



The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

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January 1992

Vol. 38 No. 5

Next Deadline: January 9

January Program:

Birding the Yucatan Peninsula

At our **January 2** meeting, Chris Carpenter will speak to us about the Yucatan. If the Yucatan brings to mind only the beaches of Cancun and mysterious Mayan ruins, you will be pleasantly surprised to find that this is an area of excellent birding as well. The Yucatan Peninsula is that lower thumb of Mexico which sticks out to divide the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean. It has not only rain forest jungles and shore and estuary habitats but also dry scrub jungle. This range of habitat guarantees a wide diversity of bird life. Here you will find parrots, hummingbirds, motmots, and trogons, as well as other less-familiar species, many of whom dwell in and around the crumbling remains of the pre-historic Maya Indian cities. The Yucatan birder can enjoy exciting birds and the former glories of temples and pyramids in the jungle, both at the same time.

Chris Carpenter is a Senior Deputy District Attorney for Consumer and Environmental Protection in Alameda County. He is also a long-time member of Golden Gate Audubon Society and has been their Extended Field Trips chairman for the last seventeen years. Chris has spoken to MDAS several times in the last few years, most recently about the birds and wildlife of Kenya.

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~~ ←

~~8:00~~ Business Meeting

8:00 Social Time

8:30 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 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.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

TOLL ROAD UPDATE

Reports in this column have spoken to the issues involved in the "infamous" toll road proposed for eastern Contra Costa County. Also reported have been the various legal actions to protect the environment that have been taken by the Greenbelt Alliance, the Sierra Club, or MDAS.

Proponents appear to argue the Mid-State Toll Road will, when completed, alleviate traffic problems on Walnut Creek's Ygnacio Blvd. Also asserted by "some" is that the views of "we the people" were solicited in a poll undertaken by "someone." Rumor has it the poll indicated "we the people" believed the proposed toll road WOULD alleviate such traffic problems. As we look into our crystal ball, we can see NO indication that such views are factual, supportable, or accurate.

In the meantime, the letters written to Steve Weir (see the November *Quail*) are now on file and MUST be considered when the final decisions are made on this badly-thought-out, costly, and ill-conceived road.

WETLANDS

Still under the gun from several sources. At present the major issue involved is the Delineation Manual proposed by and on behalf of the Bush Administration. Press reports indicate the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others have carried out scientific studies to see what effect the proposed rules would have on the nation's wetlands. The results support comments previously asserted here: an environmental disaster!

Prediction, with finger to the wind: The departure of the White House Chief of Staff may leave an opening for the Bush Administration to "review" (and even drop) the proposed wetland criteria. Even if such an eventuality occurs, our nation is still faced with some terrible (proposed) bills in the House and Senate, which we will have to battle. These bills are opposed by Senator Cranston and Congressmen George Miller, Don Edwards, and Barbara Boxer. Unfortunately, support for one of the VERY bad Senate bills comes from our junior Senator, John Seymour. A letter from YOU to him asking him to change his position won't hurt and may even do some good.

Audubon is NOT alone in expressing strong opposition to the Administration's proposals. The August 23 edition of the Sierra Club's *National News Report* carried a headline on the lead story:

"After Giving his Word, Bush Erases Wetlands Protection."

FREE TRADE WITH MEXICO: A LOOMING ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

A proposed "Free Trade Agreement" with Mexico, being pushed VERY hard by the Administration, may well provide the makings for a huge environmental disaster in the U. S. A recent San Francisco meeting, called by the Administration's Trade Representative Carla Hills, produced a great scepticism on the part of the "few" environmental folks present. Since there are ONLY five environmental representatives on various committees established by the U. S. government to "look into this proposed arrangement" as compared with literally hundreds of business and industry reps, it is little wonder environmental considerations are receiving short shrift. A recent press report noted that "...environmentalists are insisting on tough specific language in GATT, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, which will be voted on by Congress, probably next year **after** (emphasis supplied) the election." David Roe, a senior analyst at the Environmental Defense Fund, has said, "The oral assurances are great, but what do they mean?" Further dismay was expressed as a result of a recent GATT decision that, if not revoked, negates the U. S. decision which prevented drift net caught tuna from being sold in U. S. stores. If a U. S. arrangement such as that can be negated by other countries who may not be as interested in environmental matters as "we the people" in the U. S. are, further agreements *re* trade MUST be looked at VERY closely.

GARBAGE: ARE THE WARS STILL ON????

Recent press reports indicate some possible shenanigans are going on relative to finalizing use of the Keller site for solid waste, i.e. garbage, disposal. MDAS, having participated in the garbage battle on an environmental basis, had originally declined to participate in citizen's committees to facilitate the implementation of the Keller site. In view of recent reports, however, MDAS has now agreed to participate in upcoming committee sessions in an attempt to ensure that there is NO mishandling of the important issues involved.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT: IS IT GOOD OR BAD???

Such questions were reviewed by representatives of a number of organizations (including MDAS) at a recent "session" called by the Greenbelt Alliance. A major conference on these regional issues will be hosted by the Greenbelt Alliance early in 1992. This conference will afford environmental organizations and individuals interested in such matters an opportunity to hear and discuss the proposals now being debated by city, county and state representatives. All those who are interested in environmental issues need to KNOW what the proposals for regionalism will mean. What will come of all this effort? As one individual, knowledgeable about political matters said, "I can't see many local political folks giving up their autonomy JUST to ensure environmental and land use matters are handled in a more effective manner." Say I, "Time will tell how this is all going to come out."

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 4, **Putah Creek**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:15 a.m. at the intersection of Cherry Glen and Pleasants Valley Rds., approximately 1 mile north from I-80. Park on Cherry Glen. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. Previous highlights include Osprey, Phainopepla, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Merganser.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

Wednesday, January 8, **Rarity chase**. Carpool 8:00 a.m. at Acalanes Avenue off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. We will try to locate some of the rarities that have turned up on the Christmas Counts.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category: Variable

Thursday, January 16, **Sunol Regional Park**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. in parking lot, Sunol Park. Go south on I-80 to Calaveras Rd. Go left under I-80 and 4 miles south on Calaveras Rd.; turn left on Geary Rd. 2 miles to park. Watch and listen for Turkey along Geary Rd. Golden Eagles and other raptors are often seen. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens are possible.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, January 18, 19, 20, **San Luis Obispo and the Carrizo Plains**. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, if you interested in going on this trip.

Wednesday, January 29, **Grizzly Island Game Refuge**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Refuge headquarters. Take I-680 north, I-80 east to SR12. Follow SR12 through Fairfield; watch for sign to Grizzly Island Refuge on right and follow the road to the headquarters. Watch for raptors and Short-eared Owls along the road. This is an outstanding raptor area. Mostly car birding.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980 Category 1

Saturday, Sunday, February 1, 2, **Los Banos and Panoche Valley**. There will be a group dinner Saturday at the Woolgrower's Restaurant in Los Banos. Call trip leader Florence Bennett, 689-3106, for information. Make motel reservations soon; see the December *Quail* for suggestions.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TENNESSEE VALLEY, November 2.

Eight people enjoyed good weather but only 41 species of birds. The highlights were two Bobcats, one seen at close range. The best birds were a Lincoln's Sparrow, seen by most of the group, and a Say's Phoebe and a Broad-winged Hawk, unfortunately each seen by only one person.

Elizabeth Dickey

ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE, November 7.

The day was unseasonably warm, the water calm, the tide high, and the nine members and guests scoured the beaches and bays of Elsie Roemer Sanctuary and Arrowhead with a short detour to Bay Farm Island. A Clapper Rail was heard but not seen at Alameda and the Eurasian Wigeon is back at Arrowhead. 49 species were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, November 12.

Special Field Trip for Adults with Children.

Four members and seven children ranging in age from 8 months to 7 years spent a warm, sunny morning exploring the areas along the reservoir between the playgrounds. In between my 18 month old son scraping up his face and other distractions, we managed to see 26 species including Bufflehead and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Denise Wight

CHARLESTON SLOUGH, November 16.

Nine birders spent a crisp November day studying and admiring a wide variety of waterbirds. Highlights included a Blue-winged Teal, a Eurasian Wigeon, a Barrow's Goldeneye, a Burrowing Owl from 10 feet, a Peregrine Falcon, and at lunch, a muskrat and a Sora. An extension trip to Redwood Shores added 8 more Barrow's Goldeneyes. 85 species were seen.

Steve Glover

MT. VIEW SANITARY PLANT, November 20.

Despite disappointing numbers of waterfowl, a healthy number of species included Common Moorhen, Green-backed Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Common Merganser, several snipe, and, most unusual, a Northern Flicker that was nearly black. 69 species were seen.

Steve Glover

ALTAMONT, November 30.

Twelve members and guests spent a sunny, clear, windy and cold day in the Tassaja Creek Regional Park, the Livermore hills, and the Altamont Pass. We saw ten species of raptors, including Golden Eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Prairie Falcons. Other highlights included several fields with dozens of Long-billed Curlews and several Common Snipe. A Rock Wren was well seen along Patterson Pass Road, as were at least 25 Mountain Bluebirds. 53 species were seen in all.

Maury Stern

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.

Loon (species): 300 to 400 seen on 11/7 in 1/2 hour from South Beach, Pt. Reyes, all heading south. (GF, MP)

Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 11/19 at Princeton Harbor. (FB, MJC)

Cattle Egret: 1 on 11/15 at Alameda Creek Quarries (RL, SG) 1 on 11/15 at Lake Merritt (FB); 2 on 12/4 in the field adjacent to Mallard Reservoir (SG). Cattle Egrets seem to have been on the move 11/15 as they were seen at at least two other spots in the Bay Area.

Snow Goose: 1 on 12/3 on the large rock at Pescadero ^{Beach} Marsh, San Mateo Co. (JR)

Blue-winged Teal: 3 on 11/3 at Hayward Shoreline (JR); 2 pairs on 11/15 at Arrowhead Marsh (FB).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 12 pairs on 11/15 at Lake Merritt. (FB)

Hooded Merganser: 1 pair at Mallard Reservoir on 12/4 (SG); 12 on 11/12 at Corte Madera Marsh (MJC, FB); 26 on 11/19 at Corte Madera Marsh (SG, RL, JR); 16 on 12/3 at Lake Lucerne, San Mateo Co. (FB, MJC).

Bald Eagle: 1 on 11/24 along Midway Rd., Altamont Pass. (S&MB)

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 11/22 along Mt. House Rd. at the Altamont Pass. (SG) This species has been rare in the pass the past couple of years.

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 on 12/4 at Mallard Reservoir. (SG)

Long-billed Curlew: 52 on 12/4 in fields adjacent to Mallard Reservoir. (SG) These are not normally considered rare but have been seen on only two of our last ten Christmas Counts.

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 11/26 (FB, MJC, RL, SG) and on 12/3 (JR) at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co.

Lewis' Woodpecker: 1 on 11/6 on Liberty Rd., San Joaquin Co. (GF)

Dusky-capped Flycatcher: 1 on 11/26 at the end of Lewis Ave. in El Granada (SG, RL). Also on RBA.

Mountain Bluebird: 58 on 11/22 along Patterson Pass Rd., Altamont Pass. (SG, RL)

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 11/7 on the Median Ridge Trail, MDSP. (SG)

Northern Shrike: 1 adult on 11/19 at Corte Madera Marsh. (SG, RL, JR) Also on RBA.

Palm Warbler: 1 on 12/3 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (JR) Also on RBA.

Wilson's Warbler: 1 on 11/28 at Hidden Lakes Park, Martinez. (DW) This is extremely late.

American Tree Sparrow: 1 on 11/26 (SG, RL) and on 12/3 (MJC, FB, JR) at mile 7.0, just south of the Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse. Also on RBA.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 11/15 and 11/16 at Coyote Hills Reg. Park. (RL, SG) This is very rare in the East Bay.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 on 11/10 at Olema Marsh, Pt. Reyes (GF); 1 on 12/3 at mile 7.0, just south of the Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse (JR, FB, MJC).

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 12/3 in her Walnut Creek yard (JG); 1 on 12/3 at mile 7.0 just south of the Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse (JR).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 5 on 11/7 at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Observers: Sonja and Michael Beeve, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Steve Glover, Jan Graves, Ron Lindeman, Marge Plant, 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.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF BIRDING ETIQUETTE

by Victor Emanuel

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

The new year is here already. For some reason these years keep going by faster and faster. I don't make many resolutions for new years. I find them hard to keep. But this new year I am going to try again. I want to see my 600th bird. That means 105 more. I hear those tsk, tsks....

The groups involved in the Peregrine Falcon Project for the last three years met December 11 and formed a new coalition called The Mount Diablo Biodiversity Restoration Project. Our focus now is to restore native plants and animals on Mount Diablo. This will involve some opportunities for volunteers to work with different projects which will involve both plants and animals. This is a long term project and I will keep you informed.

In the near future, though, is our own Clapper Rail Census Project. We are waiting right now to see if the Department of Fish and Game is going to get involved but either way we plan to start a census on Clapper Rails in Contra Costa County next March and April. This project will be headed up by Ruth Riordan, whom I have appointed CRC Project Director. We will be sending out two or three man/woman (have to be careful these days) teams into designated areas with tapes to take a head count. The areas will be small, and we will provide the tapes. This should be fun for people and a learning experience. We will write this survey up for interested parties in hopes of protecting what might be left. Call me if you are interested. Sign up sheets will also be at the meetings.

On a very sad note, I am sorry to inform you that Bob Watson, passed away in November. Bob served on Lindsay Museum's Board of Directors and was the husband of Save Mt. Diablo's President Sue Watson. Notes to Sue can be sent to P. O. Box 25, Concord, CA 94522. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, or to the Lassen Volcanic National Park Foundation, P. O. Box 8, Mineral, CA 96063-0008. MDAS is sending a donation to the Lindsay Museum.

The MDAS Board has decided to go ahead and have T-shirts made with the Quail (just like on our newsletter) and our name on it. They will be sold at the general meetings and when they are ready, I will work out some way for you to order them.

Lastly, on January 3, at 8:00 p.m., I will be giving a slide show entitled, "The Birds of Southeast Arizona with a Touch of Texas" to the Marin Audubon Chapter at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Greenbeach Road, Tiburon. MDAS members are welcome to attend. I will show many of the rarities of these areas and up-dated versions of slides from my 1990 show.

See you at our meeting January 2.

BIRDING CLASSES

THURSDAY FIELD CLASSES

On Thursdays this winter, MDAS's Norah Bain will offer field birding classes for beginning and intermediate birders. A single all-day class from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on January 16 to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge will feature enormous flocks of waterfowl, various hawks, plus waders and shorebirds in a scenic setting. There will also be three class sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on January 30, February 13, and March 19. One destination will be Cypress Grove Preserve, a property belonging to Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Preserve is on Tomales Bay and is never open to the public. Register on January 7 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Cost for the Sacramento NWR trip is \$15 for Orinda residents, \$17 for others. The three class sessions cost \$23 for Orindans, \$25 for others. For more details, please call Norah at 254-4516 or the Orinda Community Center at 254-2445.

BIRDING HALF MOON BAY AND LAKE MERRITT FIELD CLASSES

For the first time in two years, the Fremont Adult School will be offering Saturday birding field trips. The Half Moon Bay field trip will be on January 11 and the Lake Merritt field trip on January 18. Both trips will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants must pre-register by January 6 for the Half Moon Bay trip and by January 13 for the Lake Merritt trip. Register by mail or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont, CA 94538. Include the fee of \$20.00, your telephone number, and a stamped, self-addressed envelop. The field trips will be led by Alice Hoch, a member of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and Ohlone Audubon Society. For more information, call the Adult School at (510) 791-5841 or Alice at (510) 657-0475.

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting on January 21, 22, and 23. All classes meet 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St., San Francisco. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building. Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays and is an introduction to birds and birding. Part A starts January 21 and ends March 10; Part B starts March 31 and ends May 26. Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays and is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds. Part A starts January 22 and ends March 11; Part B starts April 1 and ends May 27. Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays and continues with the study of terns, alcids, and hawks. Part A starts January 23 and ends March 12; Part B starts April 2 and ends May 28. These classes are endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Fees are \$50 for each eight-week course, and pre-registration is recommended. Students need not take Part A to enroll in Part B classes. For information, call the San Francisco Community College, Community Services Office at (415) 561-1840.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend warm greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon at our activities: Cheryl Abel, Robert Abrams, Hazel M. Anderholm, Karla Angle, Rachele Baker, Stacey Beach, Erik Bedford, Elizabeth T. Bennett, Pearl Bond, Lavohn Brackett, Jody Brumfield, the Stephen Burton family, Tony Carlton, Clare D. Cooper, Susan and Don Couch, Tara Courtenay, A. F. Cross, Mrs. Neil G. Darling, M. Delnista, Kristi Donnell, the Scott Evans family, Mary Fulton, Sandra Geiger, Sharon Hicks, Patricia Hughes, W. J. Johansmann, Frances A. Latham, Ruth Londahl, Carlton Lowenberg, Nancy C. Lundeen, Linda Millsbaugh, Carolyn Nelson, Donna Rae Newman, Douglas Prutton, Tiven Racioppo, Maribeth Sayre, Frank Schneidermeyer, Karen Shaw, Althea Soldano, Yvette Spence, Terry Storey, P. Tanner, Rod Van Buskirk, Harvey and Louise Wall, and Eileen Wright.

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 donations made to the chapter by Helen and Harry Tassell of Antioch and Mr. and Mrs. James Smyth of Martinez. Their generosity is very much valued.

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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Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

February 1992

Vol. 38 No. 6

Next Deadline: February 9

February Program:

Birds and Other Wildlife of Madagascar, Kenya, and Ruwanda

Bruce Howard, a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, will present a two-part program at our **February 6** meeting. Bruce will talk about important issues pertaining to National, including the changes of logo and the "retirement" of *Audubon* magazine editor Les Line. He will also show slides of the animals of Madagascar, birds and other wildlife of the Maasai Mara of Kenya, and the high mountain gorillas of Ruwanda.

Bruce Howard is a local birder and a 30 year member of Golden Gate Audubon. He served nine years on National Audubon Society's Board of Directors, most recently as Vice-chairman. He has also served as a member of the Boards of Directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Richardson Bay Audubon Education Center and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

In order to provide sufficient time for all the business which needs to be discussed during the business meeting portion of our General Meetings, the Board has decided to drop Birding Information for the rest of this year. Bird observations by members will continue to be reported during the business meeting.

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

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Business Meeting
8:15 Social Time
8:35 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Mike Williams at the Wild Birds Unlimited store, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 798-0303. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Christmas Count Results - Page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WETLANDS STILL IN CONTROVERSY

California's remaining wetlands are still up for grabs. Notwithstanding all that has been learned in the last 50 years about the importance of wetlands, Administration proposals (the Bush Delineation of Wetlands, for example) will "do in" huge acreages of wetlands, unless some change is made in the Administration thinking on the issue. EPA's latest studies confirm the extent of the environmental disaster waiting in the wings if there is NO change in Administration thinking as to the value of wetlands and the Delineation Manual is actually implemented. Future generations will be asking the question, "What did they do to us?" The battle, now ongoing is NOT just one between Audubon people as environmentalists, nor is it just between a few environmental nuts who want to destroy private property. It is in reality YOUR battle. It is your battle if you have children and expect them to have any sort of decent future. This is real life. These are issues of very basic importance, which our nation has heretofore never had to face. That having been said, it is up to each and every one of us to try to change the course to which the Bush Administration now appears to be committed.

GOVERNOR "TELLS PRESIDENT BUSH"

A new ally has come forward in the wetlands battle with the Administration. That ally: Governor Pete Wilson. Wilson told the President the proposed new definition of wetlands would, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REDUCE:

Coastal protections under federal rules by approximately 75%.

Federal protection on 50% (150,000 acres) of Central Valley wetlands.

Federal protections on tidal marshes and diked wetlands in and around the Bay by about 50% of the total remaining acreage.

At times, seventy percent of the shorebirds migrating along the Pacific Coast make use of SF Bay wetlands. Only about 25% of remaining Southern California wetlands would still be protected IF President Bush's proposed Delineation of Wetlands ever becomes the criteria.

YES, MATILDA, SOMEONE DOES CARE

Two incidents in recent days are unusual and worthy of report. A complaint originating in the Knightson area which indicated a proposed development project would result in destruction of a tree estimated to be between 150 and 200 years old brought MDAS to action. Letters to the developer, property owner, CCC Supervisors, and others produced a response that the tree WILL be spared. A bit of good news.

Another fuss produced dramatic results. For many years swifts have nested, fed young, and lived their lives by utilization of some of the area around Rudgear Road and I-680 in Walnut Creek. I-680 is in the process of being upgraded. Once done, this will change much of the landscape along that highway. The improving of I-680 created some serious questions as to what will happen to nesting swifts. Letters to Cal Trans have produced results. Presently, no swifts appear to be in the area. Cal Trans assured MDAS that full consideration will be given to the swifts should nesting and normal family operation occur at any time Cal Trans people are working on the project in the vicinity of Rudgear Road. THANKS TO CAL TRANS, for being considerate, and thanks to Marjorie Plant for an assist.

ANCIENT FORESTS, CALIFORNIA, AND NEW LEGISLATION

GOOD NEWS???? A possible legislative solution to resolve the serious problems involving overuse and clear-cutting of old and ancient forests in California may now be in the works. Four proposed laws are under consideration by the California Legislature. A quick word from you just may put the votes in position to solve finally the problems. The proposed laws are contained in the following bills:

SB 300 Leslie & McCorquodale, Reorganize Board of Forestry
 SB 854 Keene, Sustained Yield Protections
 AB 641 Hauser, Wildlife & Cumulative Protections
 AB 714 Sher & Chandler, Ancient Forest Protection and Clear-cutting Reforms

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

by Mike Williams

The MDAS and Wild Birds Unlimited WINTER SEED SALE starts January 21. All ten varieties of seed will be 15% off regular prices. There are no fillers in the mixes and little waste; birds eat it all. Be sure and ask about the seed storage program. You can buy your seed for the next three to four months at sale prices, but you don't have to take it with you. Just come in and pick it up as you need it. In addition, ALL feeders in the store will be on sale at a 15% discount. This is the only time in 1992 when all feeders will be on sale and it is the time to upgrade or add to your feeders. Be sure and check out the new hummingbird/oriole feeder that is bee-proof. Both sales end February 27. Now is also the time to put out your birdhouses. Hummingbirds are already nesting and soon wrens, chickadees, and other birds will be nesting, too. Five percent of all MDAS members' purchases are donated to MDAS. Thanks to members' purchases, Wild Birds Unlimited donated over \$1100 to MDAS in 1991. Happy birding.

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 and Sunday, February 1 and 2, **Los Banos and the Panoche Valley**. Saturday in the Los Banos area we look for ducks and geese. Sunday up in the Panoche Valley we look for Mountain Plover and Mountain Bluebirds. There will be a group dinner Saturday at the Woolgrower's Restaurant in Los Banos. Call trip leader Florence Bennett, 689-3106, for more information. Make your motel reservations now; check the December *Quail* for suggestions.

Wednesday, February 5, **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. Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, hawks and grassland birds. Trip will go in light rain. If questions, call the leader.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Saturday, February 8, **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: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Thursday, 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. Loons, grebes, and bay ducks.

Leader: Denise Wight, 228-2601 Category 1

Saturday, February 22, **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.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Wednesday, February 26, **Lake Merritt**. Carpool 8:00 a.m., El Nido and St. Stephens Dr. Take either Acalanes Rd. or St. Stephens exit from SR 24. Meet 8:45 a.m. at aviary at Lake Merritt. From SR 24, take Grand Ave. exit. Straight ahead at 1st light; at 2nd light, go left onto Grand Ave. Turn right into park at Fairyland. Park in lot between boat house and the large aviary. We will see ducks and other waterbirds. This is a good opportunity for new birders to see ducks at close range.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NILES CANYON, December 5.

Only four members showed up this bright, sunny fall morning for the field trip, but they were rewarded with a fine birding day. A wide variety of land birds, waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds filled out the 76 species. A Merlin, many Spotted Sandpipers, and four species of woodpeckers were great. Perhaps the best bird of the day was not one but two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, an unusual winter species this far north.

Jimm Edgar

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, December 11.

Five members and one guest used the beautiful backdrop of this park to get acquainted with the 49 species of local and winter resident birds. We compared a pair of Hutton's Vireos with a nearby Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We also saw a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Nuttall's Woodpecker, and a Northern Flicker all in the same tree. Seven species of ducks were seen, including Common Merganser and Ring-necked Duck.

Denise Wight

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, December 21.

This was a sunny, calm day with a 7.1' tide. Five members and a guest saw the Black Rail and at least eight Clapper Rails, and watched two Great Blue Herons eating small shorebirds. 46 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.

December 14 was this year's MDAS Christmas Count Day. Observations for that day were reported both for individuals counting by themselves and for count groups. Leaders of groups with observations listed below include Kamran Alavai, Florence Bennett, Brian Elder, Betty Gallagher, Ed Hase, Jim Lomax, and Maury Stern. For some Count Day observations, the number of times the species has been seen in the eleven most recent counts is given at the end of the observations.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 12/29 at Hayward Shoreline, a first for the location. (BR, SG, RC)

American White Pelican: 19 flying south on 12/23 near the Benicia Bridge. (SG, GF) 2 of 11.

White-faced Ibis: 4 on 12/23 at Joyce Island, Solano Co. (DW)

Tundra Swan: 8 on 12/14 over the Pittsburg marshes. (EH group) 6 of 11.

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 on 12/14 at Mallard Reservoir (BR, SG); 1 on 12/29 at Shell Marsh (DW). 4 of 11.

Redhead: 1 on 12/11 at Mallard Res. (BR) 1 of 11.

Oldsquaw: 1 on 12/14 at Mallard Res. (BR,SG) This is a first for the count.

Surf Scoter: 5 on 12/14 on the river north of Pittsburg. (DWO, HC) 8 of 11; a good bird for the count but also a sign of saltwater intrusion.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 pair on 12/23 at the mouth of Pacheco Slough near Avon. (SG, GF)

Hooded Merganser: 1 pair on 12/11 at Mallard Res. (BR)

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 female on 12/14 at Mallard Res. (BR, SG) 2 of 11.

Osprey: 1 on 12/11 at Mallard Res. (BR)

Bald Eagle: 1 on 12/9 near the Newman exit, Hwy. 5. (M&KN)

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 12/22 at Westgate Recreation Area, San Joaquin Co. (JB)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 12/14 in Pine Canyon, MDSP, (MS group) and at Mallard Res. (BR, SG); 2 on 12/23 in Concord NWS (SG, GF). 7 of 11.

Black Rail: 12 on 12/14 in the Pittsburg marshes (EH group). This will likely be the nation's high.

Long-billed Curlew: 15 on 12/14 at Mallard Res. (BR, SG) 3 of 11.

Red Knot: at least 1000 on 12/29 at Hayward Shoreline. (BR, SG, RC)

Red Phalarope: 1 on 1/2 at Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co. (GF, MP)

Forster's Tern: 4 on 12/14 near the Waterfront Rd. overpass. (BR, SG, BG group) Another first for the count.

Burrowing Owl: 1 on 12/14 on private property close to Mt. Diablo. (PG, BW) 7 of 11.

Long-eared Owl: 3 on 12/10 in Tennessee Valley, Marin Co. (SG, RL, MJC, JR)

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 on 12/9 in her Walnut Creek yard. (TF) This is rare in winter.

Red-naped Sapsucker: 1 on 12/13 at Briones Regional Park. (JA, KA) 1 of 11.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 on 12/10 at Pt. Reyes Station, Marin Co. (GF, MP) Also on RBA.

Least Flycatcher: 1 on 12/16 at Berkeley Botanical gardens. (SG) Also on RBA. This is a first for the East Bay.

"Western" Flycatcher: 1 on 1/3 along Gazos Creek Rd., San Mateo Co. (SG, RL) Very rare in winter but without a song or call cannot be called Pacific-slope or Cordilleran.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 on 12/10 at mile 9.47 on Novato Blvd., Marin Co. (GF, MP)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 12/14 in Pine Canyon. (KH, MS group). This was a long-awaited first for the count.

House Wren: 1 on 12/12 in Mitchell Canyon (SG, KA, GL); 1 at Pine Pond first seen early in December (KH), seen again on 12/14 (KH, MS group). Rare in winter.

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 12/8 at Black Diamond Mines (GF, P&PM); 2 on 12/14 near Deer Flat (KA group); 1 on 12/14 in Donner Canyon (JL group); 1 on 12/14 in Briones (JA). 6 of 11.

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 12/28 (BR, SG, RC) and 12/29 (JR) at Hayward Shoreline.

Phainopepla: 1 on 12/14 at Hidden Lakes Park, Martinez. (BE group).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 male on 1/3 on Gazos Creek Rd. (SG, RL)

Chipping Sparrow: 1 on 12/14 at the Contra Costa Golf Course. (MJC, FB group) This is a first for the count.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 on 12/14 in his Lafayette yard (LF); 1 on 12/30 along Hwy. 128 a half mile west of Pleasant Valley Rd., in the Putah Creek area (MB). 2 of 11.

Harris' Sparrow: 1 on 12/28 (MS, JE), 12/31 (JR) and 1/1 (EH) along Quarry Lakes Rd., Union City.

Hooded Oriole: 1 adult male on 12/17 in Hidden Lakes Park. (DW) 1 of 11; very rare in winter.

Observers: Kamran Alavai, John Ascher, Michael Beeve, Jerry Britten, Rich Cimeno, Howard Cogswell, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, Lynn Farrar, George and Toni Finger, Steve Glover, Peggy Gross, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Gloria Lotten, Pat and Paul MacEachern, Mike and Kitty Norris, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, Betty Wentzel, Denise Wight, and Dennis Wolfe.

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

THE 1991 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

The 1991 MDAS Christmas Count took place on Saturday, December 14. 68 observers were in the field along with nine additional feeder watchers. Nearly every one of the 18 groups including feeder watchers contributed birds seen only by their own group. The 157 species given below, seen on Count Day, were one short of our 1989 record of 158 species. There were five additional species seen during the count period (three days before and three days after the count day). They were Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, and Red-naped Sapsucker. Four species new for the count were seen this year, Oldsquaw, Forster's Tern, Canyon Wren, Chipping Sparrow, and Hooded Oriole. As compiler of the count, I would like to thank all those who participated in the count, and particularly Winnie and Gifford Young who organized the delicious count-down dinner.

Jimm Edgar, Compiler

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon at meetings and on trips: Peggy Aamodt, Jean Anderson, Mike Aw, Ellyn Axelrod, Richard Bellagamba, Barbara Beno, R. Blass, Stephen Brooks, Ian Clark, Dorothy Cowen, David Crane, Mrs. John Davis, Ginny Donner, Ann Fredrickson, Oliver D. Hale, Sidney Herzik, Dorothy Hodges, Mrs. Farrand Holmes, R. A. Hunsinger, the Kauffman family, James Keith, Roland Kennedy, Eleanor Kessler, Jill Kirkwood, Roberta Klaproth, Tom Little, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Luch, Pat Maguire, Karen Marshall, Richard Mauler, William Miranda, Sinon Kevin O'Halloran, Sherry Padgett, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Robertson, Arletta Sherry, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Sipes, Dorenda Soite, Loessa Swanson, S. Sunshine-Messina, Stephen Taylor, Louise Toewater, L. T. Vinson, Diana West, J. D. Wilkinson, and Evelyn Wilon.

DONATIONS TO MDAS

MDAS welcomes gifts, donations, and bequests to the chapter as significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation. This month MDAS would like to express its appreciation for donations made to the chapter by Ed Hase of Walnut Creek and John Kavanaugh of Pleasant Hill. Their generosity is very much valued.

MARTINEZ WALKS

Bird walks and wildflower walks in Martinez are scheduled monthly through May, sponsored by the John Muir Historic Site. The leaders are Dirk Bogaert and MDAS member John Davis. The sites include Briones Regional Park, the Martinez shoreline, and Mt. View Treatment Plant, as well as walks at the John Muir National Historic Site. For a schedule and more information, call 228-8860.

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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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(510) AUD-UBON

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VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785
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Programs: Denise Wight, 370-7342
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

March 1992

Vol. 38 No. 7

Next Deadline: March 12

March Program:

Ecuador and the Galapagos

At our **March 5** meeting, Susanne Methvin, the general manager of Inca Floats, an adventure travel company, will give a presentation on Ecuador and the enchanted Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos are located 600 miles west of the continent of South America, directly on the equator. Here, naturalist Charles Darwin observed animals and reptiles, and particularly those birds which have come to be known as the Darwin finches, using some of the similarities and differences as evidence for his theory of evolution. The Galapagos Islands are also home to boobies, cormorants, frigatebirds and even one penguin. Join us for a visit to these ever-fascinating islands and their inhabitants.

Susan Methvin is an avid birder. She has designed, led, and coordinated worldwide nature tours with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Field Guides, Nature Company Safaris, and now with Inca Floats. She has taught birdwatching in the 1970's and 1980's through Marin Audubon, the Piedmont Adult School, Orinda Community Center, and her own birdwatching school. Susan is also an active conservationist, having been involved on local issues with the Ohlone Audubon Society and the Mono Lake Committee since its inception in the 1970's, and worldwide tropical conservation issues through Nature Tours and now the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos.

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

At the request of members, who felt the business meeting was too long and the social time was too short, the meeting schedule has again been revised. The new revised times for meetings are as follows:

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

Birding Information will return in the fall.

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SAVE CALIFORNIA WETLANDS

Informed individuals in California know we have already lost 90% of our Bay Area wetlands and 95% of the San Joaquin Valley wetlands. Both are part of the vital Pacific Flyway. Unfortunately, the protection of wetlands is, in some minds, unimportant. SAVE CALIFORNIA WETLANDS (SCW) is making a strong case as to WHY our wetlands MUST be saved and protected. Statewide approval is evident. Among those expressing STRONG support is Governor Pete Wilson. SCW is endorsed by more than 100 organizations and is in the forefront of efforts to save wetlands. Marc Chytilo is Chief Counsel for Environmental Defense Counsel, a public interest law firm specializing in environmental issues in south-central California. He has commented to the EPA on President Bush's proposed Wetland Delineation Manual, "The proposed action undermines public confidence in the regulatory process by reflecting a great deal of political pressure to eviscerate the legal protection for wetlands."

"Mitigation Banking." This concept permits development of a wetland area. The entity developing the wetland is obligated to "create" a wetland elsewhere. Marc Holmes, of SCW, said,

1. Mitigation banks probably won't work. Wetland creation or restoration is a very inexact science--and one rarely gets the type of wetland one desires.
2. Wetland mitigation banks are usually located far from the destroyed wetland (across the state or even across state borders), based on the President's proposed plan. Neighboring communities will no longer enjoy the values and functions of a natural wetland.
3. Ducks, geese, shorebirds, waterbirds, invertebrates, mammals, etc., who rely on wetlands for habitat, i.e., food, drink, and nesting and resting sites, will lose critical habitat. As a result, many will die.

Support for SCW is needed. A cash contribution will help to ensure results. Send contributions to: SAVE CALIFORNIA WETLANDS, P. O. Box 20651, Oakland, CA 94620-0651.

WETLANDS SUPPORT

Congressman Don Edwards will introduce a major wetland protection bill this month. The proposed law will ensure wetland regulation CANNOT be created in smoke-filled back rooms. Informed input would be sought from scientists and others who are experts on such matters. A major press event in San Francisco's historic Ferry Building was the backdrop for the announcement of the Edwards bill.

GARBAGE

One thing often associated with the older garbage dumps was a strong aroma. Some might even say "stink." The modern landfills (you see we no longer have garbage dumps) are not supposed to emit disagreeable odors. All this may be true when the landfill has been properly completed with a plastic liner, adequate water, and other technological creations. All these "gadgets" do not preclude one's nose from detecting a strong smell as arrangements go forward in the Marsh Canyon planning process. At this point it is impossible to determine just why the aroma is around. As the citizen committee "looking at the landfill project" digs into the issues, the source may well be located.

EBMUD

The East Bay Munciple Utility District has formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee. Twenty-five individuals will be asked to comment, make suggestions, and listen to proposed plans for utilization of the District's vast land holdings. Meeting monthly at the EBMUD Oakland Headquarters, the Advisory Committee will be provided with information concerning the operations, management, and anticipated problems. An EIR will eventually be developed to assist the District in carrying out its obligations to the public. The participants have toured some of the District's land and water holdings for the purpose of "getting acquainted." MDAS is participating in this activity. On the first tour, a Bald Eagle and a flock of (endangered) Aleutian Canada Geese produced for this bird-watcher a MOST satisfactory day.

TOLL ROAD FOIBLES

Unbelievable. The proposed infamous toll road in eastern Contra Costa County continues to win approvals. A couple of judges have, in effect, said, "It's OK." One asserted the toll road consortium does NOT have to produce an EIR prior to starting. Will there be more on this issue? Stay tuned. It's YOUR money. Do you want it spent this way?

BAY VISION 2020 AND REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Will there ever actually be one regional authority having to do with clean air, traffic, and land use issues? 250 people attended an all-day session and heard various views on the matter. The event, hosted by the Greenbelt Alliance with MDAS and a number of other sponsoring organizations, found that there are proposed laws wending their way now through the California legislature. All or some of these laws could have an impact on land use, traffic, and air quality issues. Originally developed by Bay Vision 2020, the ideas for regional controls are now in the planning stage. Extensive discussion as to just how such an arrangement could work are now ongoing. These talks involve decision makers, environmentalists, developers, and elected officials from various Bay Area counties. GBA's Larry Orman expects there will be actual (proposed) legislation on these matters in the comparatively near future.

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, March 5, **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 and water birds.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 2

Saturday, March 7, **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

Wednesday, March 11, **Black Diamond Mines Regional Park**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., north of Hwy. 24. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in the parking lot at park. Go east on Ygnacio Valley and Kirker Pass Roads to Hwy. 4. Go east on Hwy. 4 to the Somersville Rd. exit and turn right. Follow the road to the parking lot at the end. Woodland, chaparral, and some grassland birds.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 3

Saturday, March 21, **Tomaes Bay State Park**. Carpool 6:30 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR 24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Heart's Desire Beach at Tomales SP (\$5 entrance fee). 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 Point Rd. The park entrance is on the right.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Thursday, March 26, **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.

Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509

Category 3

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PUTAH CREEK, January 4.

A wonderful day was had by the 25 birders. Highlights included an American Dipper, 15 species of ducks including 12 Hooded Mergansers, 3 Eurasian Wigeon, Common Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks, 3 Osprey, Common Moorhen, Rock Wren, 3 Lewis' Woodpeckers, and 3 Phainopepla. 88 species tallied.

Florence Bennett

RARITY CHASE, January 8.

The Rare Bird Alert on Tuesday, January 7, listed 5 potentially findable birds, I felt, so Wednesday morning we designed a trip to locate these birds. Three were at Lake Merritt: Tufted Duck, Cattle Egret, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Two others were in the Fremont area, a Sage Thrasher at the Hayward Shoreline and a Harris' Sparrow that Maury Stern and I had found during the Hayward Christmas Count near Alameda Creek. We left the carpool meeting place at 8:00 a.m. and by 9:30 a.m. had seen all three target species at Lake Merritt. Our success ended there, unfortunately. We searched for both the other birds without success but did see 72 species during the day and ended the trip as a beautiful Golden Eagle soared overhead.

Jimm Edgar

SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, January 16.

Six birders spent a beautiful but cold winter day in this very unique park. Despite the damage and noise caused by a construction crew we saw several Varied Thrushes, a Golden Eagle, three Rufous-crowned Sparrows, a Canyon Wren, and two American Dippers, one of which was watched singing for a half hour. 47 species total.

Steve Glover

SAN LUIS OBISPO AND THE CARRIZO PLAINS,

January 18, 19, and 20.

The weather was generally good for the 13 birders on Saturday and Sunday and the remaining five who birded on Monday. The weather was perfect on Saturday, when we started the day with a singing California Thrasher and a Hutton's Vireo at Los Osos Oaks. We had a flock of Brant, a Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon at Morro Bay, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Royal Terns, and the rarity of the trip, an Eastern Phoebe, at Montaro del Oro State Park. We saw 104 species that day. Weather on Sunday on the Carrizo Plains was clear with increasing winds. We found Merlin, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Bluebirds, and 50 Sandhill Cranes on the plain, and a flock of curlews at De Soto Lake. Animals that day included pronghorn, coyotes, and a possible kit fox. 35 species were seen on Sunday. On Monday it was cold at Lopez Lake, with ice on the puddles. We saw 37 species this day, mostly the usual oak woodland birds and a few water birds. For the entire trip, we saw 120 species.

Elizabeth Dickey

(Field Trip Reports continued on page 6.)

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 1/15 (SG, RL), 1/21 (GF), and 1/23 (JR) on the duck pond at the Martinez Regional Shoreline; 1 on 1/7 at Little Panoche Reservoir, Fresno Co. (GF, MP); 1 on 1/24 along Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond (SG).

Cattle Egret: 1 on 1/2 and 1/23 at Lake Merritt. (JR) Also on RBA.

Snow Goose: 1 on 1/20 at Miller Knox Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Wood Duck: 12 on 1/30 along Geary Rd. near Sunol Regional Park. (SG)

Redhead: 15 on 1/14 along W. Frontage Rd. north of Powell St., Emeryville (JR, EM, RD); 60-70 on 1/20 between here and the Berkeley Marina (SG).

Tufted Duck: 1 on 1/18 (SG, RL) and on 1/23 (JR) at Lake Merritt; 1 on 1/22 at Lake Merced (SG, RL); 1 on 2/1 in Golden Gate Park (GF, KH); 1 on 1/18 at Mallard Reservoir (BR). All but the last were also on the RBA.

Steller's Eider: 1 on 1/22 in Bodega Harbor. (GF, MS) Also on RBA.

Oldsquaw: 1 on 1/18 at Crab Cove, Alameda (SG, RL); 1 on 1/20 at the end of Marina Bay Parkway (BR).

Black Scoter: 12 on 1/21 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (FB, MJC); 2 on 2/4 at Pescadero Beach, San Mateo Co. (JR).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 22 on 1/2 and 14 on 1/23 at Lake Merritt (JR); 12 on 1/8 (BR) and 1 on 1/24 (MJC) along the Martinez Regional Shoreline.

Hooded Merganser: 20 on 1/7 on Chileno Valley Rd., Marin Co. (FB, MJC); 1 female on 1/15 on Waterfront Rd. (RL, SG); 1 male on 1/25 at Lake Merritt (GF); 2 on 1/30 along the McCorkle Trail, Sunol Regional Park (SG).

Bald Eagle: 1 adult on 1/21 on Santa Fe Grade, Merced Co. (JR); 1 on 1/31 at the south end of Calaveras Reservoir, Santa Clara Co. (SG).

Ferruginous Hawk: 2 on 1/7 along Cummings Skyway near Crockett. (FB, MJC)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 1/19 at the Palo Alto Baylands. (FB, MJC)

Black Rail: 3 on 1/19 at the Palo Alto Baylands, including one eaten by a Great Blue Heron. (FB, MJC)

Surfbird: 1 on 1/20 at the end of Marina Bay Parkway. (BR) Rare in the East Bay.

Red Knot: 50 on 1/19 along the Foster City Shoreline (FB, MJC); approximately 1200 were counted on 1/9 during a shorebird census at the Hayward Shoreline (8 observers).

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 1/22 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (SG, RL) Also on RBA.

Red Phalarope: 1 on 1/21 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 on 1/8 along the Martinez Regional Shoreline. (BR) This seems to be only the third record for the county.

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 1/22 along Gazos Creek Road, San Mateo Co. (SG, RL); 1 on 1/31 along Geary Rd., Alameda Co., and 2 heard there on 2/4 (SG).

Burrowing Owl: 2 on 1/30 along Bruns Rd., Contra Costa County. (FB, MJC)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 on 1/14 (JR, EM, RD), 2/1 (GF, KH) and 2/4 (FB, MJC, JL) in Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. Also on RBA.

Least Flycatcher: 1 on 1/14 at the U. C. Botanical Gardens, Berkeley. (GF) Also on RBA.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 on 2/4 on Novato Blvd. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.

Vermilion Flycatcher: 1 adult male on 1/28 (FB, BG, MJC) and 2/2 (BR, KH) at the Gray Lodge National Wildlife Refuge.

Also on RBA. This is the tenth record for Northern California.
Pygmy Nuthatch: several on 1/25 at Redwood Regional Park. (GF)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 1/30 at Knobcone Point just outside the boundary of MDSP (KH); wrens seen on 1/30 in 3 completely separate locations of Sunol Regional Park (SG).

House Wren: 1 on 1/14 at Pine Pond, MDSP (KH); 1 on 1/15 near the parking lot at Black Diamond Mines Regional Park (SG, RL).

Mountain Bluebird: 7 on 1/15 along the entrance road to Black Diamond Mines RP. (SG, RL)

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 1/12 at Hidden Lakes Park (DW); 1 on 1/14 at Briones Regional Park (GF); 1 on 1/15 at Black Diamond Mines RP (SG, RL).

Phainopepla: 1 on 1/15 (SG) and 1/30 (MJC, FB) near the parking lot at Black Diamond Mines RP.

Northern Shrike: 1 adult on 1/29 (GF, JR) and 2/2 (KH, BR) along Gridley Rd., Colusa Co.

Palm Warbler: 1 on 1/28 at Alameda South Shore. (JR, EM, RD)

Vesper Sparrow: 2 on 1/7 along Little Panoche Road in San Benito Co. (GF, MP); 1 on 1/29 on Rt. 105 near Davis (JR, GF).

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 1/14 at Pine Pond, MDSP (KH); 1 on 1/14 (JR, EM, RD) and 2/4 (JL, MCJ, FB) in Strybing Arboretum. Also on RBA.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 200-300 on 1/27 near Mile 4 on Hwy. 12, Sacramento Co. (SG, RL)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Ruth Dement, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Ellie Mulke, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, 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

It's always a great thrill for me when I am free to take off on another adventure to find and photograph a new bird. Besides seeing the bird, there's the added measure of getting as close as I can to take a picture. Of course, finding the bird comes first. I spent two hours in February near flower bed 57a at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park looking through the bushes and trees for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (as described on the rare bird alert) but could not find it. While strolling around at a loss, I met Florence Bennett and Mary Jane Culver who were out birding the Park and I explained what I was trying to do. Following me over to the flower bed and looking up in the *Cryptocarya Rubra* tree (from Chile), Florence said, "There he is." Yep...he was there. Such expertise. So embarrassingly easy.

In January, I drove to Stevenson, Washington, 700 miles north, to see a Smew and bird the area for a couple of days. It was cold in the Columbia River gorge and the wind blew right through. The sun was out, though, when I found the Smew, a beautiful little white merganser with a black mask. Returning, I stopped at Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge to re-photograph the Whooper Swan, but as I was trying to sneak closer in the dark, I fell through the ice. I don't always get my bird. But I love the effort and the "most of the time" success. I find myself smiling and saying thank you to those birds that stayed a little longer and allowed me to get a little closer. It's an exhilarating feeling. Usually by myself, I can sit for hours in some remote place watching a world without people. I'm glad there are 10,000 bird species to see.

Our Chapter's Birdathon will be held Saturday, April 25, and I will bring team sign-up sheets and pledge forms to the next General Membership meeting. Plan to count birds and picnic that day. If you want to do a backyard feeder thing, that's fine, too. I will also have the sign-up sheets for the Rail Census Project. For this, volunteers will go out to pre-designated areas with tapes in late March and/or early April and count Clapper, Black, and Virginia Rails in Contra Costa County. It will be a fun experience with fellow birders and only need to be done for a couple of hours in an area.

Make yourself feel good. (No, not like that.) Write to the President. (President Bush, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500) He needs to be pressed now on where he stands on the major Earth Summit goals and related national policies: the Ancient Forest Act, the wetlands protection program, and the energy programs. You don't have to know the numbers of the legislation. Just ask in plain English. He should also be requested to go to the Rio and take a leadership role at the Earth Summit by supporting strong national environmental policies. Heeyyy...Feels good already...

CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

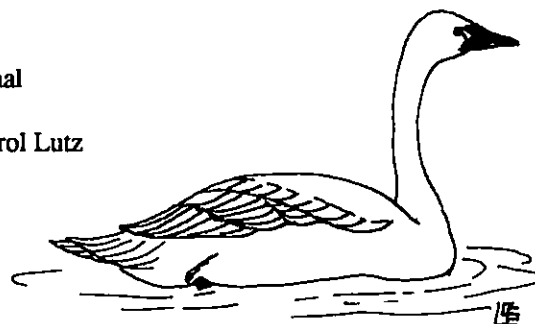
RAPTOR FEEDING PROGRAM

You have heard Jim Lomax talk about the Lindsay Museum's Raptor Feeding Program and have seen some of the birds at meetings. Now you can join and enjoy this program yourself. The Lindsay Museum is offering a Raptor Feeding Class on April 8 and 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Museum. The class is open to Museum members only and the fee is \$30. For more information, call Tamra McPherson at the Lindsay Museum, 935-1983. Pre-registration is required.

ALASKA CRUISE

If you would like to enjoy the creatures while enjoying creature comforts, come on a natural history cruise of the Inside Passage and the Gulf of Alaska from August 13 to 23, 1992. The trip will benefit Mono Lake. You sail from Prince Rupert, B. C., to Kodiak Island in the Gulf of Alaska aboard the 98-passenger Society Explorer of Clipper Adventure Cruises. Emphasis is on wilderness with its hidden treasures and spectacular scenery. Wrangall and Seward are the only towns, besides Prince Rupert, on the itinerary. The trip ends in Anchorage after a flight from Kodiak. The group rate starts at \$2612 for double occupancy. Included in the group rate is a \$250 donation to help save the Mono Lake ecosystem. Airfare is additional. For information, write M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

Original
sketch
by Carol Lutz



NEST-WATCHERS WANTED

You have read about the project to reintroduce Peregrine Falcons to Mt. Diablo during the past three years. Some of you have participated in monitoring those nests. Other Peregrine Falcons also overwinter and nest around the Bay Area on buildings and bridges. There is a group that monitors these nests, observing the birds' behaviour and activities for scientific purposes and young production. This is in cooperation with the Peregrine Reintroduction Project. Volunteer nest-watchers are needed for this project; all training is provided. Contact area coordinator, Dave Gregoire, 37 La Vista Way, San Rafael, CA 94901, (415) 456-4174, or Bill Van Meter, 415 Perkins St., Oakland, CA 94610, (510) 452-3302 for further information and details.

Field Trip Reports, continued.

GRIZZLY ISLAND, January 29.

The fifteen members and guests spent an intermittently overcast, occasionally sunny, frequently foggy day at the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. Six river otters in the eucalyptus grove area as well as about 60 elk were the non-bird highlights. Everyone was delighted with the three Chukar that appeared on the gravel road near the local duck club but no one knew from whence they came. Many dabbling ducks were seen in large numbers. Raptors included Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, and Great Horned Owl. We saw three different bitterns, many White-fronted and Canada Geese. Many Common Moorhen were seen well. Several Tree Swallows and one Violet-green Swallow were also among the 68 species seen. Just before and just after the organized trip, individual people saw Burrowing Owl and Merlin as well.

Maury Stern

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Mr. C. M. Axtell, Merlinde M. Brown, D. Callejas, Blanche Cancel, Seymour A. Davidson, Clifford Davis, Dean Children, Ken Furlow, John Heim, M. Julius, Mary Kline, H. David Kwinter, Floyd W. Larcher, Susan Lin, Cindy Machado, Rick Maddox, Linda McAlister, Jean McConnell, Megan McGregor, Rose Millard, Merry Nail, Bill Nichols, Marian J. Pierce, Jeffrey Podwaultz, the Sapling family, Elizabeth Scoble, Michael Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Smario, Randy Smith, Gary Underdahl, Jane R. Walker, Maryanne Welchert, Wayne Williams, and Tony Yemma.

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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The QUAIL

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

April 1992

Vol. 38 No. 8

Next Deadline: April 9

April Program:

Island of Song

At our April 2 General Meeting, wildlife research photographer B. "Moose" Peterson will present a slide program on the endangered Least Bell's Vireo. This small songbird nests in riparian forests which are also endangered. The special, drab gray, little bird visits Southern California each spring to raise a new family and has a unique breeding biology that enables it to survive despite fierce competition from the other birds of the riparian woodlands. Join us for a glimpse of one of California's wonderful but dwindling natural treasures.

B. "Moose" Peterson specializes in photographing endangered wildlife while documenting recovery efforts. His works have appeared in *American Birds*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Nature Conservancy*, *Western Birds*, and many other magazines. The beautiful book *California's Wild Heritage* by Peter Steinhart features many of Peterson's pictures of threatened and endangered species.

The candidates for the MDAS elective offices for next year will be announced at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting. If you have a candidate to propose or would like to volunteer for one of these offices or any of the other committees, please speak to a Board member before or at the April meeting.

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

7:10 Doors open
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

Birding Information will return in the fall.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 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.

The 1992 MDAS Birdathon will be on Saturday, April 25. This year's Birdathon funds will help to support the Audubon California Legislative Affairs Director position which has just been created. For the details on this new position and on the Birdathon, see page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

WETLANDS LEGISLATION HR 4225

Congressman Don Edwards has done much in the recent past to ensure that the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge would exist. Now he has introduced the wetlands protection bill HR 4255 which has many important features. The bill

- * Strengthens existing wetland protections
- * Establishes a national policy to preserve the quantity and quality of the nation's wetland resources
- * Gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Services stronger roles in the permit process and requires the U.S. Corps of Engineers to explain, in writing, reasons for rejecting recommendations of these agencies
- * Expands activities requiring a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to ALL that are harmful to wetlands, i.e., draining, dredging, flooding, and excavating
- * Requires permit applicants first to consider non-wetlands for projects and requires mitigation, etc., if wetlands are destroyed
- * Strengthens the EPA's oversight and requires the Corps to account for wetlands losses resulting from general permits
- * Requires the EPA and Corps to report on overall effects of the Section 404 program for wetlands
- * Improves the permit process
- * Expedites permits for small projects
- * Clarifies the exemptions for wetlands in agriculture production and for artificially created wetlands
- * Requires the GAO to determine what personnel and resources are needed by the Corps and EPA to expedite wetlands delineation
- * Funds a training and certification program for private sector wetlands delineators and improves Corps and EPA education and outreach programs
- * Provides expedited completion of Fish and Wildlife Service national inventory maps
- * Commissions an independent study by the National Academy of Sciences on wetlands delineation

George Miller is a co-sponsor of this bill; more co-sponsors are needed. Write your congressperson urging co-sponsorship of AB 4255. Send your letter to: The Honorable (name), U.S. Congressman, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

EARTH DAY FUN

Want a nice evening to help the environment, kids and YOU? Attend the "EXTRAVAGANZA" on April 22 in the Theatre of the Arts, Walnut Creek. A great program of top entertainment is promised by John Holyrod, leader of Youths for Environmental Action. The group, made up of highschoolers from throughout Contra Costa County, is active in environmental matters and is trying to make a difference. They warrant your support.

WHAT: A CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY
 WHEN: April 22, 1992
 WHERE: Theater of the Arts, Walnut Creek
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 TICKETS: \$12.00 and \$15.00, available at the box office of the Theatre of the Arts, or call (510) 947-0590

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

On March 5, Congressman George Miller said this about the Endangered Species Act:

"Abandoning the Endangered Species Act now disclaims the successes it has manifested. Although I recognize that the act may require some fine-tuning before its reauthorization, it is important to acknowledge its provisions for flexibility and compromise and its successes..."

A recent letter from Miller on the subject goes further:

"Preserving the many endangered species which currently face extinction is crucial. Congress has the power to guard their survival by upholding or strengthening this legislation. Such action is necessary to secure a prosperous and healthy future for the vast number of species which rely on the act for protection."

WANT TO GO BIRDING IN ARIZONA??

Sources tell us that Madera Canyon, near Green Valley, is an excellent area. Francis Camp, Birding Coordinator for the Quality Inn, Green Valley, Arizona, writes: "Any time is a good time (of the year) to visit us. Bird experts insist you'll see the greatest number and species of rare hummingbirds from May through September. Fall and late spring are good times for all kinds of birding..." For a birdwalk at Madera Canyon, contact Santa Rita Lodge, HC 70, Box 5444, Sahaurita, AZ 85629, phone (602) 625-8746. There is one birdwalk per day, covering two miles and lasting four hours. April and May give an opportunity to "climb up the mountain" in search of the Elegant Trogon.

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 1, North Briones Wildflower Walk. Meet 9:00 a.m. in parking lot at North Entrance of Briones. Turn on to Briones Road from Alhambra Valley Rd., a short distance west of the intersection with Reliez Valley Road.

Leader: John Davis, 228-9516 Category 2

Saturday, April 4, 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

Thursday, April 9, 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

Wednesday, April 15, Ida Clayton Road. Carpool 7:00 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

Saturday, April 18, 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

Wednesday, April 22, Bothe-Napa State Park. Carpool southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at parking lot in front of Park Headquarters at 8:30 a.m. \$5.00 entrance fee. This is a new area for us. Joan Castro of Napa-Solano Audubon will lead. This is a good area for owls. For further information, contact Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732.

Category 2

Thursday, April 30, 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). Costa's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, Yellow-breasted Chat possible. Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LOS BANOS, February 1 and 2.

Ideal weather was enjoyed by 23 birders. The highlights along Santa Fe Grade were 5 Bald Eagles, 1 Cattle Egret, 9 Blue-winged Teal, 2 American Bittern, many White-face Ibis, and 3 blue-morph Snow Geese among the 1,000 Snow and Ross' Geese. At Merced NWR, we had 2,000 Snow and Ross' Geese, 1,000 Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, and Tricolored Blackbirds. The highlights of the Panoche Valley portion of the trip were 7 Chukars, 2 Greater Roadrunners, 100 Mountain Plover, 5 Vesper Sparrows, and 35 Mountain Bluebirds. Weekend total species: 108.

Florence Bennett

THORNTON, February 5.

Fog was a problem, but 14 birders saw 63 species. Hundreds of Tundra Swans along Highway 12 were a wonderful sight. We had good views of the Sandhill Cranes, and also saw Prairie Falcon and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Elizabeth Dickey

SAN MATEO COAST, February 8.

A small but intrepid group of six birders braved rain, cold and wind and even managed to see or hear 92 species. Highlights included at least 150 Tricolored Blackbirds, extremely close looks at the Rock Sandpiper and, best of all, a chance to study a Northern Pygmy-Owl from fifteen feet away! A life bird for four of the members, this alone made the trip worthwhile.

Steve Glover

BERKELEY SHORELINE, February 13.

Between major rain storms, the two members and two guests ventured out to see what the Emeryville crescent and Berkeley shoreline had to offer. We counted 46 male Redheads on the bay and enjoyed three beautiful male Red-breasted Mergansers. 50 species were seen.

Denise Wight

(Field Trip Reports continued on page 6.)

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.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: 1 on 2/11 at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. (MJC, BG, FB, GF, MP) Also on RBA.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 on 2/2 at Shell Marsh. (BW)

Tufted Duck: 1 male on 2/1 at Lloyd Lake, Golden Gate Park (GF, KH), also on RBA; 1 male still present 2/24 at Mallard Reservoir (SG).

Harlequin Duck: 2 on 2/24 at Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes. (GF) Also on RBA.

Oldsquaw: 1 on 2/28 (BR), 2/29 (JR), and 3/3 (KH, SG, JR) at San Leandro Marina.

Surf Scoter: 27 on 2/24 at the Martinez Regional Shoreline. (SG)

Barrow's Goldeneye: at least 14 on 2/24 at the Martinez RS, all but 2 of which were females or immatures. (SG)

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 2/20 along Dougherty Rd., east of San Ramon (SG); 1 on 2/26 over her Alamo yard and only her second sighting for the San Ramon Valley (JR).

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 2/24 over her Alamo yard (JR); 1 on 3/2 along Dougherty Rd. (SG).

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 2/20 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (GF, MP) Also on RBA.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 heard on 2/16 (SG) and 2/20 (JA, DW, SG) on Pinehurst Rd., one half mile south of Canyon Rd., west of Moraga.

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 male on 2/29 in her Alamo yard. (JR)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 still present on 2/1 at Strybing Arboretum, GGP. (GF, KH) Also on RBA.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 on 2/11 (BG, MJC, FB, GF, MP) and 2/24 (JR) along Novato Blvd., Marin Co. Also on RBA.

Canyon Wren: 2 at Knobcone Pt., Mount Diablo State Park, one of which was definitely inside the park. (KH)

House Wren: 2 on 2/25 in Sycamore Canyon, MDSP. (KH, SG) These probably wintered.

American Dipper: 2 on 2/7 (GF, KH) and on 3/9, entering and leaving the nest, (SG), near Little Yosemite, Sunol Regional Park.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 on 3/4 at Wall Ridge, MDSP. (KH) This bird may have wintered.

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 2/29 near Frog Pond, MDSP. (SG)

Sage Thrasher: 1 still present on 3/3 along San Leandro Creek, Hayward Regional Shoreline. (SG, KH, JR) Also on RBA.

Phainopepla: 1 on 2/9 at the intersection of Mitchell Canyon Road and Mitchell Canyon Court. (JS)

Lucy's Warbler: 1 on 3/6 along Pilarcitos Creek, Half Moon Bay. (SG) Also on RBA.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 from 2/12 to 2/14 in her Alamo yard (JR); 1 on 2/28 at Strybing Arboretum (FB, DC), also on RBA.

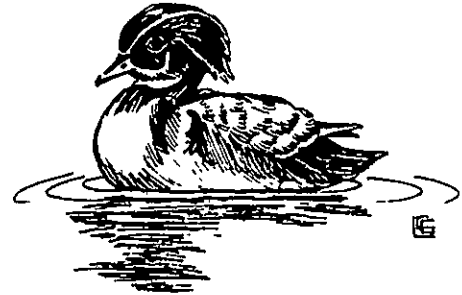
Tricolored Blackbird: 200-300 males seen from 2/27 through the present along Dougherty Rd. (SG, KH)

Northern Oriole: 1 male seen from 2/23 to 2/29 in her Alamo yard. (JR)

Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 2/25 along Knobcone Point Trail, MDSP. (KH, SG)

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Deanna Cox, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Joel Summerhill, Bud Widdowson, 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.



Original sketch
by Carol Lutz

SPRING BIRDING CLASS

Norah Bain's spring field class will meet Tuesdays, April 21 through May 12. The classes will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. except for May 12 when the class will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Suitable for beginning and intermediate birders. Register between March 19 and April 20 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. The fee for Orinda residents is \$38, for non-residents \$40. For more information, call Norah at 254-4516 or the Orinda Community Center at 254-2445.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

Member purchases in February at the store resulted in a \$327.36 donation to MDAS. 5% of member purchases are donated to MDAS.

It is now time to clean and put up your birdhouses and oriole and hummingbird feeders. Be sure to see the bee resistant oriole feeders at the store.

Have you planned your birding vacation yet? We have many field and trip guides and numerous pairs of binoculars and scopes, including the Kowa.

YOU WILL HAVE A VOICE

by Al McNabney

Wetlands, endangered species, ancient forests, clean air, water, and the uses to which California water will be put are vital issues on which in the past some consensus has been reached. All these concerns are now in trouble. Serious challenges to existing laws are being mounted in the Congress as well as the California legislature. The major emphasis of the opposition is to eliminate or substantially weaken such laws either through legislation or by executive directive.

The eight Bay Area Audubon Chapters (BAAC) previously concluded that to be fully effective someone having the ability, time, and support HAD to work in Sacramento on a full-time basis to present Audubon's views on the vital environmental issues of the day. After months of discussion, BAAC reached a decision to try to develop full support for the position of California Legislative Affairs Director. Audubon chapters throughout California also participated in the decision-making process and earlier this year sufficient support, conceptually and financially, was developed so such a position could be created. National Audubon Society has promised to match funds raised by the local chapters.

John McCaull is now on board as the California Legislative Affairs Director with an office in Sacramento. Mr. McCaull will be working closely with the Audubon Regional Office in Sacramento. Additionally, four Audubon leaders throughout the state were elected to serve as a committee to lend direction to the Director's activities. Close contact will be maintained between the Director and the state Audubon chapters.

Mr. McCaull, when asked about his new role with Audubon, said, "My job is to serve as Audubon's policy advocate at the state level -- to provide the focus and day-to-day attention that is needed to monitor and influence the California Legislature and state agencies."

Mr. McCaull has served as General Counsel of Californians Against Waste. He has worked in several lobbying capacities as well as with the Planning and Conservation League. Mr. McCaull is a graduate of the U.C. Davis Law School. His ambition is to work as a conservationist on a full-time basis in areas of wildlife habitat protection.

There are presently nine "important" bills moving through the state legislature. One of lesser import is also being watched. Two of the most important bills are the following:

SB 1866, The Delta Protection Act of 1992 (Pat Johnson, D-Stockton). This bill advocates a regional planning body for the Delta. Urbanization is pressuring the Delta, its wildlife, water quality, and future. The bill proposes a regional governance board to make decisions to protect the Delta.

AB 2450, Endangered and Threatened Species (Bill Baker, R-Walnut Creek). If enacted, this bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act to require that any petition for listing a species as endangered and threatened must be accompanied by a detailed management and recovery plan acceptable to the Fish and Game Commission. No listing of a species would become operative without concurrent adoption of the recovery plan by the Commission.

It is as important to oppose bad bills as it is to support good bills. John McCaull will now be watching these and other bills and measures on behalf of Audubon. Audubon chapters WILL be represented in California's state capitol!

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY 1992 BIRDATHON

Audubon chapters all over the country are taking part in the 1992 Birdathon. In some ways similar to the Christmas Count, the Birdathon allows chapters to raise money for needed projects while having fun at the same time. Each chapter may choose how it wants to run its bird counts and how the money raised will be used.

Again this year the MDAS Birdathon will be a group effort. Several birding teams will go out and the number of species seen by all groups will be tabulated. The money collected from this Birdathon will be used to pay our share for the California Legislative Affairs Director and his efforts on behalf of MDAS and the other Audubon chapters in California.

If you would like to do a back-yard count or join one of the count parties, call Jim Lomax at 825-1513. You may also pledge either a specific sum to the Birdathon or pledge a given amount per species. Return the form below or your check made out to MDAS - Birdathon to MDAS, P. O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Last year we had a successful Birdathon, but let's make this year even better!

BIRDATHON PLEDGE

_____ I pledge \$_____ per bird species to a total of \$_____

_____ I pledge a \$_____ donation only.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

NEW MEMBERS

Field Trip Reports, continued.

BOLINAS LAGOON, February 22.

A small group of only six birders spent a warm, sunny day along the shores of Bolinas Lagoon and among the Douglas firs at 5 Brooks in trying to see as many species as possible yet still enjoy the beauty of the entire area. The wide variety we saw included several Black Oystercatchers, 2 Eurasian Wigeon, 1 or 2 Peregrine Falcons, an adult Parasitic Jaeger harrassing the hundred of Forster's Terns before heading back to sea, and most of the coastal forest birds such as Townsend's Warbler, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Winter Wren. 105 species were seen.

Steve Glover

LAKE MERRITT, February 26.

Nine members and guests had a pleasant, leisurely stroll around Lake Merritt, seeing a total of 37 species in all. A comparison of Barrow's Goldeneyes to the close-by Common Goldeneyes was of interest to all. A first-time birder from San Francisco caught on quickly in building her life list.

Barbara Vaughn

We welcome these new MDAS members with great pleasure: Pauline Aitken, Belinda Allen, J. L. Amador-Granquist, Nancy Anderson, Frank Barham, Jean Barneson, Linda Belt, Janet Benson, Linda Bergstrom, Shelly Blatny, Jayne Boyer, Joan Burroughs, Priscilla Burton, Mrs. Robert Canning, Teri Carr, Norma Clary, Kathleen Costello, Nancy Crabtree, D. Danner, Tracy Daum, Edward Decelle, Rusty Deroussett, Gwyneth Donchin, S. Dunlea, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Earnhardt, Lisa A. Edwards, Ralph Ferris, Evelio C. Flores, Lois Foster, Ray Gaudinier, Ron Grenier, Donald Hartsell, Nicki Heath, L. Hill, Lynn Hodges, Robert Hughes, John and Betty Klein, Charles Kluth, Ernest Lehmann, Barbara Longworth, Florence Lortsher, Kim Loustalot, Kathryn and Mark McLane, Mary Miller, Mrs. Hugh Montgomery, Estelle Moore, Claire Moringier, F. W. Moulthrop, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Nelson, Louis Nobbe, Elmer Novotny, Barbara Nummi, Patt Oleson, William Patterson, John and Mavis Peeples, Larry Peters, Warren and Kathryn Plowm, Tyvan Pulis, Mr. and Mrs. John Randall, Mrs. Fred Reiter, Ron Reuter, Sue Rohlicek, D. J. Santone, Larry Sauers, Howard and Betty Schlesinger, Don and Sandy Shaffer, W. B. Shoner, Michael Shuck, Rafael J. Siero, Margery Smittle, Shirley Snell, Stanley Stabler, Floyd Street, Eunice Streib, D. Taylor, Vicki Thayer, Don Theile, Charles Thomson, Kristen and David Trisko, Rodney Warren, John Williams, Jack Wright, Raymond Yeck, Phyllis Yocum, and F. G. Zeitz.

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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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

(510) AUD-UBON

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VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785

Treasurer: Brian Elder, 743-1018

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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

May 1992

Vol. 38 No. 9

Next Deadline: May 14

May Program:

For the Birds

For our May 7 meeting, Jill Hedgecock will present a slide show on the effects of tropical rainforest destruction on North American migratory birds. Tropical rainforests are perhaps the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems. They cover just 7% of the earth's land surface, yet they provide a home for over half the world's species. Rainforests are the wintering habitat for many of our backyard birds. This slide show will cover the importance of tropical rainforests in our everyday life, why the rainforests are being destroyed, and strategies for their preservation. Consumer practices and other activities here in the United States that affect rainforest deforestation will also be presented.

Jill Hedgecock has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Davis, and a Master's degree in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco. She has been active in the effort to preserve rainforests for over seven years and has published several articles on the effects of rainforest destruction on bird populations. She is currently serving as the International Affairs Coordinator for the MDAS Conservation Committee.

Officers for the 1992-1993 term will be elected at the May meeting. The Board slate is:

President, Jim Lomax

Vice-President Conservation, Al McNabney

Treasurer, Brian Elder

Secretary, Sheree Doucette

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

Guess what! The meeting times have been changed again. We are now returning to our old schedule, as given below. The May Birding Information is, at press time, undecided due to short notice on time schedule changes.

6:30 Doors open

7:00 Birding Information

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Social Time

8:30 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Vaughn, 59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda, 376-8732. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Winnie Young has announced that she will step down as Hospitality Chair after the May General Meeting. Gloria Lotten will be the new Chair. We all want to thank Winnie for the wonderful job she has done not only at meetings but also at potlucks and other special events during the last three years.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

DUMP WARS: ARE THEY OVER?

Keller Canyon, the solid waste landfill site supported by MDAS on environmental grounds, will be ready for occupancy (if that's a good term to use for placement of solid waste, i.e. garbage) by the end of this month. A couple of small (?) glitches have been tossed into the arena by the City of Pittsburg. The final effort was a demand by the City of Pittsburg that the State Water Resources Control Board deny a major permit. The Pittsburg demand resulted in an all-day hearing in Sacramento before the State Water Quality Control Board. If one wished to learn about modern-day solid waste landfills (garbage dumps), that was the place to have been. The State Board heard all of the arguments as to "why" the site should NOT and/or should be used for the disposal of Contra Costa County solid waste.

The State Board has delayed its decision until 9:00 a.m. on April 16. However, presaging things to come, the State Board staff reported on April 10:

"The request for a stay should be denied because petitioner has failed to meet its burden of demonstrating that it would suffer substantial harm if the stay is denied and that neither the public interest nor any other interested person would be harmed if the stay is granted."

'Nuff SED!!! At least ONE major element of the landfill issue now appears to be behind us.

WETLANDS, WHITHER THEY GOETH???

The latest in the saga of the ongoing battle to protect and preserve the Nation's wetlands involved many individuals from California journeying to Washington. The hardy souls who made the trip urged our congressional people to support Don Edwards' wetland legislation, HR 4255. This legislation faces major opposition from the Administration, despite the assertions made four years ago about being "the Environmental President." If you have a moment, drop a line to YOUR Senators and Congressman (and if you have friends in other states, ask them to do likewise) urging them to co-sponsor the Edwards bill, i.e., HR 4255. If YOU, like many, believe government isn't working, try it out, write your letters NOT tomorrow but TODAY!!!! You might be surprised.

ANCIENT FORESTS, THE SPOTTED OWL, SPECIAL INTERESTS, AND THE FUTURE

Legislation introduced by Oregon's Senator Packwood in 1988 called for the elimination of appeals by you and me against the decisions made by the U. S. Forest Service *re* cutting of old

growth forests. The U. S. Supreme Court has (at the bidding of the Administration) now ruled that such restrictions are constitutional. Even worse, Secretary Madigan of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued instructions, which, if effectuated, will preclude any and/or ALL appeals from decisions made by the U. S. Forest Service *re* usages of "OUR" lands. Are YOU willing to let such arbitrary and unthinking actions stand? If you want to be helpful, write to Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Madigan to tell HIM what YOU think about such high-handed tactics. Also send a copy of your letter to Senators Alan Cranston and John Seymour and Congressman George Miller. This is an urgent matter!!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SHELL MARSH??

About three years ago a disastrous oil spill sent thousands of gallons of crude oil from a Shell Oil refinery onto Shell Marsh, into the bay, and elsewhere. Shell, unlike EXXON, dived in and paid for the clean-up, and made serious attempts to return the area to normal. Legal actions by various agencies and communities produced a court-approved settlement of the many issues. The settlement provided \$9 million to purchase, enhance, and restore wetlands in the area affected by the oil spill. Shell Marsh being a primary recipient of the "mess" was specifically mentioned in the settlement. Today, there still has been NO resolution of the issues. Shell Marsh is still in private hands, subject to possible sale for development. MDAS and the California State Coastal Conservancy presented a joint proposal to the Shell Oil Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee. To date that proposal has NOT been acted on. It is imperative that something be done to ensure that this, THE most important wetland in Contra Costa County, will be there forever.

THE GOULDIAN FINCH

Australia's Gouldian Finch is one of the most beautiful avian species. Generally found in the wild in the Northern Territory, these birds are presently endangered. The problem involves a mite that has produced fatal diseases, plus loss of habitat. Again comes a threat from a mining consortium. A similar proposal was advanced a few years ago with Shell Oil being a major element in the proposed mining operation. Objections from the world over put a halt to those original mining proposals. However, Shell has now sold out and a new consortium is looking at ways to open a major gold mine in the Mt. Todd area of the Northern Territory. The mining would be done right in the heart of the Gouldians' main habitat. So goes our wildlife and world. The opposition promises to be strong and emphatic.

MDAS ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY MEETING

Maintaining our tradition, the MDAS board has selected our Environmentalist of the Year. The ceremony will take place at the May meeting. Be there!! See what others are doing to TRY to preserve our natural heritage.

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, May 2, 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. Can be hot; bring lunch and liquids. Roadrunner, Wild Turkey, Costa's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lewis' Woodpecker are all possibilities.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 1

Thursday, May 7, 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: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Category 2

Saturday, May 9, 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. Morning emphasis on wild flowers; bird in afternoon for gnatcatchers, summer sparrows, etc. Hot!

Leader: Gen Sattler, 685-5315

Category 3

Wednesday, May 13, Mt. Diablo. Carpool 8:00 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 8:30 a.m. in first parking lot on left after entering South Gate. \$5.00 entrance fee. Sage, Rufous-crowned, and maybe Black-chinned Sparrows.

Leader: Kevin Hints, 829-6156

Category 2

Wednesday, May 20, 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 to park entrance. \$5.00 fee. Swainson's Hawks, riparian species. Mosquitos, poison oak; may be hot.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Saturday, May 23, 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. Possible Blue Grosbeak, Burrowing Owl, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Hot.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 2

Thursday, May 28, 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 end of road. Carry liquids, the area can be hot. Grasshopper Sparrows are often possible, as well as other grassland and oak wood birds.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 2

Future trips: It's not too early to make reservations for Yuba Pass, June 20-21, or Lassen National Park, July 11-12. Motels at Yuba Pass include Herrington's Sierra Pines, (916) 862-1551; Sierra Chalet, (916) 862-1110, and Shannon's Cabins, (916) 862-1287. Motels in Mineral, just outside the southwest entrance to Lassen, include Lassen Mineral Lodge, (916) 595-4422, and McGovern Vacation Chalet, (916) 595-4497. More information in the June and July *Quails*.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 5.

Only one solitary birder ventured out through the thunder and heavy rains on this day, but it was business as usual for the ducks and shorebirds who were busy preparing for their journey northward. Highlights included breeding-plumaged Red Knots, Snow Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Oldsquaw, Glaucous Gull, and Sage Thrasher. 82 species seen.

Steve Glover

BODEGA BAY, March 7.

What a day it was to be alive and birding at Bodega Bay! Eighteen fortunate people enjoyed a beautiful and productive day with perfect spring-like weather conditions. Some highlights were one Merlin, several hundred Brant, one Steller's Eider, one Sora at Campbell Cove, Black Rails heard in the marsh near the entrance to Doran Beach, and small islands covered with Marbled Godwits. We also saw one exotic waterfowl, an escapee, a Northern Shelduck near Doran Beach entrance. A river otter was seen near Campbell Cove, adjacent to the shoreline road. A total of 85 species were seen or heard.

Shirley Ellis

BLACK DIAMOND MINES, March 11.

This trip was merely a preview to the coming spring as ten birders welcomed back the early arrivals such as Violet-green Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Our long hike was rewarded with a singing Canyon Wren which a few of us caught glimpses of as it slitted into the chaparral. Other birds included both accipiters, White-throated Swift, Rock Wren, and Lincoln's Sparrow. 52 species seen.

Steve Glover

(Field Trip Reports continued on page 6)

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.

Pink-footed Shearwater: 1 off Pescadero Beach and 2 at Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co., on 3/24. (JR)

Black-vented Shearwater: 200 on 3/24 at Pigeon Point. (JR)

Brant: 400 on 3/17 at Bodega Harbor. (FB, MJC)

Wood Duck: 2 on 2/22, 4 on 3/1, and 2 on 3/18 on the pond 1/4 mile north of the Briones Bear Creek entrance. (JA); 2 on 3/28 at Garin Regional Park (BR).

Tufted Duck: the Mallard Reservoir duck was last seen on 3/5 (JA); the Hayward Shoreline duck returned for its third year on 4/5 (BR).

Steller's Eider: 1 still present on 3/17 at Bodega Harbor. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.

Oldsquaw: 1 on 3/10 at San Leandro Marina. (FB, MJC, BG) Also on RBA.

Osprey: 1 on 2/22 at the Briones Reservoir (JA); 1 on 4/2 at Sunol Regional Park (SG).

Northern Goshawk: 1 adult on 3/29 at Garin Regional Park. (BR); 1 likely seen on 3/28 at Sunol RP (SG). Goshawks are seen very rarely in the East Bay but usually at this time of year.

Mountain Plover: 150 on 3/2 at the intersection of Roads 17 and 102. (GF, MP) Also on RBA.

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 3/24 at Pebble Beach, San Mateo Co. (JR) Also on RBA.

Red-necked Phalarope: 38 on 3/29 at Hayward Shoreline. (BR) This is extremely early.

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 on 3/24 at Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (JR)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 seen on 3/11 (SG, RL) and heard on 3/24 (JR) along the entrance to Butano State Park.

Spotted Owl: 1 on 3/23 at Tomales Bay State Park. (SG, RL)

Violet-crowned Hummingbird: 1 immature on 3/30 near Kenwood, Sonoma Co. (KH, GF, JR, BR) This is the third state record and the first for northern California.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 on 3/11 at Butano SP. (SG, RL)

Hammond's Flycatcher: 2 on 4/1, 1 on 4/2, and 2 on 4/6 at Sunol RP, a total of 3 individuals. (SG) A possible Dusky Flycatcher was also there on 4/6.

Bank Swallow: 2 on 3/16 at Hayward Shoreline (GF, KH, JR); 1 on 3/4 at Garin RP (BR). Now rare in the East Bay.

Rock Wren: 1 on 3/19 at the Alhambra Creek parking area, Briones RP. (JA)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 3/11 (SG, MDAS group) and on 3/13 (GF) in the Nortonville area of Black Diamond Mines. Once unheard of in the county, now found at 3 locations.

Winter Wren: 1 on 2/22 at Briones RP. (JA) These wrens have been rather rare in this area recently.

American Dipper: on the nest through 4/6 at Sunol RP. (SG)
Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 3/5 and 3/19 at Briones RP (JA); 1 on 3/16 at Chabot Park in San Leandro (JR, KH, GF). Also on RBA.

Nashville Warbler: 1 on 3/26 near Mitchell Canyon parking lot. (JR, SG) This is very early.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 3/28 in Mitchell Canyon. (JR) Early?

Wilson's Warbler: 1 on 3/16 at Chabot Park. (GF, KH, JR) Early.

Summer Tanager: 1 immature male on 3/16 (KH, JR, GF) and 3/17 (JR) at Chabot Park. Rare in the area but there are several winter records.

Swamp Sparrow: 1 on 3/3 at the Sacramento NWR. (GF) Very rare so far inland.

Lapland Longspur: 22 on 3/23 (SG, RL) and 20 on 3/24 (FB, MJC) at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes. Also on RBA. Most were in spectacular breeding plumage.

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 2 on 3/23 (SG, RL) and 2 on 3/24 (FB, MJC) at the Spaletta Plateau. Also on RBA.

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie 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, (510) 528-0288.

Special request: People reporting observations at the General Meetings are asked to give a written copy of their observations to Jean Richmond or Jim Lomax at the meeting. Jean and Jim will forward the observations to Steve Glover for inclusion in the *Quail*.

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 the Pleasant Hill Garden Study Club. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

Our chapter is involved in a lot of projects right now and all of you are welcome to join. We started the Rail Project on March 28 (thru mid-May) which will survey by census our county Clapper Rails, Black Rails, Virginia Rails, and Soras. There are fourteen sites beginning at the Dupont property in Antioch to Wildcat Creek in Richmond with seventeen people working on this project. Ruth Riordan is the Project Director (256-6923).

The Burrowing Owl Project will begin in mid-May and run through July. This is a census project which we worked on last year and involves an area from Napa-Solano to Fresno and from the Sierra foothills to the ocean. Many other chapters are involved and we will be doing Contra Costa County and part of San Joaquin County. Volunteers are still needed. Call me (825-1513) if you are interested. This survey should result in the Burrowing Owl being placed on the Endangered Species List.

The Peregrine Project is right on schedule. We have two sites in isolated parts of the southern side of the mountain with Prairie Falcons already sitting on eggs. We should make the transfer for the cross-fostering in the first week or so of May.

We are also part of a new group formed out of the old Peregrine Project participant groups. We decided to continue and do as much as we can to restore Mt. Diablo to as close to its original habitat as is feasible. We are now a member group of the Mt. Diablo Biodiversity Restoration Project. Other outside groups have joined us in this venture, such as the Native Plant Society, CCCWD, and Concord Naval Weapons, to name a few. We have visions of returning Kangaroo Rats, Tule Elk, badgers, bunch grass, Yerba Mansa, oak, Tiger Salamanders, Red-legged Frogs, and so on to the mountain. When some of these projects start, we'll need help, so if you'd like to work with some of these life forms, let me know.

If any member has a wildlife or habitat project for MDAS to consider and would be willing to be director of that project, bring it to me for analysis.

Our MDAS Birdathon is on April 25. If you haven't pledged or made a donation yet, don't worry. We accept late donations and pledges so the stamp won't be wasted.

Finally, don't forget, our potluck will be at our June meeting so think of what you want to bring to show. I will bring some of this year's pictures from which I had some interesting adventures. Included will be the Whooper Swan, Smew, Rock Sandpiper, Arctic Loon, and more.

See you May 7.

MDAS/WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED SPRING BIRDSEED SALE

May 1 - May 31, 1992

These prices are 15% OFF our regular prices

	<u>*Wild Birds Unlimited Original Mixes</u>	
	<u>25 lb.</u>	<u>50 lb.</u>
DELUXE BLEND* (35% sunflower, 20% safflower, 45% white millet)	\$12.75	\$21.89
WOODLAND MIX * (10% oil sunflower, 15% red millet, 75% white millet)	7.65	12.75
OIL SUNFLOWER	11.90	20.35
STRIPED SUNFLOWER	19.55	36.55
SUNFLOWER CHIPS (med.)	21.25	40.80
SAFFLOWER	16.95	32.25
WHITE MILLET	6.76	10.84
CRACKED CORN	N/A	12.96
THISTLE	34.85	65.85
5 lb. \$7.86 10 lb. \$14.66		

(5% of your purchases are donated to MDAS)

Spring and Summer Feeding

Don't put that feeder away just yet! The season's change should not be a signal to stop birdfeeding. On the contrary, you can now attract birds who are nesting nearby. They will use your feeder because it is close and convenient, although they also continuously forage for food in the wild between visits to the feeder.

With a full feeder, you will get an extra bonus for feeding the birds in the summer. It's not unusual to see a family of birds at the feeders. So don't give up your feeders now. This is the perfect time to watch the birds mating rituals, nest building, child rearing and flying lessons.

To enjoy birds in the spring and summer, try thistle for finches, feeders and plantings for hummingbirds and orioles, suet cakes or dough in the shade for woodpeckers, and seed feeders for most seed-eating birds. And don't forget to provide shelter and water!



720 CONTRA COSTA BLVD.
PLEASANT HILL
(Across the street from Mervyn's, SunValley)
798-0303

*Field Trips, Con't.***TOMALES BAY STATE PARK, March 21.**

Nine members and guests spent a lovely day at Tomales Bay State Park. The weather was partly cloudy, about 65° and beautiful. We saw 78 species, including close views of a sleeping Spotted Owl. Other special birds seen were Osprey, Rufous Hummingbird, six woodpecker species, Winter Wren, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Warbler. In the afternoon, seven people went on to the Spaletta Plateau at Pt. Reyes and saw two Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the grass-covered fields.

Maury Stern

MITCHELL CANYON, March 26.

Fine spring weather favored 23 members and guests seeking wildflowers and birds in the canyon. The 57 species of birds observed included Solitary Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a Golden Eagle during lunch. Wildflowers were abundant, creating hillsides of color not matched in recent years; brodiaeas, larkspur, buttercups, nemophila, and tri-color gilia, a spectacular display!

Mary Jane Culver and Gen Sattler

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon: Mary Ann and Bill Arnold, Dolores Behm, J. S. Beilfuss, Mrs. Joseph Bort, Betty Bryant, Celeste Burrows, John Cassell, Alexander Castle, the M. Chakedis family, Christine Clough, Stacia Cragholm, Dorothy M. Culbertson, E. L. Dalcamo, Mark Davis, Melba Deidrick, Mrs. K. L. Dietsch, Jeannette Farrow, Helen Feagler, Judith Fewster, E. S. Fleischer, Janay Forrest, Kirsten Gallagher, Donald Grant, Barbara Harris, David Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Havlan, Marianne Hawkins, Priscilla Hawthorne, Betsy Kimball, Sam Lecount, Evelyn Lewis, Mrs. Herbert Liedke, Tami Locke, Glenn Lyckberg, Edward MacDonald, Alexander Manoogian, E. Manwill, Mrs. Thomas Maxstadt, Don and Cherry Mays, Katie McGovern, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNary, Mr. and Mrs. Don Mitchell, Linda Mrnak, Laura Nelson, Shirley Patterson, Mattie Peckenham, Louis Pfrimmer, John Prsons, Ray Raible, Ron Ray, Phyllis and James Rossi, Wendy Sanborn, J. W. Scammell, Jr., Joan Schemmelman, Christine Schrieber, Steve Schramko, Janie Swan, and I. J. Vouri.

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
P.O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

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Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Gloria Lotten,

Education: Jan Cooper, 372-8680

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

June 1992

Vol. 38 No.10

Next Deadline: June 11

June Program:

End of the Year Potluck

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on Thursday, **June 4**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. This meeting will be our regular 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. Our President, Jim Lomax, will be bringing some of his slides from this year, but members are urged to bring slides or pictures, old bird nests, or unusual feeders or bird houses to share with the group. Anything that relates to natural history that you think would be interesting can be shown at the meeting. Members are encouraged to participate and make this a varied and interesting evening.

The four MDAS elected officers for the 1992-1993 term were chosen at the May meeting. Jim Lomax will again serve as President, with Al McNabney as Vice-President, Conservation, Sheree Doucette as Secretary, and Brian Elder as Treasurer. We wish them our congratulations.

Winnie Young, who has stepped down as Hospitality Chair, would like to thank all the volunteers who brought cookies to the meetings and helped her set up refreshments and clean up after meetings. You have made our social time fun!

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Dr., Orinda, 254-0486. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

The 1992 Al McNabney Environmental Distinction Award - page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

HAVE YOU NOTICED? KELLER LANDFILL IS OPERATING

An 11th hour appeal to the State Water Resources Control Board by the City of Pittsburg to prevent the Keller Landfill from opening failed. The State Board at a meeting on April 15 summed it up this way:

"The request for a stay should be denied because Petitioner has failed to meet its burden of demonstrating that it would suffer substantial harm if the stay is denied and that neither the public interest nor any other interested person would be harmed if the stay is granted."

A further hearing on the merits which involve highly technical arguments concerning engineering studies and assumptions as to certain physical aspects of the landfill may be the final hurdle. That hearing will be held at a later date.

SOOO, after more than eight years of study, debate, hearings, and legal actions, Contra Costa County HAS a solid waste landfill in place and in operation. The landfill is said to be THE most scientifically engineered facility in the United States. Next step, the battle over rates for garbage services.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

We presume, based on the decision of the so-called "God Squad" in the Spotted Owl issue, that some folks will argue the U. S. Endangered Species Act has been laid to rest. Interior Secretary Lujan says he is interested in preventing job losses, hence the God Squad's decision about the Spotted Owl and our remaining ancient forests. Interesting, isn't it? Particularly when one considers the recently approved acquisition of Security Pacific Bank by Bank of America which will result in the loss of in excess of 20,000 jobs. This is probably more than the number of logging jobs that would be lost if Lujan's God Squad hadn't entered the picture. Could it just possibly be that job loss was NOT the real issue? What may well have been looked at by the Interior Secretary was NOT job losses but the ability of major timber harvesting interests to acquire more of our old (200-250 years) growth forests at bargain basement prices. Remember, the trees in question are standing on U. S. PUBLIC LANDS.

HUMAN ACTIONS AND PERCEIVED NEEDS MET HEAD-ON BY BIRD LIFE

MDAS has been attempting to "do battle" with the decision makers involved in the placement of "windmill farms," located in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Sonoma Counties. "Why?" you ask. Good question. It has been observed ever since the windmill farms were first installed that large birds, particularly hawks, falcons, and eagles, were being killed as a result of

striking the rotating windmill blades. Some of the birds have been electrocuted. An initial study demonstrated the birds were being killed in fairly substantial numbers due to encounters with the whirling windmill blades. Despite the results of the initial study, little to no action was taken to try to overcome the problem. Instead another study was ordered. A final report was issued in March by the California Energy Commission and is depressing indeed. The study authors estimate that 27 Golden Eagle deaths can be expected to occur each year. Most of the deaths will occur as a result of the birds striking whirling windmill blades.

BIRDS OBSERVED

<u>Species</u>	<u>Observed Abundance</u>	<u>Observed Mortality</u>
American Kestrel	77	13
Bald Eagle	1	0
Common Raven	148	0
Ferruginous Hawk	17	0
Golden Eagle	25	11
Northern Harrier	5	0
Prairie Falcon	2	0
Red-tailed Hawk	124	36
Turkey Vulture	79	4

The study authors conclude: "Regardless of the method used to estimate mortality, we believe the number of raptor deaths in the Altamont Pass WRA warrants concern because they are federally protected under the Bald Eagle protection act, as well as being California species of special concern." Much, much more will be heard on this important issue. It is doubtful if the birds involved care much about having additional electricity available throughout the West.

AN INTERESTING EVENT: PARROTS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Paul Butler is Director of Conservation Education of RARE and an excellent speaker who can talk with firsthand knowledge about parrots on Caribbean islands. He is making a personal appearance in our area. The goal of RARE is to develop and implement innovative programs to protect endangered tropical avian species and habitat on Caribbean islands. RARE is doing great work in protecting and saving rare Caribbean island parrots. Paul Butler is a VERY interesting speaker and MDAS people are invited to hear him speak at 7:30 p.m. on June 5 at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery Street, San Ramon. Take Bollinger Canyon Road east off I-680. A donation at the door of \$3.00 per individual and \$5.00 per couple is requested.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION
Many potential local, state, and federal office seekers will be looking for YOUR vote on Tuesday, June 2. Issues are VERY substantial. Don't forget the Endangered Species Act and other environmental issues are going to be "up for grabs" this year!!!!

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, June 3, **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: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 2

Saturday, June 6, **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: Maury Stern, 284-5980 Category 2

Wednesday, June 10, **San Francisco Parks**. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy. 24. This will be an exploring trip. If something good is on the Rare Bird Alert, we will try for it. Otherwise we will visit some of the best spots in various San Francisco parks. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21, **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: Barb Burek, 229-0394 Category 2

Future Trip: Lassen National Park, July 11-12. We will meet at the southwest entrance. Park campgrounds are first come, first serve. The southwest campground near the entrance is a walk-in camp. Summit Lake Camps are 17 miles of winding road into the park. The town of Mineral is 9 miles from the southwest entrance. Motels there include Lassen Mineral Lodge, (916) 595-4422, and McGovern's Vacation Chalets, (916) 595-4497.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

GARIN REGIONAL PARK, April 4.

Five birders made the most of an early spring day. The early spring arrivals included five species of swallows, two Western Kingbirds, House Wren, Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Other highlights included a Sora, a Prairie Falcon, and 2 Wood Ducks watched from 100 yards. You should've been there. 71 species total.

Steve Glover

LAKE LAGUNITAS, April 9.

Six birders enjoyed lovely scenery and beautiful bird song. The Pileated Woodpeckers were only glimpsed, but their calls and drumming were heard loud and clear. Of 40 species listed, 14 were heard only. This appears to be a good spring area for Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Elizabeth Dickey

IDA CLAYTON ROAD, April 15.

It was a cool, overcast day for the seven birders. Birding on the mountain was very slow, but we enjoyed the two dozen Fawn Lilies and eight Sugar Stick plants. Detert Reservoir area had many Western Kingbirds, Northern Orioles, Ring-necked Ducks, and one pair of Wood Ducks. Total Species 55.

Florence Bennett

DONNER CANYON, April 18.

This was one of those days that is so beautiful and serene that we were happy just to be out. Several of the later arrivals were seen, such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee, and Solitary Vireo. Other sightings included a Great Blue Heron, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Rufous Hummingbirds, at least seven Hammond's Flycatchers, a Phainopepla, and several Black-throated Gray Warblers. The highlight was a brilliant Calliope Hummingbird chased from his perch on some black sage by a Rufous Hummingbird.

Steve Glover

BOTHE-NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK, April 22.

Mt. Diablo members plus leader Joanne Castro from Napa-Solano spent a perfect-temperature morning in Bothe-Napa State Park. Target birds were the Pileated Woodpecker and two owls. The Spotted Owl eluded us, but at least the call of the Northern Pygmy-Owl was heard. We saw and heard Pileated Woodpeckers, the call being flicker-like but lower and more-nasal? 37 species were seen or heard.

Barbara Vaughn

DEL PUERTO CANYON, April 30.

The weather and birding were great for the nine birders. The highlights included a Golden Eagle on its nest, a Great Horned Owl with two young, Swainson's Hawk, male Costa's Hummingbird, 2 Lewis' Woodpeckers, Phainopepla, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, 6 Rufous-crowned Sparrows, 1 Grasshopper Sparrow, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Total species 75.

Florence Bennett

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.

Green-backed Heron: 1 through the last week of April in her Concord yard. (FB)

White-faced Ibis: ~50 on 4/27 at Big Break, east of Antioch and north of Oakley (DS); 11 on 5/2 and 27 on 5/11 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline (BR). Very rare in the East Bay.

Snow Goose: 1 on 4/23 (KH, SG) and on 4/25 (SG) at Brooks Island near Richmond.

Canada Goose: at least 6 pairs with goslings on 4/22 (SG) and 5/1 (W&GY) at Shell Marsh. These are likely part of the East Bay's introduced population.

Wood Duck: 4 on 3/27 along Bear Creek Road. (JA)

Blue-winged Teal: 1 on 4/22 at Shell Marsh. (SG) Late?

Steller's Eider: 1 still present on 4/6 at Bodega Harbor. (GF, MP)

Harlequin Duck: 1 on 4/23 and 4/25 at Brooks Island. (SG, KH) Possibly the same male near here last year.

Hooded Merganser: 2 females on 3/27 on Bear Creek Road. (JA)

Blue Grouse: 2 on 4/6 on Whitecliff Rd., Sonoma Co. (GF, MP)

Mountain Quail: 2 on 4/6 on Whitecliff Rd. (GF, MP); 2 on 4/28 on Gates Canyon Rd., Solano Co. (FB, MJC).

Surfbird: 1 on 4/19 at the old Albany dump. (BR) Rare but regular in the Albany/Richmond area.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 on 5/2 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 on 4/19 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Red Phalarope: 1 on 5/2 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Common Tern: 1 on 5/5 at Hayward RS. (BR) Rare before late summer.

Black Tern: 21 on 5/2 and 10 on 5/10 at Hayward RS. (BR, KH)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 4/8 at Dry Creek Regional Park, Hayward. (BR)

Spotted Owl: 1 on 4/7 at Tomales Bay State Park. (FB, MJC)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 on 4/25 at intersection of Canyon and Pinehurst Rds., west of Moraga. (SG)

Vaux's Swift: 1 on 4/14 at Rock City, Mt. Diablo State Park (JR); 3 on 4/17 at Sunol RP (SG).

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 on 4/14 in Del Puerto Canyon (GF, MP); 1 on 4/24 on N. Stone Rd., Bethel Island (SG); 2 on 4/26 at Piper Slough, Bethel Island (GF, MP).

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 on 4/14 (GF, MP) and 4/20 (FB) in Del Puerto Canyon; 1 on 4/22 at Dry Creek RP (BR). Rare in the East Bay.

Calliope Hummingbird: noted consistently throughout the period, especially in MDSP. (MOB)

Rufous Hummingbird: same as for the Calliope, but even more common. (MOB)

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 on 4/7 at Tomales Bay SP. (FB, MJC)

Hammond's Flycatcher: 2 on 4/7 (JR) and 6 on 4/8 (SG) at Sunol RP; 3 on 4/17 (GF) and 10 on 4/10 (SG, KH, RL) in Donner and Back Canyons. This is the second straight year that these have been noted in good numbers on our side of the hills.

Gray Flycatcher: 1 on 4/10 (KH, RL, SG) and 4/17 (GF) in Donner Canyon. Practically unheard of before two years ago.

Dusky Flycatcher: 2 on 4/7 at Sunol RP (JR); 1 on 4/25 in Mitchell Canyon (GF).

Bank Swallow: 1 leucistic individual on 4/10 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Pygmy Nuthatch: at least four nesting pairs along French Trail, Redwood RP, Contra Costa County. (SG)

MacGillivray's Warbler: too many to mention, especially on Mt. Diablo and Mines Rd. (MOB)

Red-faced Warbler: 1 on 4/30 at Coyote Hills. (DR) If this is accepted, it would be the first northern California record.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 on 4/17 at Sunol RP (SG); 2 on 4/20 in Del Puerto Canyon (GF, MP); and 1 on 4/24 (SG) and 2 on 4/28 (GF, MP) at Piper Slough.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 on 4/24 and 3 on 4/25 on Bradford Island Rd., near Jersey Island, CCC. (SG)

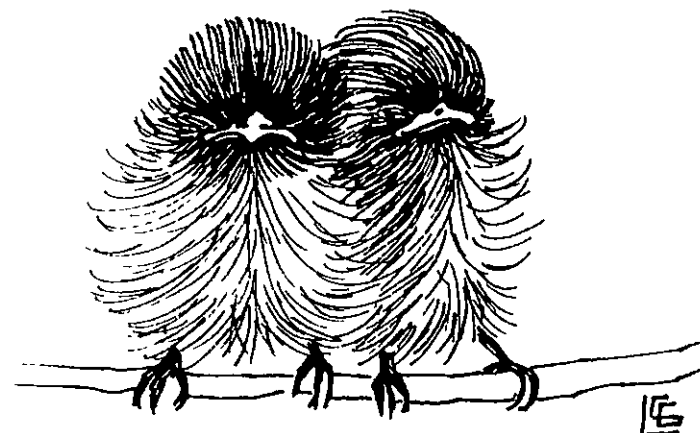
Indigo Bunting: 1 on 5/6 at Dry Creek RP. (BR) Rare but regular in the East Bay.

Black-chinned Sparrow: 1 on 4/28 on San Antonio Valley Rd., Santa Clara Co. (SG, RL)

Tricolored Blackbird: 50 on 4/20 and 4/23 along San Antonio Valley Rd. (FB, MJC, EL)

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Dave Riersche, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Schmoltdt, Winnie and Gifford Young.

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



Original sketches by Carol Lutz

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

We set a new high in numbers when we completed our 1992 Birdathon April 25, with 170 species of birds. Twenty-one people participated in the count which was limited to Contra Costa County. The participants included Nick Calicurh, Britta Casio, Sheree Doucette, George Finger, Eugene Fletcher, Steve Glover, Helen Grub, Jill Hedgecock, Joel Herr, Kevin Hints, myself (Jim Lomax), Joanne Madrill, Miriam Pasqual, Barbara Guifloy Le Omer-Rees, Lucienne Rees, Barbara Sandkuhl, Maury Stern (sorry about the mix-up, Maury), Mary Vandenberg, Denise Wight and Bob and Shirley Wisecarver. Thank you all. Although these people put in great effort, we didn't raise as much money as we had hoped this year.

Winnie Young retired as our Hospitality Chair in May and I appointed Gloria Lotten to that position. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Winnie for the years she has hosted our meetings and potlucks, not to mention the BAAC meetings for which she provided. Thank you, Winnie. And Welcome, Gloria. We look forward to working with you.

I want to reassure all of our 1800+ silent members whom I don't see often. Actually, not at all. I think you would have fun at our meetings and find them educational, informative, as well as enjoyable, but I know that lots of you did not join the National Audubon Society because you wanted to attend the meetings or were interested in birding or could afford to work on a project. Some of you just wanted to contribute to help the environment, so I want you to know that your money is well spent. National Audubon uses their share of your dues to fight for what's left of our shrinking environment, which includes, by the way, the setting up of wildlife refuges. MDAS use our share of your dues to work on local projects like the Peregrine Project and the Rail Project, waste dump problems, or trying to shape developments for the environment's benefit. Thus your money goes a long way and benefits the tremendous biodiversity, for which you should be happy. Thus if you felt a little like you might not be doing enough, stop feeling that way. Every time you renew your dues, you are part of a small percentage of people in this nation who are to be commended for caring and for helping.

See you at the June Potluck. I'll bring slides taken this year.

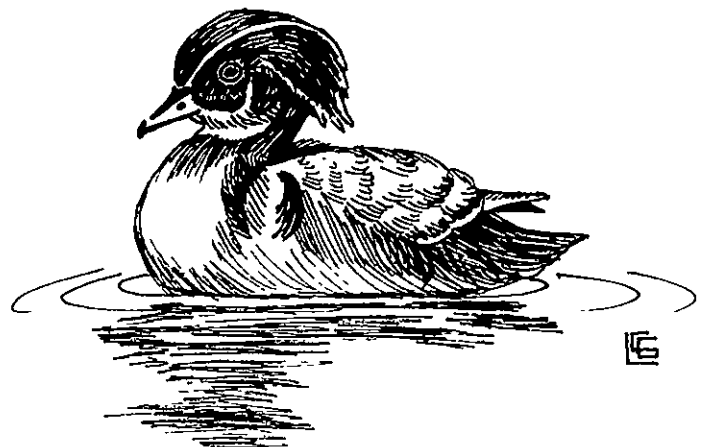
Oh, and I'm glad to see that Ron Ray is now a member.

MDAS ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

In keeping with tradition, the MDAS Board of Directors named John Holroyd as the 1992 MDAS Environmentalist of the Year. MDAS President Jim Lomax presented the 1992 Al McNabney Environmental Distinction Award to John at a ceremony during the May 7 regular Audubon meeting.

John Holroyd, a 30-year-old Walnut Creek resident, is founder of Youth for Environmental Action (YEA). He formed YEA in 1981 and is now Program Director. The non-profit educational organization is part of a network of youth-oriented ecology clubs and individuals. YEA promotes environmental awareness for young people through activities, presentations, and events. The group has participated in Earth Day, Bay Area Kidfest, and the Peace Festival in Concord. Students and teachers from more than 40 Contra Costa County schools belong to YEA.

John Holroyd has also served on the steering committee for Contra Costa Earth Day celebrations and has been the Vice President for Ecology Information, Inc., since 1990. John's proud mother and father were in the audience watching their son receive the MDAS award.



SUMMER TRAVEL REMINDER

As you travel this summer, please ask for an extra copy of any facility maps and bird lists or checklists when you visit refuges, sanctuaries, or parks. Pass the extras along to Jean Richmond to place in the chapter file. Even well-visited parks and refuges update their lists frequently and these new lists are valuable. 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.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person: Susan Abbott, Tracey Adams, Alyssa Albin, C. Alexander, Susan Ameling, Janet Andronis, Alice Arndt, James Barrington, Burt Bassler, Emily Bassman, Claude Baum, Joan Beyer, Dean Biagi, Marguerite S. Bodine, Pamela Botsko, Barbara L. Breeden, William Brimmer, Eli Burdine, Duane Campbell, Donald Card, Gretchen Catterall, David and Deb Chapman, Deborah Churchill, Ruth Cooper, Gary Craddick, Pete Davidson, Terrance Davis, Alice Du, Eve Eliseian, Farrell-Hedberg, Lauren Finch, May Flatt, Janet Frattini, Donald and Elinor Freedman, S. Garrett, N. Gates, Louise F. Gieske, Vernon Grebner, Howard Guild, Christina Gullo, Susan Haas, Terry Haefner, Michael Hahn, Lavelle Hallmeyer, Donald Hareid, Tommie Harrington, D. Harvey,

Vicki Haven, Beverly J. Hawley, Thelma Heiman, Linda C. Henderson, Wendy Herman, Sandra J. Hershkowitz, Nash Kirton, Marlane Hope, Luciel Hupp, Gilbert Huston, Michael Katz, Mrs. H. Kouwenhoven, Vernon Kraul, David Labate, Mark Litzau, Shirley Lyon, John Marchetti, Mrs. Philip McCombs, June McCoy, John McHugh, Linda McShane, Valerie F. Nelson, Margaret Obendorf, Thomas O'Keefe, the Edward M. Olson family, Theresa O'Shea, Deborah Pember, Ann Peters, S. Rabe, Charleen Raines, Brian P. Raisbeck, Carole J. Repas, Patricia Rhine, Elizabeth Rhoads, Dagmar Riddle, Mrs. D. Scarbrough, Virginia Schaefer, P. Schmall, Joe Seth, R. Skelton, Courtney Smith, Jami H. Smith, S. Smith, Laurey Sossaman, Karen K. Sousa, Robert Stephens, Tanya Strub, Robbin T. Sullivan, Y. Sutton, Mrs. K. Tahira, Joseph Thibedeau, M. A. Trempey, Jessamyn Vinzent, Greg Wahl, Howard M. Way, Bonnie J. Wertman, Joyce Woodsworth, Patricia Zabalaga, and M. Ziegler.

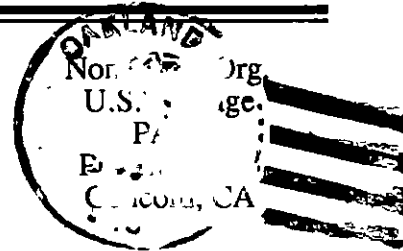
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ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Consult Mike Williams, (510) 376-1631.

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 94597-0053, please.

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513

VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785

Treasurer: Brian Elder, 743-1018

Sales Manager: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Programs: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631

Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

July/August 1992

Vol. 38 No.11

Next Deadline: August 13

Upcoming Events:

Again this year, there will be no general meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society in July or August. The first fall general meeting will be in September, at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Information about the meeting time, birding information and program will be given in the September issue of the *Quail*.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, July 9, 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.

The yearly Field Trip planning meeting will be at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Drive in Orinda, on Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. 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 before the meeting. Anyone interested in helping plan next year's field trips is welcome to attend.

Several committee chairs will change with the new year. Jan Cooper has accepted a job back east and is stepping down as the Education Chair. For the time being, Sheree Doucette will act as both Secretary and Education Chair. Winnie Young had stepped down as Hospitality Chair in June and had been replaced by Gloria Lotten. Gifford Young is now following in Winnie's footsteps and is retiring as Sales Manager. Barbara Vaughn will take over the reins as the new Sales Manager. The Board would like to express its appreciation for all the work done by Jan, Winnie, and Gifford over the past years. Thank you all! The Board also welcomes its new members and is looking forward to working with you. Any members who would like to become more involved and help with any of these or any other committees are encouraged to talk to any of the Board members at the meetings or to call them at the numbers listed above.

Have a good summer!

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

WETLANDS:

YES, SOMEBODY DOES CARE

The past few weeks have demonstrated decision-makers at the grassroots levels do care about wetlands. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the Cities of El Cerrito, Martinez, and Walnut Creek, through their city councils, have all adopted resolutions or have proclaimed the value of wetlands. It is expected similar resolutions will be adopted by the City Councils of the Cities of Antioch and Concord. Now, if we can just transfer those thoughts to our decision-makers in the Administration and Congress, our wetlands will finally win in the end.

ANCIENT FORESTS, US, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

The Rio Conference is over, but the repercussions will last even longer than the memories. Take bio-diversity. That's what really makes this natural world exist. All of the high tech and all of the computers and brand new cars that think for themselves (when, as, and if they work) won't overcome what humans are doing to the bio-diversity of our planet. Anyone who has seen the results of clear-cutting forests knows that the devastation is wrong. What isn't realized is that along with trees and brush goeth all sorts of life. Life that put together makes up the bio-diversity of the area.

A recent conversation with a young man who has a master's degree in botany, etc., produced a forceful, if short, answer to a question. Said I, "What happens to we humans if we clear-cut essentially all of our forests, thereby destroying bio-diversity." His response, two words: "We Die!!!!" Dramatic? Of course. Factual? Who wants to test the theory? Yet we've just seen the so-called "God Squad" (which, insofar as I know, had no one on it that understood the possible ramifications of their decision) decide that we could cut down thousands of acres of old growth forests. Allegedly on the theory of "saving jobs." This from an Administration that permitted acquisition of one major bank by another major bank, with the admitted loss of more than 20,000 jobs. Yet there is in our nation's various laws something about anti-trust. Oh, well, who wants to be reasonable or consistent these days.

OUR FORESTS vs. THE REST OF THE WORLD

We'll conclude this saga with a reproduction of a letter, written to President George Bush by Jose A. Lunzenberger, Brazil's Secretary of the Environment. That letter and some thoughts of my own were reproduced in the *Contra Costa Times* on April 25 as follows:

People the world over have expressed concerns about the depredation of the ecological wonders of the Brazilian rainforests.

Well, folks, the shoe is now on the other foot.

We in the United States, oft said to be world leaders, should be ashamed about our uses of ancient and other forests.

This point has been emphasized following a visit by Jose A. Lunzenberger, Brazil's Secretary of the Environment, to the United States, including California.

What he saw in our old-growth forests, Lunzenberger wrote President Bush last Oct. 15, "after clearcutting, is one of the saddest spectacles I have ever seen, never mind the narrow strip left along the roads to prevent travelers from seeing the ravage behind..."

"If it is true that the threat of annihilation by nuclear holocaust is now very far removed, we all still face very serious calamities as a consequence of our ill-advised ways in handling this living planet of ours..."

After discussing what his own country has been doing to reduce the rainforest destruction, Lunzenberger wrote:

"As an ecologist with a holistic view of the world, my concerns and the concerns of our government go beyond Amazonia."

"We are also very much concerned with the fate of the last remaining old stands of temperate and boreal forests in North America in Alaska...Washington, Oregon, and...California."

"Subsidized clear-cutting there, followed by monocultures of exotica, may be sustainable on a very long term for the production of timber only, but it is devastating for the unique natural ecosystems with their biological diversity..."

"At the present rate of clear-cutting practices for pulp and export of logs, it will all be finished in about 15 years..."

"The powerful and rich United States can certainly afford to subsidize a few thousand jobs in a less destructive way."

"The same applies to North American wetlands..."

Every American should give thought to what a leader from another major nation felt impelled to tell our president about the destruction we are permitting in our ancient forests and uses to which our remaining wetlands are being put.

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, Sunday, July 11-12, **Lassen National Park**. We will meet at the southwest entrance. The park campgrounds are first come, first serve. The southwest campground near the entrance is a walk-in camp. Summit Lake Camps are 17 miles of winding road into the park. The town of Mineral is 9 miles from the southwest entrance. Motels there include Lassen Mineral Lodge, (916) 595-4422, and McGovern's Vacation Chalets, (916) 595-4497. Volcano Country Camping has full RV hookup, showers, a dump, and accepts reservations, (916) 595-3347. Battle Creek Forest Service Camp 2 miles west of Mineral is said to have flush toilets. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, if you are planning to go on this trip.

Category 2

Saturday, August 1, **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. Early shorebirds, Black Swift, Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for information.

Category 2

Saturday, August 15, **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. Early shorebirds, rails, waterbirds, migrants. Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MINES ROAD, May 2.

Only three birders made the annual trek to Mines Road this year which is too bad as it was a beautiful day and pretty good birding. Highlights among the 79 species included Rufous and Costa's Hummingbirds, Wild Turkey, Lewis' Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Tricolored Blackbird, and several Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Steve Glover

BRIONES PARK - WEST, May 7.

Our target bird for this trip, the Lazuli Bunting, was easily seen by all seventeen birders. We also enjoyed watching a male and female Black-headed Grosbeak attending to pink featherless young in the nest. The male flew down and sang within an inch of their little heads. It was a foggy morning, creating less than ideal viewing conditions, but wonderful for identifying spring singers by their songs. 48 species were encountered.

Denise Wight

MITCHELL CANYON, May 9.

Nine members and guests enjoyed a warm, breezy day observing wildflowers, butterflies and birds. The early spring wildflowers have been replaced by Clarkias, Ithuriel's spears, Western larkspurs, Mariposa tulips, and Oregon sunshine. The California buckeye candles were in full bloom and butterflies were prolific. Fourteen species were seen on one tree. A total of 25 butterfly species were seen during the day. The forty birds species seen included Western Tanager, Bullock's Orioles, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. A Hammond's Flycatcher was heard.

Gen Sattler

MT. DIABLO, May 13.

Thirteen observers enjoyed a sunny day at Mt. Diablo but slow birding. 53 species of birds were observed. Highlights included nesting Hairy Woodpeckers and Solitary Vireos at Rock City and a late Northern Harrier at Pioneer Horse Camp. 21 species of butterflies were also seen, including the very rare Muir's Hairstreak.

Kevin Hintsa

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 20.

Six members spent a quiet morning at Caswell State Park along the Stanislaus River in 75° weather with sunny skies. In addition to the usual many House Wrens, we saw several Swainson's Hawks, five species of swallows, Western Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Warbling and Hutton's Vireos. Forty-one total species were seen.

Maurly Stern

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, May 21.

A healthy group of a dozen birders spent a great morning in some of the finest riparian habitat remaining in the East Bay. Highlights included an Osprey, a breeding-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper, a Burrowing Owl, a Black-chinned Hummingbird, several Blue Grosbeaks, 30 Tricolored Blackbirds, and best of all, a singing Willow Flycatcher. 53 species.

Steve Glover

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK, May 28.

Our MDAS group combined with an East Bay Regional Park group to look for Grasshopper Sparrow, which most of the group saw. Twelve observers saw 53 species of birds. It was foggy early in the morning, becoming sunny but not too hot in the afternoon, and breezy all day. Locally uncommon birds seen included Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Savannah Sparrow.

Kevin Hintsa

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.

Horned Grebe: 1 present through 6/7 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR) Very rare so late.

American White Pelican: 2 on 6/1 along Hwy. 37. (FB) Considered rare to very uncommon at this time according to *Birds of Northern California*.

Wood Duck: 3 males, 2 females, and 12 young on 5/18 at 5 Brooks Pond, Marin Co. (SG, RL)

Blue-winged Teal: 1 male on 6/7 at Hayward RS. (BR, SG)

Blue Grouse: at least 3 "booming" males on 6/1 near Donner Ski Resort, Nevada Co. (KH, SG)

Red Phalarope: 4 on 5/30 and 2 on 6/6 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Black Tern: 5 on 5/9, 11 on 5/10, 3 on 5/30, and 3 on 6/6 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Black Skimmer: 1 on 6/7 at Hayward RS. (BR) Rare but surprisingly regular inside the Bay. 2 others seen at Alameda the same day.

Ringed Turtle-dove: 1 on 5/25 at Oak Hill Park in Danville. (PK) These are occasionally seen but are not native and are not established.

Burrowing Owl: 1 on 5/15 on N. Livermore Ave., Livermore (SG), nearly extirpated from the Livermore Valley; 14 along the census plot from Seller's Rd. to Delta Rd., East CCC. (GF)

Spotted Owl: 2 heard and 1 seen on 5/18 at 5 Brooks Ponds. (RL, SG)

Great Gray Owl: 1 seen 5/29 on Tioga Pass Rd., 1/2 mile from Chevron Meadow. (SG)

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 female on 6/6 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Red-breasted Sapsucker: 1 on 5/12 at Gazos Creek, San Mateo Co. (GF, MP) Probably a straggler, not known to breed south of Mendocino Co.

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 5/12 at Sunol RP (SG), early; 1 on 5/16 at Hayward RS (BR), first park record in the spring; 1 singing on 5/23 at Piper Slough, Bethel Island (SG, MDAS group), rare in spring.

Hammond's Flycatcher: last one reported on 5/9 in Mitchell Canyon, MDSP. (KH, MDAS group)

Veery: 1 seen and heard on 6/5 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (SG) Also on RBA. Fourth Northern California record.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 5/13 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (SG, RS, RL)

Northern Parula: 1 on 5/12 along Gazos Creek Rd. in San Mateo Co. (GF, MP), also on RBA; 1 male and 1 female on 6/1 at the Fish Docks (FB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 on 6/1 at the Fish Docks. (FB)

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 on 6/2 at the Fish Docks. (SG, RL)

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 on 5/13 at the New Willows. (RL, SG)

American Redstart: 1 on 6/1 at the Lighthouse (FB); 1 on 6/1 (FB) and 2 on 6/2 (SG, RL) at the Fish Docks.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 male on 6/1 at the Fish Docks. (FB) Also on RBA. Northern California averages about 1-2 a year.

Kentucky Warbler: 1 on 6/1 near Donner Ski Resort. (KH, SG) Also on RBA. These are rare in Northern California.

Hooded Warbler: 1 female on 5/13 at the Lighthouse (RS, RL, SG); 1 male at Tilden Park from 6/1 to at least 6/7, seen 6/3 (SG), second county record. This has been an incredible spring for this species.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 on 5/13 (RS, SG, RL) and 6/2 (SG, RL) at the Fish Docks; 1 male from 6/1 to 6/7 at Tilden Park, seen 6/6 (SG, DW, HH); 1 female on 6/7 in JR's Alamo yard (BR), rare but there are several county records.

Indigo Bunting: 1 on 5/18 (SG, RL) and 5/19 (FB, MJC) at the New Willows. Also on RBA.

Black-chinned Sparrow: 1 on 5/4 on South Gate Rd., MDSP. (GF)

Tricolored Blackbird: at least 40 on 5/23 at Jersey Island. (DW, MDAS group)

"Baltimore" Oriole: 1 female on 5/13 at the Lighthouse. (RS, SG, RL)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Steve Glover, Hugh Harvey, Kevin Hintsa, Pam Keiser, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Stallcup, and 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.

IN MEMORIUM

We are sad to announce the death, on May 21, of Marguerite "Peggy" Gross, a long-time friend of MDAS. Peggy was a long-standing member of the Napa-Solano Audubon chapter, but also frequently birded with our chapter and participated in our Christmas Counts. She also participated in the Napa-Solano Breeding Bird Atlas and was the editor of *Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties*. Peggy is survived by her husband Vernon; his address is 321 Franciscan Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589. A contribution in her memory has been made by our chapter to the Napa-Solano Audubon chapter, and members who also wish to contribute can do so in care of Unabeth Baxley, 732 Wilson Ave., Vallejo, CA 94590.

TRAVEL WARNING

by *Ilene Holmgren*

[Editor's note: Ilene wrote this article with reference to travel in Costa Rica, but travelers on other birding expeditions have also experienced problems. These would be good suggestions for any travel outside the U.S., and some of them might also be appropriate here in the U.S.]

If you are going birding in Costa Rica, Betty Ann Williams, Rudi Thomas, Vida Dawson, and Ilene Holmgren would like you to know about our trip. We were robbed in the Braulio Carillo Park a short distance from the capitol San Jose, and right where the trail began off the busy highway.

The two bandits were masked; one had a gun and the other a knife. They took binoculars, cameras, jewelry, traveler's checks, credit cards, money, airplane tickets, passports, backpacks, fanny packs, boots, ponchos, and umbrellas. There were six of us, including the guide and our driver.

The robbery went very quickly and the robbers drove off in our van. The van was found later about three miles down the highway. A similar robbery had occurred just three weeks earlier in the same park. Until the police decide to do something about this park, birders would do well to stay away from the area.

The following may be of help when preparing for a trip:

1. Don't take any jewelry that you don't want to lose.
2. Wear an inexpensive watch.
3. Before you go, take a photo of your suitcase and on the back of the photo, list the contents. This will save you much time and trouble when filling out insurance forms if your suitcase is lost or stolen.
4. Upon your arrival at your hotel, put your passport, airline tickets, numbers of your credit cards, traveler's check numbers, and the phone number to call if these are taken in the hotel safe.
5. If you are en route, that is, between hotels, use a money belt or body pouch for some of your checks, cash, credit cards, and passport.
6. Put half of your traveler's checks and a \$50 bill hidden in some clothing in your hotel room along with the number of your airline ticket and where and when you bought it. It is not always convenient to get into the hotel safe, and in our case, the safe broke and we couldn't get in at all. Safe repairmen don't work on weekends in Costa Rica.

7. Reconfirm your return flight early. Airlines don't reconfirm on weekends in Costa Rica, and if you don't reconfirm within 72 hours of a flight, you can be dropped from the computer.

8. Carry a photo copy of your passport on you always, and have an extra photocopy in your luggage. Having two extra passport photos with you can save you time and money if you have to have your passport replaced. The replacement cost is \$65 and the new passport is good only for one year. Memorize your passport number.

9. If you rent a car, put duct tape and black plastic over the sign that indicates you have a rental car.

10. Insurance in addition to homeowner's is strongly recommended, including trip cancellation and delay insurance.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

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798-0303

SALE
7/1/92-8/1/92



Bird Feeding Tips:

Keep hummingbird and oriole feeders' nectar fresh (change every 3-4 days).

Squirrels and blackbirds do not like safflower seed.

Birds need fresh water. Change bath water every few days and keep clean. Mist and drip systems are one of the best ways to attract birds. Come see our new lines of these systems.

Put out fruit for orioles, robins, and mockingbirds.

Keep feeders and feeding areas clean.

Note: 5% of your purchases are donated back to MDAS. April donations were \$318.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Bessie Beavers, Lewis Bish, Thomas A. Bishop, Lenore Bohlig, Sue Bollinger, Barbara Bonnicksen, Margie Christrian, Diane Craig, Denton Croft, L. Dave Cunningham, Lisa Dalander, F. L. Delisle, Eugene De Mar, Mrs. Dean Detweiler, Jerome Dix, Kathryn Emery, Richard Esparza, Donald Fessenden, Elinor Freitag, Leslie French, Gail Fritschle, Lourdes Gillego, Susan Gillespie, Nancy M. Gordon, Tony and Jeany Hicks, Winton Hill, Mrs. Sydney Howlett, Beverly Hull, Stormy Juenemann, Beth Konkle, Julie Langley, Karen Lingenfelter, Herbert Lee, Seth Lueders, C. L. Matthews, Maureen McCauley, John Millar, Caroline Mitchell, Barbara Morrice, Mrs. Ted Moser, Mary Nye, J. W. O'Hara, Stephanie Pitts, Lance Prather, John Rahm, Kenneth Rank, Patricia Ronan, Joan Ronnow, Varron Roth, Art and Sue Russo, Carol Sawyer, Linda Sunnen, K. J. Tomasini, Mrs. L. Trumbull, Arthur Watson, D. L. Webster, Doris Whitaker, Jan White, Sarah Whitelaw, Ida Whitten, James Williams, David Winslow, and Dean Wright.

THE LAST WORD

Where does the time go? This issue of the *Quail* concludes my fifth full year as editor. It has been an interesting time to be involved with MDAS and there are a lot of people who have made this job fun as well as a challenge. First, I want to thank my "regulars," Jim Lomax, Al McNabney, Elizabeth Dickey, Steve Glover, and Mike Williams for their monthly contributions. I also want to thank all the field trip leaders for their reports and all those who have sent in items of interest. A special thanks goes to Carol Lutz whose sketches have graced these pages during the year. A special thank you also goes to Betty Gallagher and her crew, who assemble and mail the finished *Quail* so efficiently each month. The *Quail* would not exist without the efforts of all of you. Finally, this year I also would like to say thank you to my husband Dan for his support, encouragement, and proofreading. His keen eye has been greatly appreciated. Well, it's off to the back porch for me, to watch the bluebirds finish raising their second brood of the spring. Wonder if they will have a third? Hope all of you have a good summer, too, and we'll see you in the fall.

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.

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

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

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Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

September 1992

Vol. 39 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 10

September Program:

California Rarities

Welcome back! The first meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on **September 3**. We will start off our new season with star birder Don Roberson. He will speak on rarities found throughout California.

Don Roberson has been an active California birder for 20 years. He is the author of *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, *Monterey Birds*, *Birder's California*, and many articles including a recent paper on Cookiaria Petrels in *American Birds*. Don is a member of the California Bird Record Committee and was the CBRC secretary for five years.

Birding information for September will be given by Jim Lomax, who will show slides of the Birds of Monterey Bay.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, September 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.

Annual Budget - Page 3

Year Field Trip Schedule - Page 4

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

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Birding Information
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

Treasurer Needed: Our MDAS Treasurer, Brian Elder, has been transferred by his company back to Canada and will be leaving us in October. We wish Brian well and appreciate his work during the past year. Anyone who is interested in or would like more information about the Treasurer position should call Brian at 743-1018 or Jim Lomax at 825-1513.

Special Event: the Contra Costa Conservation League is sponsoring a meeting featuring our own Congressman George Miller, discussing the recent Rio Earth Conference and environmental issues. Full details on the meeting are on Page 8.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SHELL MARSH IS SAFE!!!!

After over eight years of attention, debate, argument, letter writing, a major oil spill, and a lot of sweat and tears (no blood, though), Shell Marsh has been SAVED. The Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee (SOSLSTC) has purchased the entire property, including the uplands, from the developer. The title is in the hands of the East Bay Park Service. A major commitment is being made to restoring and enhancing the wetland. SOSLSTC established a committee (MDAS is represented) to work out details for an extensive study of the hydrology, land elevations, and tidal action, so the marsh can be properly managed. Acquisition of this wetland, said by many to be THE most important in Contra Costa County, constitutes a major environmental win. When the studies and restoration have been completed, Shell Marsh will be the jewel of all California wetlands.

SUMMER DOLDRUMS: DON'T KID YOURSELF

Maybe it's the full moon. Maybe it's the season, or possibly there may be the hint of some politics in the air, but this is CERTAINLY NOT a dull summer. There's the budget battle in Sacramento. Promises, (or threats) of huge cuts are rumored for just about every service government is supposed to administer. Education, the bedrock of the future, is threatened with a 2 BILLION dollar cut. Environmental laws, conditions and protections that have taken years to achieve are on the block. Too costly. Too restrictive. Which brings one to ask the question, "Too costly, too restrictive for whom?"

One can move a business just across our southern border and escape having to pay much of anything to ensure that toxic materials dumped from the manufacturing operation won't get the company in trouble. One can also avoid having to pay pensions, social security, or taxes for maintaining infrastructure, i.e., streets, schools, sewage plants, water purification plants, and the like. So why stick around the U.S.? That's what some are arguing.

We look about the world. How about India, with its Bopal. Right here in our own back yard accidents in major industrial facilities are constant reminders of the need for enlightened business leaders, for alert regulators.

Does anyone remember why regulations and laws were created in the first place? MOST regulations didn't just come from some faceless government worker's evil mind. Environmental regulations came about because accidents or conditions created public awareness. An aroused, informed public then demanded action. Lawmakers acted to try to prevent future problems of like nature.

We have few birds who can speak in their own defense about environmental matters (although have you heard a good talking parrot?). Business leaders, looking at the "bottom line" argue there must be a cost-benefit to every rule, regulation, or law, or such must not be enforced. Those who attempt to speak on behalf of the conservation world we all MUST live in quickly become, to quote some of the current political rhetoric, "environmental extremists."

Does ANYONE really believe smog-laden air, so thick at times it is impossible to see nearby mountains, is a good thing? East Bay MUD, attempting to ensure it provides high quality water at a reasonable rate for its water users, is being criticized. A developer wants to create 11,000 homes in the Dougherty Valley. 'Tis argued EBMUD HAS to provide water for the project. There will be costs. There may also be future water shortages. Is the fact EBMUD is attempting to ensure it can supply reasonably priced water and to have a high quality water supply for its "present" customers, rather than spend money to expand facilities, environment extremism? Or is it sound business judgment based on a thoughtful review of the available water supply and an obligation to serve its present customers?

WETLANDS -- STILL MORE ATTACKS

Don't forget the President's Delineation Manual, introduced many months ago, is sitting and waiting to be implemented. Even the President's own EPA Advisor argues implementation of the proposed rules will bring disaster to our few remaining wetlands. Experts say at least 50% of the nation's remaining wetlands will be "up for grabs" if the proposed rules are ever implemented. Now comes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a new plan asserting wetlands converted to farming use prior to 1985 are not a part of the waters of the United States. Why such a rule? Independent observers argue this rule, just like the President's Delineation Manual, is pure politics and has no scientific basis. Interestingly enough, the Corps' own regulations make it clear that on-going farming activities are exempt from wetland regulations. Could it just be the "fuss" is due to a desire to convert these farmlands (former wetlands) for development purposes?

THE TOLL ROAD STILL SEEKS A TOLL BOOTH

Proponents of the infamous east county toll road are still trying; that's the bad news. "What is the good news?" you ask. Right now there's little to cheer about. YOU the people can have a say, but it will take the effort of contacting CalTrans and letting decision makers in that body know what you think about creation of this environmental disaster. Stay tuned for more info on the toll road.

WHAT WENT ON AT THE RIO EARTH CONFERENCE
See the Special Event announcement on Page 8

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 91-92

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$1,693.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	12,447.00

INCOME:

National Audubon Society dues share	\$9,810.00
Subscriptions to <i>The Quail</i>	749.00
Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund)	4,203.00
Other sales	2,407.00
Donations to MDAS, fundraising	3,078.00
Bird-a-Thon Donations	721.00
Peregrine Project Fund Donations	500.00
Interest earned (net of bank charges)	544.00

INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

Operating Account:	
Conservation & Education Fund:	\$18,472.00
	17,680.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Production and distribution of <i>The Quail</i>	\$9,110.00
Rent, General Meeting	750.00
Administration	86.00
Equipment	499.00
Conservation	1,891.00
Membership	294.00
Program presentation	835.00
Education	159.00
Field trips	-
Hospitality	92.00
Publicity	37.00
Christmas Bird Count	259.00
Sales expenses	2,253.00
Telephone (AUD-UBON)	147.00
Insurance	701.00
Bay Area Audubon Council	61.00

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Lindsay Museum, Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Sierra Club Foundation, Save Mt. Diablo, Planning and Conservation League, National Audubon Society, etc.	\$3,385.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$20,559.00
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

Operating Account:	\$ 2,202.00
Conservation & Education Fund:	13,391.00

1992-93 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT: This is a tentative schedule. Weather or availability of leaders may require changes. READ THE *QUAIL* or call the Audubon tape at 283-8266. 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. The trip marked with a star (*) is a new trip.

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.	2	Wed.	Hayward Regional Shoreline	Mar.	6	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	12	Sat.	Moss Landing - Salinas River		10	Wed.	Hayward Regional Shoreline
	13	Sun.	Pelagic trip		20	Sat.	Tomales Bay
	17	Thur.	Bolinas Lagoon and Sewer Ponds		25	Thur.	Black Diamond Mines Reg. Park
	23	Wed.	Point Diablo (Hawk Hill)		31	Wed.	Briones wildflower walk
Oct.	3	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes	Apr.	3	Sat.	Garin Regional Park
	7	Wed.	San Mateo Coast		7	Wed.	Lake Lagunitas
	15	Thur.	Mt. View Sanitary - Mallard Res.		17	Sat.	Donner Canyon
	24	Sat.	Abbott's Lagoon		22	Thur.	Ida Clayton Road, Napa Co.
	28	Wed.	Alameda South Shore		28	Wed.	Del Puerto Canyon
Nov.	7	Sat.	Limantour	May	1	Sat.	Mines Road
	11	Wed.	Charleston Slough		5	Wed.	Briones Park - West
	19	Thur.	Nimbus Fish Hatchery *		8	Sat.	Mitchell Canyon
	21	Sat.	Palo Alto Baylands		13	Thur.	Mt. Diablo State Park
Dec.	3	Thur.	Niles Canyon		22	Sat.	East Contra Costa County
	5-6	S-S	Sacramento refuges		26	Wed.	Caswell State Park
	9	Wed.	Altamont				
	19	Sat.	CHRISTMAS COUNT				
Jan.	2	Sat.	Putah Creek - Lake Solano	June	3	Thur.	Las Trampas Regional Wilderness
	14	Thur.	Lafayette Reservoir		5	Sat.	Outer Point Reyes
	16	Sat.	Bolinas - 5 Brooks		9	Wed.	Annadel State Park
	21	Thur.	Sunol Regional Park		19-20	S-S	Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley
	27	Wed.	Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge		26-27	S-S	Lassen National Park
Feb.	3	Wed.	Thornton - Stockton Ponds	July	31	Sat.	San Mateo Coast
	13	Sat.	San Mateo Coast				
	18	Thur.	Berkeley Shoreline	Aug.	14	Sat.	Bodega Bay
	24	Wed.	Lake Merritt		28	Sat.	Coyote Hills Regional Park
	27-28	S-S	Sage Grouse Weekend				

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, September 2, 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

Saturday, September 12, 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

Sunday, September 13, Pelagic Trip. Members are invited to join a Monterey Seavalley pelagic trip with Shearwater Journeys. The special MDAS group rate is \$39.00 (regular \$55.00). Send your check and a self-addressed envelope to Shearwater Journeys, P. O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. Don't forget to mention you are a MDAS member. For more information, call Denise Wight at 370-7342.

Thursday, September 17, 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: Jean Richmond, 837-2843

Category 2

Wednesday, September 23, 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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ANNADEL STATE PARK, June 3.

Eight members and guests met bright and early to head north to Annadel State Park near Santa Rosa. All had come with great expectations of seeing our two target species for the day: the Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-breasted Chat. They would not be disappointed. We saw and heard at least three chats with one proud male singing loudly and conspicuously on a bare tree about 30 yards away. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers appeared about 200 yards from the parking lot up the trail to the south. They allowed us to get excellent views of both the male and the female. These were life birds for many on the trip. In all, 44 species were tallied. A family of Green-backed Herons sat and preened some ten yards from us at Spring Lake, allowing a good study of the immature plumage as we finished our day.

Jimm Edgar

OUTER POINT REYES, June 6.

It was a beautiful day on the Point for eleven members and guests. The Fish Docks proved most productive with sightings of a Red-eyed Vireo, a Black-and-white Warbler, a Tennessee Warbler, 2 Northern Parulas, and 3 of the 5 American Redstarts. Some of the group who stopped at Tilden Park on the way home were lucky to hear (but not view) a Hooded Warbler and to see and hear a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak sing.

Denise Wight

YUBA PASS, June 20-21.

We had a beautiful weekend at Yuba Pass: good weather, good birds, and 23 good birders and guests. At the Pass, we found Calliope Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Black-backed and White-headed Woodpeckers, Cassin's Finch, and lots of Evening Grosbeaks. In the Sierra Valley, we found Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, and Vesper and Brewer's Sparrows. Highlight of the trip for many, though, were the Common Poorwills found on an evening excursion Saturday night. 89 species were seen by the group and another 15 were heard or seen by individuals away from the group.

Barb Burek and Dan Van Zile

LASSEN NATIONAL PARK, July 11-12.

Nine birders explored the Lassen area over the July 11 and 12 weekend. The weather was threatening but did not actually rain. Most birds were through nesting and harder to locate than at Yuba Pass. Highlights included Lazuli Bunting at the ski area and lots of creepers, nuthatches, a Hermit Warbler and crossbills at Reflection Lake. Those who stayed at the Battle Creek campground were treated to an evening display by about 30 Vaux's Swifts. Those who stayed at the motel in Mineral had snipe and bluebirds in the meadow. Those who stayed at the walk-in camp saw the only White-headed Woodpeckers. A total of 40 species were seen in the two days.

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.

Sooty Shearwater: 1 on 7/25 at Hayward Regional Shoreline (BR); 10,000 on 8/8 at Princeton Harbor (JR, RR). Casual in summer in the East Bay.

Storm-petrels: 1 Black, 1 Ashy, and 1 unidentified on 8/1 at Hayward RS and 1 Ashy and 1 probable Black on 8/2 (BR); 1 Black with Sooty Shearwater flock on 8/8 at Princeton Harbor (JR). Ashy is very rare in the East Bay and I know of no East Bay records of Black.

American White Pelican: 14 on 7/14 and 11 on 7/24 at the Concord NWS, seen from Pt. Chicago Hwy. (SG)

Brown Booby: 1 on 7/18 at the Farallons. (FG) Less than 5 Northern California records.

American Bittern: 1 immature on 7/1 near Byron. (FB, BG)

Northern Shoveler: 1 recently deceased male found on 7/14 on Main St., Port Chicago. (SG) Still not proven nesting in our county.

White-winged Scoter: 1 male on 7/12 and 7/25 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Cooper's Hawk: a pair with several young on 7/12 near the Junction Ranger Station, MDSP. (FG)

Mountain Quail: 2 families (10-12 chicks each) on 6/3 along Mix Canyon Rd., Solano Co. (Bo&BG); 2 on 7/10 along Gates Canyon Rd. (FG).

Wandering Tattler: 4-5 on 7/27 at the old Albany dump. (SG)

Elegant Tern: 500 on 6/6 near the mouth of Bolinas Lagoon. (FB, MJC)

Least Tern: 38 on 7/21 and 70 on 8/11 at Alameda South Shore (JR); 1 on 8/7 along the north Berkeley shoreline (DW).

Burrowing Owl: 18 adults and 25 juveniles on 6/30 near Knightsen. (GF)

Common Poorwill: 3 on 6/6 at Castle Rock State Park. (FG)

Black-chinned Hummingbird: 1 male on 6/10 on Jersey Island. (BG, FB)

Eastern Kingbird: 1 on 6/1 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Canyon Wren: 1 on 7/1 at mile 6.2 along Patterson Pass Rd., east of Livermore. (SG, RL)

Winter Wren: 1 singing male feeding begging young on 6/24 at Redwood Regional Park. (SG) First confirmed Contra Costa County nesting.

Brown Thrasher: 1 on 7/16 in residential Daly City. (SG) Also on RBA.

Northern Parula: 2 on 6/1 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP); 1 on 6/23 at Mt. Davidson, SF (JR), also on RBA.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 on 6/1 at the Fish Docks. (GF, MP)

Magnolia Warbler: 1 male described on 5/27 from his Walnut Creek yard (BW). This may be the first East Bay record.

American Redstart: 2 on 6/1 at Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Hooded Warbler: 1 in the nature area at Tilden Regional Park on 6/6 and 6/7 (GF), and on 6/9 (MJC, BG, FB); 1 on 6/23 at Mt. Davidson (JR), also on RBA. Accidental in the East Bay.

Yellow-breasted Chat: at least 3 singing on 6/25 along Piper Slough. (SG, KH)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: the male at Tilden Park since at least 6/1 was seen on a nest on 6/18 (BGi, GF, KH). It appeared to be paired with a female Black-headed Grosbeak.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 male on 6/11 at Hollard Track, east CCC (Bo&BG); 2 singing on 7/1 at mile 6.2 along Patterson Pass Rd. (SG, RL).

Bobolink: 1 female on 8/1 along the Martinez Shore (EH, VB). This is a first county record.

Tricolored Blackbird: at least 300 on 6/25 at intersection of Cypress and Jersey Island Rds. (SG, KH); 5 on 7/1 near Byron (BG, FB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 7 on 7/3 on Bacon Island, San Joaquin Co., (Bo&BG); 34 on 7/7 at the intersection of Jersey Island and Dutch Slough Rds. (EH, VB).

Observers: Florence Bennett, Virginia Bergeson, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Bob & Betty Gallagher, Frank Gardner, B. Gillis, Steve Glover, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Denise Wight, Bob Wisecarver.

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

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. The newspaper covers different 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 Sheree Doucette, 3642 Granzotto Dr., Concord, CA 94519.

SPONSOR: Name: _____
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

Ah, September. Migration starts gearing up to full flight. This is the best time of year to go pelagic birding. As you may have noted on the front page, I'm presenting the Birding Information this month on "Pelagic Birds of Monterey Bay." I'd intended to dazzle you with expertise while expounding on these birds and showing you my slides, but as I was planning my show, I discovered that the speaker for the main program this night will be none other than Don Roberson, author and *true* expert on pelagic birds. Since he will be watching this presentation of my fledgling experiences, I'll be in the back of the room humbly showing slides in a sort of "what you could see" format. Hope I labeled them right.

This is also the time of year to go to the Marin Headlands and join the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory as they count hawks in migration. Last year there were record numbers of Broad-winged hawks, one of the six Buteos (soaring hawks) we get in the Bay Area and the rarest, being here only a short time during migration. The other five, of course, are the Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Rough-legged, Ferruginous, and Swainson's Hawks.

And, speaking of raptors, it's my hope to begin a new project early next year, like January, doing a Golden Eagle nest census on Mt. Diablo. Volunteers would go out on the mountain watching for displaying eagles intent on breeding, track them, and watch for nests. At this point there are no known sites on the mountain, but we do know they are there. And maybe, if I can get the required licensed people, and get Department of Fish and Game and State Park permission, the chicks could be banded. If you are interested, watch for sign-ups at meetings or call me.

The data from our first year of the Rail Project are now being tabulated and written up. Volunteers surveyed 12 sites on a 45 mile front from the Richmond Bridge to the Antioch Bridge. We did find Clapper and Black Rails. We hope that when this study is completed in 1994, we can get state help in removing red foxes from some of these areas and restoring some of the habitat. (Hey, I can dream, can't I?)

We also have completed our second year of the Burrowing Owl Project. Project Director David DeSante will be our guest speaker in October to tell us about this critical study.

Finally, we have finished the Peregrine Project, at least for the foreseeable future. We helped place twelve Peregrine chicks on the mountain of which ten fledged. Four birds have returned so far and we hope they will start nesting next year.

So get out of the house this month. Go pelagic birding. Go hawk watching. Come to the meeting and see me be humble.

MEETINGS AND CLASSES

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Golden Gate Audubon celebrates its 75th anniversary on Sunday, October 4 at Ft. Mason in San Francisco. National Audubon Society President Peter Berle will be the special guest, and the keynote speaker will be renowned scientist, National Audubon Board member, and author of *Population Bomb* and *The Birder's Handbook*, Paul Ehrlich. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m., in Conference Room A-1 on the first floor of Building A at Ft. Mason, near the Marina. Admission is \$12 per person for members of GGAS and \$15 for non-members. The space is limited, so reserve your tickets now by sending your check for the number of tickets desired to the GGAS office at 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. Call the GGAS office at (510) 843-2222 for more information.

FALL FIELD CLASS

Norah Bain's fall class, suitable for beginning and intermediate birders, will meet on Tuesdays, October 20 through November 17, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Emphasis will be on shorebirds, raptors, wintering land birds and some waterfowl. Registration is \$59 for Orinda residents, \$61 for non-residents. Registration begins on September 10 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563, 254-2445. Register in person or by mail. For more details, call Norah at 254-4516.

FALL BIRDING CLASSES

Three evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will start on September 8, 9, and 10. All classes meet from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street. Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays and is an introduction to birds and birding. Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays and is a continuing in-depth study of water birds. Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays and is a continuing study of land birds. These classes are endorsed by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Fees are \$55 for each seven week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the City College of San Francisco, Community Services Office at (415) 267-6514 or (415) 561-1840.

BAY SHORE STUDIES

Become a Bay Shore Studies volunteer by signing up for the fall training classes, held on Fridays, starting September 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Learn about the Bay and how to lead the students on field trips to the edge of the Bay. No background in science or teaching is required; all that is needed is an interest in the outdoors and a desire to share it with children. Call Meryl Sundove at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, (415) 388-2524, for more information.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is hosting the 1992 WFO Conference, September 18 to 20, at the Holiday Inn in Sunnyvale. Conference events include field and pelagic trips, a full day of speakers, and an evening banquet. Call SFBBO at (408) 946-6548 for more information.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Betty Bias, Steven Billington, Ross Bonander, Pat Brown, Patricia G. Burnham, Pat Cathey, Virginia Clement, Norman Constantine, Mrs. A. M. Dachs, Frederica Delamain, Rosemary Frazier, Kerry Freeman, Mardi Gareen, Mary George, Judith Gershon, Jan Glossman, Ronald Halsne, Mary Ann Halvorson, Victoria Harrigan, Deborah Hibbs, Beverly Jacobs, Lois Hochenauer, Rich Johansen, Dr. Edward Johnson, Barbara G. Jones, Melanie Keeler, Stewart Keeton, Carol Kern, Bill Knudtson, Carol Lane, Jean Lawther, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Loret, Roderic Lucas, Elizabeth Lutz, the Mathews family, Helen McCulloch, Ingrid McQueen, Dennis Moriz, David Odom, Wanda Peets, Faith Pemberton, Elizabeth Perez, Rob Peterka, Claudia Pitas, John Poorbawgh, Jeff Poplin, Paul Pryor, June Ratterman, James Riley, C. B. Schwarz, Ellen Shapiro, William Smith, Barbara Tippet, Katie Tomlinson, Tom Trent, Kathleen Vetter, Kenneth Whitham, and Jack and Lucille Whitney.

SPECIAL EVENT

CONTRA COSTA CONSERVATION LEAGUE

The League cordially requests your presence at "From Rio to Reality" featuring our very own Congressman, the Honorable George Miller, Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. George Miller led the U. S. Congressional Delegation to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Now he's back with an inside report on the Earth Summit and thoughts linking that global gathering to our work here at home.

Join us on Saturday, September 12th at the Martinez Regional Shoreline for George Miller's keynote address. Also featured is an awards ceremony honoring regional environmental achievements, and a lunch at Cafe Romano. R.S.V.P. to the Lindsay Museum at 935-1983. Lunch at Cafe Romano, a moderately priced establishment, is at your own expense. Don't hesitate! Call in those R.S.V.P.'s today. We look forward to seeing you at "From Rio to Reality."

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 out 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 94597-0053, please.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
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Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

October 1992

Vol. 39 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 1

October Program:

The Burrowing Owl Project

For our **October 1** program, Dr. David De Sante, Executive Director of the Institute for Bird Populations, will speak on the Institute's involvement in the census of Burrowing Owls in California. This small ground-dwelling owl seems to be declining in many areas and the Institute is trying to document the changes. Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is currently assisting the Institute in this program, with ten of our members helping to count the owls in our area. Join us for this informative presentation.

The Institute for Bird Populations is a non-profit organization for scientific research, conservation, and education. The Institute was established in 1989 to champion a global approach towards changes in bird populations.

Birding information for October will focus on how and where to bird with small children. Denise Wight, mom to a six-year-old and a two-year-old, will also point out common pitfalls that parents or caregivers might encounter and how to avoid them.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Burek, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, 229-0394. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

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

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Birding Information
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

New Treasurer: We are happy to announce that a new treasurer has been found to take over from Brian Elder who is leaving us in October. Pam Keiser was introduced at the September General Meeting and we encourage all of you to come meet her and welcome her to her new position. She and Brian are working on transferring bookkeeping and other information and Pam will be ready to take over when Brian leaves. We welcome her to this position and to the MDAS Board.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WHO IS BEING SERVED?

Oft times painters draw idyllic scenes showing lush fields strewn with gorgeous wildflowers, budding weeds, and, at times, including a bovine creature of some description. Would't the real world were so. All of which brings us to Mt. Diablo, one of our major state parks. The mountain, particularly in the spring, can be as pretty as anything an artist would paint. Then again, the beautiful green hills may well have few to NO wildflowers. The creekbanks may be disturbed to a disastrous degree. One "might" note there are old growths of oaks, but few young oak trees.

Then we have the group, an extension of the Peregrine Project, that plans to return the flora and fauna on Mt. Diablo to their historic status. One other major point: the General Plan for Mt. Diablo State Park was hammered out after extensive hearings, discussions, and letters. People spent hours, days, weeks, months, and years trying to develop a Plan that would make it possible to return the mountain to pristine condition. A major element involved the reduction and/or the elimination of cattle grazing on the mountain.

All seemed to be going well. It appeared most cattle grazing would be eliminated. The mountain (and Mom Nature) could then restore itself with, of course, the help of some interested, willing people.

Never underestimate the power of politics. A few weeks ago the Sattlers, long-time watchers of the Mt. Diablo scene and well known to MDAS people, indicated "something" was afoot, *re* discontinuance of cattle grazing. Alerted, MDAS members along with many others wrote Donald W. Murphy, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation, urging compliance with the General Plan. That meant cattle grazing on Mt. Diablo would be a NO NO. Lo and behold a decision was announced. Cattle grazing would be continued on the mountain not for just a short time but for ten more years.

The name of a locally prominent political figure has been mentioned as one person who had "something" to do with this infamous decision. Clearly, the General Plan requirements have been ignored. One wouldn't do that because of a concern for cattle having a nice place to dine. Regardless of WHY, the ill-conceived decision MUST not be permitted to stand. You, me, and everybody should be, to borrow a bit from a recent movie, "MAD AS H--- and we aren't going to take it anymore." It's YOUR park, DO something!!!! You could even write Mr. Donald Murphy, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, P. O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001.

WETLANDS

It is suspected every MDAS member is aware of the fact there is a political campaign underway. In this state, voters will be electing a president, a vice-president, and two senators; every member of the Congress is also up for election. Remember that the President's Wetland Delineation Manual was listed in the Federal Register many months ago. Implementation of that infamous document is theoretically now possible at any time. Most experts, including the Administration's own EPA, indicate full implementation would cause loss of about 50% of the nation's remaining wetlands. We say such a situation would be an environmental disaster. Worry about it? You bet! Once a wetland is gone due to some development project, it is usually gone forever. The losses of animals, bugs, bees, birds, and invertebrates could well be very serious. In fact, the losses could create irreversible environmental conditions.

THE MONSTER IS STILL WITH US

Monster, monstrous, odious, probably ugly. All such fancy words are applicable to the proposed, visionary Mid State Toll Road. A major goal of Bay Area conservation organizations is to motivate hundreds of people to attend the January hearing of the State Route 4 Bypass Authority (more on that in a later *Quail*) and raise objections to the proposed project. Golden Gate, Ohlone, and MDAS Audubon chapters and the California Transit League are asking members to comment on the EIR for the East County Corridor. WRITE to your city council, urging the council to adopt a resolution opposing the Toll Road. People complain, "My vote doesn't count." This is YOUR chance to express views to decision makers. Your voice will be heard. It appears to us the planning route for the infamous Toll Road is likely to be full of pot holes, detours, and stop signs.

THE DELTA -- STATUS THEREOF

The *Sacramento Bee* asserted in an editorial, "In almost any other state, one not so blessed with popular attractions as California, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta would be treasured as an irreplaceable natural and recreational resource...." State Senator Patrick Johnson has urged the creation of a special commission to "save the Delta." "Why?" you ask. There is a proposal now "in the mill" to create a golf course on Sherman Island, an undeveloped tract at the western apex of the Delta, near Antioch. Johnson is convinced if the golf course is ever created, soon thereafter the area will be surrounded by costly dwellings. "Bay Area commuter subdivisions would sprout along the Carquinez Strait." Other development projects will be marching all across the Delta. Delta wetlands, often lush farmland, and recreational areas now available to the public would become private property. It would not be many years before the Delta as we have known it would be GONE, covered with houses and concrete. The *Bee* editorialized, "The Delta is far more than just the spigot for California's key water-redistribution systems. It is a unique area, a key part of San Joaquin's heritage, a source of pride. It must be preserved." We agree!!!!

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; some trips may have sub-trips of varying difficulty.

Persons with physical limitations can participate in the easier walk.

Category 3: Single long hike 2-4 miles may include rough trails or steep grades.

Saturday, October 3, **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. Coast birds, migrants, and possible eastern vagrants.

Leader: Pat MacEachen, 934-3041

Category 2

Wednesday, October 7, **San Mateo Coast**. Carpool 7:15 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet at 9:00 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. Ocean and shorebirds, possible migrants.

Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207

Category 2

Thursday, October 15, **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 Rd. 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. Trails may be muddy. Close-up looks at dabbling ducks; possible bitterns and heron.

Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Category 1

Saturday, October 17, **Special MDIA/MDAS Field Trip to Mt. Diablo**. Meet at Rock City at 8:00 a.m. for an easy walk. The special event, "Autumn on the Mountain," is sponsored by Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association.

Leader: Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509

Saturday, October 24, **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. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and possibly hawks or eagles. Carry lunch and liquids.

Leader: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Category 3

Wednesday, October 28, **Alameda South Shore**. Carpool 7:30 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR24. 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. Close-up views of a wide variety of shorebirds; Clapper Rails possible.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SAN MATEO COAST, August 1.

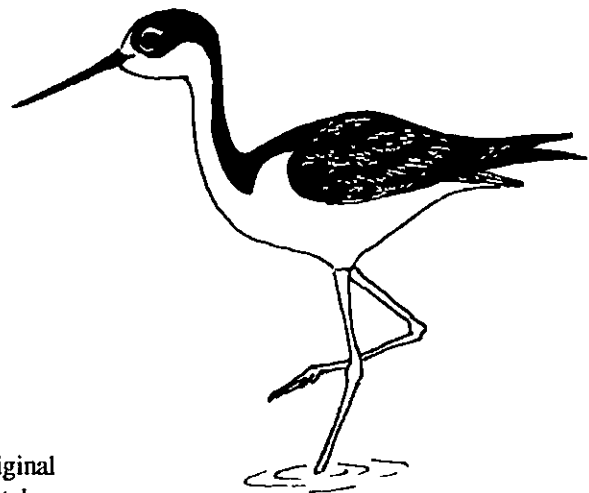
There was fog in the morning, clearing in the afternoon. Nine birders saw many of the early coastal migrants: Elegant Terns, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Black Oystercatchers. Those birders who ended the day at Princeton saw a flock of Sooty Shearwaters sweep close to shore. 60 species seen and heard plus 6 additional species at Princeton.

Elizabeth Dickey

BODEGA BAY, August 15.

With temperatures around 100° in Contra Costa County, birders spent a cool, pleasant day near the ocean. The group was upbeat and congenial and the birds were cooperative. Sighting highlights included Sooty Shearwater, Osprey with fish, Great Horned Owl, Sora and Virginia Rails, Elegant Tern, American Redstart, and Red-necked Phalarope. A total of 77 species was seen by 21 fortunate birders.

Shirley Ellis



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.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 on 8/24 at Limantour Beach, Marin Co. (GF, MP)

Black-vented Shearwater: ~30 on 8/31 off Pescadero Beach. (SG, RL)

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel: 2 on 8/18 off Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP) Also on RBA.

Ashy Storm-petrel: 1 still present on 8/18 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (SG)

Brown Booby: still present on 8/29 at the Farallons. (FG)

American White Pelican: 8 on 8/31 at Briones Regional Park. (JA)

Pelagic Cormorant: 3 on 8/30 at the old Albany dump and 1 on 8/30 at the end of Marina Way, Richmond. (SG)

Wood Duck: 3 on 9/4 on ponds at the intersection of Geary and Calaveras near Sunol. (SG)

Black Scoter: 1 on 9/5 at the end of Marina Bay Pkwy. in Richmond. (BR, SG)

White-winged Scoter: 1 male on 8/22 and 8/30 at the end of Harbor Bay Pkwy., Alameda (SG); 2 on 8/30 at the end of Marina Way (SG).

Osprey: 1 on 8/21 at Briones RP. (JA)

Northern Harrier: 1 immature on 8/9 at Briones RP. (JA)

Wild Turkey: 1 on 9/1 at Pine Pond, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)

Virginia Rail: 1 on 9/4 at Sunol RP. (SG)

Lesser Golden-plover: 5 on 8/22 and 8/25 and 10 on 8/31 at the Spalitta Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, EL, MJC, BG)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 7/30 at Briones RP. (JA)

Wandering Tattler: 1 on 8/30 along Harbor Bay Pkwy. and 1 on 8/30 at the old Albany dump. (SG)

Bar-tailed Godwit: 1 juvenile on 8/22 (SG, RL, GF, FB, EL) and 8/25 (FB, MJC, BG) at Abbott's Lagoon. Also on RBA.

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 on 8/18 (GF, MP), 5 on 8/22 (FB, EL, GF, SG, RL) and 5 on 8/25 (FB, BG, MJC) all at Abbott's Lagoon; at least 7 on 8/31 at Año Nuevo (SG, RL).

Red Phalarope: 4 on 8/18 at Abbott's Lagoon. (GF, MP)

Parasitic Jaeger: 1 juvenile on 9/4 (BR) and on 9/5 (SG) at Hayward RS.

Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 adult on 9/4 at Hayward RS. (BR) First Alameda County record.

Caspian Tern: 1 on 8/26 at Bishop Ranch Business Park, San Ramon. (SG)

Least Tern: 70 on 8/11 at Alameda South Shore. (FB, MJC)

Black Tern: 1 on 8/18 along Hwy. 37 (GF, MP); 1 on 8/22 at Abbott's Lagoon (GF, SG, RL).

Vaux's Swift: 4 on 8/31 at Briones RP. (JA)

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 on 8/31 at Briones RP. (JA)

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 9/1 at Pine Pond (KH); 2 from 9/1 to 9/7 at Hayward RS (RL, BR, SG).

Least Flycatcher: 1 on 8/31 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (GF, MP)

Fork-tailed Flycatcher: 1 on 9/5 (GF, BR, SG, FB, MJC) and 9/6 (FG) near Bridgehaven, Sonoma Co. First record for the entire West Coast.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 9/8 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Magnolia Warbler: 1 on 9/4 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo Co. (FG)

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 on 8/31 at Briones RP (JA), may be only the second county record; 1 on 8/31 at the Fish Docks (GF, MP, FB, BG, MJC, EL).

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 9/7 at Hayward RS. (BR) Probably only the third Alameda County and East Bay record.

Lark Bunting: 1 adult female on 9/2 at Hayward RS (BR, SG, MDAS), fourth East Bay record, all records from HRS; 1 female on 8/31 near the Nunes Ranch (GF, MP).

Fox Sparrow: 1 on 9/8 at Hayward RS. (BR) Early?

Red Crossbill: 2 described from her Lafayette yard on 8/24. (JS)

Observers: John Ascher, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Frank Gardner, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Joan Schimmelman.

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

School has started but it's not too late 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. The newspaper covers different 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 Sheree Doucette, 3642 Granzotto Dr., Concord, CA 94519.

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

SCHOOL NAME: _____

Grade _____ No. Students _____

Teacher's name: _____

School Address: _____

A SPECIAL MDAS THANK-YOU

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the MDAS Board of Directors would like to offer a special thank you to Mike Williams and Wild Birds Unlimited for their donations during the past year. Mike and Wild Birds donated 5% of all sales to MDAS members at the store each month to Mt. Diablo, for a total of almost \$3000.00. This was most welcome during the financial strains of the last year and allowed us to honor our commitments to support wildlife and the environment. During the coming year Mike and Wild Birds have pledged a monthly donation to MDAS of \$150, which will allow the Board to plan our budget for the year more easily. We are very grateful for this past and continuing support of our chapter.

EVENTS AND TOURS

RAINFOREST POTLUCK

World Rainforest Week (October 17-25) is a time for people throughout the world to focus on the need to save the world's tropical rainforests. It is a time to raise awareness of issues, to brainstorm about solutions, and to celebrate in the process. A rainforest potluck/letter-writing party will be held on Saturday, October 17, at the home of Jill Hedgecock, 536 Coralie Drive in Walnut Creek. Potluck dishes should include at least one ingredient from the rainforest, e.g., cashews, brazil nuts, corn, coffee, or bananas. Letter-writing materials will be available or you can relax and watch an informative video on rainforest problems. For more information, call Jill Hedgecock at (510) 256-8270. See you there!!!!

CHINA BIRDING TOUR

Join Chinese experts in exploring six South China protected winter bird migratory areas where 200 bird species are found. Hike ancient paths in the majestic, sacred mountains of Lushan and Huangshan. Visit the sites of ancient China and develop insights into the culture of today's China. The 21-day tour will start in February, 1993, and limited space is available. The price is \$2749, which includes a donation to Audubon Canyon Ranch. For more information, call Elaine Senf of Marin Audubon at (415) 332-2781.

NATURE SHARING SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS

Robert Frutos of the Sharing Nature Foundation will give a seminar on Joseph Cornell's philosophies on nature education, following Cornell's books *Sharing Nature with Children* and *Sharing the Joy of Nature*. Learn to maximize your abilities as an educator and use the outdoors as a teaching resource. The seminar will be Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Environmental Education Center, Alviso. Register by sending your check for \$25 to Explore the Wild! Seminars, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, P. O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560.

From Wild Birds Unlimited
720 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 798-0303

FALL BIRDSEED SPECIAL PRICES

- Now Through October 31, 1992 -

These prices are 15% OFF our regular prices

	25 lbs.	50 lbs.
DELUXE BLEND *	12.75	21.89
(35% sunflower, 20% safflower, 45% white millet)		

WOODLAND MIX *	7.65	12.75
(10% oil sunflower, 15% red millet, 75% white millet)		

* Original Custom Mixes

OIL SUNFLOWER	11.47	19.50
STRIPED SUNFLOWER	19.55	36.55
SUNFLOWER CHIPS (medium)	21.25	40.80
SAFFLOWER	13.18	23.75
WHITE MILLET	7.60	12.32
CRACKED CORN	NA	12.96

THISTLE

5 lb. \$8.71 10 lb. \$16.36 25 lb. \$38.33 50 lb. \$72.00

FREE BIRDSEED STORAGE: buy your entire season's supply during the seed sale and pick it up as you need it. You benefit from the lowest prices available and you only have to take home what you can easily store.

Special Suet Sale
Cakes \$0.30 Off
Tubs \$0.60 Off
(Through 10/31/92)

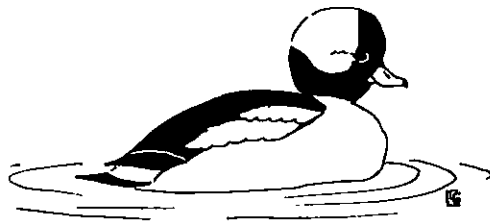
Visit the store for your FREE copy of "Guide and Catalog to Backyard Birdfeeding" - Fall and Winter Edition. We now have a new seasonal guide which combines advice about attracting birds and the products to help you enjoy your hobby of backyard birdfeeding.

PARTY TIME!

September 26, 1992, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wild Byrde Jewelry will have a trunk show of all 800+ of their jewelry designs - all day!
The Lindsay Museum will bring some of their birds for display in the store from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet in person at meetings and trips: Katie Bodenman, Scott Breed, David L. Budd, Lillian Cram, Carmen Duarte, Phyllis Ford, Robert Greene, Alice Hewlett, Susan James, Luana Klabunde, Anita Lankford, Lance Larsen, Kristoffer Lindquist, Christophe Pothier, Deborah Raines, Pat Shelton, John Stallkamp, Sondra Stein, Yvonne Sutton, Cynthia Trahan, Mrs. Robert Webber, Susan West, and Charles Winslow.



SAVE 50% ON THE BEST OF EVERYTHING AND HELP YOUR CHAPTER

MDAS this year will again offer the 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.

Eight different Northern California editions are available plus over 100 editions covering both the U. S. and Canada for gift giving.

ENTERTAINMENT '93 books are \$40 each (\$8 goes to our chapter). Pick up one at the regular meetings or at Wild Birds Unlimited at 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, or call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732.

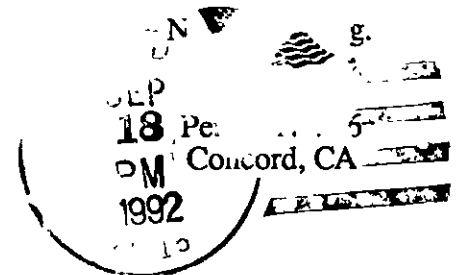
The Quail is published monthly except for the combined July/August issue. Audubon membership includes subscriptions to the Quail and Audubon magazine. To join (\$35/year individual, \$38 family; introductory and senior rates available), write a check to National Audubon Society but send it, with letter 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 out 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 94597-0053, please.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
P.O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053



TIME VALUE MAIL

The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513

VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785

Treasurer: Pam Keiser, 838-8840

Sales Manager: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Programs: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631

Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278



November 1992

Vol. 39 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 12

November Program:

Shell Marsh

Shell Marsh is a treasure of a wetland in our own Contra Costa County. The name evokes images of Canada Geese, Black-necked Stilts, and ducks, lots of ducks in winter, including Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, and occasionally a Eurasian Wigeon. It also evokes memories of the disastrous oil spill of four years ago, of oiled Barn Swallows, turtles, and, of course, those beautiful ducks. We remember Al McNabney standing before us telling us how important it was to save this wetland.

Dick Bogaert has been the biologist for Mt. View Sanitary Wetlands Systems for the past ten years. Join us at our **November 5** general meeting when Dick will give a presentation on the ecology of Shell Marsh and Mt. View Sanitary District wetlands. He will discuss the various bird species and general wildlife he has encountered. Dick will also speak on how the spill affected the marsh and the future of Shell Marsh in general.

November birding information will be presented by Mike Williams, who will show us various examples of bird houses and feeders and give us tips on how to attract birds to our yards.

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

6:30 Doors open
7:00 Birding Information
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

Note: The Nimbus Fish Hatchery field trip has been cancelled. The fish hatchery is closed because of lack of water. A field trip to Bodega Bay will replace the fish hatchery trip; see Field Trips on Page 3 for more detail.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

WETLANDS

The *National Geographic*, a magazine of some note, has hit a new high for environmental effectiveness. Raymone G. Mitchell, a writer who seems to know something about wetlands, joins with photographers Raymond Gehman and Jim Richardson to present the ABSOLUTELY GREAT article "Our Disappearing WETLANDS." Read this article in the OCTOBER, 1992, edition. THEN, show it to your friends who may not know as much as you do about the importance of wetlands. Once you've done such, remember the President's Wetland Delineation Manual, a disastrous document. Even his own EPA director predicts implementation will cost us about 50% of our remaining wetlands. Then remember, too, that this infamous document was published in the U. S. Federal Register many months ago. All it takes now to effectuate those policies will be the President's signature. Sure, some states will do their best to prevent further wetland destruction. Sure, some counties and cities will do likewise. But the power of the Federal Government will be against such jurisdictions.

WETLANDS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Contra Costa County is in the process of completing a comprehensive study of wetland areas. It is expected the study and a wetlands ordinance will be approved and in effect by the end of 1992, so says Contra Costa County Supervisor Chair Sunne Wright McPeak. That's the good news. The bad news is that just when we thought Shell Marsh was out of harm's way, along comes Cal/Trans with the idea of constructing a second bridge to the EAST of the existing George Miller Jr. structure. The proposed route "might" take the traffic right through Shell Marsh. It seems environmental battles are never won. Progress (?) keeps rearing its head, demanding more and more from our natural world.

DAUGHERTY VALLEY

Are you ready for a brand new city in southern Contra Costa County? That's what developers and planners are proposing. 11,000 new homes, all filled with people, which equates to an estimated 25,000 happy (?) souls. A similar nearby project, although not quite so large, involves a proposal by the Windmere people. If one thinks about such matters, it becomes clear massive development projects really do NOT pay their way. Gail Bishop argues the environmental side of the issue, while Sue Raney takes a much different tack. Interestingly, Bishop is also opposed to the MONSTER TOLL ROAD, while Raney is a proponent. Both are candidates to succeed retiring 3rd District Supervisor Bob Schroder. (More on the toll road in a future edition of the *Quail*.)

WHO REALLY PAYS.....

Governing bodies impose development fees on all sorts of things. Such fees are usually added to the price of dwellings. Let's see who really pays. First, with 11,000 new homes and all those happy (?) people, lots of additional traffic will be generated. I-680 and I-580 are already jam-packed during the commute hours. Putting more cars on those roads will result in further congestion and demands for MORE freeway lanes. Who pays for the additional lanes or for massive traffic delays? The developer usually won't be paying. The project will have been completed and the developer will have moved on to some other project. Will the new home buyers PAY? Sure, home buyers may be called on to pay a tiny portion of the cost of any new freeway construction. The bulk of the cost will be borne by others.

How about fire and police protection? New fire stations have to be constructed, manned, and new equipment purchased. Again, the question, who pays? Not the developer, or even the new residents. New residents will pay a share, but the cost is spread. A probable result is other property owners will be faced with some new charge or fee added to their other required payments. Police protection will call for additional personnel and equipment. Costs will be added to the taxes (in one way or another) of not just the new residents. NO, many more taxpayers will find they have new obligations (not usually referred to as tax increases). The same situations arise with respect to new schools, teachers, equipment, and allied costs.

Then we have water costs. Where does the additional water come from? Does EBMUD have to construct a new dam to provide adequate storage? If so, the costs will NOT fall just on the new residents. Those costs will show up in the water bill of everyone served by EBMUD. Further, with additional demands for water, it is likely that the water QUALITY will be reduced.

Maybe you didn't think the Daugherty Valley project means much to YOU! It might be worthwhile to think again. When you've done that, let YOUR supervisor know what you think!!!!

ELECTION 1992

Before the next edition of this publication hits your mailbox, we'll have undertaken and probably disposed of what I consider to be THE most important election since I was first able to vote. Those Californians who vote will be casting a ballot for President, two Senators, and all members of the Congress. Contra Costa County voters will be electing State Senators and State Assemblymen, as well as County Supervisors. We will cast ballots for a number of aspiring decision makers seeking city council seats. The entry of one H. Ross Perot into the Presidential race brings no particular solace to people interested in environmental issues.

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; some trips may have sub-trips of varying difficulty.

Persons with physical limitations can participate in the easier walk.

Category 3: Single long hike 2-4 miles may include rough trails or steep grades.

Saturday, November 7, **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. 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 SR 1, turn right 0.25 mile, left onto Bear Valley and left again into 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

Wednesday, November 11, **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 onto Terminal. Water, salt marsh birds. Trails may be muddy.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Thursday, November 19, **Bodega Bay**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at southeast corner of the Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Tides Restaurant opposite the Union 76 station on SR 1 in Bodega Bay. Take I-680 north and I-780 west. In Vallejo, go west on SR 37 and north on US 101 to the Washington Ave. exit in Petaluma. Follow Bodega Highway west and turn right on SR 1 to Bodega Bay.

Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Category 1

Saturday, November 21, **Palo Alto Baylands**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot near Nature Center at Baylands. Take the Dumbarton Bridge to US 101 south. Take the 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 mud, cool breezes. There is a lot of waiting for the rails.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

Future Trip: Now is the time to make motel reservations for the Sacramento refugees weekend trip, December 5-6. Motels in Willows, closest to the Sacramento NWR, include the Best Western Inn, (916) 934-4603, and the Blue Gum Inn, (916) 934-5401. Motels in Yuba City, closer to Gray Lodge, include the Bonanza Inn Best Western, (916) 674-8824, and the Motel Orleans, (916) 674-1592.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, September 2.

Nine members spent a glorious Wednesday morning wandering around the always-productive Hayward Shoreline. Highlights included Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Red Knot, and two Willow Flycatchers. The standout bird was an adult female Lark Bunting which was viewed at close distance. 67 species total.

Steve Glover

MOSS LANDING - SALINAS RIVER, September 12.

As always, the Moss Landing area was able to provide us with exceptional birding. Despite a walk through a sand dune that was comparable to a death march, the fifteen birders had a nice time. Of our 95 species, highlights included Sooty, Pink-footed, and Black-vented Shearwaters, several Ashy Storm-petrels, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Tricolored Blackbird.

Steve Glover

BOLINAS LAGOON, September 17.

Clear, warm weather with gentle wind greeted seven members and guests. Some of the sandbars in the lagoon were covered with hordes of shorebirds, and many ducks of seven species were on the water. Bolinas Sewer Ponds were disappointing as only three individual birds were present. Agate Beach produced over 50 Sooty Shearwaters flying low over the water. After we had lunch at 5 Brooks, ten Wood Ducks were seen on the pond and a number of small birds were found in the surrounding pines and willows. A total of 84 species was tallied on the day.

Jean Richmond

POINT DIABLO AND RODEO LAGOON, September 23.

Around the lagoon, sixteen birders observed the usual ducks, egrets, and gulls, with a Pectoral Sandpiper and a few Western and Least Sandpipers thrown in. At one point, a Cooper's Hawk flew across the lagoon and landed about 30 feet away from us in the brush before he realized we were there and beat a hasty retreat. We then went up on the hill and for the next three hours observed over 100 accipiters (Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks), Red-tailed Hawks, a Merlin, kestrels, Red-shouldered Hawks, and 3 Broad-winged Hawks, of which one was a dark morph. 53 species in all.

Jim Lomax

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.

Streaked Shearwater: 1 seen on 9/29 from Monterey Coast Guard Pier. (C&TK, GF, JR) Present throughout the month; this is only the sixth North American record, all from Monterey Bay.

Shearwater species: High numbers of Sooty, Pink-footed, and Black-vented Shearwaters noted from coast by many observers, including about 2 million Sooty Shearwaters in Monterey Bay alone.

Tundra Swan: 1 on 9/27 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR). Early.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 9 on 9/26 (BR, KH) and 34 on 9/27 (BR) at Hayward RS.

Ferruginous Hawk: 2 on 9/28 on Dougherty Rd. east of San Ramon. (SG)

Lesser Golden-plover: 1 on 9/21 at Hayward RS. (KH, JL)

Mongolian Plover: 1 on 9/17 (KH, SG, BR, GF) and 9/18 (JR, RR, BR) at Moss Landing. Also on RBA.

Wilson's Plover: 1 on 9/17 (GM, BR, GF, KH, SG) and 9/18 (JR, RR, BR) at Moss Landing. Also on RBA. First record for Northern California.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 on 9/11 (JR, KH, GF) and 9/14 (SG, JL, MJC, FB) at Coyote Creek Riparian Station. Also on RBA.

Ruff: 3, including one white-headed adult, on 9/11 (JR, KH, GF), 9/14 (JL, SG, FB, MJC) and 9/15 (JR) at Coyote Creek RS. Also on RBA.

Parasitic Jaeger: 1-2 on 9/26 at Hayward RS. (KH, BR, RL, KD, MT)

Franklin's Gull: 1 on 9/11 (GF, KH, JR), 9/14 (SG, FB, MJC, JL), and 9/15 (JR) at Coyote Creek RS.

Black Skimmer: 1 on 9/18 (EH, BR, JR, RR) and 9/19 (FB, MJC, EL) at Moss Landing.

Short-eared Owl: 1 on 9/26 at Hayward RS. (BR, KH)

Red-breasted Sapsucker: 1 on 9/22 at Sunol RP. (SG)

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 9/16 at Pine Pond, MDSP. (KH)

Brown Creeper: 5 on 8/16 at Pine Pond. (KH) Not seen here for three years.

Rock Wren: 1 on 9/16 on N. Gate Rd., MDSP. (BG, MJC)

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 on 9/19 at the Lighthouse at Pt. Reyes, found by unknown observer, seen later by SG, RL, GF, EH, KH, JE. Also on RBA. Less than five Northern California records.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 on 9/8 (BR), 9/9 (FB, MJC), 9/15 (DW), and 9/16 (BR), at Hayward RS.

Virginia's Warbler: 1 on 10/1 in a residential neighborhood in San Francisco. (SG, RL) Also on RBA.

Lucy's Warbler: 1 on 9/29 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo Co. (JR, GF) Also on RBA.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 on 9/29 at Moonglow Dairy. (KH, JL, SG)

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 on 9/19 at the San Francisco Bay NWR, Fremont. (BR)

Ovenbird: 1 on 9/15 at the U.C. Berkeley Field Station in Richmond (BR, SG, JR, FB, MJC, GF, KH), first found 9/14, this is probably the second C. C. County record; 1 on 9/19 at the Mendoza Ranch (SG, RL).

Northern Waterthrush: 1 on 9/12 at Hayward RS. (BR) Very rare in the East Bay.

Mourning Warbler: 1 immature male on 9/20 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (GM, BR, JR)

Brewer's Sparrow: 1-2 on 9/19 at the Lighthouse. (RL, SG)

Vesper Sparrow: 1 on 9/19 at Hayward RS. (BR) Now rare in the East Bay.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 on 9/7 at the SF Bay NWR. (SG) Early.

Swamp Sparrow: 1 on 9/22 at Hayward RS. (BR) Not only rare in the East Bay but also early.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 9/27 at Hayward RS. (BR) Early.

Bobolink: 1 on 9/9 at Bridgehaven, Sonoma Co. (JR, RR)

Orchard Oriole: 1 immature or female on 9/6 in JR's Alamo yard. (BR)

Hooded Oriole: 1 male on 9/27, 9/29, and 9/30 in her Alamo yard. (JR)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Kelly Davidson, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Chris and Ted Koudjakian, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Guy McCaskie, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Mark Taylor, 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.

LAST CHANCE

Anyone still wishing to sponsor an Audubon Adventures class must sign up by October 31. Audubon Adventures is a bi-monthly newspaper for each student, plus a teacher's guide, for third through sixth graders. The newspaper covers different areas of environmental education. The fee is \$30.00 per class. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to Sheree Doucette, 3642 Granzotto Dr., Concord, CA 94519.

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

When the current President of the United States wants to alter the environmental standards that took years to establish with much time and money, for example, to detooth the Endangered Species Act, to relax the protections against old growth forest logging, to decrease the amount of wetlands by redefining them, to let strip mining begin in national parks and wildlife refuges, and to soften the clean air act, and then tells us that he's the Environmental President....it's time to VOTE.

When U. S. Senate candidate Bruce Herschensohn wants the federal government to stop making environmental regulations and says, "Protection of the environment should be the responsibility of private enterprise, as it always has been".....it's time to VOTE.

When U. S. Senator John Seymour votes against the Desert Protection Act, and wants to rewrite the Endangered Species Act to include "an economic impact statement to identify job losses," (in other words, if a job is threatened then the species is threatened).....it's time to VOTE.

This election is probably the most critical one in our lifetime and the easiest for people concerned about the environment to understand. For once, there is a huge gap in positions from which to choose. So on November third, choose and VOTE.

As you know, the first half hour of our general meetings each month is reserved for Birding Information. We are looking for a few fellow birders to come and talk to us. That means you. Come and share something about birds with us. It doesn't have to be a slide show and you don't have to be an expert. What you should be is interested in what you are talking about and if you aren't all that experienced, then you will learn as you enlighten us. This is an golden opportunity and if you are so inclined, call Denise Wight, our Program Chair.

A little good news. During October, an adult and an immature Peregrine Falcon have shown up on Mt. Diablo. This is promising and I will keep you informed.

Happy Halloween.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

The seed sale continues through 10/31/92. 15% off on all 25 and 50 lb. bags of seed and also on 5 and 10 lb. bags of thistle. Don't forget to ask about the seed storage program. The next seed sale is in February, 1993.

Put your thistle feeders out by November 15. There were many reports of flocks of 25 to 100 American Goldfinch last season.

Check out our new Celestron-Wild Birds Unlimited binoculars: 8 x 42, crystal clear, 13' close focus and only 21 ounces.



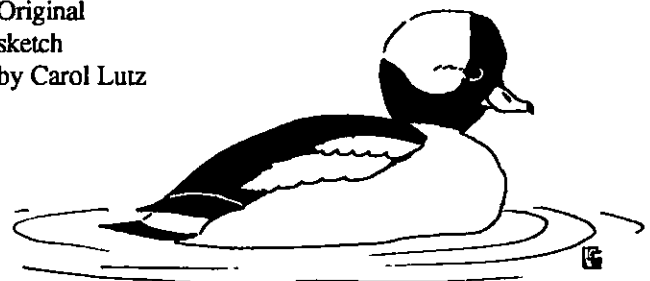
720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, California
798-0303

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 a donation made to the chapter by Nancy and Alan Fraser of Lafayette in memory of Betty Fox. Their generosity is very much valued.

Original
sketch
by Carol Lutz



NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome these new MDAS members and we hope to meet them very soon: Gloria Aiv, Susan Askin, Barry Barankin, Holly L. Bennett, Carol Bergner, Anne Blackmore, Mrs. Kit Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Boyd, Mary Brashear, Leshia Burns, Clive Butler, Antonette Carinci, Philip Carsten, Bill Chapel, Case Chew, Donah Conder, Harold Dressel, Darrell Duarte, J. A. Dunham, Susan Elwoodd, Ruth Eseltine, Nick Evans, Mary Farris, Eleanor Faulkner, Jill Fejeran, Carolyn Frisbey, Charles Garber, Frank Gardner, John and Patricia Gear, Heather Gonzalez, Daniel and Linda Guerra, Ann Hallstone, Mrs. William R. Hartman, Arleen Hays, Jessie Henderson, Jan Hewitt, Mr. Kai Fan Ho, A. G. Homan, Cammie Howard, John M. Indrisie, George Johnston, Evelyn Lehman, Anne Long, Mary Madison, V. Maloney, Patricia Marlaw, J. McCarthy, Mrs. Chris McGinnis, J. C. McInnis, R. Meilandt, Roberta Morfeld, Charles B. Morgan, John J. Morris, Joanne Murray, Mrs. Norman Naas, Deborah Nelson, Mrs. James Oliver, Art Poirier, Robert Powers, and William Reed.

HOLIDAY GIVING

It's not too early to think about Christmas giving with the '93 ENTERTAINMENT book. The ENTERTAINMENT book is an original gift, especially for those hard-to-please people on your Christmas list. They can save 50% on restaurants, sports events, theater, travel, retail, service, and MUCH, MUCH MORE.

Save 50% on over 1200 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.

ENTERTAINMENT '93 is \$40 (20% goes to MDAS). Buy one for yourself and one as a gift. Book are available at Wild Birds Unlimited, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill. 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 out to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Pam Keiser, 505 Wild Flower Place, 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 94597-0053, please.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society
P.O. Box 53
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513

VP Conservation: Al McNabney, 945-1785

Treasurer: Pam Keiser, 838-8840

Sales Manager: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Programs: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Field Trips: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Membership: Mike Williams, 376-1631

Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

December 1992

Vol. 39 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 10

December Program:

Land of the Laughing Kookaburra

Australia, "the Land Down Under," is home to many unique species of birds and animals in addition to the Kookaburra. George Peyton recently took a three week trip from Cairns to Perth. He will share it with us at our **December 3** meeting and introduce us to such fascinating and unusual birds as the Tawny Frogmouth, the Helmeted Friarbird, the Blue-faced Honeyeater, and the Satin Bowerbird. Join us as we visit this enchanting land and its inhabitants.

George Peyton is a familiar visitor to MDAS, having shared previous trips to China and Mount Everest with us. He is a long-time member of Golden Gate Audubon and has served six years on the National Audubon Society board. As a lawyer, he has spent many pro bono hours working for Mono Lake and Audubon Society causes. Let's welcome him back to Mt. Diablo Audubon.

December birding information will be presented by Jimm Edgar who will speak about our upcoming Christmas Count.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane, #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

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

6:30 Doors open

7:00 Birding Information

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Social Time

8:30 Program

Note: Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.

Time for the 1992 MDAS Christmas Count.
See Page 5.

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

THE ELECTION – IT'S OVER!!!!!!!

Not even mentioned in the hoopla following announcements of the official election results is the BIG WIN Mom Nature had. It is most unlikely the present administration's position in favor of the further destruction of old growth forests will be maintained. It is unlikely that the order, quietly issued by the Administration, permitting unabated destruction of Alaskan wetlands will be permitted to stand. It is MOST unlikely the Administration's infamous Wetland Delineation proposal will ever see the light of day. It IS likely that the issues of wetland retention vs. destruction will find a favorable result for at least two reasons:

1. The Congress included funds for a scientific study of the values of wetlands in one of its final acts. IF the proposal doesn't wind up on the cutting room floor with a Presidential VETO, we anticipate (when the study has been completed) there will be more light than heat on the issues, which is the converse of the recent past.

2. The incoming administration will approach environmental issues in a much different manner and with far better understanding than has been the case over the past twelve years.

IRONHOUSE SANITARY DISTRICT – A NEW IDEA

A new, major wetland project in East Contra Costa County. The Board of Directors of the Ironhouse Sanitary District in Oakley has taken an important, probably far-reaching step by authorizing the establishment of a major wetland interpretive center. At a Task Force meeting October 22, a representative group of people elected CCC supervisor Tom Torlakson as Chairman and then proceeded to discuss how to fulfill the vision for this important project. Ron Russo, Chief, Interpretation for East Bay Regional Parks, provided an overview of how the Park District developed interpretive centers. The wide-ranging discussion covered such subjects as the creation of public facilities and the educational possibilities that could result if a major interpretive center were established. A plan for a major facility was developed to form the basis for future discussions and was discussed at the Task Force meeting on November 4.

MORE WETLANDS ACTION

Taking a cue from the very successful work that resulted in creation of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, a group of interested, active individuals has formed SAVE SAN PABLO BAYLANDS. The mission tentatively defined is to assure the permanent protection, restoration, and biological enhancement of all wetlands in the San Pablo Baylands, while supporting agriculture. The next meeting of the group will be held on November 14 at the Napa Library. MDAS is participating in the effort.

CONTRA COSTA'S WETLAND DEFINITION

As previously reported, action taken earlier has resulted in a major study of CCC's wetland areas. Prepared by Botanical Research Group, the resulting report is called "Selected Tidal and Associated Wetlands in Contra Costa County." The study is undoubtedly the most comprehensive ever made of valuable wetland resources by a California county. Aerial photos depict, identify, and grade the wetlands on maps covering 37 sections of the County. A draft ordinance for preservation of wetlands in Contra Costa County has been developed and is under consideration by the Supervisors' Water Committee. Action on the proposed ordinance is expected by the middle of November, with the Board of Supervisors completing action before the end of the year.

As one old-time radio commentator used to say,
"There's good news tonight."

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

Hello, everyone! For those of you who do not attend the meetings, I have been the International Coordinator for the Conservation Committee of MDAS since 1990. I have a Master's degree in Environmental Management and have been actively involved in tropical rainforest preservation since 1986. Many of the birds that breed here in the U. S. winter in the tropical rainforests. Thus, if we hope to continue to have many of the flycatchers, tanagers, warblers, and vireos to enjoy in our backyards, we must ensure their winter habitat remains intact. Al McNabney has generously offered a portion of his space in the *Quail* for international issues, so here goes.

DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO?

The U. S. has been criticized by many leaders of Central and South America for emphasizing the need to save the tropical rainforests while we decimate our own forests. Recent listing of the Marbled Murrelet as a threatened species has delayed timber cutting in the Oregon coastal rainforest until a management plan can be developed. It's a start.

GLOBAL TRADE - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The U. S. and 107 other countries are preparing to sign an expansion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Among other impacts, GATT could make dolphin-safe tuna a thing of the past (as GATT declared the Marine Mammal Protection Act to be an illegal barrier to trade), could increase the allowable pesticide residues such as DDT in foods, and could make the bans on tropical timber and "rainforest beef" illegal. Write your congressman and urge him to reject any GATT agreement which has such severe environmental consequences and potentially increases the destruction of the tropical and temperate rainforests.

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; some trips may have sub-trips of varying difficulty.
 Persons with physical limitations can participate in the easier walk.
 Category 3: Single long hike 2-4 miles may include rough trails or steep grades.

Note changes of date for the Altamont and Niles Canyon field trips from the dates in the yearly field trip schedule.

Wednesday, December 2, **Altamont**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., Danville, west of I-680. A caravan trip, with mostly car birding. Migratory hawks, Mountain Bluebirds, and grassland species.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 1

Saturday and Sunday, December 5 - 6, **Sacramento Valley Refuges**. Saturday, Gray Lodge, 9:00 a.m. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee. Meet at the first parking lot beyond Headquarters. Sunday, Sacramento NWR, 10:00 a.m. Meet in the parking lot at visitor's center. To get to Gray Lodge, take I-80 to SR 113. At Tudor, take US 99 north to Pennington Rd. and follow Pennington Rd. to refuge entrance. There are several turns and the road eventually runs north. For the Sacramento Refuge, leave I-5 at the Norman exit and go north on frontage road.

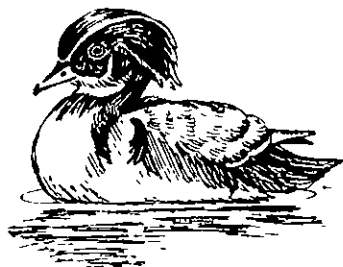
Leaders: Harry and Betty Adamson, 283-2164

Category 1

Thursday, December 10, **Niles Canyon Gravel Pits**. Carpool 8:00 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., Danville, just west of I-680. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at Vallejo Mill Historical Park in Fremont. Take I-680 south through Dublin to SR 84; go west 7 miles to park entrance on left. Varied habitats; Green-backed Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, often many land birds.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330

Category 2



Original sketch by Carol Lutz.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OUTER POINT REYES, October 3.

Eleven birders spent a beautiful, mostly sunny day at Point Reyes. We had many excellent, close views of warblers. Myrtle, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Audubon, and MacGillivray's Warblers and Common Yellowthroat were all seen at the monument at Drake's Beach, two Black-throated Gray Warblers were especially cooperative at the Fish Docks and a Northern Parula was seen there during lunch, and an American Redstart was seen at Mendoza. In addition, as we made our way to the Lighthouse, a number of migrating hawks flew over, including a Ferruginous Hawk. 75 species were listed.

Pat MacEachern

SAN MATEO COAST, October 7.

A beautiful day was spent along the San Mateo coast and eight birders managed a healthy total of 100 species. The highlights included Sooty, Black-vented, and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Ashy Storm-petrel, a Peregrine Falcon, fifteen Pectoral Sandpipers, Northern Pygmy-Owl (heard), and a very cooperative Tropical Kingbird.

Steve Glover

MT. VIEW SANITARY PLANT, October 15.

Rain, rain, come our way.

Rain, rain come today!

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be having a great amount of rain! Along the frontage road into the Mt. View Sanitary Plant, no water could be seen in Shell Marsh, the most important wetland in Contra Costa, now a dry wetland. The sanitary plant did have some water. 31 species of birds were seen by nine birders. The highlight of the trip was the sighting of a large flock of White Pelicans circling over Shell Marsh. They kept going.

Shirley Ellis

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, October 24.

Eight birders, including two guests from out of state, were treated to 87 species. Highlights included long, close views of a tail-pumping Palm Warbler. We saw six species of Grebes, with the less-expected Red-necked Grebe seen on the lagoon. Snowy Plovers and ten species of ducks were also seen.

Denise Wight

ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE, October 28.

The weather was cloudy with increasing wind and the tide was coming in fast, but nine birders enjoyed a successful morning. Two Clapper Rails were seen at South Shore and a third called. One rail stayed in view for several minutes, allowing everyone to view it through the scopes. Marbled Godwits and Dunlin were abundant, with many Long-billed Curlews and Avocets. A few Red Knots were scattered though the flocks. At Arrowhead, a male Eurasian Wigeon and two pair of Blue-winged Teal were the highlights. 55 species total 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.

American White Pelican: 12 on 11/2 over Wall Ridge, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)

Tricolored Heron: 1 on 11/9 (GF, SG), and 11/10 (FB, MJC, BG, JR, MP) near Santa Rosa. Also on RBA. Second Northern California record.

Cattle Egret: 1 on 11/8 at Hayward Reg. Shoreline. (BR, SG)

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 immature on 10/19 at the Martinez Regional Shoreline. (SG)

Canada Goose: 1 "cackling" from 10/25 to 11/3 at the Royal Vista Golf Course, San Ramon. (KH)

Wood Duck: 2 males on 11/5 with Greater Scaup at Arrowhead Marsh. (SG)

Eurasian Wigeon: up to 5 beginning 10/11 at Hayward RS (SG, BR, KH); 2 on 11/2 at Bolinas Lagoon (FB, MJC, BG).

Osprey: 1 on 10/14 in San Ramon. (SG)

Merlin: 1 on 10/28 seen from S. Gate Rd., MDSP (KH); 1 on 10/26 at Briones Regional Park (DeW).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 11/6 and 11/11 behind his San Ramon home. (SG)

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 11/2 and 11/5 over her Alamo home. (JR)

Common Moorhen: 4 on 10/21 at Marsh Creek Res. (SG)

Sandhill Crane: 1 on 10/18 at the Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Eurasian Dotterel: 1 on 10/18 (GF, FB, MJC), 10/19 (KH, SG, RL), 10/20 (JR, MW), and 10/24 (JR) at Drake's Corners, Pt. Reyes. Also on RBA. Fourth state record.

Bar-tailed Godwit: 1 on 10/26 at Bodega Harbor. (GF, MP)

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 on 10/11 at Hayward RS. (JR, C&DW)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: 2 on 10/26 (GF, MP) and 1 on 10/27 (MJC, FB, JR) at Doran Park, Bodega Bay.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 on 10/12 (SG, RL, GF, JR, FB, EL) and 10/18 (FB, MJC) at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes.

Arctic Tern: 1 on 10/11 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Ancient Murrelet: 1 on 11/10 (NB) and 11/11 (JR) at Hayward RS; seen later by BR. Second Alameda County record.

Western Wood-pewee: 1 on 10/6 at Rock City. (KH) Late.

Gray Flycatcher: 1 on 10/23 at Hayward RS. (BR) Very late.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 on 10/27 at Bodega Bay. (JM, JR, FB, MJC)

Vermilion Flycatcher: 1 on 10/17 in Del Rey Oaks, Monterey Co. (SG) Also on RBA.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 on 10/17 at Andrew Molera State Beach, Monterey Co. (SG) Also on RBA.

Canyon Wren: 1 heard on 10/6 in Sycamore Canyon from S. Gate Rd. (KH)

Winter Wren: 1 on 10/27 at Sunol Regional Park. (SG)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 on 11/3 at Sunol. (SG, BR, DW)

Mountain Bluebird: 7 on 10/21 along Patterson Pass Rd. and 8 on 10/21 along Orwood Rd. near Knightsen. (SG) Early.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 on 10/15 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (SG, DeW) Also on RBA.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 on 10/12 (SG, RL, JR, GF) and on 10/14 (FB, EL) at Stinson Beach. Also on RBA.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 on 10/12 at Stinson Beach. (SG, RL, GF, JR, EL, FB) Also on RBA.

Virginia's Warbler: 1 on 10/6 at Campbell Cove, Bodega Bay. (MJC, FB, JR)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 10/15 at Diablo Foothills. (KH) Late.

Palm Warbler: 4 on 10/22 at Abbott's Lagoon (C&DW); 1 on 10/26 at the mouth of Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co., (JR).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 on 10/12 in San Francisco. (SG, RL) Also on RBA.

MacGillivray's Warbler: 1 on 11/1 in her Alamo yard. (JR) Late.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 on 10/25 along Calaveras Rd. (KH), also on RBA; 1 on 10/24 at Sunol RP (AE).

Brewer's Sparrow: 1 on 10/24 at Hayward RS. (BR) Rare in the East Bay.

Hooded Oriole: 1 last seen 10/1 in her Alamo yard. (JR) Late.

Pine Siskin: huge numbers noted by observers throughout the East Bay, unlike the last two years.

Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 10/15 at Pine Pond, MDSP. (KH)

Evening Grosbeak: 1 on 10/22 over Pine Ridge, MDSP. (KH)

Observers: Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Art Edwards, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Joe Morlan, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Denise Wight, Mike Williams, Cam and Dennis Wolff, Chris Wood.

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

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 a donation made to the chapter by June and Dennis Mallory of Livermore, a "retirement appreciation" from former board members Gifford and Winnie Young of Benicia, and thank you's from the C. W. chapter of the P. E. O. and the Blackhawk Garden Club for talk given their groups by Mike Williams. Their generosity is very much valued.

Nature Gifts For Christmas Giving



93rd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1992 MDAS Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 19. 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 68 field observers and 9 feeder watchers who tallied 157 species, one fewer than our record 158 species in 1989, and who found four species never seen before on our Christmas Counts.

Nationally, there are about 1500 counts each year. Valuable bird population knowledge has been learned over the years. Our count will cover the 15-mile diameter circle centered near Treat and Cowell. This includes most of Mt. Diablo, Black Diamond Mines, the Pittsburg marshes, some of Briones Park, Heather Farms, the suburban creeks of Alamo, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek, and many other green places in Contra Costa County. We also need feeder and home garden watchers.

A pot-luck dinner will follow at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The church is 1.3 miles south of Stone Valley Road. All members and guests are invited to attend. Please bring your own table service and a salad, main dish, or dessert for 8 to 10 people, plus any serving utensils needed.

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 19, 1992.

I would prefer a hiking area.

I would prefer a less strenuous area.

I can monitor a feeder or garden.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____



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NEW MEMBERS

Season's greetings to these new MDAS members that we hope to meet soon: Pat Barrett, Virginia Bartlett, Anne L. Blandin, Mr. and Mrs. William Brans, Viola Callaghan, Mike Capeloto, Roberta Casale, Larry and Darlene Cerletti, Cynthia Clover, James and Dorothy Combs, Charles Cook, Hazel Crane, Barbara Dade, Nancy Damaschino, Savina F. Darzes, William Dodd, Duncan Fiddes, Lawrence Figur, Joan Fox, Elizabeth Frazey, Mrs. Gerald Gibson, Olga Goubert, V. Gray, H. L. Gregoire, Michael Hall, John Harris, Samuel E. Hatley, Harry and Claire Havens, Diane and Lyle Hendricksen, Sally J. Holcombe, Mrs. Robert C. Hood, Fenton Hughes, Donald Humphreys, T. Jiannalone, Wolfgang Lindenbauer, Jorge J. Mayol, Mr. and Mrs. M. McLaren, Ignacio Mejia, Ken Miller, M. Mowery, Lauren Mukamal, Robert Pape, Anne Parker, Shree Patton, Carl Peterson, Amy Price, Mrs. J. Price-Cole, Ann S. Potter, Gail Reinhart, Barbara Ridge, A. Rockafellow, Evelyn Rolston, Pat Rusich, M. Scheer, Clement Scheible, Gladys Scheile, Lenore Schermer, J. Kleyn Schoorel, Richard M. Shaffner, Charles Shambrough, Joseph Starr, Dale Steele, Glenn Steiding, Estella Stephenson, M. Stevenson, Karen Steward, Mrs. Stonebridge,

Richard Swan, Paul Tang, Dorothy Tiu, M. Trentman, Harold C. Valentine, Mrs. Neal Vanfossan, Ms. E. Vars, Mr. and Mrs. David R. Warwi, Reba Webber, Ruth Weddle, Terry Weskamp, Doris West, Frank West, Danny Whitehill, Mike Yashar, and David Yates.

HOLIDAY GIVING

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

THE 1993 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

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

Entertainment Books sell for \$40 each and MDAS receives \$8. 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 out to MDAS and mailed to the MDAS Treasurer, Pam Keiser, 505 Wild Flower Place, 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 94597-0053, please.*

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