but we did see six Golden Eagles, two Common Snipe, and two Canyon Wrens which approached within ten feet. An extension trip to Calaveras Reservoir produced several waterbirds including over 100 Common Mergansers. 53 species were seen.

Steve Glover

GRIZZLY ISLAND GAME REFUGE, January 23.

Thirty members and guests spent a beautiful day at the Grizzly Island Refuge in 50°-60° temperatures with strong sunlight, cloudless skies and no wind. In addition to the expected birds, we saw six male Tule elk and one river otter. Highlight birds included a soaring flock of 65 American White Pelicans, an American Bittern, a Green-backed Heron, twelve duck species all in excellent light, a recently deceased Barn Owl in very good condition, three Great Horned Owls and dozens of Tree Swallows.

Maury Stern

LOS GALLINOS, January 31.

This large sewage treatment facility for San Rafael provides a wonderful habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. The fifteen members and guests were treated to 70 species during the day with excellent opportunities to study shorebirds quite close. Though no rarity or unusual species were seen during the day, we had a fun trip, good company, and plenty of variety. If you are looking for a good half day trip, consider the Los Gallinos sewage treatment plant.

Jimm Edgar

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

"Meet the Raptors"

In the December and January issues of the *Quail*, I described the Raptor Program at the Alexander Lindsay Museum and how the Raptor Teams work with the birds. Some of these birds have been here for many years. All are assigned for life. So let me introduce some of them:

Lord Richard is a Turkey Vulture who has been here since 1974. She is imprinted, large, intimidating, and originally misidentified as to sex. The mistake was discovered later when several interested suitors called on her at the Museum. She will get your attention, should you neglect her while she's perched on your wrist, by pinching with that can-opener beak, the most protruding point of your chest. Yes, ladies, I can feel you flinch. But she is a very cooperative bird and will fly from person to person for food.

Lady Hawk and Sequoia are Red-tailed Hawks who both were falconer's birds. Lady Hawk was either lost or abandoned and found starving in Marin County in 1980. Because she was a falconer's bird, she never really learned how to hunt in the wild alone. She is a very calm and regal bird, who never loses her cool and is easy to handle and care for. She is also used to foster young Red-tailed Hawks prior to their release. Sequoia is a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk who was injured by a falconer in 1988. The injury resulted in amputation of his wing.

Phantom and Phaser are Red-tailed Hawks who were wounded by gunshots. Albinistic Phantom (not truly albino, but blond) came in 1983 and had his left wing amputated. Melanistic (chocolate) Phaser came in 1976 and, despite treatment, his wing did not heal straight.

Nomad is an immature Ferruginous Hawk who came in 1990 with a broken wing and broken leg. These injuries did not heal well enough for the bird to be released. Nomad is a fast learner, however, and has already settled down to being fed on the arm and is now learning to fly from person to person.

Ophelia, Athena, and Electra are owls. Ophelia is a Great Horned Owl. She was fed dog food as a baby in 1987, which caused rickets and deformed wings. Athena is a Long-eared Owl. An injury of unknown cause forced amputation of her wing in 1988. Electra is a Short-eared Owl. A gunshot wound in 1988 resulted in amputation of her wing.

And the list goes on. The raptor teams take great care with these birds and the birds educate a lot of people both at the Museum and at schools where they travel with docents.

I sincerely encourage every one of you reading this *Quail* to join the Lindsay Museum, take the class, and handle these birds. You do not have to become a team member. You may take the class (two three-hour periods) and never go back. But I promise you this, you will come away with a different feeling about these magnificent birds. And you will be happy that you did. Imagine, a big Red-tailed Hawk on your arm, looking at you eye to eye...

PEREGRINE PROJECT

The Peregrine Project, in which our chapter has been involved over the past year, is a cooperative venture between us, the Lindsay Museum, the California Hawking Club, East Bay Parks, Mt. Diablo State Park, and Save Mt. Diablo. Last spring four Peregrine Falcon chicks were placed into foster Prairie Falcon nests on Mt. Diablo. All four fledged. The Project wants to introduce more Peregrine chicks into nests on the mountain this spring, but has run into a serious funding problem. If you would like to help continue this project, so Peregrine Falcons may someday again live and raise their young on Mt. Diablo, send your check made out to MDAS - Peregrine Project to P. O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY 1990 BIRDATHON

This year's Birdathon will be a group effort similar to the Christmas Count. Several birding teams will go out and the total number of species seen by all groups will be tabulated. Money collected from this Birdathon will be used to help the MONO LAKE DEFENSE FUND. Mono Lake is in even more danger this year as pressure from the drought is causing the Los Angeles basin area to fight harder for that water. You may pledge either a specific sum to the Birdathon or pledge a given amount per species. Return your check made out to MDAS - Birdathon or the form below to MDAS, P. O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Let's make this our best Birdathon ever!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I pledge \$ _____ per species.

I pledge \$ _____ to the Birdathon.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon at meetings and field trips: M. Angelo, Mariece Batey, Pat Bearup, Sarah R. Bottoms, Rebecca Bowen, John Broxterman, Peter Curzon, Richard Davis, B. Ebaugh, Susan Gardner, Blaine Hansen, Delia McCartie, Marvin Meier, Mrs. Nan Wallace, J. Parsonage, D. M. Roche, Katherine Rosten, Marleen Stratton, and Margy Tenenberg.

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 the donations to the chapter made by Ed Hase and Bill Chilson. Their generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

PUBLICATIONS

New from MDAS Sales: *Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific*, by Rich Stallcup, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. A guide for the sea-going naturalist. 214 pages, illustrated. \$16.75 plus \$1.20 tax = \$17.95 at meetings, \$19.50 by mail.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay, Second Edition, by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. 124 pages. \$10.00 plus \$0.72 tax = \$10.72 at meetings, \$12.00 by mail.

Roger Tory Peterson's 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 meetings, \$16.50 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America, Edition II*. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Books are available at MDAS 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) 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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The QUAIL

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

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VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Florence Bennett, 689-3106
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Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

April 1991

Vol. 37 No. 8

Next Deadline: April 11

April Program:

White-crowned Sparrows, Revisited

Luis Baptista has spoken to our group several times during the past five years and always presented lively and enteratining talks. For our **April 4** meeting, Dr. Baptista will update his time-honored and famous lecture on the White-crowned Sparrow song dialects. Listening to Luis Baptista whistle bird songs is an experience not to be forgotten and one that cannot be repeated often enough. If you were unfortunate enough to miss his first talk to our chapter, be sure to come to this new talk.

Dr. Luis Baptista earned his Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, and afterward conducted research in bioacoustics, systematics, and DNA hybridization at the Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Physiology. He is currently Chairman and Curator of both Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences.

April Bird Information will be a talk by Jimm Edgar on the upcoming Birdathon.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Sheree Doucette, 3642 Granzotto Dr., Concord, 682-6276. 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

Upcoming events:

Correction: Al McNabney's award dinner will be **Tuesday, April 9**. For reservations, send \$12.00 to Betsy Little, 1173 Raymond, Martinez, CA 94553.

The July 6 and 7 Yosemite trip has been cancelled. Watch the Field Trips column for information about an alternative trip.

Election of Board Members for the 1991-1992 term will take place at the May meeting. See page 6.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

SOSLSTC-ACTION

Isn't that a silly name? While the name may be somewhat less than enthralling, it stands for a truly important undertaking. Spelled out, it stands for Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee. Try making an acronym out of that! The disastrous oil spill of April 22, 1988, occurred when a pipe on a Shell Oil holding tank broke and oil seeped through a drainage valve that had been left open. The oil destroyed, at least for a long time, the area known as Shell Marsh. Oil seeped into the marsh and thence to both sides of the Bay. The oil killed fish, birds, all sorts of grasses, and animals. Through the effort of Shell, who spent huge sums of money on the "clean-up," the wetlands area as well as miles of Bay shoreline were cleaned up. Mike Rugg, of the California Department of Fish and Game, lent able and valuable assistance and advice. Congressman George Miller conducted a personal inspection of the area, observing first hand the terrible damage an oil spill creates on habitat, birds, and wildlife. The area has been watched closely ever since then to assess the environmental consequences of the spill. The basic clean-up didn't end the matter. Suits were filed by cities, counties, and governmental departments or agencies. The suits culminated in a settlement under the aegis of the U.S. District Court for northern California. The settlement provided substantial sums of money for cities, and also money for important environmental actions. According to a major spokesman for SOSLSTC, one important result of the settlement is that some \$11 million is now available with which to purchase, rehabilitate, and enhance wetlands in the general area impacted by the oil spill. SOSLSTC now has responsibility for reviewing proposals. The California State Coastal Conservancy and MDAS jointly submitted a proposal, that, if fully accepted, will take Shell Marsh out of the private arena for all time. The SOSLSTC members met March 13 to conduct an initial review of various proposals. Full details concerning decisions of the Committee will be released in the near future.

MILLER TRIES AGAIN

On March 6, our Congressman George Miller, along with 51 other members of Congress, initiated a comprehensive effort to restore and protect fisheries, wetlands, waterfowl, and wildlife in California. A similar bill was introduced during the 1990 Congressional session. That bill was reported favorably but because of time pressures, full consideration of that measure was not possible. The new bill, HR 1906, will be supported by a parallel Senate bill, introduced by Senator Bill Bradley. The legislation initiates a long-term program which will put permanent measures in place to protect fish and wildlife. The effort is designed to complement the ongoing efforts of state, local, and private groups. We in MDAS will be watching this one closely.

WATER QUALITY CONTROL

Don Maughan, Chairman, State Water Resources Control Board, has been advised by Stephan C. Volker, attorney for the Environmental Coalition (which includes MDAS), that the group is taking formal issue with the final Water Quality Plan. This Plan represents virtually NO improvement for the environmental condition of the estuary over the admittedly inadequate 1978 plan. Hearings now underway by the SWRCB and resultant decisions will be crucial to the fate of the Bay, wetlands, water quality, and indeed human life. To date SWRCB has shown little inclination to deal with the San Francisco Bay/Delta problems, seemingly paying more heed to other water interests. MDAS and others believe that the final Water Quality Plan is contrary to statutory and constitutional law. Water quality objectives have not been drafted and there is little to NO assurance that there will be an adequate fresh water flow through the Delta to the Bay. This can result in catastrophic destruction of the fish and wildlife which are so dependent on a healthy Delta-Bay ecosystem.

DON'T FORGET EARTH DAY - 1991

April 20, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Todos Santos Plaza, downtown Concord, that's where Contra Costa County folks can celebrate and participate in EARTH DAY!!!! If you want to help, call Susan Scott, 228-3529.

NORTHGATE - ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Contra Costa County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing March 26, 7:30 p.m., Room 107, 651 Pine St., Martinez, to consider the proposed "Specific Plan Development" of about 507 acres, bounded by North Gate Road, Walnut Creek sphere of influence to the east, Mt. Diablo State Park and Diablo Foothills Regional Park to the south, and Castle Rock Road and some individual properties to the west. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Specific Plan's Land Use Element that would limit new growth to that which is allowed under the County and City General Plans. The importance of open space adjacent to major parks is one major issue.

THINGS CHANGE, DON'T THEY

The scene: the Martinez area. The property: the so-called Praxis Property. The action arena: Board of Supervisors. The ink on the County's new General Plan is hardly dry. An interested party proposed that the Praxis Property, now outside the Urban Limit Line, be reclassified so it would be inside the Urban Limit Line of the City of Martinez. A vote was called for. Result: the supervisors voted to maintain the credibility of the General Plan, and leave the Praxis Property outside the line. A recess was called. When the Supervisors reconvened, a Supervisor who shall here be nameless moved to reconsider the just concluded action and reclassify the Praxis Property to put it inside the Urban Limit Line. A few moments later that motion was voted on and it carried. The Praxis Property is now inside the Urban Limit Line. Want more? See the READER'S FORUM, *Martinez News Gazette*, Saturday, March 9, "Supervisor's Position."

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

Wednesday, April 3, **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 8th 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 and birds.

Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509 Category 2

Wednesday, April 10, **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 13, **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., turn right onto Marsh Creek Rd. Turn right again onto Regency Dr. about 1/2 mile past the center of Clayton. Carry lunch and liquids.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 3

Thursday, 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 Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

Thursday, April 25, **Del Puerto Canyon.** Carpool at 7:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet west of I-5 at 9:00 a.m. at the Patterson Exit (59 mi. from El Cerro). The possibilities include Costa's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

Saturday, April 27, **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: Barb Burek, 229-0394 Category 1

The Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley trip will be June 22-23. Early reservations are recommended. Motels in Sierra City include Herrington's Sierra Pines, (916) 862-1151; Sierra Chalet, (916) 862-1110; Shannon's Cabins (rustic, but less expensive), (916) 862-1287.

The Yosemite trip scheduled for July 6-7 has been cancelled. Watch for information about an alternative trip.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SAN MATEO COAST, February 2.

This field trip was cancelled due to rain.

THORNTON - STOCKTON PONDS, February 7.

Fifteen members had a foggy day during which not much was seen. More Sandhill Cranes were heard through the fog than were seen, although a few were observed. The best birding of the day was at Jahant Rd. while waiting for the Bendire's Thrasher to appear. Among other things, a Harris' Sparrow and a Lincoln's Sparrow were seen there. Finally the Bendire's Thrasher put in an appearance and was then very cooperative. 76 species total were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

BERKELEY SHORELINE, February 13.

Nine members enjoyed a sunny day along Emeryville crescent, Berkeley shoreline, and Aquatic Park. The numbers of ducks were low, but we enjoyed at least thirteen Redheads and had a chance to compare Greater and Lesser Scaup close-up and under excellent lighting conditions at Aquatic Park. A total of 57 species was tallied.

Denise Wight

HONEY LAKE, February 16-17.

See Travel Corner, page 5.

FIVE-BROOKS - BOLINAS LAGOON, February 28.

Six birders spent a wet, miserable day fruitlessly searching for birds that simply were not there. The few highlights (between cloudbursts) included Wood Duck, Osprey and an American Bittern, which stood in plain view until we left. A good total was seen and several members of the group enjoyed life birds. 93 species were seen.

Steve Glover

OBSERVATIONS

by Steven Glover

Please send observations to Steven Glover,
333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.
Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Cattle Egret: 1 on 2/13 (FB, MJC) and 1 on 2/19 (JR, RR) at Lake Merritt, Oakland.

Emperor Goose: 1 on 2/26 at Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC, FB)

Brant: 100+ on 2/19 at the Hog Island area of Tomales Bay. (H&NB)

Wood Duck: 3 on 2/5 at Five Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes. (BG, MJC, FB)

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 males on 2/19 at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, Pt. Richmond. (JR, RR)

Blue-winged Teal: pair on 2/13 at Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda. (FB, MJC)

Ring-necked Duck: pair on 2/5 at Five Brooks Pond. (MJC, BG, FB)

Harlequin Duck: a pair on 2/11 (FB, BG, MJC) and a pair on 2/19 (JR, RR) at Brickyard Cove, Point Richmond. Also on RBA.

Black Scoter: 10 pair on 2/25 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, BG, MJC)

Barrow's Goldeneye: 8 pair on 2/13 at Lake Merritt. (MJC, FB)

Bald Eagle: 1 adult on 2/19 near Los Banos. (FB, BG, MJC)

Northern Harrier: 1 on 2/9 flying by her Concord home. (FB)

Ferruginous Hawk: 3 on 2/19 in Panoche Valley (FB, MJC, BG); 1 immature on 2/19 1.2 miles north of Marshall, Marin County (H&NB).

Merlin: 1 on 2/26 at Pt. Reyes. (FB, BG, MJC)

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 2/19 near Los Banos. (BG, FB, MJC)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 8 on 2/26 at Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (FB, BG, MJC)

Long-billed Curlew: 150 on 2/19 in Panoche Valley. (FB, MJC, BG)

Allen's Hummingbird: 2 on 2/11 at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline (FB, MJC, BG); 1 on 2/20 at his Lafayette home (MS).

White-throated Sparrow: 3 on 2/18 at his Lafayette home. (MS)

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 2/23 at his Lafayette home. (MS)

Tri-colored Blackbird: 3 on 2/22 with Red-wingeds at their backyard Concord feeder. (B&BG, MOB)

"Bullock's" Oriole: male arrived back on 2/19 in her Alamo garden, a month earlier than her previous early date. (JR)

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Many Observers, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, and Maury Stern.

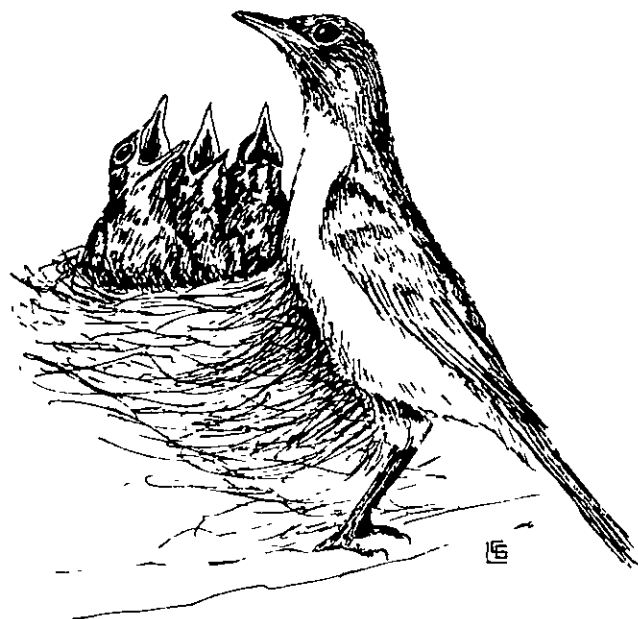
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NEW OBSERVATIONS EDITOR

From the Editor: Sharyn Fernandez is stepping down as the Observations Editor after this month's column in order to devote more time to her work with the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Center. As Editor, I want to thank her for her work on observations. Sharyn will be replaced by Steven Glover, who is an active birder and field trip leader for MDAS. He should do an excellent job of keeping track of the sightings reported to the chapter. Steve has sent the following note to those who contribute to the Observations column.

"Begining next month, I will be the Observations Editor and some of you will notice some changes. Unfortunately, some of you will not be happy with these changes but there are reasons. Birds which are seen after being reported on the Rare Bird Alert will continue to be included here because this column is many people's connection to the rare birds of the area and they can be helpful in gaining an understanding of bird distribution. The changes will be noticed for birds not seen via the RBA. The emphasis will be placed on early arrivals and late departures, on unusual concentrations, and on unusual birds in a given area, particularly in the East Bay because this is where we can and should contribute the most. Descriptions will be needed for rarities and birds which present complex identification problems. Having said this, please do not be intimidated by this shift of emphasis. After Al McNabney's column, this is my favorite part of the *Quail*, and there is no reason why it cannot be fun and meaningful at the same time. I look forward to hearing from you, especially those of you whom I haven't met."

Steve Glover



Original Sketch by Carol Lutz

TRAVEL CORNER

Honey Lake Field Trip

by Maury Stern

Seventeen members and guests toured the Susanville-Honey Lake-Janesville-Eagle Lake area of northeastern California on February 16 and 17. Sixty-five total species were seen, down from the usual 75-80 and the 86 seen two years ago. This decrease seemed to be related both to the effects of the big freeze of December, 1990, when temperatures reached 18 below zero in Susanville and to the current drought, with the Susan River at a 40 year low. Most of the Fleming unit of Honey Lake NWR was dry, but there were some remaining ponds and lakes in the Dakin unit.

Raptors highlighted Saturday with good views of Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and a close-up view of a Prairie Falcon. In addition, telescopic views of the two Great Horned Owls at the Fleming Unit were enjoyed by everyone, although no Barn Owl was found. Also, a large flock of Snow Geese was seen from afar, and many Tundra Swans and Canada Geese and one White-fronted Goose were well seen. Several Tree Swallows were at the Dakin unit, as well as seventeen Sandhill Cranes.

In Janesville, there were no Lewis' Woodpeckers, a few Acorn Woodpeckers, and one Townsend's Solitaire at the cemetery. The Janesville Grade was quiet but accessible since very little snow was on the ground. In Susanville, one Mountain Chickadee was seen at the cemetery. A few Cedar Waxwings were in Susanville, but the birds that were most abundant in town were Starlings and House Sparrows. In the outlying areas there were hundreds of Black-billed Magpies, but only one Loggerhead Shrike was seen the whole weekend.

The highlight of Sunday was the display of two male Sage Grouse with one female present in relatively mild conditions (25-30° with no wind). About a dozen Pronghorns were also seen near the lek. Along Highway 139 north of Susanville in the Juniper trees, we saw a large flock of Evening Grosbeaks and many solitary Townsend's Solitaires. We concluded the trip by circling around Eagle Lake and seeing seven immature Bald Eagles standing in individual territories on the ice at the north end. One young adult Bald Eagle was at Gallatin Beach on the ice at the south side of the lake, but no Osprey were seen. An interesting sight at Gallatin Beach was hundreds of Eagle Lake and Rainbow Trout from 1-2 feet long in the warmer shallows of the lake. At the burn area, one Steller's Jay was seen and many Golden-crowned Kinglets were heard.

Overall, the small land birds seem to be way down in the area but raptors were present in profusion along with swans and geese.

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

The following classes are offered, with the option of college credit from SFSU, at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus:

June 3-7, Bird Identification by Sound, with Luis Baptista
 June 8-15, Bird Song Recording & Analysis, with G. Budney
 June 17-21, Birds of the Sierra Nevada, with Dave Shuford
 Aug. 16-18, Sierran Bird Banding, with Dave DeSante

For more information, write Jim Steele, Sierra Nevada Field Campus, School of Science, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132.

LINDSEY MUSEUM

The Lindsey Museum headlines their spring schedule with a special program on "Tales of the Animal People of North America" by guest storyteller Susan Strauss at the Regional Center for the Arts, on Saturday, May 4, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Hear legendary tales that remind young and old alike of the special wisdom and joy to be learned from the world of our wild relatives. Tickets are \$8 for Museum members, \$10 for non-members, and may be purchased by calling 943-SHOW. Information on other classes and excursions is available by writing or calling the Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 935-1978.

GOLDEN GATE RAPTOR OBSERVATORY

The GGRO is currently seeking new volunteers to commit one day every two weeks from August through December 1991 and to some evening and weekend trainings, to study and enjoy the fall flight of 19 species of birds of prey over the Marin Headlands during the fall migration. If you want to finally learn to identify the hawks, falcons, and eagles of California, and if you want to be part of a long-term wildlife conservation project, then please attend a GGRO Orientation Meeting on either Thursday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m., or Saturday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. Both meetings will be at GGNRA Headquarters, Building 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. Enter at Franklin and Bay. For more information, call GGRO Director Allen Fish at (415) 331-0730.

AUDUBON GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Three one-week Golden Trout workshops will be held in the Sierra from August 4 through August 24. They are sponsored by members of the Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Fernando Valley, and Santa Barbara chapters of National Audubon Society. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting guest naturalists at some sessions. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 ft. For more information, write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897.

MDAS ELECTIONS

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: Brian Elder
 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.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

The 1991 Audubon National Convention will be held between July 21 and 27 at Estes Park, Colorado. There will be field trips and tours to explore the natural history of the Rockies as well as sessions on Audubon's international role in protecting forests, wetlands, and wildlife. Ted Turner will be the keynote speaker. For more information, call or write before June 1 to Audubon Convention Office, 4140 Darly Avenue, Suite #5, Boulder, Colorado 80303, (303) 499-3622.

"LINE 50"

Today, in California, there are 281 plants and animal species officially listed as "rare," "threatened," or "endangered," and hundreds more are candidates for listing. The myriad pressures of modern-day California are pushing more and more of our native plant and animal species to the brink of extinction. Tragically, if something isn't done soon to ease the destructive pressures, many species will disappear forever. "Line 50" on the California State Tax Form gives us a chance to help turn things around for California's endangered plants and animals. Every taxpayer who fills in "Line 50" is contributing to a unique statewide program that provides help to troubled wildlife species. Please help. Fill in "Line 50" with any amount over \$1.00. The contributions to "Line 50" benefit literally thousands of California's wildlife species by giving them a chance to survive.

JOHN MUIR HISTORIC SITE

The Martinez Regional Land Trust is pleased to announce that negotiations have successfully been concluded for the 175 acre Strain property, a key parcel in the expansion of the John Muir National Historic Site. The Strain property was part of a ranch once owned by John Muir. Muir lived on the ranch for 34 years, until his death in 1914. The scenic and historic oak-covered property encompasses Mount Wanda, a favorite hill Muir named after his eldest daughter. This property now will become part of the 325 acre national historic site. Successful conclusion of negotiations is due in part to a \$75,000 pledge given by the Land Trust, as part of a unique cooperation among federal agencies, the East Bay Regional Park District, and citizens of Martinez. The Martinez Regional Land Trust, a nonprofit corporation, will need support from many sources to honor its pledge. Those who would like to honor John Muir and to make a contribution can send a check payable to The Martinez Regional Land Trust, P. O. Box 2452, Martinez, CA 94553. Please specify the contribution is for the John Muir National Historic Site pledge.

KERN RIVER RESEARCH CENTER

Establishment of the Kern River Research Center is currently underway at Weldon, California, in the South Fork Kern River Valley. One of the goals of the center is to conduct research which will provide wildlife and land management agencies and organizations with scientific information to enable them to preserve and enhance populations of rare and threatened species. Research currently underway at the center includes a long-term study of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations on the Kern and Sacramento Rivers, a long-term study monitoring changes in habitat structure and the resulting changes of breeding bird populations on riparian habitat restoration sites, a study exploring the effects of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism on Willow Flycatchers, and preliminary research on life history and habitat use of Summer Tanagers. The center also plans to provide visiting researchers with housing, library, computer, and laboratory facilities, and provide volunteer and educational opportunities for members and other interested individuals. Kern River Research Center is soliciting memberships, donations, and volunteers to get this fledgling organization off the ground and to help with the research program. Your help is greatly needed. Please write to Research Director, Dr. Stephen Laymon, or to Co-Founder, Bob Barnes, at P. O. Box 990, Weldon, CA 93283, or call (619) 378-3345 or (209) 784-4477 for information on how you can become involved.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

This month is our MDAS Birdathon month and we are going to do our actual bird species count on May 4. The Board of Directors has decided that half of the funds raised will go to the MONO LAKE DEFENSE FUND to help in the legal battle to preserve Mono Lake. The other half of the funds will be used by MDAS for our own projects. We will be sending several birding teams out this year and will collectively tabulate the total number of species found. We are seeking pledges per species or outright donations, whichever is easier. I encourage all members to participate in this and help. If every member who is now reading this line would send just one dollar, we would raise more money this year than last! One dollar. To help wildlife and its habitat through a small financial stipend to your chapter. ONE DOLLAR.

The Peregrine Project is off to a start (soaked from the rain) and our volunteers are out now on Mt. Diablo watching the Prairie Falcon nest sites. By the second week of May, we hope to have placed four Peregrine chicks into the aeries. This will be the last year for a while that this project carried out. The organizations involved, of which we are one, will then study the impact and see whether these birds will return. For next year, we tentatively are looking at "habitat enhancement" projects to reintroduce Tule Elk, Red-legged Frogs, Berkeley Kangaroo Rats, Burrowing Owls, Tiger Salamanders, or other species into their natural habitats, and, for those of you who would like to be involved, we need volunteers. Speaking of Burrowing Owls, there is a proposed project this year to study Burrowing Owls in Contra Costa County. This project would involve watching their nest sites from the first week in May through mid-June. You would watch and record courting, nesting, number of young, and so on. Call me at 825-1513 if you are interested. I will have more details later.

And if that isn't enough, I am looking into MDAS creating a Bird Atlas for Contra Costa County. This has been done by several Audubon chapters around the country, including Napa-Solano Audubon, and I am seeking expert advice from Robin Leong from that chapter. This idea was proposed to me by our own George Finger, and I think it has merit. We would be involved for five years and be documenting all the species of birds in our county that nest here. This is a big project and lots of you that like to walk in the wild will be needed. We will do it by grids and only during each nesting season. We will start in the spring of 1992. It will take from now to then to get set up with computer programs, etc.

So there are enough things to get all 1600+ members of you involved in something. See you April 4.....Now if everyone donated just two dollars.....just two.

TURKEY VULTURE COUNT

Lois E. Culp, a biology student at California State University, Hayward, is attempting to map out all of the Turkey Vulture roosts in the Greater Bay Area. She will also be counting the number of vultures at each roost. If you have any information on Turkey Vulture roosts in Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, or Solano Counties, please let her know. Her address is 18630 Stanton Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546, and her telephone is 538-1762.

PEREGRINE PROJECT

The Peregrine Project, in which our chapter has been involved over the past year, is a cooperative venture between us, the Lindsay Museum, the California Hawking Club, East Bay Parks, Mt. Diablo State Park, and Save Mt. Diablo. Last spring four Peregrine Falcon chicks were placed into foster Prairie Falcon nests on Mt. Diablo. All four fledged. The Project wants to introduce more Peregrine chicks into nests on the mountain this spring, but has run into a serious funding problem. If you would like to help continue this project, so Peregrine Falcons may someday again live and raise their young on Mt. Diablo, send your check made out to MDAS - Peregrine Project to P. O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY 1990 BIRDATHON

This year's Birdathon will be a group effort similar to the Christmas Count. Several birding teams will go out and the total number of species seen by all groups will be tabulated. Money collected from this Birdathon will be used to help the MONO LAKE DEFENSE FUND. Mono Lake is in even more danger this year as pressure from the drought is causing the Los Angeles basin area to fight harder for that water. You may pledge either a specific sum to the Birdathon or pledge a given amount per species. Return your check made out to MDAS - Birdathon or the form below to MDAS, P. O. Box 31435, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Let's make this our best Birdathon ever!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I pledge \$_____ per species.

I pledge \$_____ to the Birdathon.

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new members and hope to meet them soon: Margaret Anderson, P. W. Ashcraft, Shirley A. Belanger, Roland B. Bell, M. D. Bhandarkar, Suzy Bradison, Mary Ann Breen, Richard Buxton, Robert Callahan, Patricia Camblin, Kate Campbell, Charlene Carline, Gregg Chorbajian, Ruth Clark, Velma Clouse, Emily Collison, Mr. and Mrs. John Como, Leola Cooper, Chris Cotterall, Eva Crose, A. B. Czajkowski, Tim Daniel, Ruth Dickerson, J. P. Donovan, Amy Erez, Doris Faulkenberry, John Feeney, Melissa Fields, Carol Foster, Kathy Galles, Helen Goldstein, James Grinstead, Thomas Guild, Mir Hajmiragha, August Helmholz, Pat Hoffer, Dennis Horgan, Arell Kuehl, Kathryn Leland, J. F. Lellos, Robert Macomber, Marian Mason, E. W. Matrejek, Debbie McCarthy, Bruce McManus, Carrie Morford, Ron and Donna Neupauer, T. Nock, R. Odonnell, Jane Parker, Michael Perkins, David Poust, D. Priestley, R. M. Reed, Susan Riley, Claudia Rismiller, Ted Robertson, William Schaefer, Susan Schwartz, John Southward, Tina Steward, Barbara Strehlitz, Elizabeth Sullivan, Ruth Sutter, D. L. Tranter, Mrs. L. Troxell, Cathy and John Turney, Craig Watson, Michael Weideman, Mrs. R. L. White, Esther Zimmerman.

PUBLICATIONS

New from MDAS Sales: *Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific*, by Rich Stallcup, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. A guide for the sea-going naturalist. 214 pages, illustrated. \$16.75 plus \$1.20 tax = \$17.95 at meetings, \$19.50 by mail.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay, Second Edition, by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. 124 pages. \$10.00 plus \$0.72 tax = \$10.72 at meetings, \$12.00 by mail.

Roger Tory Peterson's 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 meetings, \$16.50 by mail.

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to Birds of North America, Edition II*. 464 pages. \$14.92 plus \$1.08 tax = \$16.00 at meetings, \$17.50 by mail.

Books are available at MDAS 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.

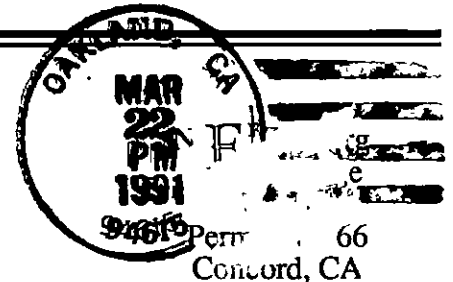
ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Diane Macario, (415) 674-0920.

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

9202 M FC AUD
RICH & JEAN RICHMOND
125 VIA SERENA
ALAMO CA 94507



Concord, CA

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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

Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134

Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631

Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134

Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

May 1991

Vol. 37 No. 9

Next Deadline: May 2

May Program:

Bay Area Butterflies

In association with the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, our **May 2** meeting will feature a slide show and talk on Bay Area butterfly identification and biodiversity. Entomology professor John Hafernik of San Francisco State University will be the guest speaker. Dr. Hafernik's talk will be of interest to all who hike Mt. Diablo. This will be a great time to learn about some of the butterflies you can see at the end of a morning's bird walk!

Locally, you and your children may have seen Dr. Hafernik's colorful photographs in the San Francisco Children's Insect Zoo. As well as teaching in San Francisco, Dr. Hafernik instructs summer courses at the San Francisco field station at Yuba Pass in the Sierras in both Insect Photography and Entomology.

Dr. Hafernik will also lead a butterfly walk on Mt. Diablo on Saturday, May 11. Come hear about the Xerces Society and its "Fourth of July" Butterfly Count on Mt. Diablo.

May Bird Information will be "More Birds of Texas and Arizona," given by our president, Jim Lomax. Featured will be Jim's latest slides of such rarities as the Five-striped Sparrow, the Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, and the Buff-breasted Flycatcher.

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 on Thursday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Winnie and Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, (707) 745-4134. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Apology: Dr. Luis Baptista, who was scheduled to speak at our April 4 meeting, was suddenly taken ill that evening and was unable to join us. He sends his profuse apologies and promises to join us next fall with his program.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

IT'S YOUR TURN

Wetlands are precious places sought out by all sorts of birds AND unfortunately others who don't see or don't care about the true value of such important habitat.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO HELP!!!!

A well-financed coalition of industry groups, including the Farm Bureau, the oil and chemical industry, timber industry, home builders, and the road construction lobby, have been hammering the Congress, the governors, and the White House for several months, claiming that Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which protects wetlands, is causing all kinds of problems for farmers and developers. HR 1330, recently introduced in the House of Representatives, would destroy wetlands protection as we know it. This, despite the "cute" title of the bill, "Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991." A similar bill is to be introduced in the Senate soon. As used to be said in one of the famous old TV series, YOUR JOB IS TO WRITE NOW TO:

Honorable Alan Cranston
US Senator, California
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable John Seymour
US Senator, California
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable George Miller
US Congressman, 7th District, California
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Urge these representatives to work to defeat HR 1330 and any like bill introduced in the US Senate. Furthermore, George "No Net Loss" (of wetlands) Bush is about to redefine wetlands more narrowly so that fewer controversial wetland acres can be protected. If seasonal and emergent wetlands are excluded from the wetlands definition, as is not the case now, the entire NO NET LOSS policy will become a cruel joke. Based on reliable information, we are advised tens of millions of acres of such important habitat could be affected. DON'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT WEEK TO WRITE OR CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE. DO IT NOW!!!! DO IT TODAY! Once YOU have acted, tell your friends, ask them to call or write to THEIR elected representatives on this CRITICAL ISSUE. If all this doesn't bother you very much, informed sources advise we are losing 100,000 to 400,000 acres a year of wetlands throughout USA even with our present system of protections. The US

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared the month of May as "National Wetlands Month." Let's be sure our representatives in Congress know that.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

There are many species of plants and animals that are threatened, endangered, or of special concern. Contra Costa County has the dubious honor of having the following species listed:

California Tiger Salamander
Double-crested Cormorant
Black-shouldered Kite
Northern Harrier
California Black Rail
California Clapper Rail
California Least Tern
Burrowing Owl
Short-eared Owl
Suisun Song Sparrow
Saltmarsh Wandering Shrew
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse
Berkeley Kangaroo Rat
Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse
San Pablo Vole
Alameda Whipsnake
Giant Garter Snake
San Joaquin Dune Beetle
Holestan Blister Beetle
Langes Metalmark Butterfly
Bay Checkerspot Butterfly
Monarch Butterfly
Durants Snail
HELMINTHOGLYPTA NICKLINIANA BRIDGESI
(NO common name, hmmm???)

The list of endangered, threatened species will continue to grow unless all of us express more concern to decision makers about open space, habitat, parks, and wildlife.

WATER

Several hundred decision makers, environmental people and the press gathered in Concord between April 11 and April 13 to hear, discuss, argue, and debate water issues as they apply to the state of California. A big hit was the Phil and Bill Show (Honorable Phil Isenberg and Honorable Bill Baker). They joked, discussed, argued, and debated water and wetland issues. The Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife, chaired by the Honorable Dominic Cortese, heard points of view about "The Impacts of the Drought on Water Decisions in the 90's." A high-powered group debated the question: "The Peripheral Canal: Can or Should It Be Built?" The keynote speaker, Doug Wheeler, was recently named by Governor Wilson to head the California Resources Agency. His views on water for wildlife sounded good. On Saturday, the entire group toured the estuary, finally docking at Vallejo. This was an important session with really too little input from environmental people.

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

Wednesday, May 1, **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, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, May 4, **Mitchell Canyon.** Meet 9:00 a.m. in Mitchell Canyon parking lot. There is a \$5.00 parking fee. From I-680 in Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Clayton Rd. Turn right on Clayton and right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. to the end. This trip takes most of the morning with emphasis on wild flowers. Birders can continue in afternoon to look for gnatcatchers, summer sparrows, etc. Hot! Carry liquids and lunch if birding later. Co-leaders: Gen Sattler, 685-5315
 Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509 Category 3

Wednesday, May 8, **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. \$5.00 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 2

Thursday, May 16, **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. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Thursday, 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. \$5.00 fee. This has been a consistently good spot for Swainson's Hawks and riparian species. Mosquitos, possibly poison oak. San Joaquin Valley weather. Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Saturday, May 25, **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: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 2

The Yosemite trip on July 6 and 7 will be replaced by a trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Camping is available, but birders are responsible for their own reservations.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BODEGA BAY, March 2.

The Bodega Bay field trip was cancelled on account of rain.

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 7.

Ten birders spent a crisp winter morning viewing a very nice assortment of birds. Highlights at Hayward included a Golden Eagle and a Eurasian Wigeon. The extension trip to Arrowhead Marsh yielded two pairs of Blue-winged Teal, a lonely, early Barn Swallow and close views of dozens of Red Knots. A total of 83 species was seen.

Steve Glover

TOMALES BAY STATE PARK, March 16.

A cloudy day with cold wind kept many small birds quiet, but ten observers did locate 62 species. Several brilliant Allen's Hummingbird males were out. Orange-crowned Warblers were singing, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was found in a flock of chickadees. The Emperor Goose was gone from Johnson's Oyster Farm but we did see the Barrow's Goldeneye.

Elizabeth Dickey

BRIONES RESERVIOR, March 27.

Six birders spent a day which will be remembered for the mud long after the birds we saw are forgotten. Our modest highlights included an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage, Ring-necked Duck, and lots of Orange-crowned Warblers. 52 species were seen and most everyone enjoyed life birds.

Steve Glover

GARIN REGIONAL PARK, March 30.

A meager but enthusiastic group of five birders spent an absolutely beautiful spring day searching for early spring migrants. Although the Pileated Woodpecker reported the previous day could not be found, highlights included early Warbling Vireo, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Wilson's Warbler, as well as a California Thrasher and a singing Sora. 53 species were seen but this area has much more potential than this number would indicate, as 80 birds were seen during the week.

Steve Glover

OBSERVATIONS

by Steven Glover

Please send observations to Steven Glover,

333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Laysan Albatross: 1 seen by many observers at Whiskeytown Reservoir, Shasta Co., through 3/23. Found dead 3/24. (JR, GF, KH, FB, BG, MJC, MOB; also on RBA)

Northern Fulmar: 1 dark phase on 3/23 at Hayward Shoreline. (BR)

White Pelican: 24 on 4/2 over Shell Marsh. (SE, LM)

Pelagic Cormorant: 1 on 3/2 at Emeryville Marina. (SG)

Cattle Egret: 1 present at Lake Merritt through 3/23. (SG, JR, FB, MOB; also on RBA)

Blue-winged Teal: 1 male on 4/2 at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont. (JR, RR, RD)

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 males on 3/18 at Delevan NWR, Colusa Co. (GF, KH)

Tufted Duck: 1 on 3/9 at Sutro Baths, SF (GF); 1 on 3/17 and 3/18 at Lake Merritt (GF, SG); 1 on 3/22 in Glen Cove in Vallejo (JR, RR). All on RBA.

Harlequin Duck: pair from early February through 3/23 at Brickyard Cove, Pt. Richmond. (JR, PeG, B&AL, K&PG, MOB; also on RBA)

Oldsquaw: 1 male on 3/22 in Glen Cove, Vallejo. (JR, RR; also on RBA)

Black Scoter: 1 female on 3/19 off San Mateo Bridge. (JR)

Hooded Merganser: 2 on 3/6 just south of Half Moon Bay. (GF, MP)

Osprey: 1 on 3/2 at Alameda Creed Quarries, Fremont. (SG)

Bald Eagle: 1 adult on 3/19 at the south end of Crystal Springs, San Mateo Co. (JR, RR); 1 adult on 3/19 and 3/23 at Whiskeytown Reservoir. (FB, MJC, BG, EL, JR, PeG, K&PG; also on RBA).

Swainson's Hawk: 1 dark phase on 3/31 at Durham Ferry State Recreation Area. (GF)

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 3/12 on Rio-Dixon Rd., Solano Co. (JR)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 3/20 at Lake Merritt (RL, SG); 1 on 3/29 at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (DC, FB).

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 3/6 over her Alamo home. (JR)

Blue Grouse: 1 on 3/28 on Kingridge Rd., Sonoma Co. (GF, MP, PeG)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 1 on 3/12 along Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co. (JR, RR); 8 on 3/29 at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes (FB, DC). Both also on RBA.

Mountain Plover: 30-50 found 3/11 on Creed Rd., Solano Co. (GF, KH); 300 on 3/20 on Flannery Rd., Solano Co. (FB, EL; also on RBA).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 4/2 near the entrance to SF Bay NWR. (JR)

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 3/19 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (JR; also on RBA)

Franklin's Gull: 1 first winter bird on 3/11 at Stockton Sewer Ponds. (GF, KH)

Glaucous Gull: 1 first winter bird on 3/12 at Stockton Sewer Ponds. (SG, RL)

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 male on 3/8, 9, and 26 in her Alamo yard (JR); 1 male from 3/5 through present in their Lafayette yard (G&MJM).

Red-naped Sapsucker: 1 on 3/6 along Gazos Creek Rd., San Mateo Co. (GF, MP; also on RBA)

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 male on 3/29 at Garin Regional Park. (BR)

Cassin's Kingbird: 1 on 4/6 along Mines Rd. (SG, RL)

Pygmy Nuthatch: pair on 4/2 nesting at Redwood Regional Park. This the second Contra Costa nesting record. (BR, GF, KH, MP)

Northern Shrike: 1 adult on 3/18 at Delevan NWR. (GF, KH)

Summer Tanager: 1 immature male at a feeder on Ivanhoe Rd., in Oakland. (JR)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 3/19 at a feeder in the Half Moon Bay Golf Course. (JR, RR; also on RBA)

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 3/8 in her Alamo garden (JR); 1 on 3/22 at Tilden Regional Park (SG, RL).

Hooded Oriole: 1 male returned to her Alamo yard on 3/20 (JR); 1 male on 4/2 in his Walnut Creek yard (KH, GF); 1 male on 4/3 in his Lafayette yard (G&MJM).

Observers: Florence Bennett, Deanna Cox, Mary Jane Culver, Ruth Derment, Shirley Ellis, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Keith and Phyllis Gish, Steve Glover, Peggy Gross, Kevin Hints, Bob and Ann Landfear, Ron Lindeman, Jeff and Debbie McCarthy, Linda McElheran, George and Molly Jane Monheit, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, and Donna and Gene Schluter.

No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

LIFE ALONG THE ROCKY CALIFORNIA COAST

Fascinating animals of the tidal zone will be the focus of a slide presentation given by Professor Gary Brusca on Thursday, May 16, at the Bay Shore Studies Open House. Discover the clone wars among anemones, see the neon-colored nudibranch, and meet shy, secretive octopuses. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, 388-2524.

GREENBELT OUTINGS

The Greenbelt Alliance is sponsoring a series of hikes and bike rides in the Bay Area's Greenbelt of open lands, through the end of June. For more information or to register, call or write the Greenbelt Alliance, 116 New Montgomery, Suite 640, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 543-4291.

TRAVEL CORNER

Birding in Chile

by Hugh Harvey

Rosita and I had the opportunity in December and January to see birds in Chile. While the major purpose of our trip was to visit Rosita's family near Parral, we were ready to find and identify as many birds as we could. Part of our preparation included purchasing some books from the Los Angeles Audubon Society bookstore.

The most important book for us was *Guía de Campo de Las Aves de Chile* by Araya and Millie. Although Spanish is Rosita's native language, translating the descriptions and matching them to the black-and-white drawings was initially tedious. After becoming more familiar with the geography of Chile, however, even I was able to interpret the bird and range descriptions with ease.

Two other books we had were *The Birds of South America, Vol. I* by Ridgely, and *South American Birds* by Dunning. The first is an excellent book which covers only the oscine passerines. I read large amounts of this book, even though it had limited application for Chile. The second book is a photographic guide comprising 1400 small photographs along with very brief descriptions of the approximately 2700 species in South America. This book was the least useful to us, as birds we saw seemed invariably to be in the half not portrayed in the book.

Chile is a country which is about 2500 miles long and at the most 100 miles wide. The northern part of the country is mostly 1250 miles of the dry Atacama desert. From Santiago south for about 700 miles, Chile is very similar to California. The southern 800 or so miles comprises the Magallanes, a chain of islands continuing to Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America.

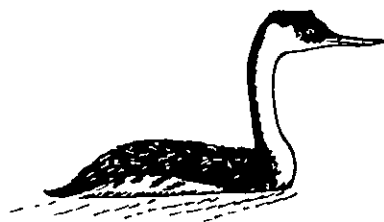
Rosita and I visited Santiago, Viña del Mar on the coast, and then stayed at the family farm near Parral, 200 miles south of the capital. Mornings on the farm often found us taking one of the family dogs for a walk. "Fuutzach" would occasionally flush a California Quail, a "Perdiz" or Chilean Tinamou, and sometimes a rabbit. Not only did the area resemble the foothills of our own Sierra Nevadas, we were surprised to find that the birds were almost a match. We saw House Wrens, Chilean Mockingbirds, Chilean Flickers, Austral Thrushes, and Austral Blackbirds. Other birds seen included Band-tailed Sierra-finches, Grassland Yellow-finches, Diucas, Fire-eyed Diucons, numerous doves, and the Long-tailed Meadowlark with its scarlet breast.

After New Year's, we traveled south to visit Rosita's sister as well as to see more of the country. We saw Crested Caracaras, Black-necked Swans, Correndera Pipits, the Spectacled Tyrant, Buff-necked Ibis, and the Great Grebe. A side trip to see the Chilean Flamingos on the first island of Chiloe proved futile when we discovered they had migrated to Tierra del Fuego for the summer. Still, we did see other aquatic birds including Brown-hooded Gulls, Ruddy Turnstones, Hudsonian Godwits, Whimbrels, Two-banded Plovers, and American Oystercatcher.

Our return to the mainland by ferry was made more exciting by the dolphins who put on a good show for us. Rosita spotted some penguins in the strait which turned out to be Humboldt Penguins. I also noticed another couple on the ferry paging frantically through the Spanish-language bird guide. When we returned to our cars, I asked the woman if she had seen the penguins. "Oh, yes," she replied, not the least bit surprised to be questioned in English so far away from home.

Because Chile is isolated from the rest of South America by the Andes Mountains, only 439 bird species have been recorded there. Some 45 of these have been single records, and another 70 are primarily marine birds. Many of the remaining 300-plus species are found only in the far north or the extreme south. While at first glance the 72 species we saw seems small, it does represent a good cross-section of the available species. Twenty of the species we saw can also be seen in North America, such as Turkey Vulture, House Sparrow, Black-shouldered Kite, Pied-billed Grebe, and Snowy Egret. Still, of the 55 new species we saw, some of our favorites were Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Plumbeous Aril, White-throated Tree Runner, Rufous-backed Negrito, Tufted Tit-tyrant, Spot-flanked Gallinule, Yellow-winged Blackbird, Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, as well as the everywhere present "Queltehue" or Southern Lapwing.

Travel to Chile is not difficult, if one does not mind more than 24 hours of planes and airports. We flew via Los Angeles and Miami to Asunción, Paraguay, and finally to Santiago, Chile. With a little patience, almost everywhere in Chile is accessible by bus. When we traveled to the south, we rented a small car for nine days from the Chilean Automobile Association. A 10% discount is available for CSAA members. While we stayed primarily with family during our trip, some sort of lodging was available everywhere we went. Keep in mind that Chile is a largely rural country with only one 1500 mile-long north-south highway connecting the major cities. Most of the remaining roads are good unpaved surfaces. Traveling through the countryside and seeing the life of the campesinos is to learn "Que lindo es Chile," how nice is Chile.



Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we greet these new members and hope to meet them soon: Susan A. Anderson, Barbra Anema, Linda Avila, Stewart Bennetts, Sheila A. Beranek, Betty Lou Botham, M. E. Boyd, Jim Boyer, Joanne Cavazos, Mrs. Donald R. Colvin, D. Creswell, Lucille Cuzzillo, Dorothy Daniels, Laurella Desborough, Linda Downing, Peter Duda, Jinny Fahey, Jennifer Faltings, James and Denise Flores, G. W. Fullick, Frank Gale, Robert Gay, Brian Ginnever, W. Goldner, Sharon Grace, Gary D. Gray, John R. Harris, Mrs. John Harrison, Dawn M. Heim, R. M. Heing, E. A. Hines, Nancy Howard, Sondra Humpheries, Martha Keen, W. Ladoni, Michael Landers, Marie Lowell, Suzanne Lutz, Michael Lynch, David Malley, Mary Ann Marinak, Dean McWilliams, Glen Mellinger, Carolyn Nelson, Cindy O'Donnell, Jackie O'Dwyer, Patrick O'Leary, Donald Ome, Peggy O'Neill, Sarah Powell, Katherine Prewitt, Ebba S. Ridge, Brad Riordan, Dorothy Smith, Susan Stanton, Walter Staton, T. G. Steinmetz, Frances Sticha, Joanne Thorne, G. Tibbett, George and Marilyn Trabert, Susanne Vierra, Huey Wade, Douglas R. Waterman, Paul Wentz, Kimberly White, and H. F. Wulfekamp.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Diane Macario has resigned after three years as chair of the membership committee. Her energy and dedication have been greatly appreciated by the MDAS board and members. Mike Williams is taking over and we welcome him to the board and to this important position.

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. Such gifts, donations, and bequests are welcomed as significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation.

MDAS wishes to express appreciation for the donation to the chapter made by Jeannie Kalivoda of Culver City, California, in memory of her dear mother, Isagell Holmgren Kalivoda, a long-time bird lover. Her generosity is 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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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 Mike Williams, (415) 376-1631.

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

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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) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

June 1991

Vol. 37 No. 10

Next Deadline: June 13

June Program:

End of the Year Potluck

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on Thursday, **June 6**, 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 Doors open
7:00 Dinner

The program will be provided by the members. Your president Jim Lomax, who has shared so many of his wonderful bird pictures with you during the year will not be bringing any slides. All the rest of you who take those occasional pictures are urged to bring them to the potluck.

Also, if you have found an old bird nest or built an unusual feeder or bird house, bring them along to share with the group! Anything relating to natural history that you think would be interesting can be shown at this meeting. All members are encouraged to participate.

The four MDAS elected officers for the 1991-1992 term were chosen at the May meeting. Jim Lomax will again serve as President, with Al McNabney as Vice-President, Conservation, and Sheree Doucette as Secretary. The new Treasurer is Brian Elder. Congratulations to all.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda, 254-0486. Note that this is not the usual Board meeting date. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Note: The Yosemite field trip has been replaced by a trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park on July 6 and 7. Camping will may available at a group camp. Please call Elizabeth Dickey at 254-0486 or Maury Stern at 284-5980 if you are interested in camping.

1991 Al McNabney
Environmental Distinction Awards
page 5

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

OIL DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the shores of California is now a hallmark of the Administration's so-called "conservation policy." Should we be concerned? The answer is fully answered by the following statistics now available following the EXXON spill in Alaska:

- Sea Otters: Estimated deaths 3,500 to 5,500 out of a pre-spill population of 30,000. Carcasses found, 1,011. Mortality in the area continues to be abnormal.
- Murres: At least 170,000 breeding adults dead. Murre breeding in oiled areas seriously disrupted.
- Bald Eagles: Several hundred dead in Prince William Sound and Alaska.
- Other birds: Estimated total deaths 280,000 to 550,000; best guesstimate 350,000 to 390,000 birds died in the oily goo.
- Killer Whales: 22 out of the 182 Killer Whales in the area are thought to have perished.
- Harbor Seals: At least 200; 19 carcasses found.
- River Otters: Unknown; erratic behaviour being observed.
- Salmon: NO massive die-off of adults found after the spill. Continued study to determine damage, if any, to returning adult fish that were exposed as eggs and larvae.

When a conservation program is NOT a conservation program but instead calls for massive drilling in VERY sensitive areas, people have a "right" to let representatives in the government KNOW how they feel on such matters.

THE BUGS AND THE BEES AS WELL AS THE TREES— WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH BIODIVERSITY?

Butterflies, beautiful, not now so plentiful, provide a niche in the natural world that is seemingly not replaceable. Many birds have to find (and eat) caterpillars, larvae, or eggs. Yes, birds must even eat those beautiful butterflies at certain times of the year IF they are to be able to reproduce, feed young, and travel long distances when migrating. BUT, did you know that

in the Golden State of California, insects (which includes butterflies) are not even listed on the threatened or endangered species laws. As Michele Perrault (an Audubon Award winner) put it the other evening, "This is amazing. These insects are at the base of the food chain for many species of birds. If man isn't careful and permits these various species to become extinct, what becomes of the birds and other creatures who seek insects as sustenance." The answer, according to John Hafernik, "Loss of these insects would produce a disaster for many avian species." Shouldn't Audubon initiate action so there will be recognition given by California's environmental authorities as to the ecological importance of butterflies and other insects?

BETHEL ISLAND: A DELTA FARMLAND OR MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT?

The CCC Board of Supervisors approved a "Specific Plan" for development on Bethel Island, in what appears to be a direct contravention of the recently completed County General Plan. The Sierra Club, MDAS, and the Greenbelt Alliance attempted to bring reason to the issues through conversation and discussion without success. Since the issues are so important and basic, legal action was taken. Assuming the legal action prevails, the County will have to redirect thought to the Bethel Island growth and development plans. Judge O'Malley will hear arguments in the case on May 19.

TRANSPORTATION: DOES ANYONE CARE, WORRY, OR DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE MESS?

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission asserts,

"When the people of the Bay Area talk, we listen. In polls and at the ballot box, they've told us that transportation is their number one concern. They're increasingly frustrated by unchecked, unplanned growth and the traffic congestion that goes with it. GIVEN THAT CHOICE, THEY WOULD OPT FOR MORE MASS TRANSIT OVER HIGHWAYS. Further, CLEAN AIR is also a priority."

Does the revised Regional Transportation Plan really meet travel, environmental and social needs of the 1990's? A series of meetings in May will continue the examination of MTC policies and provide an opportunity for the public to see, hear, and participate in the decision-making process. Or have you noted ANY alternative transit system being built into the remodeled I-680? Meetings will generally be held in the Metro Center, BART Board Room, 800 Madison St., Oakland. Future dates: May 8, 18, 21, 22 (Public Hearing).

FINALLY

A thank you to the MDAS Board of Directors and all the MDAS members for the GREAT honor paid me at the May 3 meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

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

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, June 1, 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. Spring vagrants. Be prepared for variable weather.

Leader: George Finger, 933-2468 Category 2

Thursday, June 6, 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. Yellow-breasted Chats, Pileated Woodpeckers.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 2

Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23, Yuba Pass. Saturday at Yuba Pass for mountain birds. Sunday, Sierra Valley for basin birds. Motels in Sierra City: Herrington's Sierra Pines, (916) 862-1151; Sierra Chalet, (916) 862-1110; Shannon's Cabins, (916) 862-1287. Campgrounds at Chapman Creek, Yuba Pass.

Leader: Barbara Burek, 229-0394 Category 2

Wednesday, June 26, 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 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 entrance to the sanctuary. Yellow-billed Cuckoo the target; possible Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Hawk.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 2

Saturday, June 24, Tilden Breakfast Walk. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in parking area at Nature Center. This will be a fairly short trip, followed by a bring-your-own picnic breakfast.

Leader: Denise Wight, 228-2601 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BRIONES PARK - NORTH, April 3.

Timely rains provided a colorful spring wildflower walk, with the abundant nemophela, the emerging lupins, and the brodeias and madrones in bloom! Bluebirds, warblers, goldfinch and a mature Golden Eagle rounded out a fine early spring outing for ten members.

Mary Jane Culver

LAKE LAGUNITAS, April 10.

The eight birders had clear, sunny weather to look for spring migrants. Warblers and vireos were singing. The group had good looks at both Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Common Mergansers and a kingfisher were active at Lake Lagunitas. The day became increasingly windy, but the afternoon birders did see a Common Loon in full alternate plumage and watched three Osprey over Lake Bon Tempe. One birder who arrived at 7:30 a.m. saw the Pileated Woodpecker. A total of 53 species seen and heard.

Elizabeth Dickey

DONNER CANYON, April 13.

Fourteen birders spent a beautiful spring day searching for spring migrants. The highlights included both Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, three species of vireos, seven species of warblers including MacGillivray's, and a Sage Sparrow singing atop the sage. Our tired and slightly sun-burned group saw a healthy total of 67 species.

Steve Glover

IDA CLAYTON ROAD, April 18.

The morning was cool and foggy for ten birders. A Mountain Quail was heard. Birds seen included Ring-necked Duck, Green-backed Heron, Osprey, 3 Western Tanagers, and 12 Lewis' Woodpeckers. Total species seen or heard 86.

Florence Bennett

DEL PUERTO CANYON, April 25.

This was a good birding day for the 13 birders. The highlights included 6 Golden Eagles, Vaux's Swifts, 1 Black-chinned and 2 Costa's Hummers, 15 Lewis' Woodpeckers, 9 species of flycatchers (including Hammond's and Gray, and a Cassin's Kingbird), a pair of Lazuli Buntings, Phainopepla, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Total species 85.

Florence Bennett

MINES ROAD, April 27.

One of the best Mines Road trips I can remember. The weather was perfect, the wildflowers dazzling, and the birding good. The sixteen birders saw and heard a total of 78 species. The most unusual bird of the trip was a female turkey found four feet from the highway under a bush, presumably nesting. Other good birds included Green-backed Heron, Phainopepla, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Barb Burek

OBSERVATIONS

by Steven Glover

Please send observations to Steven Glover,

333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

American White Pelican: 34 on 4/19 at Garin Regional Park in Hayward. (SG)

Osprey: 1 on 4/10 at Lafayette Reservoir. (BAW)

Swainson's Hawk: 5 on 4/7 at San Luis NWR, Merced Co. (JR, RR)

Merlin: 1 on 4/6 in San Ramon (SG); 1 on 4/14 flying over her Alamo yard (JR).

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 4/22 at Morgan Territory Regional Park. (GF, KH, MP)

Red Knot: several on 4/28 in breeding plumage at the Pinole Regional Shoreline. (GF, MP)

Pygmy Owl: 1 on 4/18 (BR) and 2 calling on 4/19 (SG), all at Garin RP.

Burrowing Owl: 4 pairs throughout April on Bruns Rd. near Brentwood. (JB)

Spotted Owl: 1 on 4/16 (FB, MJC) and 2 on 4/22 (FB, EL, BG), at Tomales Bay SP.

Common Poorwill: 1 on 4/26 in White Canyon, MDSP (GF, TB, KG); at least 2 on 4/27 in Las Trampas Regional Park (SG).

Black Swift: 1 on 4/13 over her Alamo yard. (JR).

Vaux's Swift: 1 on 4/13 over her Alamo yard (JR); 2 on 4/23 along Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (FB, MJC, SG); 2 on 4/27 in Mitchell Canyon, MDSP (SG); at least 200 on 4/27 at Dow Wetlands Preserve near Pittsburg (AY, AE, C&SH).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 male from 4/10 to 4/13 in her Alamo yard. (JR, RR, GF, BR)

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 male 4/10 to 4/13 in her Alamo yard (JR); 2 on 4/23 along Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (FB, MJC).

Calliope Hummingbird: ~~4 male and~~ 1 female 4/10 to 4/13 in her Alamo yard (JR); 1 on 4/21 and 2 on 4/25 (BR) and 1 on 4/26 (GF), all in Mitchell Canyon. ~~2-3 4/21, 1 4/25, 1 4/26~~

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 on 4/8 at Napa-Bothe State Park. (GF, MP, PG)

Hammond's Flycatcher: at least 4 on 4/11 in Donner Canyon, MDSP (GF, MP, PG); 1 on 4/12 in Mitchell Canyon (GF); 8 on 4/14 in Donner Canyon (BR); 7 on 4/15 in Pine Canyon, MDSP (KH); 3 on 4/18 in Donner Canyon (GF); 2 on 4/19 at Morgan Territory RP (BR); 3 on 4/25 in Mitchell Canyon (BR); 6 on 4/29 in Mitchell Canyon (KH). These records comprise the greatest number ever recorded in the East Bay.

Dusky Flycatcher: 1 on 4/19 at Morgan Territory RP (BR); 2 on 4/21 and 4 on 4/25 in Mitchell Canyon (BR); 1 on 4/30 at MP 5.2 on Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (JR, RR).

Gray Flycatcher: 1 on 4/12 (GF) and 1 on 4/25 (BR), in Mitchell Canyon. Gray Flycatcher is very rare in the East Bay.

Cassin's Kingbird: 1 through 4/30 at the Tracy Golf Course. (FB, MJC, RR, JR, GF, MP; also on RBA)

Varied Thrush: 1 female on 4/16 in Dan Cook Canyon, MDSP. (KH) This is very late.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 on 4/30 on Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (GF, MP; seen later by JR, RR)

Blue Grosbeak: 1 on 4/7 at San Luis NWR. (JR)

Orchard Oriole: 1 female on 4/24 in her Alamo yard. (JR) Very rare in northern California.

Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 4/22 on Morgan Territory Rd. (GF, MP); 2 on 4/22 in her Alamo yard (JR).

Observers: Tony Battiste, Florence Bennett, Jerry Britten, Bill Chilson, Mary Jane Culver, Andy Engilio, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Keith Gish, Steve Glover, Peggy Gross, Claudia and Scott Hein, Kevin Hintsa, Eugenia Larson, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Betty Ann Williams, Andree Youngson.

No. Cal. Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288

TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SUPPORT SFBBO

Rich Radigonda and Tom Prather are sponsoring a lunch, raffle, and auction to benefit the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. SFBBO is trying to raise money for a new boat and motor for their Bay studies. The sirloin barbeque lunch will be on June 8 at the Pinole Sportsman Club. Cocktails will be at 12:30, lunch at 2:00. Tickets are \$25.00. For more information or to order tickets, call Rich at 933-8525 or Tom at 724-0341.

HUMMINGBIRDS: JEWELS OF THE JUNGLE

The University of California at Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and the U. C. Botanical Garden are co-sponsoring two slide presentations by Esther and Robert Tyrrell, featuring more than 100 color slides of hummingbirds. Those of you who have seen and read their feature article in the National Wildlife Federation's *International Wildlife* will know this is one not to miss. The presentations will be on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. and June 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Hall of Science. Tickets are \$9.00 (\$7.00 for LHS members). For information on how to reserve tickets, call 642-5134.

KAYAK TRIPS

Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary is offering day long and overnight kayak trips weekends until the end of June. You'll explore beautiful coastal wetlands, observe migratory birds and marine life. Stable two-person kayaks are used. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction and kayak gear are provided. For more information on fees and times, call Kate McClain at 456-8956.

LINDSAY MUSEUM

The Lindsay Museum has announced its summer schedule of safaris, trips, and classes, including a number of classes for teens and children. Pre-registration is required for all programs. For more information, call the museum at 935-1983.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

A lot of us are couch-potato environmentalists who find the energy to lift a pen once a year to write the check for our membership dues, and maybe even write a letter of concern periodically over some environmental travesty. I'm not criticizing, heaven knows, I'm a big couch-potato, too, and we are all helping. But there are those who give very much more. Who give much of their everyday lives, energies, and souls to the cause of saving what's left of our natural world. Thus, at our last membership meeting in May, MDAS gave out some awards to honor those who receive so little for doing so much.

We, the Board of Directors, needed a bench mark from which we could set our standard. We therefore chose a man who fit our ideal and who has given our chapter great recognition in the environmental field through his efforts. As most of you were not at the meeting, this is what his certificate stated:

"Be it known that the Board of Directors of the MDAS in establishing the measure by which we set the standards of this award for high esteem in the protection of the environment and all wildlife within,

"Found it most fitting and honorable to hold as the measure, the man,

"Who, year after year, tirelessly and selflessly pursues the preservation and enhancement of our environment and all life's creatures,

"Who attends meeting upon meeting,

"Who writes letter upon letter,

"Who gives freely of his time on this Earth to save this Earth, holding forth against the vast forces of development, pollution, ignorance, and apathy, using his remarkable inner strength and resolve to overcome such adversity and never giving up even in times of defeated causes, but renewing again and taking up the banner of environmental protection so that new generations may live in harmony with nature.

"Therefore be it Resolved, that we found Al McNabney best exemplifies our ideal in establishing this award and unanimously voted on the 20th day of April 1991 to present it to him first."

All the members of the Board signed this certificate and gave Al the first "Al McNabney Environmental Distinction Award."

We also presented the award to four others, Mark Evanoff of the Greenbelt Alliance, Michele Perrault, Past President of the Sierra Club, Al Schiff, member of the Board of Directors of the Walnut Creek Environmental Council, and Gen Sattler, Secretary of Save Mt. Diablo and a member of MDAS. Our congratulations to the four of you, and to you, Al, for setting such a high caliber of commitment and example for others to follow.



1991 Al McNabney Environmental Distinction Award Recipients

left to right, Gen Sattler with her husband William, Mark Evanoff, Al McNabney, Michele Perrault, and Al Schiff

MDAS Photo by Dan Van Zile

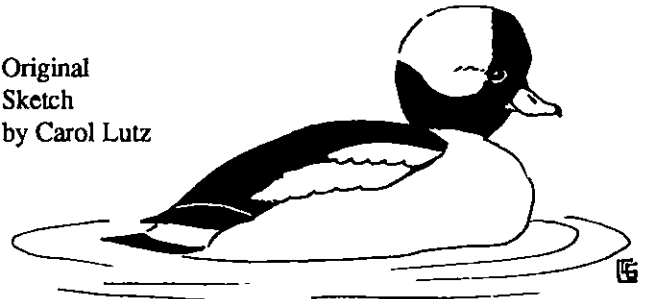
NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon: Karen Abbott, Alayne Anderson, Robert Antram, Ruth Beeve, Timothy Borovkoff, Billy Bowers, Carolyn Boyles, Phyllis Brittain, Pamela Brock, Patricia Cameron, Vern Carrier, Valerie Case, Mrs. James Conklin, K. R. Coyne, Stephen Crump, Carmen Duarte, the Escallier family, Mrs. D. L. Faulkner, Geoff Gagner, S. Greensmith, Kathleen Grimoldi, Phyllis Hampton, Craig Head, S. Hebert, K. Hints, Sue Hofius, Caren M. Hult, Robert Hutchison, Alena Jue, M. Killingsworth, Mr. and Mrs. John Lowe, Janet Mardirosian, Mary McNanara, Boon See Nishihara, Jay O'Brien, Mrs. D. Payne, Linda Phillips, James H. Reedy, Matthew Remington, Bryan Robertson, Hal Robins, Joel Sammerhill, Helen Schofield, Sailesh Shah, Margaret Shanks, Jennifer Snow, Maurice Springer, Joyce Starling, Ruth Stewart, Dorothy Taylor, Deanna Tom, Mrs. John H. Vuletich, Jewel Walach, John Walsh, and Roger Wilcox.

SUMMERTIME TRAVEL

Summer is nearly here and many of you will be planning trips to places near and far. As you travel, remember to 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 there.

Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz



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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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 Mike Williams, (415) 376-1631.

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
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

July/August 1991

Vol. 37 No. 11

Next Deadline: August 8

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 5, at a **new location**. Details on the location of the new meeting place will be given in the September issue of the *Quail*.

The next board meeting will be on **Tuesday**, July 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the new Wild Birds Unlimited Store at 729 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, directly across the street from Mervyn's - Sun Valley. This is a new store in the Bay Area, which will provide advice, equipment, and supplies to bird watchers and bird feeders. The owner is MDAS member Mike Williams, who expects the store to open in mid-July. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The yearly Field Trip planning meeting will be on **Thursday**, August 1, 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.

There will be no picnic this year. If you would like a picnic next year, please let Elizabeth Dickey or any other Board Member know before the August 1 field trip planning meeting

The 21st Annual Wildfowl Art Festival will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 29 and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on June 30, at the Red Lion Motor Inn at the intersection of Business 80 and Arder Way, Sacramento. Featured will be carving, sculpture, fine art, and antique decoys. For further information, call Fritz Zanker, 111 Biddleford Ct., San Jose, CA 95139, (408) 629-7897.

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

Have a good summer!

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO CALIFORNIA'S FARMLANDS AND DOES IT MATTER?

Make a trip by auto to Stockton, through the many acres of farmlands and walnut and other orchards. It will provide a graphic view of "what's happening" to our valuable agricultural lands. Implications for the future of wildlife, birds, people, jobs, industry, AND the nation's food supply should create great concerns. At present, about 40% of the nation's food supply is produced by California farmers. As farmlands are converted to other uses, farmers, cattlepeople, and others who want to continue farming have to move to lands that are less able to produce high quality crops. These lands are usually farther from large population areas, which means transportation costs will ultimately increase; ergo, cost of food and fibre for "we the people" will increase. In the long term, food quantities and varieties for people of the State and Nation may well be reduced. History indicates some early civilizations actually failed because of drought and the resultant inability of people to feed themselves. California is now entering a fifth year of drought. This has brought severe restrictions on water usage for business, industry, and home use, to say nothing of the drastic effects the drought is having on wildlife (bird) refuges throughout the state. At long last there is a recognition that quality water MUST be made available for wildlife; this is in keeping with insurances of Audubon chapters. Competition for scarce water resources will increase as the drought worsens. Since birdlife usually can't speak for itself (except for a trained, educated parrot or two), it will be OUR obligation to so do. More on these important subjects in future weeks and months.

BETHEL ISLAND LAND USE *ET AL.*

Should highly productive delta islands (which incidentally lie below the normal river levels) be converted to housing? Does the County General Plan require that ANY proposed development project be subject to review as to possible impacts on the infrastructure, etc., of the entire County? It is likely such questions will be answered in the near future. Legal action is underway, asserting the special plan of a large Bethel Island project does not conform with requirements of the County General Plan. The issues will be argued in court on June 13. Stay tuned.

NO NET LOSS OF WETLANDS

That was a campaign slogan in 1988. The realities of today seem to produce a much different picture. Rumors of White House intervention in an effort to define wetlands appear to have substance. The intervention, based on reports leaking out of Washington, indicate the intervention will cause thousands of acres of wetlands to be subject to destruction. Contra Costa

County is moving (slowly) toward more significant protections of remaining wetland resources. A wetland definition has been included in the recently completed County General Plan. The remaining county wetlands are to be assessed for possible acquisition. The Clapper Rail, an endangered species found in limited numbers in wetland areas such as exist near Antioch, probably cannot survive without substantial wetland habitat.

MDAS, THE EPA, AND WATER QUALITY

The EPA and State Water Quality Control Board's decision makers have spent months delaying action on a state water policy. MDAS, several other Bay Area Audubon chapters, the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Save San Francisco Bay Association, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the California Native Plant Society, the Bay Institute, Citizens for a Better Environment, the United Anglers of California, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Defense Fund have all joined in legal action to attempt to REQUIRE the State Water Resources Control Board (and the EPA) to adopt a water policy that will give attention to the needs of the Bay/estuary, fish, wildlife, and people. For example: The State Board admitted that "an important means of helping protect beneficial uses ...is...increase flow requirements." The State Board refused to evaluate the effects of differing flow requirements on fish and wildlife. The organizations assert the State Board's omission violated its duty to the public. Further, the State Board failed to give attention to a request from the California Department of Fish and Game that a complete biological assessment be made of the potential adverse effects if no changes were made in fresh water flows. Decisions emanating from the review now underway by the State Board may determine the future for much of California's bird and wildlife, as well as that of we the people.

SUMMER, BIRDS, AND YOUR VACATION HABITAT

You are entering the summer season. (With the recent heat spell, who had to remind you of that?) Your family may be taking off for a vacation in mountain, beach, or desert areas, depending on family interests. As you travel about, birding, gazing at the scenery, or whatever takes your fancy, give a thought to the environment you are seeing. How has it changed, or has it? (If you travel ANYPLACE in California, you will surely note drastic changes.) Do you believe the changes have improved habitat and the quality of life for birds, wildlife, and people? If so, you'll probably report such thoughts on your return. If, on the other hand, you see changes that endanger birds and wildlife, or even the ability of we humans to continue to exist, you should report that. Today few would argue against ALL growth, but if growth will, in the end, "do in" our birds, animals, and the natural beauties of the State, we MUST tell our decision makers.

Have a wonderful summer. See you in the fall.

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, July 27, **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: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, August 10, **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.
Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091 Category 1

Note: The field trip to Lassen National Park on July 6 and 7 has been cancelled due to the group campgrounds not being available.

Original
Sketches
by Carol Lutz



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BRIONES PARK - WEST, May 1.

Nine observers spent an unsettled day which ended in rain as the group returned to the parking lot. Before that, we found that the summer birds were back, including Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Chipping Sparrow. We also found a late Lincoln's Sparrow. 32 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

MITCHELL CANYON, May 4.

The wild flower walk in Mitchell Canyon rewarded the fourteen participants with an unusual abundance of over 50 varieties of blooms, with the endemic Globe Lily so prolific it appeared as carpeting in some areas. The unusual varieties of warblers and flycatchers among the 58 species of birds observed completed a satisfying outing and our participation in the Bird-a-thon.

Gen Sattler and Mary Jane Culver

MT. DIABLO, May 8.

A cold and windy day greeted the ten members and guests who traveled up Mt. Diablo in search of warblers and some of the special birds we search for on the mountain. The birds were plentiful whenever we could avoid the wind. Seven species of warblers were seen, though not by all the members. In all, 58 species of birds were seen during the day, which was pretty good. We got excellent views of Sage Sparrow, though no Black-chinned Sparrows could be found. It is always a treat to be on Mt. Diablo, regardless of weather or birds.

Jimm Edgar

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, May 16.

Despite high winds and a touch of hay fever, six birders saw nearly everything expected plus a few surprises. Among many highlights were an American White Pelican, a Whimbrel, a Burrowing Owl with at least five recently fledged youngsters, several Black-chinned Hummingbirds, a singing Yellow-breasted Chat, two Western Tanagers, six Blue Grosbeaks, and three Hooded Orioles. An extension trip to the Marsh Creek Reservoir added a Virginia Rail and several Tricolored Blackbirds. 79 species were seen.

Steve Glover

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 23.

A grand total of two birders spent a hot, frustrating day birding. Although several Swainson's Hawks of both light and dark phases were seen, warblers were quite scarce and no hummingbirds were found. A total of 54 species was seen.

Steve Glover

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK, May 25.

Seven birders spent a beautiful May morning hiking Rocky Ridge to find the highly prized Grasshopper Sparrow, which sang patiently atop the grass while we admired it through a scope. Other highlights included Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Western Tanager. 47 species seen.

Steve Glover

OBSERVATIONS

by Steven Glover

Please send observations to Steven Glover,
333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.
Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Wood Duck: 1 female and 4 young on 6/4, 1 male, 1 female and 3 young on 6/11 at 5 Brooks Pond, Marin Co. (JR)

Oldsquaw: 1 on 6/2 at the Fish Docks (SG); seen again on 6/4 (JR, SG, RL).

Wild Turkey: 1 female on her nest on 4/27 (JR) and again on 5/9 (JR, BR), on Mines Rd.

Black Tern: 3 in breeding plumage on 5/5 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (JR, BR)

Burrowing Owl: 4 pairs and 18 young on 5/31 along Bruns Rd. near Byron. (FB, MJC)

Vaux's Swift: 1 on 5/21 at Sunol Regional Park. (JR)

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 2 males on 5/20 at Piper Slough, Bethel Island (GF, MP); 1 male there on 5/31 (FB, MJC).

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 on 4/30 along Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (FB, MJC)

Calliope Hummingbird: 2 on 5/7 in Mitchell Canyon, MDSP (JR, RR); 1 male and 1 female on 5/10 in Back Canyon, MDSP (GF).

Hammond's Flycatcher: 5 on 5/4 and 2 on 5/7 in Mitchell Canyon (JR, RR); 2 on 5/11 in Mitchell Canyon (GF); 1 on 5/14 at Rock City, MDSP (JR).

Dusky Flycatcher: 1 on 5/4 and 1 on 5/7 in Mitchell Canyon. (JR, RR)

Cassin's Kingbird: 1 on 4/30 (GF) and on 5/7 (JR) at Tracy Golf Course.

Northern Parula: 1 female on 6/4 at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. (SG, RL)

American Redstart: 1 on 6/10 at the Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

MacGillivray's Warbler: 2 on 5/14 near Pioneer Camp, MDSP (KH, JR); 1 along Gazos Creek Rd., San Mateo Co. (GF, MP).

Yellow-breasted Chat: 8 on 5/14 near Dear Creek, Nevada Co. (GF); at least 5 on 5/20 at Piper Slough (GF, MP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 male on 6/4 at the Nunes Ranch (SG, RL), seen later by FB; 1 on 6/5 at the New Willows, Pt. Reyes (GF, MP); 1 on 6/11 along Vision Rd., near Inverness (JR).

Blue Grosbeak: 4 on 5/20 at Piper Slough. (GF, MP)

Green-tailed Towhee: 1 on 5/26 in Mitchell Canyon. (DW)

Black-chinned Sparrow: 1 heard on 5/7 in Mitchell Canyon. (JR)

Red Crossbill: 3 on 5/8 over her Alamo home (JR); 4 on 6/11 on Pierce Pt. Rd., Marin Co. (JR).

Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 5/4 in Mitchell Canyon. (JR)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Mike Iwanik, Ron Lindeman, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Denise Wight.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

Summer is upon us and I know many of you are off on summer vacations adding to your life lists. I'll be going on my vacation in August to Brownsville, Texas. Nice and warm. The Burrowing Owl Project finishes June 30 and I will let you know the results. Right now after the first few weeks, it doesn't look very good, due to low counts. The Peregrine Project has also had mixed results. We lost two chicks to theft or predators, we're not sure which. We had an awful lot of people pollution at the Castle Rock area. But we have successfully placed two other chicks in a Prairie Falcon nest on the south side of the mountain. MDAS will soon be starting a breeding bird atlas for Contra Costa County. I will begin the first preparations on July 1. Committees will be set up, computer programs checked out, and paperwork started. This is a five or six year project and we need and will recruit lots of volunteers. So when your number is called, report for your physical.....

The Birdathon netted a little over \$1000. The exact figure is not in yet as of this writing. All of you who pledged and paid, we thank you. I sent letters to the local businesses and elected officials and was surprised by the results, or lack thereof. But some people did donate and have no connections with Audubon. We thank their generosity as well and applaud their concern for the environment. Those that responded:

Businesses: Cantwell & Stein Realtors and the Hestair Computer Group's Gary Goodson. If you're looking for more, don't. That's it for businesses.

Elected officials: U. S. Congressman George Miller, Contra Costa County Supervisors Nancy Fahden and Bob Schroder, Mayors Byron Campbell of Concord and Gwen Regalia of Walnut Creek, and Councilmembers Matt Mattson and Evelyn Mumm of Walnut Creek. I sent letters to most of our elected officials in the county and these are the ones who responded. I thank you on behalf of the MDAS.

And I thank all of you, members and non-members alike who worked, pledged, and contributed to our 1991 Birdathon. 39 members went out May 4 and counted 158 species. They were Forrest Bottomly, Nick Calicura, Cynthia Campbell, Amanda Cooper, Dan Cooper, Grace Cooper, Jan Cooper, Melody Cooper, Robin Cooper, Roberto Coronel, Sonita Coronel, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, Sheree Doucette, Jimm Edgar, Brian Elder, Shirley Ellis, Pat Evans, Mia Ferree, Eugene Fletcher, Van Gilbert, Lita Gloor-Little, Janet Goodman, Helen Grubb, Jill Hedgecock and baby, Joel Herr, Barbara Lax, Elaine Lee, Tom Lee, Jim Lomax, Pat McEachron, Miriam Pasqual, Anthony Promessi, Jean Richmond, Barbara Sandkuhl, Sally Steller, Denise Wight, and Mike Williams. Thank you everyone.

RARE BIRD ALERT NUMBERS

ALABAMA: (205) 987-2730

ALASKA: (907) 248-2473

ARIZONA:

Phoenix: (602) 832-8745

Tucson: (602) 798-1005

ARKANSAS: (501) 753-5853

CALIFORNIA:

Arcata: (707) 826-7031

Los Angeles: (213) 874-1318

Monterey: (408) 375-9122; updates (408) 375-2577

Morro Bay: (805) 528-7182

Northern California: (415) 528-0288 or 524-5592

Sacramento: (916) 481-0118

San Bernardino: (714) 793-5599

San Diego: (619) 435-6761; daily updates (619) 479-3400

Santa Barbara: (805) 964-8240

S. W. Sierra/San Joaquin: (209) 782-1237

COLORADO: (303) 973-7207

CONNECTICUT: (203) 254-3665

DELAWARE: (215) 567-2473

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: (301) 652-1088

FLORIDA:

Statewide: (813) 984-4444

Lower Keys: (305) 294-3438

Miami: (305) 667-7337

GEORGIA: (404) 509-0204

IDAHO: (208) 236-3337 (southeast)

ILLINOIS:

Central Illinois: (217) 785-1083

Chicago: (708) 671-1522

INDIANA: (317) 259-0911

IOWA:

Statewide: (319) 338-9881

Sioux City: (712) 262-5958

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Kansas City: (913) 342-2473

LOUISIANA:

Baton Rouge: (504) 293-2576

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MAINE: (207) 781-2332 (5pm-8am wkdays; 24 hr wkends)

MARYLAND:

Statewide: (301) 652-1088

Harford County (301) 638-0290

MASSACHUSETTS:

Boston: (617) 259-8805

Western Mass.: (413) 253-2218

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Statewide: (616) 471-4919

Southeastern Mich.: (313) 278-4288

MINNESOTA:

Statewide: (612) 544-5016

Duluth: (218) 525-5952

MISSISSIPPI: (601) 467-9500 (coast)

MISSOURI:

Statewide: (314) 445-9115

Kansas City: (913) 342-2473

St. Louis: (314) 938-5349

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NEBRASKA: (402) 453-0724 (5pm-8am)

NEW HAMPSHIRE: (603) 224-9900 (M-F 5pm-9am; S-S 24 hrs.)

NEW JERSEY:

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Cleveland: (216) 289-2473

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Southwestern Ohio: (513) 277-6446

Youngstown: (216) 742-6661

OKLAHOMA: (405) 373-4531 (Oklahoma City)

OREGON:

Statewide: (503) 292-0661

Southern Oregon: (503) 826-7011 (10pm-6am wkdays only)

PENNSYLVANIA:

Eastern Penn: (215) 759-5754

Western Penn.: (412) 963-0560

Philadelphia: (215) 567-2473 and (301) 652-1088

Wilkes-Barre: (717) 825-2473

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Chattanooga: (615) 843-2822

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Statewide: (713) 992-2757

Austin: (512) 451-3308

Northcentral Area: (817) 261-6792

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Sinton: (512) 364-3634

UTAH: (801) 538-4730

VERMONT: (802) 457-2779 (M-S 5pm-8am; Sun 24 hrs.)

VIRGINIA: (804) 929-1736 and (301) 652-1088

WASHINGTON: (206) 526-8266

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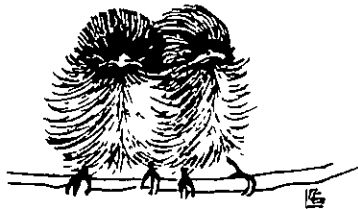
Statewide: (414) 352-3857

Madison: (608) 255-2476 (except 9-3 weekdays)

WYOMING: (307) 265-2473

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon: Elmer Anderson, Jacklynn Arzio, Rosemarie Ball, Helen Ballock, Ellen Begley, Lelia Dempsey, Kimberly Evans, Cynthia Fong, Walt and Jean Foskett, Ken and Lola Fulks, Kathryn Funk, Mrs. Robert Galley, James Gardner, Sue Gonsalves, John Gordon, Mary Greathouse, Linda Green, Steve Holcomb, Ann Jeremiassen, James Johnson, Dorothy Leslie, Lil F. Long, Lorraine Mrozowski, Mary Nelson, Mel Newland, Rose Nobile, Richard Norris, Mr. and Mrs. Neil E. Nutter, Margaret Reed, Walter Sassas, Anne Schneider, Lorraine Schulmeister, Frances Segars, Sally Smith, Penny Steward, Brenda Styer, Doris Tobin, and James Wright.



THE LAST WORD

As editor, I reserve the right to the last word in the final issue of the year. This has been a busy year for our chapter, full of things of importance to be reported to you, the members. I hope it has been interesting and informative. I want to thank all those who have contributed to this effort, especially the monthly contributors Jim Lomax, Al McNabney, Maury Stern, and Elizabeth Dickey. Both the Observations and the Membership Editors changed during the year, and I want to thank Jean Richmond and Diane Macario for their early work and Steve Glover and Mike Williams for continuing the fine effort. I also want to thank all the field trip leaders, the Travel Corner contributors, and all those who have sent in items of special interest. A special thank you goes to Carol Lutz whose sketches have graced these pages each month. Finally, last but not least, a big thank you to Betty Gallagher and her crew, who assemble and mail the finished *Quail* so efficiently. Next year I hope to have contributions from more of you to add to the diversity and interest of the *Quail*. In the meantime, enjoy your summer, as I am going to enjoy mine.

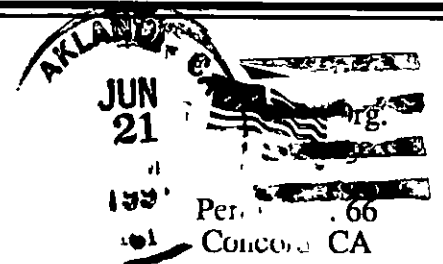
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Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (415) 229-0394

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TIME VALUE MAIL



The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 53
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 (510) AUD-UBON

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513
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 Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

September 1991

Vol. 38 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 12

September Program:

The Birds of New England, Part I

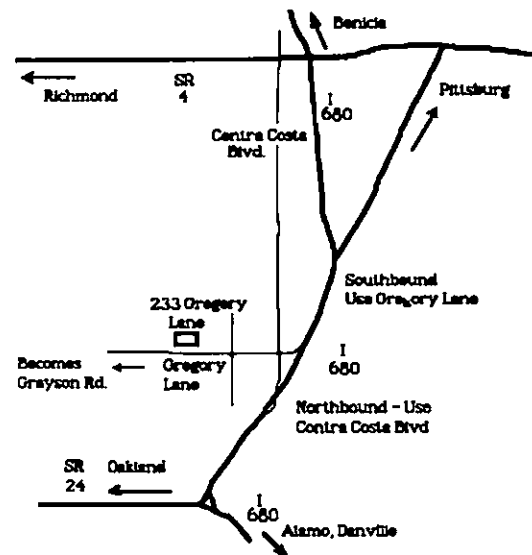
Welcome back! The first meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on **September 5 at our new time and meeting place.** Our president Jim Lomax went to Massachusetts and New Hampshire in early June and photographed approximately forty bird species, including seven warblers we don't see here, such as the Black-throated Blue, Canada, Chestnut-sided, Black-and-white, and Blue-winged. He also photographed the Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Veery, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Swamp Sparrow, and many more. You will enjoy the pictures and Jim will point out the diagnostic differences between confusing species.

Birding information for September will be given by Susan Heckly from the Lindsay Museum, who will speak on wildlife rehabilitation.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 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.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of every month from September through June. Our **new meeting place** is the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. The **new times** for the meetings are as follows:

7:10 Doors open
 7:30 Birding Info
 7:50 Business Meeting
 8:20 Social Time
 8:40 Program



Annual Budget - Page 3

Year Field Trip Schedule - Page 4

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

DOES THE BELL TOLL, AND IF SO, WHY?

Not the bell in the belfry, but the \$\$\$\$ in the toll box. That could well be the future IF the proposed toll road is constructed in East Contra Costa County.

QUESTION, DO YOU WANT SUCH A MESS? Another question, what are the implications for the future if such a monster is ever authorized? The proposed toll road would, among other things:

- Destroy irreplaceable prime farmland
- Destroy wetlands during the process of construction
- Result in TWO new bridges across the delta
- Run right next to and possibly impair forever unique and fragile Native American archeological sites
- Spread urban sprawl, creating more and more traffic, more smog, more air quality problems

The toll road is on the agenda and may well be adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), BEFORE ANY environmental or public review is undertaken.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS ISSUE? You can write to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, opposing the inclusion of the (MONSTER) toll road in the Regional Transportation Plan.

By writing NOW, you can:

- Stop the toll road promoters from using PUBLIC MONIES to build this TOLL ROAD for private profit
- Turn back a project that has had NO environmental review
- Turn back a project that has had NO serious public review

Address your letter to:

Chris Brittle, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4700

If you want to do a bit more than just writing a letter, attend the PUBLIC hearing on Wednesday, September 25, at 101 8th Street, Oakland. PARTICIPATE and present YOUR thoughts on the issue.

Further information can be obtained by calling Mark Evanoff or Jim Sayer at the Greenbelt Alliance, (415) 543-4291.

TOXIC SPILLS AND THE FUTURE

The Sacramento River from just above Dunsmuir to at least Lake Shasta is DEAD! Thousands of fish, many small animals (numbers not known), and birds are already dead. Many of these animals died because of lack of food, or from drinking the poisonous water from the river. No less important is the fact that ALL plant life in and along the river is dead.

Why such an accident? Good question. There clearly was much confusion among officials as to what happened and what to do and how to do it after the derailment of the several cars. It appears the toxic was NOT considered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as being hazardous. That undoubtedly played a major role in the confusion. Why was the tankcar NOT labeled? Rumor has it that DOT decided as long as toxic "stuff" was in a tank car, the material was NOT a hazard. How did that interpretation occur? We as outsiders don't know. We can assume "someone" with an interest in minimizing the freight charges and special costs levied to cover shipment of highly toxic chemicals argued with someone in the appropriate agency that as long as the material was in a tank car it was NOT hazardous and that argument was accepted. The impropriety of such a decision is now clear. The decision probably saved the shopper some money, but look at what's happened to our environment as a result.

We've all heard the argument that "business has been hampered by intrusive, overextensive governmental regulation." We've also heard, over and over, that business should be de-regulated, permitting management to compete better. We've seen the Exxon oil spill in Alaska. We've now seen the environmental disaster on the Sacramento River. The adverse impacts on people, birds, and all wildlife have been unpleasant to hear about (worse to see). A question being asked, "How many more such disasters can our environment stand without severe, long-term adverse effects?" Another question, "Should we stand by and let more such disasters happen?"



Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 90-91

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$3,098.50
Conservation & Education Fund:	11,136.78

INCOME:

National Audubon Society dues share	\$8,442.20
Subscriptions to <i>The Quail</i>	717.00
Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund)	5,924.81
Other sales, net	441.14
Donations to MDAS	137.70
Bird-a-Thon Donations	1,118.25
Peregrine Project Fund Donations	1,080.00
Audubon Adventures Donation	35.00
Interest earned (Home Federal) (Part to Conservation & Education Fund)	827.16

INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$14,087.90
Conservation & Education Fund:	18,870.64

DISBURSEMENTS:

Production and distribution of <i>The Quail</i>	\$8,298.54
Rent, General Meeting	365.00
Administration	112.87
Equipment	-
Conservation	1,564.70
Membership	170.67
Program presentation	726.23
Education	138.06
Field trips	-
Hospitality	115.35
Publicity	25.78
Christmas Bird Count	365.42
Sales expenses, reprinting <i>Birding Northern California</i>	3,403.18
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	166.00
Insurance	651.63
Bay Area Audubon Council	-

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Lindsay Museum, California Nature Conservancy, Mono Lake Legal Defense Fund, Save Mt. Diablo, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, etc.	\$2,715.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$18,818.43
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$ 1,693.43
Conservation & Education Fund:	12,446.68

1991-92 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT: This is a **tentative** schedule. Weather or availability of leaders may require changes. **READ THE QUAIL!** Weekday trips are often switched between Wednesday and Thursday to take advantage of tides or other opportunities. Two-day weekend trips may be done either day alone.

Thank you to everyone who helped put together this interesting schedule of trips for the coming year. Also thank you to those who will be leaders.

Elizabeth Dickey, Field Trip Chairman

Sept.	7	Sat.	Moss Landing - Salinas River	Mar.	5	Thur.	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	11	Wed.	Hayward Regional Shoreline		7	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	19	Thur.	Point Diablo (Hawk Hill)		11	Wed.	Black Diamond Mines Reg. Park
	25	Wed.	Bolinas Lagoon and Sewer Ponds		21	Sat.	Tomaes Bay
	28	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes		26	Thur.	Mitchell Canyon
Oct.	3	Thur.	Lincoln Park	Apr.	4	Sat.	Garin Regional Park
	12	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon		9	Thur.	Lake Lagunitas
	16	Wed.	San Mateo Coast		15	Wed.	Ida Clayton Road, Napa Co.
	26	Sat.	Limantour		18	Sat.	Donner Canyon
	31	Thur.	Tilden Regional Park		22	Wed.	Bothe-Napa State Park
Nov.	2	Sat.	Tennessee Valley		25	Sat.	Owling
	7	Thur.	Alameda South Shore - Arrowhead		30	Thur.	Del Puerto Canyon
	12	Tues.	SPECIAL TRIP for parents with young children to Lafayette Res.	May	2	Sat.	Mines Road
	16	Sat.	Charleston Slough		7	Thur.	Briones Park - West
	20	Wed.	Mt. View Sanitary - Mallard Res.		9	Sat.	Mitchell Canyon
	30	Sat.	Altamont		13	Wed.	Mt. Diablo State Park
Dec.	5	Thur.	Niles Canyon		20	Wed.	Caswell State Park
	11	Wed.	Lafayette Reservoir		23	Sat.	East Contra Costa County
	14	Sat.	CHRISTMAS COUNT		28	Thur.	Las Trampas Regional Wilderness
	21	Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands	June	4	Thur.	Annadel State Park
Jan.	4	Sat.	Putah Creek - Lake Solano		6	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes
	8	Wed.	Rarity chase		10	Wed.	San Francisco Parks
	16	Thur.	Sunol Regional Park		20-21	S-S	Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley
	18	Sat.	Bolinas - 5 Brooks	July	11-12	S-S	Lassen National Park
	29	Wed.	Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge	Aug.	1	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
Feb.	1-2	S-S	Los Banos - Panoche Valley		15	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	5	Wed.	Thornton - Stockton Ponds				
	8	Sat.	San Mateo Coast				
	13	Thur.	Berkeley Shoreline				
	15-16	S-S	San Luis Obispo				
	26	Wed.	Lake Merritt				

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 7, **Moss Landing - Salinas River.** 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: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 3

Wednesday, September 11, **Hayward Regional Shoreline.** Carpool 7:15 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 8:45 a.m. in parking lot at end of Winton Ave. Take I-680 south to I-580. From I-580, go south on I-880 (Nimitz). Turn right on Winton Ave. Water and shore birds.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Thursday, September 19, **Point Diablo (Hawk Hill).** Carpool 8:00 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. Meet 9:15 a.m. in upper lagoon parking area. Take the San Rafael Bridge and US 101 south to the SECOND Sausalito exit. 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 clear weather, carry lunch to stay on Hawk Mountain until mid-afternoon for migrating hawks and possibly swifts.

Leader: Jim Lomax, 825-1513 Category 2

Wednesday, September 25, **Bolinas Lagoon and Sewer Ponds.** Carpool 7:15 a.m. at southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:45 a.m. in front of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Go west through Vallejo and continue west on SR 37 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 SR 1; left again on SR 1 to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, ^{5:00 - 1:30} ~~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.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OUTER PT. REYES, June 2.

Six members and guests had a beautiful day, sans high winds, on the outer coast of Pt. Reyes, searching for eastern vagrants. Unfortunately, although the viewing conditions were great, the vagrants didn't show up. But we did see 65 species and had great views of breeding-plumaged Red-necked Phalaropes, and Oldsquaw and Black Scoters.

George Finger

ANNADEL, June 7.

Only four members met at the Sun Valley lot and were joined by two more at the park. The morning was unusually cool for Annadel this time of year. The much-hoped-for Pileated Woodpecker decided to elude us this year, sadly, but we got excellent views of the Yellow-breasted Chat. He posed, sang, and called most cooperatively, and we agreed it was worth the trip to view such a beautiful bird. 32 species were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

YUBA PASS, June 23-24.

Twenty-four members and guests had a beautiful weekend of good birding, despite the devastation of clear-cutting at Yuba Pass. The Black-backed Woodpeckers were nesting as usual, and we found Williamson's Sapsuckers and White-headed Woodpeckers. In the Sierra Valley, highlights included Black Terns, Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, and Sage Thrashers. 90 species were seen and several more were heard.

Barbara Burek

BOBELAINE, June 27.

A faithful and serious group of seven birders showed up bright and early to attempt once again to locate the elusive Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Though the habitat of this beautiful sanctuary is perfect and the cuckoo is undoubtedly breeding there, we were unsuccessful in our search. We did see numerous Wood Ducks and excellent views of Swainson's Hawk. Six swallow species kept us alert and working on our identification skills. A trip extension to the Woodland Sugar Ponds produced breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe, Ruddy Duck, and Cinnamon Teal, the latter two with young. All in all, 56 species were seen.

Jimm Edgar

TILDEN, June 29.

Two birders braved a foggy, drizzly early morning that felt more like winter than June. Highlights included a Cooper's Hawk dangling a mouse and a Warbling Vireo singing from the nest. 30 species were seen or heard.

Denise Wight

SAN MATEO COAST, July 27.

Calm, overcast weather made for good viewing and 14 members and guests had a good day. The highlights included Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Black Scoter, and three Black Swifts. A total of 60 species were seen.

Elizabeth Dickey

OBSERVATIONS

by Steve Glover

Please send observations to Steve Glover,

333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 7/7 along Highway 1 near the San Mateo Co./Santa Cruz Co. line. (SG)

Eared Grebe: 2 on 8/6 nesting at the Stockton Sewer Ponds. (FB, MJC, BG)

Wood Duck: 4 pair and 12 young on 6/13 and 7/9 at 5 Brooks Pond, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

King Eider: 1 female on 7/7 (SG) and on 7/15 (GF) in Moss Landing Harbor. (Also on RBA)

Northern Harrier: 1 on 7/10 at Oak Knoll Picnic Area, MDSP. (KH) This is early for the mountain.

Northern Goshawk: 1 on 6/24 at Yuba Pass Campground. (GF, MP)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 7/23 at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (SG)

Snowy Plover: 2 adults and at least 1 young on 6/18 along Harbor Bay Pkwy., Alameda. (JR, RR, GF, MP, P&PM)

Ruff: 1 on 7/22 at the Spaletta Slop Ponds, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP; also on RBA)

Wilson's Phalarope: 7 on 8/6 at the Lodi Sewer Ponds. (FB, MJC, BG)

Least Tern: seen by many observers throughout June and July at Alameda South Shore and Hayward Shoreline; 37 were seen on 7/23 at Coyote Hills (SG).

Black Tern: 7 on 6/30 along Route 99/70 in the rice fields just north of Sacramento. (SG, RL)

Tufted Puffin: 1 on 7/9 at Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes. (SG, RL; also on RBA)

White-winged Dove: 1 on 7/2 at Hayward Shoreline (RL); seen again on 7/3 (BR). First Alameda County record.

Western Screech-owl: 6 on 7/8 at Garin Regional Park. (SG, RL)

Burrowing Owl: 12 adult owls and 8 juveniles on 7/1 near the intersections of Delta Rd. and Byron Hwy. and Delta Rd. and Sellar's Ave. (GF)

Great Gray Owl: 1 adult and 3 young on 6/24 (FB, MJC) and 6/29 (SD, JL) at Chevron Meadow, Yosemite (FB, MJC); one adult on 7/11 at Mile 5 of Glacier Pt. Rd., Yosemite (SG).

Common Poorwill: 1 adult with 2 young in Pine Canyon, MDSP (KH, BR). This is one of the few recent county nesting records.

Pinyon Jay: about 15 on 6/23 along Red Rock Rd., after the Yuba Pass trip. (JR, RR, GF, MP, P&PM)

Yellow-billed Magpie: 1 on 7/20 in her Martinez yard (JC), seen later by DW. This is the first record from anywhere closer than Alamo. Although this could be an escapee, Kevin Hints points out that this is the time when they move.

Canyon Wren: 1 on 7/18 at Knobcone Pt., MDSP. (KH) They are only known to be in one other spot in the county.

Phainopepla: 1 on 5/5 in her Martinez yard. (DW)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 adult feeding young on 7/30 in Pine Canyon. (KH) Second county nesting record.

Townsend's Warbler: 1 on 7/31 at Muir Picnic Area, MDSP. (KH, RL) Very rare here in summer.

American Redstart: 1 on 6/10 at the Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Western Tanager: a pair on 7/1 in Mitchell Canyon. (MJC) This is scarce nester here.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a pair on 6/13 along Vision Rd. in Inverness. (FB, MJC)

Blue Grosbeak: 3 pair on 6/19 along Woodbridge Rd. in San Joaquin Co. (FB, MJC)

Hooded Oriole: 1 on 6/28 in Donner Canyon, MDSP. (KH) Hooded Oriole does not occur on the park list and is unusual away from residential palm trees.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Jan Cooper, Mary Jane Culver, Sheree Doucette, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Pat MacEchern, Paul MacEchern, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich 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.

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 65 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*

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a good summer and found a few new life birds. We now have a new meeting place and time. Last season was very productive for MDAS and I am looking forward to this year. Our Peregrine Falcons that we introduced into a Prairie Falcon nest last May fledged on June 20 and went off to a new world. We hope they return once they grow up. I thank all the volunteers who helped on this project. I know there were some hard times this year. I also thank Chevron Corporation in San Ramon and Dow Chemical Company in Pittsburg for their generous donations of \$500 each towards the purchase of these birds. Finally I thank Ed Bartlett, owner of Sun Valley Auto Plaza in Concord, who was solicited by letter and contributed.

By now you should have received a flyer announcing the grand opening of "Wild Birds Unlimited" at 720 Contra Costa Blvd., across from Mervyn's at Sun Valley. This is a brand new store stocked with everything a birder could want, like 9 kinds of seed, 50 types of feeders, bird and bat houses, binoculars, scopes, bird books, nature gifts, and bird tapes. Makes my mouth water. But the BEST part is that with every purchase by an MDAS member, our chapter receives a 5% donation from the sale. This is a worthwhile fund-raising effort, which has been approved by National Audubon and by your Board of Directors, and which will help to finance our efforts to protect wildlife. This also satisfies one requirement for recertification each year. Member Mike Williams owns this store and has made us this generous offer. Many thanks go to him. From time to time, you will receive flyers in the mail announcing semi-annual seed sales, discounts, or other specials, so do take advantage. Notices will appear in the *Quail* also. Make sure you mention you are an MDAS member.

Lastly, it's hawk migration time again. I can't stress enough that a trip to the Marin Headlands and "Hawk Hill" will benefit you in raptor identification. A day spent there seeing any of 19 possible raptors with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory members calling out I. D. will help you learn and you will find yourself assisting. The hawk watch will occur every day from mid-August until the 15th of December. MDAS member David Jesus is a Day Leader there and will personally help you get started. The GGRO is performing very vital research that will ultimately help us understand and save the raptors in our part of the world. If you would like to send a donation to the GGRO, the address is GGRO, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. Allen Fish and his group deserve our help. See you September 5.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND CLASSES

RICHARDSON BAY BRUNCH AND AUCTION

This year's Richardson Bay Champagne Brunch and Auction will be held in the meadow by the Lyford House overlooking the Bay on Sunday, September 15. The auction items include vacations and trips by land and sea, including a trip for two from Special Expeditions to the winner's choice of Alaska, the Columbia and Snake Rivers, or Baja. Also included will be fine wines, dinners at Bay Area restaurants, cameras, and household items. A delicious salmon brunch will be served as well as champagne and other beverages. A new feature this year will be dessert and wine tasting. The tickets are \$35 per person. Support the Audubon Center and Sanctuary! Send your check by September 10 to Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920, or call (415) 399-2524 for more information.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP

At the first fall meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, wildlife research photographer "Moose" Peterson will present a multi-projector slide show, "Carrizo Plains, Last of the Grasslands." The Carrizo Plains, in California's Central Valley, is home to many endangered plants and animals, which Moose has spent a decade researching and photographing. The meeting will be September 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. On Saturday, September 14, Moose will conduct a wildlife photography workshop at the Palo Alto Baylands. The cost of the workshop is \$20; the meeting is free. For more information, call the Golden Gate Audubon Society, (510) 843-2222.

FALL BIRDING CLASSES

Three evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting September 3, 4, and 5. All classes meet from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St., San Francisco. Tuesday's classes are an introduction to birds and birding. Wednesday's classes are an in-depth study of North American land birds. Thursday's classes study waterbirds, including shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Classes are endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Fees are \$50 for each eight-week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information, call the Community Services Office of San Francisco Community College at (415) 561-1840.

BAY SHORE STUDIES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to lead field trips to the edge of the Bay for the Richardson Bay Audubon Center. To become a Bay Shore Studies volunteer, sign up for the fall training classes which are on Fridays, starting September 20, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Audubon Center in Tiburon. Call Meryl Sundove at (415) 388-2524 for further information.

PUBLICATIONS

Birding Northern California, by Jean Richmond. Our chapter's guide to 72 best birding spots. 142 pages. \$10.00 plus \$0.82 tax = \$10.82 at meetings, \$12.25 by mail.

Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific, by Rich Stallcup, Point Reyes Bird Observatory. 214 pages, illustrated. \$16.72 plus \$1.38 tax = \$18.10 at meetings, \$19.50 by mail.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay, Second Edition, by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. 124 pages. \$10.00 plus \$0.82 tax = \$10.82 at meetings, \$12.25 by mail.

Roger Tory Peterson's third edition of *Field Guide to Western Birds*. 432 pages, 165 color paintings, 441 color maps. \$14.00 plus \$1.15 tax = \$15.15 at meetings, \$16.50 by mail.

Books are available at MDAS meetings or from Sales Manager Gifford Young, 1451 Janet Court, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4134. Please make checks payable to MDAS.

AREA CODE CHANGES

On September 2, 1991, the 415 Telephone Area Code will be split in two. San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, and parts of Santa Clara counties will retain the 415 Area Code. Alameda and Contra Costa counties will have a new 510 Area Code. To dial numbers in the 415 Area Code, dial 1+415+the 7-digit number. There will be a five-month period from September 2, 1991, to January 27, 1992, when both the new and old ways of completing call will continue to work. Beginning January 27, 1992, calls dialed with the incorrect Area Code will not be completed.

The Area Codes listed in this issue of the *Quail* include the new Area Codes for those numbers in the 510 Area Code. The numbers in the 415 Area Code are indicated as such. You should remember that these new Area Code numbers will not be in effect until after September 2. Numbers in the 707 Area Code are unaffected by this change.

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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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, Brian Elder, 349 Camaritas Way, Danville, CA 94526. 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 Mike Williams, (510) 376-1631.

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (510) 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



TIME VALUE MAIL



The QUAIL

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

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513
VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
Treasurer: Brian Elder, 743-1018
Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

October 1991

Vol. 38 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 10

October Program:

White-crowned Sparrows, Revisited

Luis Baptista has spoken to our group several times during the past five years and always presented lively and entertaining talks. For our **October 3** meeting, Dr. Baptista will update his famous lecture on the White-crowned Sparrow song dialects. Listening to Luis Baptista whistle bird songs is an experience not to be forgotten and one that cannot be repeated often enough. If you were unfortunate enough to miss his first talk to our chapter, be sure to come to this new talk.

Dr. Luis Baptista earned his Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, and afterward conducted research in bioacoustics, systematics, and DNA hybridization at the Max Planck Institute for Behavioral Physiology. He is currently Chairman and Curator of both Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences.

Birding information for October will be given by Jim Lomax who talk about the Great Gray Owl.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jim Lomax, 3636 Lolita Dr., Concord, 825-1513. 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. Our **new meeting place** is the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. The **new times** for the meetings are as follows:

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Birding Info
7:50 Business Meeting
8:20 Social Time
8:40 Program

Special Field Trip Notes:

The date of the Outer Pt. Reyes field trip was listed incorrectly in the Field Trips write-up as Saturday, October 6. The correct date, as given in the 1991-92 Field Trip Schedule, is Saturday, September 28.

Two special field trips have been added to the trip schedule for October. There will be a visit to the Santa Cruz Falcon Breeding Project on Wednesday, October 2, and a trip to Wall Ridge on Mt. Diablo on Saturday, October 19. See the Field Trips write-ups for further details.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

MORE ON THE TOLL ROAD

Late information concerning the effects of MDAS's and other organizations' letter writing campaigns on the East CCC Toll Road indicate 20 to 40 opposition letters a day are arriving at the MTC headquarters. That's a terrific response, but DON'T let up now. Decision time will soon be here. If you haven't written your letter yet, do it NOW! Write to Chris Brittle at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 101 8th St., Oakland, CA 94507-4700. If you haven't written, DO IT NOW!!!!!!

WETLANDS

If we're not careful, the nation's wetlands will be not only an endangered species, but many of these important resources will be gone forever. The implications of such a situation are awesome to think of. An ACTION ALERT on wetland issues by the National Wildlife Federation is indicative of the problems IF the present "proposed" rules are NOT withdrawn:

"When President Bush ran for office, he promised the American people that he would be the Environmental President. At the top of his 'TO DO' list was a pledge to support NO Net Loss of Wetlands."

"Now he has backed down from that promise. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS JUST RELEASED A PLAN THAT WOULD REMOVE MILLIONS OF ACRES OF WETLANDS FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION, ALLOWING WETLANDS TO BE DEVELOPED INTO SHOPPING MALLS, PARKING LOTS, AND CONDOMINIUMS." (emphasis supplied)

Furthermore, the NWF says, "Wetlands play a vital role in our economy. They serve as Nature's giant sponges, soaking up excess water after heavy rainfalls to protect our homes and communities from costly flood damage." 95% of San Joaquin Valley wetlands have been lost to agriculture, development or other forms of human activity. 90%+ of the SF Bay/Delta wetlands have likewise been lost for many of the same reasons. Some argue that under the President's proposed rules, half of the Florida Everglades will NOT be protected. In other areas, such as the SF Bay, language is contained in the rules that would probably open thousands of acres of vital wetlands to all sorts of enterprises because "man" has interacted with former wetlands in some manner. YOU can help do something about all this. Write to:

Mr. Gregory Peck, Chief
Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch
Mail Code (A--104F) U.S. E.P.A.
401 M Street, SE
Washington, D. C. 20460

MDAS and other organizations are in the process of establishing a California-based organization that will work to protect this State's very limited wetlands.

OLD GROWTH TREE PROTECTIONS FLASH

A last ditch effort, reported as we go to press, indicates a lot of VERY hard work by Audubon's Western Regional Office, plus phone calls from MDAS members to Sacramento legislators' offices produced the final push needed to save the bill from a poison pill (an amendment designed to kill the bill without seeming to so do). A BIG thanks to all those who called. Sen. Dan Boatwright was a supporter of the effort.

BAY VISION 2020 – REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING

Study, consideration and decisions are slowly but surely moving the far-reaching land use plan, referred to as Bay Vision 2020 from an amorphous blob of ideas to the point where some details are beginning to emerge. Planning involved five major issue areas:

Policies and planning processes
Who (what agencies, etc.) would be consolidated and how
Representation on governing body by regional commission
Additional powers for the commission
Funding for the commission and related projects

A series of public meetings to explain the program, process, etc., will be held as follows(*):

Thursday, September 26
Board of Supervisors Chambers
San Mateo County Government Center
401 Marshall St.
Redwood City, CA 94063

Monday, September 30
City Council Chambers
San Rafael City Hall
1400 Fifth Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94901

All meetings scheduled for the hours 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(* NOTE: Meetings in Walnut Creek and Oakland were held prior to the date of issuance of the *Quail*. Meetings are co-sponsored and moderated by the League of Women Voters.

If interested in additional information, write to :

ABAG
Ceil Scandone
P. O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

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

Special Field Trip: Wednesday, October 2, Santa Cruz Falcon Breeding Project. 10:00 a.m. tour of facility at U. C. Santa Cruz. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, as soon as possible if interested. \$3 to \$8 fee, depending on number of people participating.

Thursday, October 3, **Lincoln Park.** Carpool 7:45 a.m. at intersection St. Stephen's Drive and El Nido Ranch Road in Orinda. From westbound Hwy. 24 take St. Stephen's exit. 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. Turn left to 34th Ave., and right on Legion of Honor Dr. Fall migrants and vagrants. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 2

Saturday, October 12, **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, October 16, **San Mateo Coast.** Carpool 7:15 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 9:15 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: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 2

Special Field Trip: Saturday, October 19, Wall Ridge on Mt. Diablo. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Rock City parking lot for fall migrants and wildflowers. Follow the signs for Mount Diablo from I-680 in Danville past the Entrance Station. \$5.00 fee. For up-dated specifics, call Mary Jane Culver at 682-0509 or Betty Gallagher at 682-2458.

Saturday, October 26, **Limantour.** Carpool at 7:00 a.m. at Acalanes Avenue, off Pleasant Hill Rd. just north of SR24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bear Valley Visitor's Center, Pt. Reyes. See Abbot's Lagoon trip for directions to the Visitor's Center. Shore birds, seabirds, and waterfowl, as well as land birds on the ridge. Trails may be muddy. Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Thursday, October 31, **Tilden Regional Park.** Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot at entrance to the Nature Center, at the north end of the park. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORT

BODEGA BAY, August 10.

Sixteen birders spent a gloriously beautiful, what a way to beat the heat, day at this super birding location. 63 species were seen or heard, including a greatly increased number of White Pelicans, nesting Pelagic Cormorants off the Head, and at least six Osprey.

Shirley Ellis

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 Steve Glover

Please send observations to Steve Glover,

333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Pelagic Cormorant: 2 on 8/29 at Pt. Pinole Reg. Shoreline. (BR, SG)

Magnificent Frigatebird: 1 on 8/22 at Pt. Pinole RS. (BR)

Green-backed Heron: 1 on 9/3 on the rocks at Pescadero, San Mateo Co. (SG, RL)

Brant: 5 on 8/27 at Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (FB, MJC, BG)

Wood Duck: 2 on 8/20 (KH), seen again on 8/22 (KH, GF) at the Pleasanton Sewer Ponds.

Harlequin Duck: 1 female on 8/27 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Osprey: 9 at one time on 8/6 at Bodega Bay (JR); 2 on 8/13 at Pt. Pinole RS (SG, RL).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 9/3 at Año Nuevo State Reserve. (SG, RL)

Black Oystercatcher: 2 on 8/12 (SC), seen again on 8/13 (SG, RL) at Pt. Pinole RS.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 on 8/18 (GF, KH), 3 on 8/25 (FB), and 3 on 8/27 (GF, MP), at the Bolinas Sewer Ponds, Marin Co.; 6 on 8/20 (FB, MJC, BG) and 5 on 8/22 at the Tracy Sewer Ponds; 4 on 8/27 at the Spaletta Stock Ponds, Pt. Reyes (JR).

Bar-tailed Godwit: 1 on 8/12 (JR, GF, KH, SG), on 8/13 (FB, BG), and on 8/19 (B&BG, MJC) along the Berkeley Shoreline. Also on RBA. This is the first record for the East Bay and only about the seventh for Northern California.

Baird's Sandpiper: 5 on 8/18 at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes (GF, KH), 1 on 8/27 at the Spaletta Slop Ponds (GF, MP), 2 on 8/27 at Princeton Harbor Marsh (BG, MJC, FB), 1 on 8/27 at the Spaletta Stock Ponds (JR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 8/18 (GF, KH) and 2 on 8/27 (GF, MP) at the Bolinas Sewer Ponds.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 on 8/20 (BG, MJC, FB) and 1 on 8/22 (GF, KH) at the Tracy Sewer Ponds. Also on RBA.

Wilson's Phalarope: 65 on 8/19 (FB) and 50 on 8/20 (FB, BG, MJC) at the Stockton Sewer Ponds; 40 on 8/27 at Princeton Harbor Marsh (BG, MJC, FB).

Elegant Tern: 1 on 8/29 at Pt. Pinole RS. (SG, BR)

Common Murre: 2 on 8/22 at Pt. Isabel, Richmond. (BR)

Pigeon Guillemot: 1 on 8/16 along the Berkeley shoreline (BR); 1 on 8/22 at Pt. Isabel (BR).

Burrowing Owl: 8 on 8/20 along Bruns Rd. near Byron. (FB, MJC, BG)

Willow Flycatcher: 4 on 8/27 (KH) and 3 on 8/29 (GF, MP) at Pine Pond, Pine Canyon, MDSP.

Purple Martin: 1 on 7/21 along I-80 near Dixon. (JR)

Blue Grosbeak: 2 on 8/5 at the Woodland Sugar Ponds. (GF, MP)

Hooded Oriole: 4 still present in her Alamo yard on 8/30. (JR)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Steve Cochrane, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, and Jean Richmond.

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

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

by Mike Williams

Congratulations, MDAS! Purchase by members have earned contributions of over \$300 since the store opened. The seed sale and suet sale will continue through October 31. Be sure to ask about the free seed storage program. The Squirrel O'Rama will start on October 15.

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 65 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: _____

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 a significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation.

MDAS would like to express its appreciation for the following donations made to the chapter:

Mike Awonick of Charlottesville, Virginia, made a donation to the chapter as a thank you for the birding help and information provided by Jean and Bob Richmond.

The BankAmerican Foundation made a donation to the chapter as a matching contribution to the Birdathon.

Tosco Refining Company made a very generous donation to the chapter to support the Peregrine Fund.

The generosity and support of all these people and organizations is greatly appreciated.

SANCTUARY DEDICATION

In April, 1989, the National Audubon Society acquired 500 acres in Colusa County for the purpose of creating a waterfowl sanctuary. The sanctuary area has been restored to 200 acres of permanent wetlands and 300 acres of seasonal wetlands. The sanctuary has wintered thousands of Snow Geese and ducks and several hundred Sandhill Cranes. Twenty-two nesting islands have been established. Audubon Society members are invited to attend dedication of the Paul L. Wattis Audubon Sanctuary at the site on Saturday, October 19, at 10:00 a.m. The program will highlight the current sanctuary activities and future plans for sanctuary enhancement. Interpretive tours and birding trips will be held throughout the day to help the participants become better acquainted with the sanctuary. Exhibits and free refreshments will also be provided. The Wattis Sanctuary can be reached by travelling north from Colusa on River Road, then turning east (right) on Gridley Road to the sanctuary. The sanctuary is a component of the Central Valley Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl and Wetlands Program. The sanctuary support came from the Paul and Phyllis Wattis Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. A major donor, Chris Steele, contributed the cost of restoration work. Riparian corridors, including native willows and cottonwoods are being encouraged along the perimeter and in certain interior locations, and an oak woodland is being preserved and expanded.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TRIPS

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE ADVENTURE TOUR

New Zealand is the eighth destination in the series of adventure travels to benefit Mono Lake. Travel will be by plane, train, bus, boat, and foot. The latter includes a 3-day hike on the Routeburn Track. (There is an alternative plan for anyone not wishing to do this, however.) The itinerary includes the cities of Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Queenstown. The outdoor excursions will include a farm-stay and visits to the Rotorua geothermal area, Muriwai Beach, Tongariro, Paparua, and Westland National Parks, Okarito Lagoon, Milford and Doubtful Sounds, and much more. The tour cost is \$3590 which includes a tax-deductible donation to help save Mono Lake. Airfare between U. S. and New Zealand is additional. For a brochure with complete details, call or write M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708, (510) 526-1260.

MT. DIABLO AUTUMN MULTISPORT CLASSIC

A one-of-a-kind sporting and interpretive event to benefit Mt. Diablo State Park will take place on Saturday, October 19. The athletic events include a grueling world-class triathlon, a mountain bike race, and a 10k race/walk to the mountain's summit. For those less physically inclined, the event includes easy walks highlighting the mountain's cultural and natural history. Contact the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association at 933-5289 or call the race hotline at 841-1190 for more details.

THIRD ANNUAL SCOPE AND BINOCULAR SHOW

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory announce their Third Annual Scope and Binocular Show to be held Sunday, October 27, at Ft. Mason in San Francisco from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All major optical manufacturers will be featured. Also included will be on-going lectures and workshops on gull, shorebird, and hawk identification and on the care, feeding, and selection of optical equipment. There will also be a drawing with door prizes for which you need not be present to win. The entrance fee is \$3.00. For more information, call SFBBO at (408) 946-6548 or GGRO at (415) 331-0730.

HELP CREATE A BIRD LIST FOR THE NAPA RIVER RESERVE

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society is soliciting the help of anyone who has birded the Napa River Ecological Reserve in the last ten years. A bird list is being developed for the reserve, and anyone who has a dated bird list for the area is invited to send a copy to Ann and Duane Smith, 1162 Green Valley Road, Napa, CA 94558. Whether the birds sighted were common or rare, the data will nevertheless be of help to them in compiling an accurate listing of the refuge's birds.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet soon at meetings and trips: Jan Abrams, Bobbi Baron, Winnie Bray, Peter Brewin, Thomas Broz, Ellie Bunyard, Fay Burford, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Burton, Gay Carlson, J. E. Craig, Valinda Croxton, Matthew Davidson, Jerome P. Dean, Ann Delucchi, E. V. Denton, Susan Dupuis, Nancy Ferguson, George Finger, Timothy Floyd, Robin Franken, Donna M. Gilliland, Evelyn Goodale, R. Grattepanche, Mark E. Hahn, Robert F. Hanson, Brian Harradine, Charles Henriott, S. Housden, Brigid Johnson, Marcia Jones, Mrs. Jeanne Kies, Ralph Kraetsch, Mr. and Mrs. James Kreag, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Krup, Brita Larsson, Charles Maley, William McIntire, Barbara McKinnon, Kathy McVicker, Marianna Mihills, Daniel Miranda, John E. Miser, William K. Muraoka, Joshua Nelson, Steven Nelson, Victor Neufeld, Carol Raifsnider, Leah Rolnick, Paul Rosman, Sue Scott, Shirley Shean, Maryjo Shoemaker, Sarita Simmons, Marjorie Sullivan, Linda Swalley, Grace Toji, Jane Turnbull, Robert Vickery, Mary Waksdale, Karen Warner, Jacob Waxman, Pauline Weber, Cathy White, Rolly White, and Mrs. A. Zelif.

HELP YOUR CHAPTER AND SAVE ON THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

MDAS is pleased to offer the '92 ENTERTAINMENT book. No matter what your lifestyle, with this wonderful book of 50% discount coupons, you can save on both fine and casual dining, theater, movies, sports, travel and more, starting NOW.

Seven different Northern California Editions are available for gift giving. Buy one for yourself and several as gifts!

Send a check for \$35 (20% goes to our chapter) to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563 and indicate the area you wish covered. Call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732 for more details.

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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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 \$10/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Brian Elder, 349 Camaritas Way, Danville, CA 94526. First class mailing of the Quail to member or nonmember is an additional \$3.50/year payable to MDAS & sent to the Treasurer.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Mike Williams, (510) 376-1631.

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (510) 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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P.O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(510) AUD-UBON

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VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
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Sales Manager: Gifford Young, (707) 745-4134
Programs: Maury Stern, 284-5980
Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486
Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631
Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091
Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134
Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680
Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

November 1991

Vol. 38 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 14

November Program:

Endangered Wetlands

Jesse Grantham, from the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society, will speak about wetlands and the current concerns about their loss. He will discuss the possible impact of the proposed new definition of wetlands by the government.

Jesse Grantham was the director of the Texas Gulf Coast sanctuaries for the National Audubon Society until one year ago when he came to Sacramento. Here he will administer the California Wetlands Sanctuary Program. In the past, he was a biologist with Audubon on the California Condor research and recovery efforts.

Birding information for November will be given by Brian Elder, who will speak on finding native birds while on vacation in Hawaii.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Brian Elder, 349 Camaritas Way, Danville, 743-1018. 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. Our new meeting place is the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. The new times for the meetings are as follows:

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Birding Info
7:50 Business Meeting
8:20 Social Time
8:40 Program

Special Field Trip Note:

The San Luis Obispo field trip will be January 18, 19, and 20. The trip will visit the Carrizo Plains on Sunday, January 19. Early motel reservations in San Luis Obispo are advised.

New Program Chair:

Maury Stern has announced his decision to step down as Program Chair, and Denise Wight has agreed to fill the vacancy. MDAS wishes to thank Maury for the interesting, informative programs of the past two years.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WETLANDS, ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, OLD GROWTH FORESTS: ALL NOW AT RISK

When is a wetland not a wetland, or what do we mean by "no net loss of wetlands?" The Endangered Species Act is a very important factor in making the determinations as to what's going to become of our natural world. Old Growth Forests and the Spotted Owl, much in the news of late, have been the centerpiece of a VERY important debate. Those who would ensure there WILL be Old Growth Forests and Spotted Owls, have produced a meaningful case.

"So," one might ask, "what's the problem?" The problem is that common sense, the need to approach destruction of our wetlands, forests, plants, animals, etc., with great thought and care is NOT acceptable to the forces interested in making use of ALL of our natural resources without great concern as to what we leave for the future. As for wetlands, President Bush, through his people, is currently proposing the most sweeping redesignation of "what a wetland is," that has occurred in our nation's history.

So, what's happened between the campaign slogan days, when we were assured "no net loss of wetlands" would be the rule, and today? Anthony Lewis, the respected columnist, wrote on August 12, "The Environmental Protection Agency and three other federal agencies issued regulations protecting about 100 million acres of marsh, tidal zones, and other moist lands from destructive development....but last week under pressure from real estate developers and oil and mining companies, the Bush administration turned turtle...The administration simply redefined the word wetland." A further explanation can be found in an article in the September issue of *National Wildlife*: "Two of Bush's top officials, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and Budget Director Richard G. Darmon, both known for meddling in environmental policy issues, took special interest in the wetlands question. They became key players in the debate, prompting some panel scientists to quit, disgusted with the apparent politicizing of such an important scientific question."

Old Growth Forests and Spotted Owl issues have been debated and considered both by the Federal Court and by Congress. In every meaningful court decision, Audubon's position has been upheld as to saving the Old Growth Forests and the Spotted Owl. Now the Secretary of the Interior is creating a so-called "God Squad" (all will be Administration designees, save one) to look again at the decisions and the status of these important environmental issues--with the obvious intent of overturning the decisions. That could produce disastrous results for our forests, wildlife and natural resources, to say nothing of the Spotted Owl.

If you are not outraged, you should be! I urge you to write President George Bush, The White House, Washington, D. C. Tell him of your concerns and remind him of his campaign pledge of protection for our Nation's wetlands. Our old growth forests may well become an endangered species, too, unless "we the people" let the Administration know how we feel about the issues.

ROSSMOOR OAK FOREST

Issues involving proposed destruction of the oak forest in Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, were argued before the Appeals Court in San Francisco on September 25. Interestingly, the position taken by those opposed to the project as proposed by the developer was effectively supported when a study was made of the area. Two Alameda Whip Snakes were trapped and a third was seen "slithing" away. That issue was NOT fully covered in the 15 year old Environmental Impact Statement. A court decision is expected within 90 days.

STRIP MINING AN ABOMINATION

A New Plan announced by Interior Secretary Lujan will relax prohibitions against mining in certain restricted areas. Some miners, particularly in the coal industry, will be able to obtain the right to mine in an area that is currently protected. Cathy Carlson, speaking for the Nation Wildlife Federation, asserts: "It's an outrage. This proposal pretends to protect property rights, but it favors miners...."

WHO IS LOOKING AFTER OUR BIRDS?

Migratory birds in most instances are not hunted and generally are protected under U. S. laws. Right now that's about ALL they are. Lack of funding of many state non-game programs means essentially no agency is giving attention to "what's happening" to our birds. Presently most money is spent attending to "game birds," while non-game species, which make up some 70% of the birds, are literally not being attended to. The importance of the situation can be seen when it is understood non-game species are becoming threatened or endangered at an average rate of one species every month. H. R. 3195 in the House of Representatives and S. 1491 in the Senate seek to do something about the situation. The measure, called the Partnerships for Wildlife Act, has recently been introduced. Co-sponsors are needed. Write your Congressman at the House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515, and your two Senators at the Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20510.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?????

A word from down underland, Australia, about so-called "pest" birds. In Quom, a tiny community north of Adelaide, the Australian National Park and Wildlife Service people have been using hypnotic drugs in drinking water to capture flocks of Corellas which have been causing massive damage to crops in the area. The drugged birds are then given a lethal dose of carbon dioxide. This is conservation?

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, November 2, **Tennessee Valley**. Carpool 7:15 a.m. at Acalanes Avenue off Pleasant Hill Rd., north of SR 24. Meet at parking lot in Tennessee Valley at 8:15 a.m. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. Go south on US 101 and north on SR 1 about 1/4 mile to Tennessee Valley Rd. on left, and drive to parking lot at end. Two miles of good trail to the ocean. Grassland and creekside birds, ducks and ocean birds.
Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 3

Thursday, November 7, **Alameda South Shore**. Carpool 7:30 a.m., on El Nido Rd. From east on SR 24 take Acalanes ROAD exit and follow signs for Upper Happy Valley Rd. Park along El Nido. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at Broadway and Shoreline Ave. in Alameda. Take SR24 to I-880, and go south to the 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. Wide variety of shorebirds; Clapper Rails are possible.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 1

Tuesday, November 12, **Lafayette Reservoir for parents with small children**. Meet 9:00 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.
Leader: Denise Wight, 228-2601 Category 1

Saturday, November 16, **Charleston Slough**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at end of Terminal Rd., Mountain View. Take Dumbarton Bridge and go south on US 101 to San Antonio Rd. exit. Go north and east on San Antonio and turn right on Terminal. Park near end. Water, salt marsh birds. Trails may be muddy.
Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Wednesday, November 20, **Mt. View Sanitary Plant**. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at parking lot at the plant. Take 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. After lunch, we will go to Mallard Reservoir for ducks, other water birds. Trails may be muddy.
Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 1

Saturday, November 30, **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: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MOSS LANDING, September 7.

On the bad side, the shore-birding was not as good as in the past, as the Moonglow Dairy was completely full of water and the marshy ponds at Salinas were bone dry. On the good side we did see several hundred Sooty Shearwaters, a couple of dozen Red Knots, twenty Lesser Yellowlegs, and, the best of all, the female King Eider. Seventy-three species were seen.

Steve Glover

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, September 11.

Seven birders spent a beautiful late summer day at the hottest birding spot in the East Bay. Although we were a little early for migrating passerines, the ducks had begun to arrive in full force, as evidenced by several thousand Northern Shovelers. Highlights included Burrowing Owl, 4 to 6 Blue-winged Teal, and a male Tufted Duck. Seventy species were seen.

Steve Glover

POINT DIABLO, September 19.

Eleven of us met in the upper Rodeo Lagoon parking lot (the leader couldn't find the meeting place in the East Bay) on a very overcast and fog-filled day. We birded the lagoon and adjacent areas, waiting for the fog to clear on top of the hills. It never did. We did see 54 species of birds including a Great Horned Owl, a Merlin, two Cooper's Hawks, two Pectoral Sandpipers, an Elegant Tern and Vaux's Swift, and the highlight of the day, a Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Jim Lomax

BOLINAS LAGOON, September 25.

The weather was threatening and the Bolinas Sewer Ponds were inaccessible, but five birders managed to find 54 species before the rain came. Highlights were 2 Merlins and an early Eurasian Wigeon at Pine Gulch Creek and a pair of Wood Ducks at 5 Brooks.

Elizabeth Dickey

OUTER POINT REYES, September 28.

Seven birders spent a comfortable day (by Pt. Reyes standards) looking for and finding eastern vagrants. Highlights included sixteen Pectoral Sandpipers, an Oldsquaw, a Broad-winged Hawk (after the group split up), two Palm Warblers, a Black-and-white Warbler, a MacGillivray's Warbler, and, best of all, a male Prothonotary Warbler seen through a scope. Seventy-four species were seen.

Steve Glover

OBSERVATIONS

by Steve Glover

Please send observations to Steve Glover,

333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.

Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Broad-winged Hawk: 20 on 9/24 at Hawk Hill, Marin Co. (GF, MP)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 11 on 9/10, 9 on 9/24 at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (MJC, FB)

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 on 9/6 at Princeton Marsh, San Mateo Co. (FB, EL); 1 on 9/9 at the Rush Creek Marshes, Novato (GF, MP); 1 on 9/10 at the Spaletta Slop Ponds (FB, MJC).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Seen throughout the period at Pt. Reyes and Rush Creek by many observers. Numbers as many as 200 at the Coyote Creek Riparian Area is especially noteworthy. (GF, KH, SG, RL, JR, RR; also on RBA.)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: 1 on 10/2 (GF, KH), 10/3 (SG, RL), and 10/4 (JR, RR), all at Coyote Creek RA. Also on RBA.

Ruff: 1 on 10/2 (GF, KH), 10/3 (SG, RL), and 10/4 (JR, RR), all at Coyote Creek RA. Also on RBA.

Arctic Tern: 1 immature on 9/15 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR) Arctic Tern is very rare anywhere in the bay.

Least Flycatcher: 1 on 9/15 at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. (GF, MP)

Purple Martin: 2 on 9/10 at the Lighthouse. (JR)

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 10/3 at the Coyote Creek RA. (SG, RL; also on RBA)

Red-throated Pipit: 2 on 9/22 at Hayward RS. (BR) Also seen 9/22 (KH), 9/23 (SG, RL, JR, RR, JA), and 9/24 (JR, DW). They were last seen by BR on 9/29. These were the first ever seen in the East Bay and until this invasion year were extremely rare in Northern California. Also 2 on 9/30 in Bolinas (GF, MP) and 4 at the Bolinas Sewer Ponds on 10/1 (JR, FB, MJC). Also on RBA.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 9/26 near Princeton Inn, San Mateo Co. (CB, JR, KH); 1 on 10/2 at Pt. Isabel, Richmond (BR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 on 9/20 at the Dunes Campground, Bodega Bay (GF); 1 on 9/26 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach (SG, RL). Also on RBA.

Cape May Warbler: 1 on 9/5 (GF, MP), 9/10 (FB, MJC, JR), 9/13 (GF, KH), 9/14 (SG, RL), and 9/17 (FB, MJC, JR, BC, EH, SG, KH), all at the Lighthouse.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 on 9/15 at the Lighthouse. (GF, MP)

Townsend's Warbler: 1 on 10/1 in their Lafayette yard. (H&BA)

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 on 9/9 at the Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes (GF, MP); 1 on 9/15 at the Lighthouse (GF, MP).

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 on 9/10 (FB, MJC), 9/13 (GF, KH), and 9/14 (SL, RL), all at the Mendoza Ranch.

Prairie Warbler: 1 on 9/22 at Fort Funston in S.F. (GF); 1 on 9/24 at the Lighthouse (FB, MJC); 1 on 10/1 at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks (RS, FB, MJC, JR).

Palm Warbler: 1 on 9/22 at Fort Funston (GF); 2 on 10/1 at the Fish Docks (RS, JR, FB, MJC).

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 on 9/9 (GF, MP), 9/10 (FB, MJC), 9/13 (GF, KH), 9/14 (SG, KH), and on 9/15 (GF, MP), all at the Mendoza Ranch. Also 1 on 9/9 at the Fish Docks (GF, MP); 1 on 9/15 at the Lighthouse (GF, MP); 1 on 9/16 at Coyote Hills (BR); 2 on 9/17 at the Fish Docks (JR, FB, MJC); 1 on 9/20 at Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay (GF).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 on 9/13 at the Nunes Ranch (GF, KH); 1 on 9/26 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (SG, RL).

American Redstart: 1 on 9/9 (GF, MP), 3 on 9/10 (FB, MJC, JR), 2 on 9/13 (GF, KH), 3 on 9/14 (SG, RL), 2 on 9/15 (GF, MP), all at the Lighthouse. Also 2 on 9/15 at the Nunes Ranch (GF, MP), and 2 on 10/1 at the Fish Docks (RS, FB, MJC, JR).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 on 9/30 (GF, MP) and on 10/1 (FB, MJC, RS, JR) at the Nunes Ranch.

Northern Waterthrush: 1 on 9/26 at the Princeton Inn. (SG, RL, JR, KH, CB)

Mourning Warbler: 1 immature female on 9/14 at the Lighthouse. (MS, SG, RL)

Summer Tanager: 1 on 9/10 at Coyote Hills. (BR)

Dickcissel: 1 on 9/20 at Hayward RS. (BR) This is another first record for the East Bay.

Bobolink: 1 on 9/13 at Pt. Reyes (GF, KH); 1 on 9/26 at Princeton Marsh (CB, JR, KH); 1 on 9/27 at Hayward RS (BR).

Observers: Harry and Betty Adamson, John Asher, Florence Bennett, Chris Benesh, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, and Dennis Wolff.

For information and updates on rare birds in the Bay Area and northern California, call the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, (510) 528-0288.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES UPDATE

Mt. Diablo Audubon would like to thank the following members for supporting the Audubon Adventures series: Dow Chemical c/o Andree Youngson, Joan Como, Patricia Clark, Barbara Raab Hall, Ralph Bruns (2 classes), Diane Macario, Barbara Vaughn, and Barbara Rothway. This year (through the generosity of members not specifying a particular school), our chapter was able to sponsor the entire third grade at Martinez Elementary, a total of 150 children. The school principal, a birder herself, is very excited to get this program implemented in her school.

It's still not too late to sponsor a class of your choice, or send in an "open choice" classroom. Jan will still be sending in the Audubon Adventures through November. It's a truly wonderful and enriching program for our children. Please contact Jan Cooper at 372-8680 for any additional information.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

This is the time to put out suet at your backyard feeder. It's a great way to attract chickadees, nuthatches, siskins, kinglets, titmice, flickers, and woodpeckers. We have seven different types of suet and five feeders.

Now is also the time to purchase your birdhouses for next spring. Put them up and let them weather before next year's families move in.

The seed sale ends October 31. Don't forget to ask about the seed storage program. We now have available sunflower chips which are the inside of sunflower seeds. No hulls to clean up.

Personalized doormats with bird motifs are available. (Be sure and check out the quail.) Allow four weeks for personalizing with your name.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TRIPS

CONDOR INFORMATION

All members of Mt. Diablo Audubon are invited to attend the regular meeting of the Contra Costa Avian Society on Friday, October 25, in the Board Room, Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord. The guest speaker will be Eric Johnson, who served as a member of the Recovery Team that captured the last of the California Condors for placement in captivity. Mr. Johnson's first-hand knowledge of decisions leading up to the capture of the remaining California Condors for a captive breeding program should be of interest to everyone concerned about the future of the condor and other avian species. MDAS members should bring their membership card and, on showing this at the door, will be admitted without charge. Other guests pay a \$1.00 door charge.

USUMACINTA RAFT TRIP

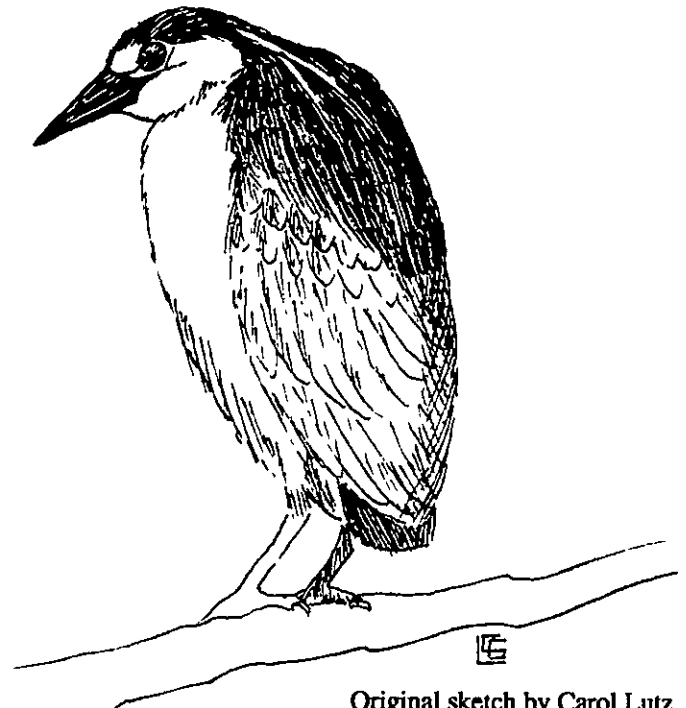
Far Flung Adventures of Terlingua, Texas, will conduct a float trip for Audubon members and their friends and families down the Rio Usumacinta, the River of the Sacred Monkey. This river forms part of the border between Guatemala and Mexico and is not only a birder's paradise and the premier location for tropical raptors but is alive with history. The trip will start March 30, 1992, and run through April 8. The cost per person is \$1550 which includes all ground transfers, hotels, restaurant meals and drinks, beer and soda on the river, all river meals, waterproof bags and boxes, tents if needed, and guide services. You will need to supply your own sleeping bag, mattress and ground cloth. For more information, contact Far Flung Adventures, Box 377, Terlingua, Texas 79852, (915) 371-2489.

11th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WILDLIFE & NATURE ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE

On Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society is sponsoring their Eleventh Annual Christmas Wildlife and Nature Arts and Crafts Show at De Anza College in Cupertino. This show is a major fund raiser for the Wildlife Society, which is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the education and interpretive programs at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The Wildlife Arts and Crafts Sale will feature over thirty top quality artists offering paintings, photography, sculpture, wood carvings, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, and more. This year there will be a raffle for an original watercolor of the Society's mascot, the American Avocet, by featured artist, Don Miller. The show will be held in the De Anza College Campus Center each day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and other environmental groups in the Bay Area will also be conducting an environmental fair on both Saturday and Sunday, with information ranging from rehabilitation of marine mammals to cultivation of California native plants. Saturday is also De Anza Flea Market day, with over 12,000 visitors expected on the campus. On Sunday, several special wildlife programs are planned throughout the day.

Admission to the Arts and Crafts Sale is free, but there is a parking charge on the De Anza campus (\$1.00 for the parking lots and \$2.00 for the garage just west of the Flint Center). For further information, call the Refuge at (510) 792-0222, any day between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Original sketch by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them soon: Mariella Aarden, Kathleen Adkins, Charles Anglen, Waynn Ansley, Roy Bailey, Jennifer Bauhofer, Catallo Berna, John E. Bodle, Marilyn Boss, Dorothy Bradt, Mark Brocco, Ruben Chang, Mrs. Richard Christensen, Gayle Copeland, Charles Coyle, Vicki Dauer, Larry Dekker, Ginna Denues, N. N. Dickerson, Cheryl Eisenhower, Faith Ferdinand, Michell Gabriel, Michelle Giles, Russ Hammond, Mrs. B. A. Harless, Glenn Harris, Betty Hinz, Shoba Kalia, Kim Keller, Robert Kosloff, Jean Lamon, Mrs. Ted Lewis, David Llewelyn, Michael Lubick, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lutz, Carol Mayer, Dennis McManamon, Maeve Mitchell, Jill Mount, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nielsen, Michael O'Connor, B. Orlebeke, Nancy Osbourne, Mary Patterson, Robert Paulson, Jr., Colleen M. Pepper, Heidi Perryman, Mrs. C. L. Pink, E. Proudfoot, Daniel Rascher, Sr., Jeff Rice, Sheryl Roberts, Carole Robinson, Brian Rogan, Fred Salonga, Mrs. John Shaff, K. Simoni, Gordon H. Smith, S. Sohrabi, John Soubier, Brenda Starbird, Susann Steinberg, Gwendolynne Tittle, Diane Wardrope, James Wells, and John Willbrand.

HOLIDAY GIVING

It's not too early to think about Christmas giving with the '92 ENTERTAINMENT book. The '92 ENTERTAINMENT book is an original gift, especially for those hard-to-please people on your Christmas list. They can save 50% on sports events, restaurants, theater, travel and MUCH, MUCH MORE.

Save 50% on almost 800 hotels and motels through the U. S., Canada, and Mexico. Save up to 50% on dozens of out-of-town editions of the ENTERTAINMENT book.

Don't delay; supplies ARE limited.

Send a check for \$35 (20% goes to MDAS) made out to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563. Call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732 for more details.

The Quail is published monthly except for the combined July/August issue. Audubon membership includes subscriptions to the Quail and Audubon magazine. To join (\$35/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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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 \$10/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Brian Elder, 349 Camaritas Way, Danville, CA 94526. First class mailing of the Quail to a member or nonmember is an additional \$3.50/year payable to MDAS & sent to the Treasurer.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Mike Williams, (510) 376-1631.

*Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (510) 229-0394
Exchange bulletins for MDAS to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, please.*

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(510) AUD-UBON

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Hospitality: Winifred Young, (707) 745-4134

Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

December 1991

Vol. 38 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 12

December Program:

East Bay Regional Parks

Bob Doyle, a long-time MDAS member, is currently assistant general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, in charge of acquisitions and future planning. He will speak to us at our **December 5** meeting about new and future acquisitions of the EBRPD, habitat preservation in the parks, and other issues pertaining to the Park District. This will be a very timely talk, in view of recent suggestions to close Mt. Diablo and other parks.

Bob is a local person; he went to Concord High School, graduated from St. Mary's College, and has worked for East Bay Regional Park for many years. He was instrumental in founding Save Mt. Diablo, serving for many years as its president, and now is on their board of directors. He is also on the Contra Costa General Plan Committee and on the board of the East Bay Conservation Corps. Bob last spoke to MDAS about saving Mt. Diablo and the surrounding areas.

In place of Birding Information in December, Jimm Edgar will speak on the **1991 Christmas Bird Count** and how to get involved! For information on the Christmas Count, see page 5.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of every month from September through June. Our new meeting place is the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. The new times for the meetings are as follows:

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Birding Info
7:50 Business Meeting
8:20 Social Time
8:40 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, 837-2843. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
from
the Mt. Diablo Audubon Board

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WETLANDS: STILL NO RESOLUTION

Everyone interested in the fate of the nation's wetlands is watching and waiting to see when the next shoe will drop in this scandalous situation. So far the President has (at least publicly) given NO heed to the thousands of letters urging him to keep faith with the American voters. All during the 1988 campaign, then-candidate-for-President Bush asserted he wanted to be THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESIDENT. Time and again he "PROMISED" there would be NO NET LOSS OF WETLANDS under any administration he headed.

The reality of the situation is that our nation's wetlands are under the most serious attack in our history. This occurs at a time when science has PROVEN wetlands are a vital link in the ecosystems which keep birds, animals, and yes, even we humans going.

George Miller, Don Edwards, and Barbara Boxer, to name but a few far-sighted representatives, have taken some initial steps to ensure that wetlands will NOT be lost. Miller has written Secretary of Interior Lujan (no friend of the environment, he) and Administrator of EPA Reilly asking for information as to the methods used in arriving at the now-infamous Wetlands Delineation Manual proposed by the Bush Administration. Edwards has taken significant action, and Boxer has initiated a "Dear Colleague" letter. Boxer's letter, now signed by a number of California congressional representatives, urges her fellow representatives NOT to support efforts to further endanger wetlands or to weaken the authority of EPA in enforcement of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

You can help! If you have NOT yet written to President Bush on this vital issue, do so. Your congressman, if from the Bay Area, is probably already on the right side of the issue. However, a letter to your representative is important. Let your friends know of this vital issue and urge them to contact their representatives on the matter.

THE TOLL ROAD COMETH???

Yes, Matilda, the toll road will cometh if the "people" don't let those in authority KNOW how they feel about the matter. The issue is now evidently up to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for decision. This is because the Contra Costa Transportation Authority has written what we would refer to as a "cute" plan that appears to obfuscate the financial, environmental, and other impacts the ill-conceived road would have if it ever was actually created. Time is short. Call or write to:

Honorable Steve Weir, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th St.
Oakland CA 94507-4700

Advise him you are opposed to the proposed (85 mile) Mid State Toll Road and insist that it NOT be included in any plan developed by the MTC. Your opposition should be expressed soon, for decision time is at hand.

A VISIT WITH LIANA JOHN

A few weeks ago, Liana John, an environmental writer from São Paulo, Brazil, visited the USA. As Conservation Chair for MDAS, I was fortunate in having had a chance to spend a couple of VERY interesting hours with her. Ms. John has written extensively on the problems of destruction of the rain forest. She is attempting to point out to Brazilian decision makers the serious impacts that are and will result if destruction of rain forests continues. Interestingly, one reason she was in the US was to see the things we've done wrong, e.g., destruction of our old-growth forests, and the drastic effects such activities have had and will have on our environment. Among other things, Ms. John has authored a very attractive book (not available in the USA at this time) which is entitled, *AMAZONIA, Olhos De Satelite*. The book, which is profusely illustrated with photos taken by satellite of the destruction taking place throughout the Brazilian rainforest, presents graphic proof (if any were needed) as to what's happening to our world.

WHAT SHOULD WATER AGENCIES DO TO PROTECT WETLANDS

The Committee for Water Policy Consensus, formed in 1983 to try to bring reason and sense rather than confusion and non-sense to California's disparate water users has been effective. Even LA's Metropolitan Water District has taken some small, tentative steps toward a more sensible water use policy. At the urging of MDAS, CWPC has named a committee whose purpose will be to draft policies for guidance of the various water districts, etc., in wetland matters. The committee will be co-chaired by the author of this column and by Roberta Goulart, staff member of Contra Costa County's Community Development Department. Stay tuned, this should be an interesting exercise.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Greenbelt Alliance is hosting a series of meetings at which local environmental, business, and other leaders discuss the pros and cons of the concept of "regional government," particularly when it comes to land use, transportation, and the environmental issues. The next meeting, in early December, will review proposals to be presented to the Bay Vision 2020 group. The question: Is regional government a "possible way to get a handle on growth/development/environmental issues" or would such an arrangement wind up like the California Coastal Commission, as a program with its high ideals blunted by political appointments to the decision-making positions.

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, December 5, **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

Wednesday, December 11, **Lafayette Reservoir**. Meet 9:00 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: Denise Wight, 228-2601 Category 2

Saturday, December 21, **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

Upcoming trips:

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, January 18, 19, and 20, **San Luis Obispo**. This is a new field trip this year, and the availability of rooms is not known. Make reservations soon. The trip will visit the Carrizo Plains on Sunday, January 19.

Saturday and Sunday, February 1-2, **Los Banos**. It is not too early to make reservations for the Los Banos weekend trip. In Los Banos is the Bonanza Motel, (209) 826-3871. Nearby in Santa Nella are the Best Western (Pea Soup) Andersen's Inn, (209) 826-5534, and the Holiday Inn Mission de Oro, (209) 826-4444. There will be a group dinner Saturday at the Woolgrower's Restaurant in Los Banos. Call trip leader Florence Bennet, 689-3106, for more information.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LINCOLN PARK, October 3.

A small group of members and guests enjoyed a pleasant but uneventful morning in Lincoln and Golden Gate Parks. Sadly, numbers of migrating warblers in both places are diminishing rapidly, year by year, and we saw only one common warbler. 32 species were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, October 12.

Thirteen members and guests spent a pleasant day at Pt. Reyes with sunny inland weather and mild coastal fog. We saw or heard 91 species of birds and one bobcat which sat quietly for several minutes. Highlights included White Pelican, ten duck species, Osprey, several Snowy Plovers, Pectoral Sandpiper, Horned Lark, a flock of Pygmy Nuthatches, Winter Wren, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers, and Lapland Longspur (heard).

Maury Stern

SAN MATEO COAST, October 16.

Our trip along the coast between Pigeon Point and Princeton Harbor was enjoyed by eight birders. Highlights included close looks at a Red-necked Grebe, 5 "Black" Brant, and a Peregrine Falcon in swift flight, all at Princeton Harbor. Species total for the day: 75.

Florence Bennett

LIMANTOUR, October 26.

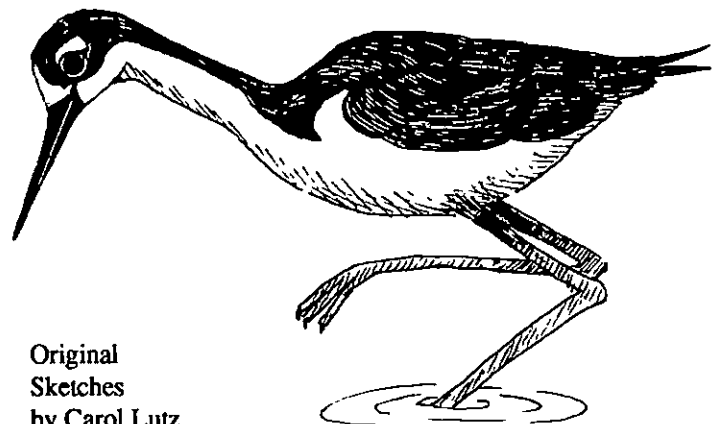
This field trip was cancelled due to heavy rain.

Steve Glover

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK, October 31.

Two members and two guests enjoyed a rather chilly morning, barely warming by noon. Although only 29 species were seen, a California Thrasher was a lifer for one of our guests, which generated infectious enthusiasm.

Barbara Vaughn



Original
Sketches
by Carol Lutz

OBSERVATIONS

by Steve Glover

Please send observations to Steve Glover,
333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583, or call 829-7207.
Please include your telephone number with your observations.

Arctic Loon: 1 on 11/4 (GF, KH, SG) and on 11/5 (FB, MJC, BG) at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes. This is the first record south of Alaska. Also on RBA.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 95 on 10/22 over Arrowhead Marsh (SG, RL); 6 on 11/8 at Hayward Shoreline (KH, RL, SG).

Snow Goose: 2 on 11/7 (BR) and on 11/8 (SG, KH, RL) at Hayward Shoreline.

Ross' Goose: 1 on 11/4 (GF, KH, SG) and 11/5 (FB, MJC, BG) at Abbott's Lagoon, also on RBA; 2 on 11/7 at Hayward Shoreline (BR).

Wood Duck: 1 adult female and 2 immature males on 10/19 at Martinez Shoreline. (DW)

Steller's Eider: 1 immature seen on 10/28 (GF) and 10/29 (RL, SG, JR, FB, MJC, BG) at Bodega Bay. This is only the third state record. Also on RBA.

Harlequin Duck: a pair on 10/6 (RL, SG) and 1 male on 10/22 (MJC, FB, JR) at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks.

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 10/14 and 10/29 at Briones Regional Park. (JA)

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 10/14 at Briones (JA); 2 on 11/7 along Dougherty Rd. east of Danville (SG).

Wild Turkey: a flock of 10 on 10/18 along Mines Rd. (SG, RL)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 15 on 10/8 at Drake's Corner, Pt. Reyes, (JR); 2 on 11/4 at the Spaletta Plateau (GF). Also on RBA.

Spotted Sandpiper: 11 on 11/6 at the Stockton Oxidation Ponds. (GF)

Northern Flicker: 1 "Yellow-shafted" on 10/29 at Briones. (JA)

Tropical Kingbird: 1 on 11/4 (GF), 11/5 (FB, MJC, BG), and 11/6 (SG, RL) at Road Forks Pool, Pt. Reyes. Also on RBA.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 on 11/2 at the Salinas Sewer Ponds. (MJC) Also on RBA.

Winter Wren: 1 on 10/22 in her Concord yard. (FB)

Red-throated Pipit: 1 on 10/8 at Drake's Corner. (JR) Also on RBA.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 10/14 at the Fish Docks. (FB, MJC)

Magnolia Warbler: 1 on 10/13 (GF), on 10/14 (RL, JR), and on 10/15 (FB, MJC) at the Fish Docks. Also on RBA.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 on 10/22 (FB, JR, MJC) and 10/23 (JL, SG, KH) at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 on 10/19 at Drake's Beach. (SG, RL) Also on RBA.

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 on 10/19 at the Nunes Ranch. (SG, RL) Also on RBA.

Prairie Warbler: 1 on 10/13 (GF) and 10/19 (SG, RL) at the Lighthouse; 1 on 10/15 at the Fish Docks (JR). Also on RBA.
Palm Warbler: 1 on 10/15 at the Fish Docks (RL, JR); 1 on 10/15 at the Abandoned Ranch, Pt. Reyes (JR); 3 on 10/22 at the Lighthouse (FB, MJC, JR); and 2 on 10/28 at Bodega Bay (GF, MP).

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 on 10/15 at the Fish Docks. (JR)

Blackpoll Warbler: 2 on 10/13 (GF), 1 on 10/14 (FB, MJC), and 2 on 10/15 (RL, JR) at the Fish Docks, + / sh ...

American Redstart: 1 on 10/22 at the Fish Docks. (JR)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 10/19 at the Lighthouse. (SG, RL)

Vesper Sparrow: 1 on 10/14 at Briones. (JA)

Swamp Sparrow: 2 on 10/19 at Olema Marsh, Pt. Reyes. (RL, GS)

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 10/22 at the Lighthouse (JR); 1 from 11/1 to 11/4 in their Concord yard (Bo&BG).

Oregon Junco: 1 "Pink-sided" on 10/23 in Pine Canyon, MDSP. (GF, MP)

Lapland Longspur: 2 on 10/8 (JR), 1 on 10/22 (JR), and at least 7 on 10/23 (JL, KH, SG), all at Drake's Corner.

Smith's Longspur: 1 on 10/8 at Drake's Corner. (GF) Also on RBA. This is only the second state record.

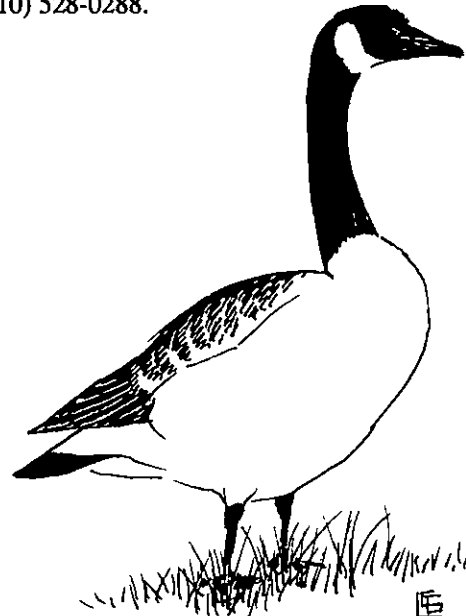
Chestnut-collared Longspur: 2 on 10/13 (GF) and 8 on 10/19 (SG, RL) at the Spaletta Plateau. Also on RBA.

Snow Bunting: 1 on 10/23 at the Lighthouse (JL, SG, KH), also on RBA; 1 on 10/29 at Fort Funston, SF (FB, BG, MJC), also on RBA; 2 on 11/6 at mile 42.18 on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (SG, RL). This was an invasion year for Snow Buntings.

Cassin's Finch: 1 on 11/11 at Hayward Shoreline. (BR)

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Kevin Hintsa, Marge Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Denise Wight.

For information and updates on rare birds in the Bay Area and northern California, call the Northern California Rare Bird Alert, (510) 528-0288.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

Off the top of my head this month:

Fund raising. We are a non-profit organization and all of us are aware of the difficult economic times we live in today. MDAS is also affected by this recession. Costs for printing and mailing the *Quail*, renting the meeting hall, purchasing materials, and so on, have increased many-fold in the last few years, but our income from National, the Birdathon, donations, etc., have not. The MDAS Board has been working on ways to increase funding. In the future you can expect to see new ideas such as T-shirts, a "poor box," wine tasting events, raffles, or other new innovations fledged from the chapter. We hope to have other events that will include public participation as well. If you have an ideas or suggestions for ways to help the chapter raise additional funds, please let me or any of the board members know.

Wild Birds Unlimited, the new birding store on Contra Costa Blvd. across from Mervyn's, has been donating 5% to MDAS from sales made to our chapter members. This has helped and I thank Mike Williams for those donations. You members who have not visited the store yet will be in for a treat when you do and I urge you to go and look. An amazing variety of birding-related items are on hand and Christmas is coming.

I have spent more time this fall out birding than I have in the recent past and of course we have been having quite a few rare birds showing up. Those of you who bird know the absolute exhilaration upon seeing a new "lifer" and I have seen a few lately. I wish I could get everyone out to catch that feeling. It's a special way to interrelate with nature and that is getting harder and harder to do these days. Besides that, it's free.

The Christmas Count is December 14 and those of you who want to participate can call Jimm Edgar, 658-2330, or me at 825-1513, to find out where to meet a group leader or become one if you want. Again teams will go to several habitats around Mt. Diablo to count birds.

I (and George Finger) would sure like to start the Breeding Bird Atlas. The problem is we don't have a director to oversee the operation. It would be a five-year project and would involve a lot of people but we need someone to "be in charge." If you are interested but afraid of committing yourself, call me. You won't be obligated and you might like what you hear. The end result will be published and will detail all the species of birds that breed in Contra Costa County.

See you December 5th.

92ND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1991 MDAS Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 14. 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 70 observers who tallied 34,500 individual birds of 156 species. Although the number of observers and the number of species was down from the year before, the number of individual birds was up, despite poor weather.

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 a location to be announced at the December meeting. 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 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 Jacobus 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 14, 1991.

_____ 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 that we hope to meet soon: Ruby Anderson, Denise Arora, Sharon Austin, Mrs. A. Basu, Tom Beck, Laura Birch, Cynthia Braunstein, Elizabeth Cathcart, Mrs. Jon Challoner, Mary Clift, Mrs. M. Clive, Pamela Cooper, Steve Crine, Deborah Damico, Kathleen M. Daniels, Abhijit Dey, Jed Douglas, Gary and Mary Fenity, Desmond F. Fergus, Jim Fincke, Daniel Fitzgerald, Connie Forslind, Mr. A. Friedrikson, Ellen Fujioka, Marleen Giuffre, William Goe, Raymond Grylich, Edith Harper, Dan Hendrycks, Karen Henry, Mrs. Charles Hernandez, Stanley Heyse, Sue Hoffman, M. Iwinski, C. Johnson, Dolly Johnson, L. Julian, Lisa Kelly, Melinda Keys, Mathilde Kland, Mrs. Edwin Laine, Mrs. Leo Lajoie, Michael A. Lampe, Terry Layton, William Lindsey, Lois Lippincott, David Madsen, Mr. and Mrs. James Maguire, Kathryn Mahoney, Mrs. J. Manley, Elaine March, Ida Marshall, Ellen Holmes Mawson, William E. McCormack, Steven McHaney, Joellen McKinsey, Anne McQueen, Jay Milne, Louise Mobley, Pomaikai Moss, Mike Mulholland, John Ohlmann, Maude Parker, Scott and Mary Pelkey, Donna Porter, Marvin E. Reif, Alice Ricossa, Linda Rojo, Michele

Roma, Jack Rosfeld, Kristina Running, Robert Schultz, Carl Shapiro, Mary Stabenow, D. Suslow, Anne Tager, Charles Thomson, Whitney Todor, Pauline Wampler, Connie Woods, Jamie Yoder, James Young and Shirley Young.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Last chance for the easiest gift to give and the most fun gift to receive on your Christmas list!

THE 1992 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Enjoy the 50% savings on restaurants, travel, sporting events, theater, and more.

Entertainment Books sell for \$35 each and MDAS receives \$7. Call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732 or pick one up at Wild Birds Unlimited, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill.





The Quail is published monthly except for the combined July/August issue. Audubon membership includes subscriptions to the Quail and Audubon magazine. To join (\$35/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, Mike Williams, 1172 Larch Avenue, Moraga, CA 94556. 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 \$10/year. The check should be made to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Brian Elder, 349 Camaritas Way, Danville, CA 94526. First class mailing of the Quail to a member or nonmember is an additional \$3.50/year payable to MDAS & sent to the Treasurer.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Mike Williams, (510) 376-1631.

Barbara Burek, Editor, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (510) 229-0394

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

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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