



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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Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

January 1993

Vol. 39 No. 5

Next Deadline: January 14

January Program:

International Bird Rescue

Oil spills tragically have become a part of our lives. Remember the 1971 oil spill in San Francisco Bay? Approximately 70,000 birds were oiled and only a few hundred survived. Luckily, rescue efforts have improved since then.

Contra Costa County had its own spill in 1988 at Shell Marsh. The morning after the spill, Program Chair Denise Wight volunteered to help and was sent with boxes of oiled birds to the International Bird Rescue at Aquatic Park in Berkeley. Here she had the enlightening opportunity to participate in a bird rescue effort, under the guidance of Jay Holcomb, IBR's director. Now she asks you to join us at our **January 7 General Meeting** when Jay Holcomb will present a video entitled "Caring for Oiled Birds" and give an overview of International Bird Rescue.

Jay Holcomb has been involved in rescue efforts at spills at Huntington Beach, California, and Valdez, Alaska, and in Argentina where the rescue included saving penguins. Jay had been with IBR for seven years and active in wildlife rehabilitation for the past twenty years.

For January birding information, MDAS member Dave Hatch will present a slide show he has created incorporating various bird paintings and photographs with the sound track "The Long Flight," based on Edwin Teale's *Last of the Eskimo Curlews*.

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, January 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Shirley Ellis, 353 Westcliffe Circle, Walnut Creek, 939-9091. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

MERRY CHRISTMAS—HAPPY NEW YEAR

GARBAGE AGAIN

A few lines in the *Contra Costa Times* reported that Waste Management has dropped its effort to create a solid waste landfill at the highly sensitive Marsh Canyon site. For many, the decision to cease trying to create another solid waste site brought a great feeling of relief. For others, a rather empty pocketbook. For Contra Costa County, more expense. For anyone interested in future open space for parks and wild things, the decision means Round Valley will probably be a jewel in the future park system of the area.

THE TOLL ROAD STILL SURVIVES

'Tis true the infamous toll road proposed for East Contra Costa County still survives, BUT thanks to the many who have written letters in opposition, there are now AT LEAST serious second thoughts about the project. There are three segments involved in the proposed road: Isabel (Delta) Expressway, East County Corridor, and Vacaville. Some letter writers received a letter from the Joint Powers Agency in which statements were made to the effect that the Mid-State Toll Road and the Delta Expressway are two different projects "...competing for approximately the same location in Eastern Contra Costa County." The Greenbelt Alliance has requested of Lowell Thomas, Senior Engineer, State Route 4 Bypass Authority, "...that a correction letter be sent to all persons who wrote letters to the State Route 4 Bypass Authority expressing concern about the Mid-State Toll Road." Key decisions are likely to be made in January or February as to whether the toll road will become a "go or no go" project. Watch for additional information in the *Quail*.

DAUGHERTY VALLEY

This project proposing 11,000 homes (30,000 people) has been moving through an expedited hearing process. Planning Commissions sent resolutions to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in support of the proposed project. An initial hearing held by the Board on December 8 was continued until December 15. Several key issues appear to represent substantial hurdles. Questions of availability of potable water have not been resolved. The environmental impacts may be adverse to the Kit Fox population. The raptor population that has used the area for a feeding source will be adversely affected. A Bald Eagle has been seen in the area, whether nesting, resting, or just visiting, isn't known. The traffic impacts on Danville, San Ramon, and, in fact, all of central Contra Costa County will be severe and adequate solutions have not yet been proposed. Many believe the project is so large, will have such adverse impacts, and has so many unanswered questions, that no favorable decision should be made at this time.

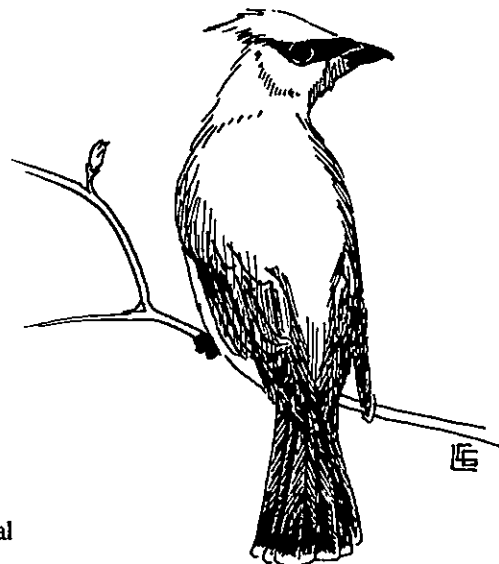
SELENIUM: IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU?????

A hot topic among Bay water watchers, regulators, and refinery managers is selenium. Why is there so much of it in our Bay waters, and what can be done to reduce amounts of the toxic material being discharged into the Bay? Some Contra Costa County area refineries are doing an excellent job of reducing selenium levels in their discharged waters, while others appear to be discharging continuously very high levels of selenium. All life has to have "some" selenium to exist, but it is highly toxic in excess. Levels now being discharged into Bay waters are asserted to have adverse effects on the fish and other water creatures. Because many avian species live on fish, there are adverse effects on bird life as well. A hearing was held by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on October 28 and more hearings are scheduled.

MILLER HONORED

Congressman George Miller, a leading spokesman on issues regarding our natural resources and children and families, has represented the 7th District for 18 years. He has also been a leading advocate for reforming federal water policies. This year the Central Valley Project Improvement Act was passed by the Congress and was signed into law on October 30 by President Bush.

On Sunday, December 13, Share the Water and the Bay Area Economic Forum jointly honored Congressman Miller and Senator Bill Bradley for their leadership in passing this historic water reform legislation for the State of California. Share the Water is a coalition of environmental, fishing, waterfowl, and farming groups dedicated to passage of the Miller/Bradley water reform bill. Bay Area Economic Forum is a public/private partnership concerned with maintaining the vitality of the Bay's regional economy.



Original
sketch
by Carol Lutz

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, January 2, **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. Possible Osprey, Phainopepla, Canyon and Rock Wrens, and Hooded Merganser. Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

Thursday, January 14, **Lafayette Reservoir**. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Parking costs \$4.00 and is prohibited at the bottom of the hill. A good place to learn local birds, and the chance of a surprise on the lake. Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 2

Saturday, January 16, **Bolinas Lagoon and 5 Brooks**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy. 24. Meet 8:30 a.m. in front of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Cross the San Rafael Bridge. From US 101 north, take the San Rafael exit. Go two blocks, turn left and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. At SR 1, turn left and follow SR 1 to Bolinas and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Shorebirds and waterfowl. Leader: Denise Wight, 370-7342 Category 2

Thursday, January 21, **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, raptors; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens possible. Leader: Steve Glover, 829-7207 Category 2

Wednesday, January 27, **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

Future trip: The Honey Lake trip to look for Sage Grouse will be the weekend of February 27 and 28. Lodging is available in nearby Susanville.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LIMANTOUR, November 7.

Despite cool, blustery weather and a slight miscalculation of the tides, eleven birders managed to find 88 species. Highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Osprey, two Golden Eagles, and Pygmy Nuthatch. Three birders later saw a Swamp Sparrow at White House Pool.

Steve Glover

CHARLESTON SLOUGH, November 11.

Only four MDAS members met in Danville for the trip across the Bay, but we were met by two more at the Shoreline, one being a VERY ENTHUSIASTIC young lady from New Jersey who had been collecting lifers right and left in her two days in the Bay Area. Her exuberance made the day a delight for the rest of us. 67 species were seen in all, including three Eurasian Wigeons. Although not strictly part of the trip, three of us stopped at the Hayward Shoreline on the way back to see the Ancient Murrelet which had been reported the day before and had good views from about 100 feet. Interesting how each time the little guy dove he flipped his wings once as if he couldn't quite make up his mind whether to fly or dive.

Barbara Vaughn

BODEGA BAY, November 19.

Lucky thirteen birders spent an overcast, but no rain, day going around in circles at Beautiful Bodega Bay. It was raining here when we left, but the rain stopped shortly after we arrived at our destination. The countryside was beautifully green after the welcome small amount of rain. The highlight of the trip was a Great Horned Owl in an easily visible location near the Hole-in-the-Head. Seventy-nine species seen, 5 heard. The sightings included six different species of grebes.

Shirley Ellis

PALO ALTO BAYLANDS, November 21.

Six birders had a clear, pleasant, and not too windy day at the Palo Alto Baylands. The tide wasn't quite high enough for Black Rails, but Clapper Rails and Lincoln's Sparrows were seen among the 56 species total.

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.

Leach's Storm-Petrel: 1 on 11/14 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Ashy Storm-Petrel: 1 on 11/14 at Hayward RS. (SG, RL, BR)

American White Pelican: 65 on 11/28 at the Marsh Creek Reservoir. (SG, CW)

Cattle Egret: 3 on 11/28 on Jersey Island. (SG, CW)

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 still present through 12/9 at Martinez Regional Shoreline. (SG)

Ross' Goose: 3 on 12/5 at the Tony Lema Golf Course, San Leandro. (BR, KH)

Barnacle Goose: 1 on 12/5 at the Tony Lema G. C. (BR, KH) Of unknown origin; this species has not yet been accepted for California.

"Cackling" Canada Goose: 1 at Tony Lema G. C. (BR, KH) This is a locally rare sub-species, about the size of a Mallard. The San Ramon bird was last seen on 11/19. (KH)

Wood Duck: 2 females on 11/14 (KH), 11/15 (JR), and 11/23 (KH) at Oak Hill Park, Alamo.

Blue-winged Teal: 2 pair on 11/24 at Arrowhead Marsh. (JR)

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male on 11/24 at Arrowhead Marsh. (JR)

Black Scoter: 12 on 11/28 at the Fish Docks, Point Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Barrow's Goldeneye: 3 on 11/24 at the Mt. View Forebay, Santa Clara County (BG, FB); 3 males and 4 females on 12/8 seen from Carquinez Strait Regional Park, Martinez (DW).

Hooded Merganser: 11 on 11/21 at Lake Lucerne, San Mateo Co. (FB, RS); 2 on 12/3 on Putah Creek (FB, BG); 1 female on 12/4 along Bruns Rd., East Alameda County (SG).

Common Merganser: 4 in the aquaduct near Clifton Court Forebay. (SG)

Osprey: 1 on 11/21 at Hayward R. S. (BR, SG, KH, RL)

Bald Eagle: 1 adult on 11/23 over Sunol Regional Park. (SG, RL)

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 immature dark phase on 11/27 along Armstrong Rd., East Contra Costa County. (SG, CW)

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 in Patterson Pass area on 11/28. (SG, CW)

Merlin: 1 male on 11/13 in San Ramon. (SG, JR, KH)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 still in San Ramon on 11/23. (SG)

Black Rail: 2 on 11/24 at Palo Alto Baylands. (FB, BG)

Common Moorhen: 1 on 11/28 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park (SG, CW); up to 5 through period at Hayward R. S., normally rare there (BR, KH, SG).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 on 12/1 along Waterfront Rd. (SG)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 11/12 at mile 0.38 along Welch Creek Rd., Sunol R. P. (SG)

Short-eared Owl: 1 on 11/14 at Coyote Hills Regional Park. (SG, RL)

Hummingbird species: 1 Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird on 11/27 at U. C. Botanical Gardens (DW); 1 probable Rufous on 11/30 at Skywest Golf Course, Hayward (KH). Except for adult males, nearly impossible to i.d.; both Rufous and Allen's rare here in winter.

Lewis' Woodpecker: 37 on 11/2 (GF, MP) and 65 on 12/3 (FB, BG) along Pleasants Valley Rd.; 5 on 11/2 (GF, MP) and 10 on 12/3 (FB, BG) along Putah Creek.

Canyon Wren: heard again on 11/16 in Sycamore Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)

American Dipper: 1 on 12/3 below the dam at Putah Creek. (BG, FB)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 on 12/4 at Putah Creek. (DW)

Mountain Bluebird: only 8 on 11/28 along Patterson Pass Rd. (SG) Very low number for this location.

Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 11/26 and 2 from 11/29 to present in her Alamo yard. (JR)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finnger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Ruth Stewart, Denise Wight, and Cody Wilkes.

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 THANK-YOU

The chapter would like to thank the following MDAS members for sponsoring classes to receive the 1992 Audubon Adventures materials:

Norah Bain
Britta Cascio
Patricia Clark
Joan Como
Elizabeth Dickey
Lois Foster
Russell Jones
Pam and Mike Keiser
June and Denny Mallory
Edna Mass
Al McNabney
Daisy Ray
Tom and Florence Schultz
Ruth H. Stewart
Eunice Streib
Joe and Jane Thibedeau
Barbara Vaughn
Alice Bernice Woodhead

A special thanks goes to Andree Youngson for coordinating the 55 sponsorships from Dow Chemical Company.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

1993. Wipe the slate clean. We begin a new year. We ended 1992 on a positive note for the environment with the election of people who are now more in harmony with protecting wild-life and habitats than the current "Environmental President" which is an adjectival farce. Despite how you feel and voted, (and I know that the Democrats are not the best of all possible combinations), the environment benefited immensely and none too soon. I don't think we could have survived four more years of the same governmental treatment without irreparable damage to many ecosystems. Still, we cannot rest.

I want this month's column to be upbeat, though. We have many projects to get involved with again in 1993 including the Burrowing Owl Project in its third year, the Rail Project in its second year, and possibly the Golden Eagle Project. If the last is approved by the State Park Department, we will send out volunteers to locate and observe nesting Golden Eagles on Mt. Diablo. At the current time, no one knows of any nest sites but we know they do nest there.

I urge you to get out this winter and during the next year and experience nature. I know that those of you who bird will, but there are a lot of you who have yet to try or who have been afraid to begin because you don't know how. Don't worry. As Richard Ternullo, the most able, knowledgable and trustworthy boat skipper I know in Monterey Bay, once said, "Everyone is entitled to be a beginner." Sometimes some of us more experienced birders forget that we all started as beginners once. So go out and observe. And speaking of Monterey Bay, this is a great time to observe the Cetacea or dolphins, porpoises, and whales. Shearwater Journeys has whale watching trips (with winter seabirds) on January 15, 16, 17, 29, 30 and 31, and February 12, 13, and 14. You can call Debi at (408) 688-1990 or send her a note and check to Shearwater Journeys, P. O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. The cost is regularly \$52, but on January 17 and 31 and February 14 only, the cost is \$35. There are ten species of Mysticeti or baleen whales of which you may see Northern Right, Blue, Fin, Sei, Minke, Humpback, and/or Gray Whales. Monterey also has many of the 65 or so species of Odontoceti or toothed whales including Sperm and Killer Whales, Baird's and Cuvier's Beaked Whales, Risso's, Pacific White-sided, and Common Dolphins, Dall's Porpoise and many more. There is much to learn.

On December 9, Bill and Gen Sattler retired from the board of Save Mt. Diablo. Many people attended the board meeting that evening including myself to congratulate them for the many years of service, sacrifice, and commitment they have made to protect Mt. Diablo and the environment. They were given many awards, resolutions, and honors. They deserve more. Generations of people now have a protected mountain.

BIRDING CLASSES

FIELD CLASS

Registration for Norah Bain's spring field class will be January 5 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563, telephone 254-2445. The registration fee is \$36 for Orinda residents and \$38 for others and registration by mail is accepted. The class will meet three Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Visits to a private ranch and to Bouverie Audubon Reserve (reservations only) will be special events on January 19 and March 9. On February 9, the class will go to Solano County. Beginning and intermediate birders are welcome. Call Norah for more information at 254-4516.

SAN FRANCISCO BIRDING CLASSES

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will start January 26, 27, and 28. All classes meet 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street, San Francisco. The Tuesday class is an introduction to birds and birding. The Wednesday class is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds. The Thursday class is a continuing study of land birds. Fees are \$55 for each eight-week course. For more information, call City College of San Francisco, the Community Services Office, at (415) 267-6514 or (415) 561-1840.

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST

Bird Watcher's Digest is an engaging magazine of short stories, poems, and articles about birds and bird watching. MDAS will benefit when you use this form to purchase a new subscription to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. For every new one-year regular or gift subscription at \$15.95, we receive \$8.00; for a new two-year subscription at \$27.95, we receive \$14.00; for a new three-year subscription at \$39.95, we receive \$20.00. Fill out the form below and send it with your payment to *Bird Watcher's Digest*.

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend greetings to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Kim Ambrosia, Connie Anderson, Mona Bellecci, Lise Bixler, Ryan Burns, Barbara Bowman, Cynthia Campbell, Edward Carey, Jr., Katherine Carr, Donald Condon, Tracy Cooper, Jennifer Cunningham, Erin Davis, Paul Edstrom, Don and Ann Epperson, Gary Finks, Chester Frilich, Michael Gabel, Judy Gandy, Emilyh Gaston, Marjorie Gaston, T. M. Gibbons, Donald Goldman, Hal Habinski, Edie Hulette, Jan Hunninghaus, Leonard T. Kaku, Astrid G. Kasper, Lucia Keller, Yvonne Kirby, Sue Knight, W. Koop, M. D. Lomax, Don Loux, Mark Lueders, Thomas Lynch, David Madison, Stella Main, Nikki Mastro, Robert McNamee, Dennis Mesick, Michael Mussano, Mary Myers, Mrs. L. Nassar, Bev Nidick, Jeri Osterhout, Thomas Packard, Peg Powers, Barbara Raab, Helen Rios, James Robinson, Kathleen Rowe, Duane Rustad, Diana Sanchez, Malcolm Short, Laura Stockwell, Joyce Tarr, Karen Thomas, Richard Tobin, Neal Troiano, Janie Tulanian, Palma Turnquist, Betty Underwood, Maureen Vanwestro, H. E. Wacek, Salli Warinner, Craig Watson, George and Michele White, Moreland M. Whitbeck, Carol Willits, Irene Wong, and Jerry Woomer.

DONATIONS TO MDAS

Our society has recently received a number of generous gifts, donations and bequests given in memory of friends or relatives or as spontaneous contributions to the society's activities. These donations are welcomed as a significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation, and are very much welcomed at this time when our society, in common with many other groups and organizations, needs extra funding to continue its work.

This month MDAS would like to express its appreciation for a gift from Fae LaGrone of Kansas City, Missouri, given in memory of Edith L. Dick, and a donation made to the chapter by James and Bessie Smyth of Martinez. Their generosity is very much valued.

We would like to encourage all our members and friends, in this season of giving, to think about how much they receive from Audubon and to make an extra gift to MDAS to help us start the new year right.

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
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February 1993

Vol. 39 No. 6

Next Deadline: February 11

February Program:

Butterfly Ranches, Hope for the Rain Forests

If you have been to the tropics, maybe on a birding tour, your eyes may have been drawn to butterflies and tropical insects, noticing that their beauty was as exotic and fascinating as the birds you had come to see. Or you may have trekked to Vallejo, to wander through the live butterfly exhibit at Marine World/Africa USA, where these lovely winged creatures surround you like jewels in flight.

Please join us at the **February 4** general meeting when our speaker will be Olaf Malver, founder of Wings for The Earth, a non-profit organization formed to help teach local people of the jungles how to "ranch" butterflies and other insects. He will treat us to a slide presentation of these amazing creatures and inform us on how insect ranches can help save the rainforests.

Olaf Malver has a doctorate in chemical taxonomy and is an international consultant on health issues. He was a member of the Danish national ski team in the 1970's and has spent many years climbing and kayaking in the arctic.

For February birding information, Jill Hegecock, the MDAS international environmental coordinator, will present a slide show on bird behavior and its relation to field identification and to the environment.

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
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8:00 Social Time
8:30 Program

The next board meeting will be Thursday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jim Lomax, 3636 Lolita Dr., Concord, 825-1513. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

The **1992 MDAS Christmas Count** set a new record for total species and total individuals seen! Congratulations to all participants and to the Count Compiler, Jimm Edgar. Count Day Observations are given on page 4 and full results on page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

EDITORIAL

This column does not usually deal with personal opinions or views. However, by the time you read this, the new Clinton Administration will be in place. The Sacramento Legislature will be trying to make sense out of the nonsense set out in the Governor's budget message. Both will have a serious impact on our future as well as on our environmental world. It is likely that sometime this year, issues of usage of wetlands for development and other purposes will be addressed. I believe our nation's remaining wetlands will be better protected and I believe it will now be far more difficult to use wetlands with relative impunity. If such is the case, our environmental world and "we the people" will be better off. The lingering of the recession is providing an argument for some to "do away with laws, rules, and regulations" enacted here to protect our environment, wildlife, and quality of life for us. CEQA, the law that requires environmental impact reports, will be under heavy attack. We must remember that despite assertions about the negative impacts of the law (with which we generally agree), thousands of projects have been dreamed of, started, and completed under the existing law. If you don't believe it, take a drive to eastern Contra Costa County, where there used to be lush farms, orchards, and cattle grazing. Doing away with, or reducing protections for, wildlife (birds), open space, and the quality of life in the name of creating jobs is to succumb to a shibboleth of the worst kind. Remember, it's YOUR world. Let political people know what YOU think about such issues.

A TOLL ROAD EXTERMINATOR

By now most of us know what the "toll road" is. Just for the record, the proposed Mid-State Toll Road is an 85 mile super-highway running through Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano counties. If built, the Toll Road will:

- Cause enormous environmental degradation and destroy prime farmland and wetlands.
- Cause air and water quality to be degraded.
- NOT serve existing transportation needs; in fact, it is likely there will be increases in traffic congestion.
- Divert public money, already in short supply, from current needs.

There are two upcoming events to help anyone who wants to be a Toll Road Exterminator. The TOLL ROAD PLANNING MEETING is on Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at College Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, Oakland (2 blocks north of the Rockridge BART). The TOLL ROAD FIELD TRIP on Saturday, January 30, is a complete van tour of the road's proposed route with special briefings from local farmers and activists; RSVP by January 22 to Greenbelt Alliance, (415) 543-4291.

DOUGHERTY VALLEY AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!

The badly flawed Dougherty Valley Development Plan received approval from the Board of Supervisors, which sets the scene for protracted legal action. The 11,000 dwelling proposal, when added to others in southern Contra Costa and Alameda counties and if ever implemented as now proposed, will forever alter the counties. Many recognize there is need for additional housing. However, the project as proposed fails to deal with important issues: "Where does the water to supply the people in the area come from?" "How can very adverse traffic patterns be 'fixed'?" "If the traffic created by all of the development is permitted, what then happens to movements of people, goods and services throughout the county?"

THE GOULDIAN FINCH

Australia's Gouldian Finch is a beautiful part of that nation's birdlife. The finch has achieved the "endangered species" status due to a widespread, mysterious viral infection AND to serious losses of habitat. Along comes a plan for large-scale mining right in the heart of the main breeding areas in Australia's Northern Territory. Complaints and urgings from bird lovers and environmentalists the world over has produced promises from the government: "No action will be permitted that will cause additional danger to this avian species."

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

POISONOUS BIRD FOUND

A graduate student from the University of Chicago accidentally discovered the world's first known poisonous bird in New Guinea's jungles. The brilliant black and orange bird, called the Hooded Pitohui, carries in its skin the same neurotoxin found in the Amazon's poison arrow frog. The quantities of the neurotoxin are sufficient to kill a good size hawk. While the marvels of New Guinea's and the world's jungle and rain-forest dwellers are only slowly being discovered, the species extinctions and deforestation continue at alarming rates.

BRAZIL AND SOYBEANS

The Cerrado is a dry scrub forest in Brazil. Although less glamorous than the traditional tropical rainforest, it is no less ecologically important. Home to both the endangered Giant Anteater and the Maned Wolf, the expansive savannah is being threatened by cattle ranching and agricultural crops, particularly the soybean which grows well in the Cerrado's soil. Happily, due to efforts by the Nature Conservancy, part of the Cerrado will soon be protected under a debt-for-nature swap with the Brazilian government.

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.

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: Because of problems this winter due to bad weather or road conditions, field trips may be cancelled by the leader the day of the trip at the carpool location. If you have doubts, call the leader up to 1/2 hour before departure time.

Wednesday, February 3, **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: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 1

Saturday, February 13, **San Mateo Coast**. Carpool 6:45 a.m., El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in beach 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 18, **Berkeley shoreline**. Carpool 8:00 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy. 24. 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, 370-7342

Category 1

Wednesday, February 24, **Lake Merritt**. Carpool 8:00 a.m. at Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of Hwy. 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: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

Saturday, February 27, **Merced Refuge and the Panoche Valley**. Because of weather uncertainties, the Honey Lake Sage Grouse weekend has been cancelled and a day trip to Merced Refuge and the Panoche Valley is being offered instead. The group will meet at 6:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., just west of I-680. Geese, raptors, Mountain Bluebirds, and Mountain Plovers. Call the leader for details.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ALTAMONT, December 2.

Nine intrepid members managed to stay ahead of the rain for a full day of birding the Tassajara Reserve, Tesla Road, Corral Hollow Road, and Patterson Pass. Ten raptor species were seen, including 3 Golden Eagles, 1 Prairie Falcon, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 3 Ferruginous Hawks, and 1 immature Red-shouldered Hawk. One Mountain Bluebird was also seen. The favorite trip bird was a very cooperative Greater Roadrunner along Corral Hollow Road. 54 species total.

Maury Stern

SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES, December 5 and 6.

About 19 people met at Gray Lodge Refuge on December 5 for a cool but sunny day of bird watching. Compared with past years, numbers of some species, such as Northern Pintail, were low, but Gadwalls actually seemed more numerous. Beautiful skeins of Snow and Ross's Geese against the blue sky were as spectacular as always and occasional flights of Tundra Swans and a few Sandhill Cranes were pleasant diversions. Eurasian Wigeon, Virginia Rail, Ring-necked Ducks, Black-necked Stilt and American Bittern were some of the less common species observed. Fifteen of us enjoyed dinner together at the Golden Pheasant in Willows on Saturday evening and emerged to find it was raining! On Sunday morning we did the visitor's route at Sacramento Refuge but due to rather heavy rain returned to the Bay Area somewhat earlier than usual. Seventy-four species were seen.

Harry and Betty Adamson

NILES CANYON GRAVEL PITS, December 10.

This day was near the beginning of our heavy rain season, and indeed we got rained on two or three times during the day. Four members and guests braved the chilly, wet day to look over this interesting area in Alameda County. We saw 65 species during the day but very low numbers of almost all species. Waterfowl particularly were low in number. We did see Spotted Sandpiper and Green-backed Heron which were target birds for this area, but only one of each which is unusual. There were no other unusual birds.

Jimm Edgar

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 19 was this year's MDAS Christmas Count Day. Observations for that day were reported for both individuals counting by themselves and for count groups. Leaders of groups with observations listed below include Bill Chilson, Jimm Edgar, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Ed Hase, and Jim Lomax. For some Count Day observations, the number of times the species has been seen in the twelve most recent counts is given at the end of the observations.

Red-throated Loon: 1 on 12/19 on Pacheco Slough (BR, SG) and 1 on 12/19 from the boat (JL group). 7 of 12.

Pacific Loon: 1 on 12/19 from the boat. (JL group) 3 of 12.

Horned Grebe: 1 on 12/19 at Mallard Reservoir. (BR, SG) 5 of 12.

Brown Pelican: 1 on 12/19 on the river north of Pittsburg. (EH group) First for the count.

Cattle Egret: on 12/19, 1 along Waterfront Rd. (BR, SG) and 1 at P.G.&E. in Pittsburg (BC group), 2 of 12; 2 on 1/11 (FB, EL) and 1 on 1/12 (JR) at Lake Merritt.

Snow Goose: 12 on 12/19 over Pittsburg marshes. (EH group) 4 of 12.

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 males on 12/19 at Mallard Reservoir. (BR, SG) 5 of 12.

Redhead: 75 on 1/5 (FB, MJC, BG) and 21 on 1/11 (GF, JR) at Berkeley Aquatic Park.

Greater Scaup: 1 male on 12/19 at Mallard Res. (SG, BR) 5 of 12.

Tufted Duck: 1 female on 1/12 at Lake Merritt. (JR) Also on RBA.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 11 on 12/12 at the foot of California Street in Rodeo (SG); 1 female on 12/26 (KH) and 12/29 (SG) at Chevron in Bishop Ranch.

Hooded Merganser: 1 female on 1/5 (SE), 2 females on 1/10 (FB, JR) at Seven Hills School, Walnut Creek.

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 12/19 behind Mallard Res. (BR, SG), 8 of 12; 2 on 12/12 at Hwy. 4 and McKewan Rd. (SG).

Peregrine Falcon: seen on 12/26, 12/27, 12/29, 1/7, 1/10, and 1/12 behind his San Ramon home. (SG)

Long-billed Curlew: 18 on 12/19 behind Mallard Res. (BR, SG) 5 of 12.

Forster's Tern: 3 on 12/19 on Waterfront Rd. (Bo&BG group) and 15 on 12/19 at P.G.&E. (BC group) 2 of 12.

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 heard on 12/18 (SG) and 12/19 (DW) at Briones Regional Park; 1 heard on 12/19 in Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park (SG, BR). First for the count.

Burrowing Owl: 1 on 12/19 at Stoneman Park, Pittsburg. (BC group) 8 of 12.

Long-eared Owl: 1 heard on 12/19 in Pine Canyon, MDSP. (BR, SG) First for the count

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 female, first found on 12/20, seen on 12/22, along Herrington Lane, Hayward. (KH, JR, BR, SG)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 juvenile on 12/19 at Rossmoor. (JE group) Second county record, first for the count.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 on 12/19 near the Junction Ranger Station, MDSP. (KH, DS) 8 of 12.

Canyon Wren: 1 on 12/19 in Pine Canyon, MDSP (KH), 2 of 12; 1 on 12/15 at Black Diamond Mines (SG).

House Wren: 1 on 12/19 at Pine Pond, MDSP. (KH) 5 of 12.

Mountain Bluebird: 3 males on 12/19 on N. Gate Rd., MDSP (KH), 5 of 12; 14 on 1/2 on Deer Valley and Chadbourne Rds. in east Contra Costa County (SG).

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 1/5 (FB, MJC, BG) and 12/22 (JR) along Harbor Bay Pkwy., Alameda.

Lucy's Warbler: 1 on 12/15 at Bodega Harbor. (FB, MJC, JR) Also on RBA.

Sage Sparrow: 3 on 12/19 at MDSP. (RL, FS) 7 of 12.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Shirley Ellis, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hints, Eugenia Larson, Robin Leong, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Fred Safier, Don Schmoldt, 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.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

**•"Identify & Win"
CONTEST**

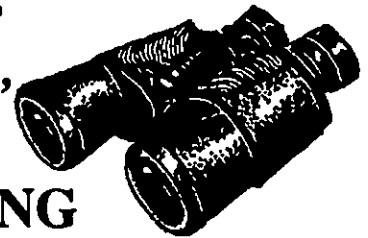
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Wild Birds Unlimited

720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA (510)798-0303

THE 1992 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

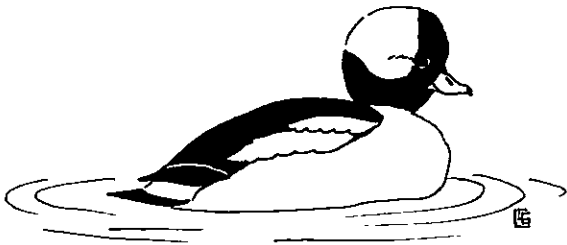
The December 19, 1992, MDAS Christmas Count set a new record for total species seen: 159! Good weather, good birders, and some good birds all contributed. We added four birds never before seen on the count, Brown Pelican, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We also saw birds that we get only occasionally, such as Cattle Egret, Sage Sparrow, House Wren, and Mountain Bluebird. There were nine species of which we saw a single individual, such as Ring-necked Pheasant. Where are our pheasants? One additional species, White-throated Sparrow, was seen during the count period (three days before and three days after the count day). We also set a total individual count high of over 89,000 birds. (The 26,000 Northern Shovelers helped!) 75 people were in the field that day, along with six others at feeders. Thanks to everyone.

Jimm Edgar, Compiler

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon at our meetings and trips: Danny Baronian, Mrs. Jackie Bobrosky, Sybil Boozenny, Thomas Bourbonnais, Christopher Brochard, Peggy Bunting, Diane Burns, Glenda E. Edwards, Sabrina Ellis, Robyn Fewster, Gary Flanders, Sharma L. Gaponoff, Skip Gindraux, Kathleen Grimoldi, Richard Hall, Philip Hill, C. Dean Holden, Richard Horn, Claudia Koehler, Sue Lindsey, Aurora Mariano, Julie McKinley, Jim Mitchell, Alica Moraga, Ermel Nolf, Irene Privette, Richard Rissel, Randy Stone, Kimberly Raum-Suryan, Philip Van Tassell, Dee Tilson, Edwin West, and W. R. Wisecarver.



Original sketch by Carol Lutz

AUDUBON EDUCATION DAY

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society announces its Second Annual Audubon Education Day on Saturday, February 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

There are many exciting scheduled and on-going educational events planned for grade school-aged children, their families, and teachers during the day. The theme of the day is native wildlife and their habitats. Bird-banding, birding and nature walks, scavenger hunts, and slide shows and videos are among the many activities planned. There are participation packets for everyone and fabulous donation drawing prizes. Live wild birds will also be on display. Refreshments are available.

Parking is available at Mona Vista High School with a shuttle bus to bring attendees to the Audubon Education Day. For more information, call Cecily Harris at the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, (408) 252-3747.

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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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

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President: Jim Lomax, 825-1513

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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

March 1993

Vol. 39 No. 7

Next Deadline: March 11

March Program:

Birds and Mammals of the Antarctic

At our **March 4** meeting, MDAS welcomes back Professor Doug Cheeseman for a slide presentation on his 54-day trip to the Antarctic aboard the "Frontier Spirit." The coastal and off-shore waters of this frigid area support a rich variety of life such as skuas, penguins, petrels, fulmars, whales and seals. Professor Cheeseman also toured throughout the subarctic islands including South Georgia and Campbell Islands. Please join us for this exciting program.

Doug Cheeseman has taught zoology and ecology at De Anza College for the past twenty-five years. He is active in Santa Clara Audubon Society and leads many overseas trips. He's presented great programs in the past to MDAS on South America and New Guinea.

March birding information will be a look at local Contra Costa birds, but with an interesting historical slant. In 1978, a Mr. Charles E. Johnson died and left our chapter two 16mm films, one of which is a compilation of his excellent photography of local birds. This film, done mostly in the mid-1950's, has remarkable clarity. It includes footage on nesting birds with some other California specialities thrown in for spice.

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, March 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Elizabeth Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Ave., Orinda, 254-0486. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

February 1993 update of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for the U. S. A. are given on page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

HELICOPTERS AND SUCH

An almost interminable effort to dispose of problems resulting from the training programs using Buchanan Field sponsored by Helicopter Adventures Inc. was the focus of a recent discussion by the Internal Operation Committee of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. The discussion was initiated, insofar as MDAS was concerned, because the students were practicing touch and go landings, using various wetland areas in the process. This activity created stress and disturbance among the birds living in the wetland areas.

Seeking a better area for the students to use for touch and go landings and takeoffs, the Internal Operation Committee brought together a diverse group of people to talk about these issues. The noise the choppers make as they fly overhead is a major problem for much of the public. There were concerns expressed about the potential dangers of training flights around refineries. There is some possibility of transferring the entire training operation to Byron Airport but that facility will not be operational for about a year. Another meeting is scheduled for late February. There is expectation that the issues will be resolved at that time.

EUCALYPTUS, HERONS AND PEOPLE

Many years ago a pair of Great Blue Herons set up housekeeping in an OLD eucalyptus tree near Montair Public School, Danville. Each year these birds returned to the nest. Eggs were laid, chicks hatched and fledged, and eventually the family left the nest. Enter people. An individual living next to the school indicated he wanted to purchase the property on which the trees stood. Reason, to axe the trees so his view of Mt. Diablo would not be restricted. The school, probably in need of the money, indicated the land would be sold. Of course, no one contacted the heron family about this proposed action.

THEN, the mothers of the school children found out what was being proposed. The moms concluded even if the herons had NOT been notified, the moms were not about to let such a thing take place. MDAS and Audubon Canyon Ranch became involved. Letters were written. Public meetings were held. PTA people became involved. The Lindsay Museum and the California Department of Fish and Game all had a say. The harried school officers listened and attempted to decide what to do. All the while, the herons were routinely returning to the trees, using the nest, and producing young heron.

Finally, on February 11, a definitive meeting was conducted by the school board president. There were indications that the real purpose of the proposed buyer involved hewing the trees, subdividing the land, building a house, and selling the place.

There was speculation such would produce a tidy profit. The heron family was blissfully unaware of all these machinations. They were too busy returning to the nest, checking it out, and preparing themselves for the 1993 season.

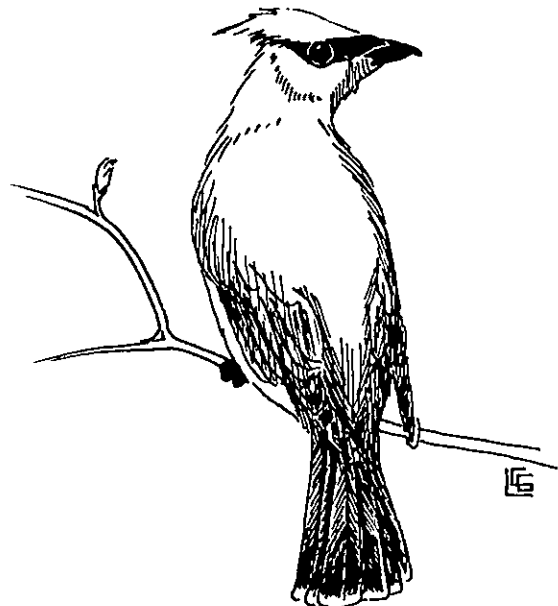
So what's the outcome? It appears the particular tree in which the birds nest is dead. The school board president asserted his first concern was the safety of the school children. Will the land be sold???? What will become of the herons? Probably nothing will happen right away, because the birds are legally protected, but when they leave the nest tree this year they will undoubtedly have to find a new home. Will they be able to do that? Will they continue to produce more young? Those are some of the vexing problems facing those who worry about the future of our wildlife.

MARSH CANYON: THE END???

Marsh Canyon, subject to years of dispute because of attempts to create a solid waste landfill there, is again in the news. After losing a critical court case, proponents of the landfill project decided to drop the effort. A request has been made to Contra Costa County Supervisors to change the General Plan. If done, the area will revert to its former status as agricultural land. Action has been initiated to do so. MDAS now expects the area will be preserved for all time. Nearby Round Valley will at sometime in the future, be a major park area. As one individual who had been deeply involved in the Marsh Canyon Landfill "fuss" said, "The results of the battle have been worth all the trouble, time and effort; we've saved Round Valley."

THE MONSTER TOLL ROAD

MDAS Members will be receiving a publication, "TOLL ROAD TROUBLE" produced by the Greenbelt Alliance. The issues and problems, both environmental and moneywise, are discussed. The current status of the proposed road is reported. YOU are encouraged to review the material with care. We URGE YOU to let decision-makers KNOW how you feel about this proposed road. Time will be of the essence, so ACT soon!



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, March 6, **Bodega Bay**. Carpool 7:00 a.m., southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the Tides Restaurant. Go north on US 101. Take the Washington St. exit in Petaluma, go west on Bodega Hwy. to SR 1, turn left to Bodega Bay. The Tides Restaurant is on left, opposite a Union station. Can be cold and windy.

Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Category 1

Thursday, March 11, **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. Good area for shore and water birds.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Saturday, March 20, **Tomales Bay State Park**. Carpool 6:30 a.m., Acalanes Ave., off Pleasant Hill Rd., just north of SR 24. Meet at 8:30 a.m. 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

Wednesday, March 24, **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: Pat MacEachern, 934-3041

Category 3

Wednesday, March 31, **Briones Park**. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the north entrance. Take Briones Road off of Alhambra Valley Road. Wildflowers, spring birds. Poison oak along shaded trails.

Leader: John Davis, 228-9516

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PUTAH CREEK, January 2.

The field trip was cancelled due to bad road conditions.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, January 14.

Five optimistic souls ventured out on a threatening day which never materialized into the expected rainstorm. The Osprey, seen the week before, was in hiding. The best bird of the day was a Yellow-shafted Flicker. We had views of him flying and preening, close enough to see all the proper field marks. 38 species total were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

BOLINAS LAGOON, January 16.

It was a beautiful, sunny day along Highway 1. Heavy rain from the night before hampered our hike around 5 Brooks, but cleared the air so it was easy to see the Farallones. The three of us who made the trip were treated to 96 species. Our highlights included a superb male Eurasian Wigeon accented by early morning sunlight, the most exquisitely feathered male Townsend's Warbler I've ever seen, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brant, and Ring-necked Duck. We missed Wood Duck at 5 Brooks, but a total of sixteen duck species were seen on this outing.

Denise Wight

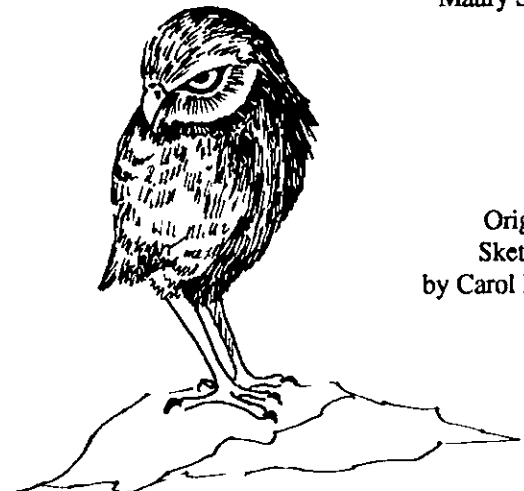
SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, January 21.

The field trip was cancelled due to bad weather.

GRIZZLY ISLAND, January 27.

Thirteen members and guests visited the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area on a cold, foggy day which cleared for about five minutes at 1:00 p.m. This kept down the raptor sightings but 73 bird species were seen, as well as at least fifteen male Tule Elk with full racks of antlers engaging each other in vigorous dominance behavior. Highlight bird species seen included Green-backed Heron, three Ross' Geese, twelve duck species, two Great Horned Owls, eight raptor species including Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Virginia Rail, many Common Moorhen, and more than 100 Tree Swallows.

Maury Stern



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.

Yellow-billed Loon: 1 on 1/24 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Greater White-fronted Goose: 26 on 2/7 at Piper Slough on Bethel Island. (SG)

Snow Goose: 35 on 2/7 at Piper Slough. (SG)

Ross' Goose: 1 on 1/26 at Frick Lane, Livermore. (JR)

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male on 1/22 at San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline (JR); 1 male on 1/31 at the end of Marina Way, Richmond (SG).

Tufted Duck: 1 male on 1/19 (BG, FB, MJC, EL), 1/24 (GF), and 1/26 (BG, FB, MJC, EL) on Spreckel's Lake in Golden Gate Park. Also on RBA.

Common Merganser: 4 on 1/16 at Rossmoor (BB, SG, KH, JR, GF); 2 on 1/17 at Royal Vista Golf Course in San Ramon (BR, KH, DW, SG); 4 males on 2/3 in Walnut Creek (FB, MJC); 2 on 2/4 at Lafayette Reservoir (H&NB).

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 females and 1 male on 1/31 at Clifton Court Forebay near Byron. (SG)

Osprey: 1 on 2/4 and 3 simultaneously on 2/10 at Lafayette Reservoir. (H&NB)

Merlin: 1 adult male on 1/18 over his Walnut Creek home. (GF)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 1/10 (SG), 1/12 (SG), 1/17 (SG, KH, DW) and 1/25 (KH, GF, JR) behind SG's San Ramon home; 1 on 2/6 over her Alamo home (JR).

Mountain Quail: 1 on 1/22 along Gates Canyon Road, Solano County. (KH, GG)

Sora: 1 on 2/6 at Pine Pond, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)

Common Moorhen: 5 on 2/7 along Jersey Island Road, East Contra Costa County. (SG)

Long-billed Curlew: 225 on 2/7 along J-4, south of Byron. (SG)

Ancient Murrelet: 10 on 1/11 at Bodega Head. (FB, EL)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 found dead 1/29 in Pine Canyon. (KH) Only three park records.

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 on 1/22 still along Herrington Lane, Hayward. (JR)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 juvenile seen again on 1/16 at Rossmoor. (SG, JR, KH, GF, BB). Second county record.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 on 1/25 (SG) and 1/28 (KH, GF, JR) at Murrietta Wells, Mines Road. Also on RBA. Less than five East Bay records.

Vermilion Flycatcher: 1 male and 1 female on 1/30 on West Butte Road, Sutter Co. (JR, GF) Also on RBA.

Winter Wren: 1 on 1/16 at Rossmoor. (KH, GF)

Mountain Bluebird: 21 on 1/11 along Deer Valley Road near Antioch. (GF, JR)

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 1/19 (GF), 1/22 (JR), and 2/6 (ED, JH) at intersection of Harbor Bay Parkway and Maitland Drive, Bay Farm Island. Also on RBA.

Phainopepla: 1 male on 1/31 at the intersection of Mitchell Canyon Road and Rhine Court. (SG)

Northern Shrike: 1 on 2/9 at Mile 21.54 on Panoche Road. (JR) Also on RBA.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 5 on 2/7 at Piper Slough. (SG)

Palm Warbler: 1 on 2/1 at the Nunes Ranch. (FB, EL)

American Redstart: 1 on 1/24 (GF) and 1/26 (FB, BG, MJC, EL) in Golden Gate Park. Also on RBA.

Ovenbird: 1 on 1/19 at the San Francisco Zoo. (FB, BG) Also on RBA.

Observers: Hugh and Norah Bain, Florence Bennett, Burt Bream, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Gen Graves, Jan Hilton, Kevin Hints, Eugenia Larson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, 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.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

HOW CAN YOU SAVE THE RAINFORESTS?

One of the most promising ways of preserving the rainforests is to provide economic incentives to the countries in which they occur. As consumers we can buy "sustainable yield" products (products that require intact rainforest for harvesting), thereby supporting the countries' efforts to preserve these biologically diverse ecosystems. Various types of sustainable yield rainforest products include:

- Rubber
- Edible nuts (brazils, cashews, etc.)
- Inedible nuts such as tagua nuts (used as buttons on clothing)
- Medicinal/herbal plants
- Furniture made with Bamboo
- Butterflies (e.g., as described by Wings for the Earth at our February meeting)

Look in your local grocery store for Ben and Jerry's Rainforest Crunch Ice Cream and Rainforest Crisp cereal, in Macy's for Rainforest Crunch Chocolate Chip Cookies, and in stores such as Smith and Hawkin and L. L. Bean for clothing with tagua buttons. In addition, if you are planning to travel, consider a trip to one of the rainforests. "Ecotourism dollars" are one of the main reasons the gorillas in Africa are not extinct and they and their habitat are now protected.

RARE BIRD ALERTS

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Alabama - Statewide | (205) 987-2730 | Montana - Statewide | (406) 721-2935 |
| Alaska - Statewide | (907) 248-2473 | Nebraska - Statewide | (402) 292-5325 |
| Arizona - Phoenix | (602) 832-8745 | Nevada - Statewide | (702) 649-1516 |
| - Tucson | (602) 798-1005 | New Hampshire - Statewide | (603) 224-9900 |
| Arkansas - Statewide | (501) 753-5853 | (5 pm - 9 am M-F; 24 hrs. weekends) | |
| California - Arcata | (707) 826-7031 | New Jersey - Statewide | (908) 766-2661 |
| - Los Angeles | (213) 874-1318 | - Cape May | (609) 884-2626 |
| - Monterey | (408) 375-9122 | New Mexico - Statewide | (505) 662-2101 |
| Updates | (408) 375-2577 | New York - Albany | (518) 439-8080 |
| - Morro Bay | (805) 528-7182 | - Buffalo | (716) 896-1271 |
| - Northern California | (510) 528-0288 | - Cayuga Lakes Basin | (607) 277-5455 |
| Daily updates | (510) 524-5592 | (10 pm - 7 am) | |
| - Orange County | (714) 563-6516 | - New York | (212) 832-6523 |
| (Weekly updates) | | - Rochester | (716) 461-9593 |
| - Sacramento | (916) 481-0118 | - Syracuse | (315) 682-7039 |
| - San Bernardino | (714) 793-5599 | North Carolina - Statewide | (704) 332-2473 |
| - San Diego | (619) 479-3400 | Ohio - Cincinnati | (513) 521-2847 |
| (Daily updates) | | - Cleveland | (216) 321-7245 |
| - Santa Barbara | (805) 964-8240 | - Columbus | (614) 221-9736 |
| - SW Sierra / San Joaquin | (209) 782-1237 | - Blendon Woods Metro Park | (614) 895-6222 |
| Colorado - Statewide | (303) 279-3076 | - SW Ohio | (513) 277-6446 |
| Connecticut - Statewide | (203) 254-3665 | - NW Ohio | (419) 875-6889 |
| Delaware - Statewide | (215) 567-2473 | - Youngstown | (216) 742-6661 |
| District of Columbia - Districtwide | (301) 652-1088 | Oklahoma - Oklahoma City | (405) 373-4531 |
| Florida - Statewide | (813) 984-4444 | Oregon - Statewide | (503) 292-0661 |
| - Miami | (305) 667-7337 | - Southern Oregon | (503) 826-7011 |
| - Lower Keys | (305) 294-3438 | (10 pm - 6 am weekdays only) | |
| Georgia - Statewide | (404) 509-0204 | Pennsylvania - Allentown | (215) 759-5754 |
| Idaho - Southeast | (208) 236-3337 | - Philadelphia | (215) 567-2473 |
| Illinois - Central Illinois | (217) 785-1083 | - Western Penn. | (412) 963-0560 |
| - Chicago | (708) 671-1522 | - Wilkes-Barre | (717) 825-2473 |
| Indiana - Statewide | (317) 259-0911 | Rhode Island - Statewide | (401) 231-5728 |
| Iowa - Statewide | (319) 338-9881 | South Carolina - Statewide | (704) 332-2473 |
| - Sioux City | (712) 262-5958 | Tennessee - Statewide | (615) 356-7636 |
| Kansas - Statewide | (913) 372-5499 | - Chattanooga | (615) 843-2822 |
| - Kansas City | (913) 342-2473 | Texas - Statewide | (713) 992-2757 |
| Kentucky - Statewide | (502) 894-9538 | - Austin | (512) 483-0952 |
| Louisiana - Baton Rouge | (504) 293-2473 | - Northcentral | (817) 261-6792 |
| - New Orleans | (504) 246-2473 | - Lower Rio Grande Valley | (512) 565-6773 |
| Maine - Statewide | (207) 781-2332 | - San Antonio | (512) 733-8306 |
| (5 pm - 8 am weekdays; 24 hrs. weekends) | | - Sinton | (512) 364-3634 |
| Maryland - Statewide | (301) 652-1088 | Utah - Statewide | (801) 538-4730 |
| Massachusetts - Boston | (617) 259-8805 | Vermont - Statewide | (802) 457-2779 |
| - Western Mass. | (413) 253-2218 | (5 pm - 8 am M-Sat.; 24 hrs. Sun.) | |
| Michigan - Statewide | (616) 471-4919 | Virginia - Statewide | (804) 929-1736 |
| - Detroit | (313) 477-1360 | - or | (301) 652-1088 |
| Minnesota - Statewide | (612) 827-3161 | Washington - Statewide | (206) 526-8266 |
| - Duluth | (218) 525-5952 | Wisconsin - Statewide | (414) 352-3857 |
| Mississippi - Coast | (601) 467-9500 | - Madison | (608) 255-2476 |
| Missouri - Statewide | (314) 445-9115 | (except 9 am - 3 pm weekdays) | |
| - Kansas City | (913) 342-2473 | Wyoming - Statewide | (307) 265-2473 |
| - St. Louis | (314) 935-8432 | | |

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and trips: Jeffrey Allyn, Sue Bennett, Jason Cale, Dick Carroll, La Veta Cromwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Daniel, James Fogerty, Jewel Foster, Kelsey Fry, Robert Gibson, Mrs. Arthur Haigh, Kathy Hansen, Peter Hendricks, Mr. and Mrs. David Hiesser, Marlene Hope, Lee and Julie Hudson, Paul Ingle, Julie Klokow, Brian Kuhl, Veronica Koski, April Loui, Kim Loustalot, M. McNamara, Katherine Odowd, Faith Patterson, Mrs. C. Pirtz, Louise Robinson, Duane and Diana Scholl, E. G. Schreiber, Mrs. William Shoemaker, Annabelle Travis, Nancy Wenninger, and Carolyn White.

RAPTORS OF THE SIERRA

Falcons, eagles, hawks, and owls will be the subjects of an all-day symposium on Sunday, March 28, at the Sonora Elks Lodge. The symposium is sponsored by the Central Sierra Audubon Society and supported by grants from Fibreboard Corporation and Sonora Mining Corporation. The program focus will be field identification, habitat preservation, captive and artificial breeding programs, and the present status of the raptors in the Stanislaus National Forest. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with the program from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for Audubon members, and \$8 for students. There is a \$2 discount for registration before March 20. Sandwiches and drinks will be available or bring your own bag lunch. For more information, call Dale Keyser at (209) 532-4852 or Chuck Giordano at (209) 533-0409.

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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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

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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: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278



April 1993

Vol. 39 No. 8

Next Deadline: April 8

April Program:

Birds of Southeastern Arizona, Revisited

Our MDAS president Jim Lomax first presented his "Birds of Southeastern Arizona" program for our January, 1990, meeting. Those who remember those pictures will be pleased and surprised at his **April 1** program of almost entirely new slides taken in the past three years. He will show us over 100 species of birds and tell where we can find each of them. These include all the local hawks, all the local hummingbirds, and all the local flycatchers. Also he will include local specialties such as Olive Warbler, Plain-capped Starthroat, Five-striped Sparrow and Great Kiskadee. Join us for an evening of birds!

Birding information will be given by Shirley Ellis in a program appropriate for April Fool's Day entitled "Humor and Nature." Did you know that birds see us seven times better than we see them? We are the subjects for some great cartoons!

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, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Pam Keiser, 505 Wild Flower Place, Danville, 838-8840. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

THE SUIT GOES ON

Dougherty Valley! A name that may, along with plans of those who want it developed, symbolize the way of the future in Contra Costa County. 11,000 homes. There are also other proposed developments in that area that, when totaled, mean HUGE population increases. A few things to think about. East Bay MUD now provides water for a large population. Its water sources start on the Mokelumne River high in the Sierra Nevada mountains and are under threat. Some water, formerly available for human use, now has to be diverted to ensure fish populations survive. So, sayeth EBMUD, we don't have the water to ensure continuous availability for present customers AND all the new development proposed in Dougherty Valley and elsewhere in that area. If we were to promise to provide water to such areas, we would be faced with a need to dilute our present high quality water with water from the Delta. Our customers would receive a lower grade of water and it would probably cost more. Unfazed, those who want to develop the Dougherty Valley area say to EBMUD - YOU MUST provide water. YOU can't stand in the way of progress. HmMMM, say EBMUD directors, we don't agree. Ergo, a lawsuit has been filed. Interesting, VITAL issue.

TAXES

Don't forget! When you visit your friendly IRS agent or your accountant, or do your own tax forms, put some money in to save wildlife.

POPULATION, CITIES, AND AGRICULTURE

One Susan F. Rasky, commenting on California's economic and other such problems, has written: "We talk hopefully about expansion and building new cities in the Central Valley, forgetting that the fifty-two now envisioned at various points between Redding and Bakersfield will gobble up 15% of the productive land in California's huge agriculture industry, which in its broadest measure accounts for almost 10% of the state's gross product and makes a significant contribution to exports." Another interesting point. Our decision-makers are being bombarded with assertions that environmental rules, laws, etc., are anti-business. The fact is California lawmakers, in their wisdom, have already placed some 44 laws and regulations in effect. These provide tax incentives and other "lures" to make doing business in the state attractive. Now take the assault on CEQA, the law that REQUIRES environmental impact reports in major or environmentally sensitive projects. It is now under attack, with some arguing the law stands in the way of progress, etc., etc. None of the animals, birds, bugs, and plants that are being displaced have a voice in the matter. The impacts of some of these displacements are not even known. The battle lines are also being formed over the renewal of the Endangered Species Act. We are bombarded with tales of the snail darter halting construction of a dam. The Bay/Delta

smelt, now an endangered species, is pointed to with scorn. This decision, it is argued, will deprive agricultural activity of its all-important water supply. Who these days, takes time to explain how Mom Nature has interwoven the diversified life of our planet? Each bit of life in some way depends on another. I guess the point of all this is we have to keep our eye on the ball. We have to understand that the doing away of a single species in itself may not be vital to all of us. BUT if we don't heed nature's warnings, and they are many, we may just do ourselves in.

"RESTORING THE BAY"...AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN

This group, assisted substantially by Save the Bay, had some "wins" in saving wetlands and creeks during 1992:

The purchase of wetlands, including Marathon, Munster, and Caruff, all in the South Bay.

The publication of "Campaign to Save California Wetlands," a report that dealt with the Bush proposals that would have drastically and adversely revised wetland delineations.

The introduction by Don Edwards of wetlands legislation HR 4255.

The withdrawal of HR 1330, the Hayes/Louisiana wetlands bill.

The coordination of people and groups interested in wetland preservation throughout the state under the umbrella of the Campaign to Save California Wetlands.

The production, distribution, AND action in CSCW's "ACTION ALERTS," directed at saving California's remaining wetlands.

The creation of Save San Pablo Baylands.

The restoration of Wildcat Creek in Richmond.

Another MAJOR WIN was passage of the Miller/Bradley water legislation. The task now before us is to ensure regulations and necessary supportive actions are taken. I guess all this shows that while there are many dark clouds on the horizon, the fact is that a lot of hard work by dedicated individuals does produce results that are worthwhile.

WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS

If you read the papers, you know the state's Water Quality Control Board took a wavering, tentative step toward FIXING the Bay. Issuance of D1630 was the opening gun in a battle that will be as fiercely fought as was any in the Civil War. To hear the agriculture folks, one would think there will never be another crop grown because there won't be any water available, due to D1630. To listen to the folks working on the environmental side of such issues, one would tend to believe that not much was being done. 'Tis true! Crops will continue to be grown. The environmental damage caused to the Bay/Delta over many years may be slowed, but it will not be halted, nor will the Bay be restored. Further, D1630 won't even have a chance to operate, for the day it is made effective (if not before) the various interests will have the issue in court. What that means is our political system has once again failed to meet the challenges of the day. Stay tuned, there will definitely be more on this saga.

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, April 3, **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. Grasshopper Sparrow is one possibility.

Leader: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 3

Wednesday, April 7, **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 and 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.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, April 17, **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. For more information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Category 3

Thursday, April 22, **Ida Clayton Road**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at the 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. For more information, call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Category 1

Thursday, April 29, **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 of I-5 (59 mi. from El Cerro). Costa's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, Yellow-breasted Chat.

Leader: Florence Bennett, 689-3106 Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THORNTON, February 3.

Fourteen members and a guest enjoyed a somewhat threatening day weatherwise, but the rain never materialized. Water was everywhere, and this made dispersion of waterfowl different from past years, for we saw fewer huge flocks gathered on the flooded areas. The total count was higher than last year, though, totaling 70 species.

Barbara Vaughn

SAN MATEO COAST, February 13.

Eight of us birded along the coast plus some areas a bit inland on a partly clear day with cool to chilly temperatures and afternoon winds. Among the 116 species listed were four Brant, a female Black Scoter, a Golden Eagle, a Merlin perched in a tree near the road, two Glaucous Gulls at Venice State Beach, plus a Rock Sandpiper seen by only a few. Along Cloverdale Road we were treated to the sight of two bobcats walking across a field.

Jean Richmond

BERKELEY SHORELINE, February 18.

The field trip was cancelled due to bad weather.

LAKE MERRITT, February 24.

Eight observers had great weather for this field trip. 51 species were observed, including Barrow's Goldeneye and Cattle Egret. The highlight was a pair of Brown Pelicans in full breeding plumage.

Elizabeth Dickey

MERCED REFUGE and PANOCHE VALLEY, February 27.

Ten birders had good weather for this long day trip. At the Merced Refuge, the highlight was the flock of Sandhill Cranes. In the Panoche Valley, we found Roadrunner, Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird and Ferruginous Hawk among others. 76 species were seen in all.

Elizabeth Dickey

HERON AND EGRET PROJECT

Audubon Canyon Ranch is continuing to census Great Blue Heron and all egret nesting colonies. If you see herons or egrets in trees, please contact John Kelly at 663-8203 or Norah Bain at 254-4516, giving the location of the birds.

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.

Cattle Egret: 1 on 2/15 (GF, MP) and 2/16 (FB, BG, MJC, HH, JR) at the Spaletta Plateau, Pt. Reyes; 1 on 3/ 3 at Lake Merritt (JR).

Brant: 200 on 2/16 at Home Bay, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC, BG, HH)

Wood Duck: 2 on 2/19 and 9 on 3/1 along Bear Valley Road just north of Briones, (DW); 10 on 3/7 at Sunol Regional Park (SG); 1 on 3/8 behind his Lafayette home (MS).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 on 2/16 at Home Bay. (FB, MJC, BG, HH)

Tufted Duck: 1 male on 2/23 at Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park (JR), also on RBA; 1 on 2/27 at Hayward Regional Shoreline (BR).

Harlequin Duck: a pair on 2/16 at Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes. (JR)

Common Merganser: 1 on 2/17 at Royal Vista Golf Course, San Ramon. (KH)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 seen and heard calling territorially on 2/6 near the intersection of Canyon and Pinhurst Roads west of Moraga. (SG)

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 on 3/2 along Cummings Skyway near Crockett. (BG, FB)

American Kestrel: 15 seen together on 2/9 near the intersection of Panoche and Little Panoche Roads. (JR)

Merlin: 1 to 2 through 3/12 near the intersection of Wiget and Lennon Lanes in Walnut Creek. (MS)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 ~~from~~ ^{over} 3/1 ~~to~~ 3/7 over her Alamo home. (JR)

Chukar: several heard on 2/8 (GF, MP) and 3 seen on 2/9 (JR) along New Idria Road near Panoche Valley.

Lesser Golden-Plover: 10 on 2/6 (GF), 14 on 2/15 (GF, MP), and up to 17 on 2/16 (JR, FB, BG, MJC, HH), at the Spaletta Plateau. Also on RBA.

Rock Sandpiper: 1 on 2/12 at Princeton Harbor's outer jetty. (GF, DW) Also on RBA.

Tufted Puffin: 1 in breeding plumage on 2/16 at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. (JR)

Northern Pygmy-Owl: 1 on 3/1 (GF) and 3/2 (BG, FB, JR) at Lake Hennessey.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 on 2/9 (FB, ^{BF} MJC), 2/15 (GF, MP, KH, SG), and 2/16 (FB, BG, MJC, HH, JR) at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. Also on RBA.

Williamson's Sapsucker: 1 male on 2/21 (GF), 2/23 (JR), and 2/25 (FB, BG, MJC) at U. C. Berkeley's Ecological Reserve. Also on RBA. Probably the sixth Alameda County record.

Mountain Bluebird: 76 on 2/6 in the Panoche area. (GF, MP)

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 2/8 (GF, MP) and 2/9 (JR) along Little Panoche Road.

Phainopepla: 1 male on 3/6 flying over I-680 at Stone Valley Road (JR); 2 on 3/9 at Hidden Lakes Park, Martinez (DW).

Northern Shrike: 1 on 2/6 (GF, MP) and 2/9 (JR) along Panoche Road.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 3/6 at ^{her shoreline home} Hidden Lakes. (DW)

This individual probably wintered in the area.

Green-tailed Towhee: 1 on 2/10, 2/16, 2/18 and 2/22 and last seen 3/8 in her Martinez yard. (DK) Probably the first county winter record since 1961.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Hugh Harvey, Kevin Hintsa, Deborah Kirshen, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Maury Stern, 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.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

BEARS, LOGGING AND RAINFORESTS

Although a great deal of attention has been focused on tropical rainforests, closer to home is an equally important ecosystem. I am referring to coastal temperate rainforests. Not only does this special ecosystem occur here in the U. S., but our Canadian neighbors also enjoy having this pristine natural resource. Since 1987, both native and non-native residents of Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia, have been instrumental in blockading the logging operations in this area. In addition to destroying the watershed for salmon, which is an important natural resource and industry, clear-cutting of this habitat will further diminish the already shrinking range of occurrence of bear, cougar, and wolves. It is as important to protect North American forests as it is tropical rainforests, not only because of the uniqueness of temperate rainforest ecosystems, but also because the North American environmental policy ultimately affects the environmental policies throughout the world.

POOR PLANET, BETTER METHODS?

I hope all of you saw the article entitled "Born Free" in the March/April edition of *Audubon*. In short, in August of 1988, a researcher in Somalia spotted a potentially unknown shrike species. Normally the bird would have been killed and become the officially documented specimen. However, because of fears of the extinction of the species, the researcher, Edmund Smith, captured, studied, and then released the bird. While this caution represents a sad state of affairs for the planet, as well as this species, his approach to collecting scientific data on this newly discovered species is commendable.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

Spring migration is starting and it's time to go birding. This year should be especially good birding with all the rain and subsequent flora.

April 17 is our annual Birdathon day and all you birders that want to help on the count call me. I passed around a sign-up sheet at the last meeting and I'll have it for the April meeting. Again you can bird anywhere in Contra Costa County and can travel around the county during the day as you wish. We are counting total numbers of species, not individuals, so try as many different habitats as you want. You couch birders can do your backyard feeders, too. I just need your name and phone so I can get a tally at the end of the day. Last year we had 170 species, which was a record.

You can send a pledge per species, too. Send it to our P. O. Box (given on the front of the *Quail*), or, if you wish, just send a donation. Tax deductible. It is greatly appreciated and will be used to help pay for the Audubon lobbyist we have in Sacramento who is our voice in state government.

The Burrowing Owl Project sign-ups are being taken at this time also. The census will start on May 15 and run through July 15. This is the last year of the three-year project and we need as many people as we can get to cover all our grids. Those of you who have not done it before will receive some instruction. It is a learning experience and extremely beneficial to the Burrowing Owls. We have lost over 60% of our owls in California in the last five years. The goal is to get them listed on the Endangered Species list.

And the Rail Project sign-ups are out. This project will start on March 27 and run through May 10. It's our second year and we will concentrate on those areas where we found evidence of Clapper Rails last year. We still need more volunteers so call either myself at 825-1513 or Project Director Ruth Riordan at (510) 356-6923, and help us census Clapper Rails.

ALSO, if you want to learn to identify eagles, falcons, and hawks and you want to be part of a local wildlife conservation project, then the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory wants you! Attend a recruitment meeting and see if you like it. If you want to sign up, you will only need to work on the project one day every two weeks from August to about December 15, or only eight times during four months. You will learn raptors, at least 18 kinds of them. Oh, the meetings: Thursday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. They will be held at the GGNRA Headquarters, Building 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. Enter at Franklin and Bay Streets. For information, call (415) 331-0730. Tell them I sent you.

That should get you started this spring. See you out there.

SALMONELLA UPDATE

by Mike Williams

Wild Birds Unlimited started receiving reports of sick or dying Pine Siskins near the end of 1992. We learned that a disease called Salmonella typhimurium began showing up in birds in Vancouver, B. C., last November. This bacterial infection can often be found in flocking birds and is passed on to other birds through their fecal droppings. As the Pine Siskins migrated south, sick birds began showing up in Seattle, Portland, and Medford, and finally in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Cleanliness is the key to combating this disease:

1. Clean feeders weekly with a 3% to 5% bleach solution. (Bleach can lighten wood and concrete.) For tube feeders, Wild Birds has long brushes available.
2. Sweep under the feeders daily. If a feeder is over dirt or plantings, move it weekly.
3. Eliminate or substantially reduce tray and ground feeding.
4. Wash hands thoroughly with hot soapy water after cleaning the feeders.
5. Feed a good quality diet to help build up the birds' reserves prior to migrating and nesting.

As most of the Pine Siskins in the Bay Area have migrated north, we are seeing fewer birds, healthy or sick. We have had a few reports of sick American Goldfinches. Please continue to keep your feeders and feeding areas clean. Report sick birds to Wild Birds Unlimited at 798-0303 or to the Lindsey Museum at 935-1988.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

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

FEEDING

The Orioles have arrived! It's time to clean and put out your Oriole feeder. In 1992, over 750 Northern and Hooded Orioles were seen in this area. Also, the American Goldfinch are now changing into their beautiful breeding plumage. Continue your thistle feeding as they can stay with us until summer.

VACATIONING?

We have a wide selection of field guides and we can order many others. Take along our WBU binoculars, designed exclusively for us by Celestron for bird watching.

NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that we welcome these new MDAS members whom we hope to meet very soon: Danny Baronian, Jackie Bobrosky, Sybil Boozenny, Thomas Bourbonnais, Christopher Brochard, Peggy Bunting, Jim Burcio, Diane Burris, Susan Crutchfield, Glenda E. Edwards, Sabrina Ellis, Robyn Fewster, Gary Flanders, Sharma Gaponoff, Skip Gindraux, Kathleen Gimoldi, Richard D. Hall, Philip B. Hill, Dean Holden, Richard Horn, Jane Jenny, Claudia Koehler, Paul Lewis, Sue Lindsey, A. Dean Lucas, Aurora Mariano, Julie McKinley, Jim Mitchell, Alice Moraga, Ermel Nolf, Dorothy Peers, Irene Privette, Kimberly Raum-Suryan, Richard Rissel, Morris Snelling, Randy Stone, Philip Van Tassell, Dee Tilson, Annemarie Warwick, Edwin West, and W. R. Wisecarver.

CLASSES

SPRING FIELD CLASS

Norah Bain's spring field class for beginning and intermediate birders will meet April 13, April 27, and May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and May 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be no class on April 20. Fee for Orinda residents is \$39, for non-residents \$41. Registration begins March 18 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. For more information, call the Community Center at 254-2445 or Norah at 254-4516.

ONE GOOD TERN DESERVES ANOTHER

A one-day workshop on making wooden decoys of the small endangered Least Tern will be held on Saturday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The finished decoys will be sent to Hayward Regional Shoreline to help lure terns to new, safe habitats. The fee is \$20 for adults, \$15 for kids 10 to 18. For reservations only, call the Piedmont Adult School at (510) 420-3656; for information call Katie Colbert (510) 862-2244.

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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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

(510) AUD-UBON

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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

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Publicity: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091

Hospitality: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278



May 1993

Vol. 39 No. 9

Next Deadline: May 13

May Program:

Puffin Project

The **May 6** general meeting will feature naturalist Peter Salmansohn, Public Information Coordinator with National Audubon's Puffin Project in Maine. Almost hunted to extinction, Atlantic Puffins have made a remarkable recovery through this wonderful conservation effort. Join us for an informative slide presentation and program about the cutest seabirds you'll ever encounter!

Bird songs can be a great joy to hear and a delightful way to identify birds as they move often unseen in foliage. For May's Birding Information, Denise Wight will compare similar songs of some of the common birds of our area.

At our May meeting, we will also vote on the elected officials for next year's board. Current candidates for the four positions are:

President: Jim Lomax
Vice-President, Conservation: Al McNabney
Treasurer: Pam Keiser
Secretary: Beverly Hawley

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

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, May 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Wild Birds Unlimited store, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 798-0303. Board meetings are open to all interested members.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

A TALE OF TWO CITIES, IN THREE ACTS

Martinez, a real, live, EXISTING city and the county seat of Contra Costa County.

Dougherty Valley, a PROPOSED city of 11,000 houses and 30,000 people. a place still on the drawing board.

ACT 1: Meeting Room of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

An innocent-looking resolution is before the Supervisors with minimal explanation. The resolution is quickly put to a vote. One Supervisor, expressing concern as to "what the resolution means," abstains. Three others vote in favor (one supervisor was absent).

ACT 2: Transfer of the scene of action.

Following the vote, one Supervisor went for a little walk, hand-carrying the innocent-looking, just-passed resolution. He soon arrived at the office of the county's State Senator. The innocent resolution then quickly went to Sacramento where it was transformed (in a rather circuitous manner) into SB 1250, an URGENCY measure guaranteeing that the bill gets priority in the legislature and that, if passed, it becomes law at the end of that month instead of at the end of the year as other bills.

ACT 3: The Rules Committee of the California Senate.

The innocent-looking resolution, now SB 1250, "appears" to be a blatant piece of special-interest legislation, designed to FORCE EBMUD to supply water to the proposed Dougherty Valley project. NOTE: EBMUD asserts its basic supply of water will not permit it to provide water to Dougherty Valley without substantial increased costs to existing customers and reduced water quality, even IF additional water is found.

By this time a number of concerned citizens have become aware of the existence of the innocent-sounding resolution. The citizens discover that IF enacted, SB 1250 would become a far-reaching law that would block any water district in the state from having a say about water usage in its own area. The substantial (adverse) implications for rates and quality of water for existing EBMUD customers give impetus for ACTION.

Act 3 ends with no action. The Senate Rules Committee does NOT vote on SB 1250, forcing the bills' author to rework it before further action takes place. Is this then the end of the matter? Probably not. Future acts will almost certainly be written. So stay tuned!!!!!! You might also call YOUR State Senator and express objection to the bill. This may wind up to be one of the most interesting maneuvers of the year.

ESA

Three little letters with important meaning. Back in ancient days (maybe 1972) our legislature "wisely" enacted ESA, the ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. Since 1972 human activity has altered the habitat necessary for the continued existence of literally hundreds of species of plants, animals and birds. As a result, the ESA's provisions are being called into action. Two examples of threatened species include the Spotted Owl in the northwestern forests and the California Gnatcatcher in the San Diego area. The ESA is now a major target, almost becoming an endangered species itself. The problem is NOT with the provisions of the ESA. The problem is much deeper. A new publication, the *California Endangered Species Resource Guide*, puts it succinctly:

"Extinction is a natural evolutionary process that occurs over thousands of years. Unfortunately, over the last few hundred years human influences have upset the natural balance and caused the extinction rate to accelerate dramatically."

Scientific data indicates that over the past 600 million years the extinction rate has been about one species a year. Current data shows the world is losing one species EVERY DAY. It is projected that in a decade, the world will lose one species each and every HOUR. Statistics and prognostications with such dire implications should be of concern to everyone. YOU can help! Call, write or visit your elected representatives in the State Assembly and in the U. S. Congress. Urge them to maintain the Endangered Species Act as a strong, effective tool. Don't wait, do it today!

ANCIENT FORESTS

The ancient forest conference in Portland, Oregon, brought the President, Vice President and more high governmental officials together to look at an environmental issue than has ever before happened here. The conference developed views from people from all parts of the spectrum. Now comes the hard part. The ancient forests are made up of OLD trees, with ecosystems hundreds of years old. Pressures to log these old forests are many and heavy. It might be easy, politically, to compromise and permit continued logging of at least "some" of these old forests. Mom Nature would have it otherwise. Once a 200 year old tree is cut down, it is gone. It cannot be replaced and, worse, the ecosystem goes with it. This is particularly true if clearcutting is permitted. YOU can do something about these issues. President Clinton and Vice President Gore solicited views of "the people". Write or call the White House and urge:

1. NO MORE cutting of ancient forests.
2. Decisions concerning the handling of the remaining ancient forests be based on science and study, NOT politics.
3. Raw logs cut on private lands NOT be shipped overseas. Logs cut in the U. S. should be milled in U. S. sawmills.
4. Programs be developed to assist people, towns and cities adversely affected by reduced logging activity. A combination of public and private effort should be developed to fund these projects.
5. No more clearcutting.

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, May 1, **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: Hugh Harvey, 932-4715 Category 1

Thursday, May 6, **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 8, **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!
 Co-leaders: Betty Gallagher, 682-2458
 Mary Jane Culver, 682-0509 Category 3

Thursday, 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: Jimm Edgar, 658-2330 Category 2

Saturday, May 22, **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

Wednesday, May 26, **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

Future trips: It's not too early to make reservations for Yuba Pass, June 19-20, or Lassen National Park, July 10-11. Yuba Pass motels include Herrington's Sierra Pines, (916) 862-1551; Sierra Chalet, (916) 862-1110, and Shannon's Cabins, (916) 862-1287. Motels in Mineral 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

BODEGA BAY, March 6.

The lucky number of 13 birders enjoyed a beautiful spring day at wonderful Bodega Bay. The weather was mild, with no wind. The highlights, among 75 species sighted, were several Brown Pelicans in brilliant breeding plumage, thirteen oystercatchers on their favorite rocks, and an estimated 181 Brant.

Shirley Ellis

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, March 11.

A rather uneventful morning at the newly renamed Cogswell Marsh was highlighted by hundreds of avocets in breeding plumage and many calling curlews. 46 species were sighted by six MDAS members.

Barbara Vaughn

TOMALES BAY STATE PARK, March 20.

Seventeen members and guests spent the first day of spring under blue skies in 65-70° temperatures. 65 species were seen or heard. The surprise bird was a saw-whet owl spotted by a sharp-eyed birder on the nature trail between Heart's Desire and Indian Beaches. The owl was being buzzed by two Allen's Hummingbirds which it totally ignored. We also saw one of two Spotted Owls sitting quietly in the oaks and pines in the area of the green gate. Other highlights included three Brant, Black Scoter, two Ospreys, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbird males in excellent light, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, five swallow species, Winter Wren, three vireo species, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and the first Wilson's Warblers of the year for many.

Maury Stern

BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PARK, March 24.

Seven members enjoyed beautiful scenery and great weather. We hiked to the ridge trail and back. 47 bird species were seen as well as many early wildflowers. The best birds of the day were two early Northern Orioles at the ranger station.

Pat MacEachern

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: 5 on 4/1 flying over Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek (MS); 19 on 4/4 over I-680 and Sunol Blvd. (SG).

Wood Duck: 10 on 3/14 at Sunol Regional Park (SG); 3 on 3/16 at Murrietta Wells, Mines Road (FB, MJC, BG); 2 pair on 3/9 along Calaveras Road at Alameda Creek (JR, EM).

Blue-winged Teal: 2 pair on 3/8 at Arrowhead Marsh. (FB, MJC, ED)

Harlequin Duck: 2 male and 1 female on 3/9 at Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Oldsquaw: 1 female on 4/1 (LF, BR) and 4/2 (JR) at Doolittle Pond.

Swainson's Hawk: 3 on 3/18 over her Alamo home. (JR) Now very rare in the county.

Merlin: 1 on 4/6 near the intersection of Wiget and Lennon Lanes in Walnut Creek. (MS)

Peregrine Falcon: 1 seen 4/2 behind his San Ramon home. (SG) This bird is probably too young to breed.

Wild Turkey: 4 on 3/14 and 1 on 4/4 at Sunol RP (SG); 60 on 3/16 at the Livermore Veterans Hospital (BG, FB, MJC, JR).

Greater Roadrunner: 1 on 3/16 at Mile 5.75 along Mines Road. (JR, many observers)

Long-eared Owl: 1 heard on 3/20 in Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH, BR, SG)

Short-eared Owl: 1 on 3/8 at Arrowhead Marsh. (FB, MJC, ED)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 on 3/9 at the Lighthouse, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC)

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 male on 3/31 at Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. (GF)

Red-naped Sapsucker: 1 adult male on 3/10 (JR, RR) and 3/11 (FB) at the U. C. Berkeley Ecological Preserve.

Eastern Phoebe: 1 seen again on 3/16 at Murrietta Wells. (FB, MJC, BG, JR)

Cassin's Kingbird: 1 on 3/16 at Murrietta Wells. (JR)

Western Kingbird: 40 on 3/23 along Little Panoche Road, Fresno County. (FB, MJC)

Bank Swallow: 6 on 3/4 at Lake Solano in the Putah Creek area. (FB, MJC)

Phainopepla: 1 male along 3/17 along Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek. (MS)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 3/13 in her Martinez yard. (DW) Note: the warbler reported in the April *Quail* was also seen in her yard, not at Hidden Lakes Park.

Green-tailed Towhee: 1 seen again on 3/15 in her Martinez yard. (DK)

American Tree Sparrow: 1 on 3/29 and 3/30 in their Walnut Creek yard. (G&TF) Second county record.

Chipping Sparrow: 1 on 3/27 in Donner Canyon. (GF)

Swamp Sparrow: 1 on 3/30 (G&TF) and 3/31 (GF, JR) in his Walnut Creek yard.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 on 3/26 in Danville.

"Slate-colored" Junco: 1 on 4/2 in her Alamo yard. (JR)

Red Crossbill: 1-2 on 3/29 in her Walnut Creek yard. (GL)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Elizabeth Dickey, Leora Feeney, George & Toni Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Deborah Kirshen, Gayle Langton, Ellie Mulke, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, Maury Stern, 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.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

BIRDS, BIRDS, BIODIVERSITY.....

According to a recent study by the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), a large portion of the planet's biological diversity could be preserved by protecting just 5% of the earth's land mass. The study found that the breeding distribution of the world's land birds overlapped with areas rich in native species of plants and other animals. Therefore, by protecting the hotspot areas, a wide variety of wildlife will be safeguarded.

"ADOPT AN ACRE" IS NOT ENOUGH!

Many of you may have seen or participated in the "Adopt an Acre" program. Send in \$10 to \$25 and receive a certificate of ownership for your acre of land. Similarly, debt-for-nature swaps tend to involve the establishment of protected areas. While the establishment of parks and reserves certainly has its place in conservation and should continue, it cannot be viewed as a long-term solution to preserving the rainforests. Methods need to be developed to extract harvestable products from intact rainforests. It is a simple matter of economics. Residents of third world countries with a financial incentive to preserve the rainforest will preserve that rainforest. More research into the value of indigenous plants and animals is necessary to achieve this goal.



Original
Sketch
by Carol Lutz

SPECIAL PROGRAM

HIGH ADVENTURE BY KAYAK: FROM THE SACRAMENTO RIVER HEADWATERS TO THE BAY

Glen Martin, well-known reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, will speak at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center on Thursday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. He will highlight his kayak journey down the length of the Sacramento River to the San Francisco Bay. This exciting adventure provided him with insights into the rich natural and cultural history of the area as well as into the issues involved in preservation and protection of this important California waterway. The public is invited to hear Mr. Martin's story about his high adventures in white water and his meetings with a diversity of people from rice farmers to wildlife biologists.

Mr. Martin's talk is part of the Bay Shore Studies Open House. Bay Shore Studies is an outstanding science field study program in which trained volunteers lead children on field trips to explore the San Francisco Bay shoreline, learning about the marine life. Information on the program and on Bay Shore Studies volunteer training will be available at the Open House. Call (415) 388-2524 for more information.

BIRDATHON

The 1993 MDAS Birdathon will be April 17. Donations can still be made even after the Birdathon and are tax deductible. (Thinking ahead to next year?) Birdathon money goes toward supporting the Audubon California Legislative Affairs Director who has greatly increased all California Audubon chapters' influence in Sacramento. Our Legislative Affairs Director is our eyes and ears in the legislature, acting both as an early warning system and as our direct voice in conservation affairs. National Audubon donates matching funds. Send your check made out to MDAS to the MDAS Treasurer, Pam Keiser, 505 Wild Flower Place, Danville, CA 94526. Specify the check is for the Birdathon.

BURROWING OWL PROJECT

The Burrowing Owl Project can still use more people. The census will start on May 15 and run through July 15. This is the final year of the three-year project. Those who have not participated in the past will receive instruction. Over 60% of the Burrowing Owls in California have been lost in the last five years, and the data from the project may result in listing the owls as endangered species. Call Jim Lomax, 825-1513, to sign up or for more information.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

720 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
798-0303

SPRING SEED SALE

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| Deluxe Blend | \$11.86 | \$20.36 |
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| Black Oil Sunflower | \$11.01 | \$19.13 |
| Thistle | \$36.51 | \$67.96 |
| 5 lb. \$8.08 10 lb. \$15.26 | | |

Individual seed also 15% off in 25 lb. and 50 lb. bags

Seed Bank Program: buy your seed at sale prices, but don't pick it up until you need it.

ORIOLES

So far 75 Hooded and Northern Orioles have been spotted. Last year over 750 were reported. These spectacular birds are nectar feeders, like the hummingbirds. There is an excellent oriole feeder that was very successful last year.

HOUSES

Spring and summer are ideal times to provide nest boxes for many types of birds. Several species such as chickadees and wrens will raise multiple broods, one in the spring and another in the summer.

SUET

Feed suet in the summer? Yes! We feature three suets with high melting points: suet dough which includes peanuts in the suet, calcium dough for nesting birds, and raisin dough for fruit-eating birds. Suet is 15% off from April 26 through May 15.

SALMONELLA

There have been few recent reports of salmonella, but please continue to keep your feeding areas clean.

MDAS T-SHIRTS

Quail T-shirts are for sale at Wild Birds Unlimited for \$12.50 including tax. The T-shirt has the MDAS quail logo with "Mt. Diablo Audubon Society" printed underneath. The T-shirts are off-white in color with chocolate brown printing. All money goes to MDAS.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at our activities: Robert Abfalter, Ellen Baker, John B. Barchfield, Cynthia Bechtel, Patricia Belcher, Patsy Champion, Sherry Chiero, Lewis Davis, Nancy Davis, Richard Doust, Mrs. William Ford, Joan Foster, Janet Goodban, Francine Healy, Cleo Heilig, Barbara Johnson, Frieda Kruse, Jim McKee, Kevin Mueller, Connie Oakley, George Orrego, Michael Rech, Karen Rice, Cheryl Rucks, Jill Severn, Bernard and Nancy Speckman, Holly Steffes, Lenida Walker, Joan Wetherell, Mrs. Patrick Williams, and Christine Zandstra.

DONATIONS TO MDAS

Our society has from time to time received generous bequests, gifts, and donations given in memory of friends or relatives or as spontaneous contributions to the society's activities. These donations are welcomed as a significant support of our goals of wildlife appreciation and conservation. They are very much welcomed at this time especially when MDAS, in common with many other groups and organizations, needs extra funding to continue its work.

This month MDAS would like to express its appreciation for a donation from Howard and Barbara Moorman of Forestville, California, given in memory of George Scheffel. Mr. Scheffel participated for many years in the MDAS Christmas count. Mr. and Mrs. Moorman's 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 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

June 1993

Vol. 39 No. 10

Next Deadline: June 10

June Program:

End of the Year Potluck

The next meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on Thursday, June 3, 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. Members are asked to limit the number of slides to ten. 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 1993-1994 term were chosen at the May meeting. Jim Lomax will again serve as President, with Al McNabney as Vice-President, Conservation, Beverly Hawley as Secretary, and Pam Keiser as Treasurer. We offer them our congratulations.

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, June 10, 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.

Summertime Travel Note: Summer is nearly here and many of you will be planning trips to places near and far. As you travel, remember to ask for an extra copy of any facility maps and bird lists or checklists when you visit refuges, sanctuaries, or parks. Pass these extras along to Jean Richmond to place in the chapter file. Also, when planning a trip, contact Jean at 837-2843. She may have information on the area you plan to visit and the birds to expect there.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

A NEW PRESIDENT

Michele Perrault, named Environmentalist of the Year by MDAS in 1991, has been elected president of the Sierra Club. This demanding office will require managing the 600,000 member organization from its national headquarters in San Francisco. Perrault and her husband Phil Berry, himself a past president of the Sierra Club, were recently honored by the John Muir Society as co-environmentalists of the year.

DOUGHERTY VALLEY

The saga of the ill-planned monster project continues to unfold like chapters of a bad novel. Legal actions by the cities of San Ramon and Danville and several environmental organizations including MDAS are still wending their way through the early stages of the legal maze. YOU can be of assistance. Contact John Chapman, Dougherty Valley Alliance, 671 Clipper Hill Road, Danville, CA 94526.

DEXTER ISLAND

You've never heard of Dexter Island? That is no great surprise, for the author of this bit of news had never heard of it either prior to being contacted about a major sand mining project. Accompanied by Keith Gish, President, and Peter Whyte, Conservation Chair, of Napa Solano Audubon, I toured the entire island. Cattle grazing over a period of years has resulted in a loss of vegetation. Even this year's rains haven't overcome the results of heavy grazing. The Sonoma planning department, working with the sand mining company, has developed what appears to be a very good plan for restoring the habitat. The portion of the island where sand mining will occur has little to no habitat value.

DELTA ISLANDS

As reported earlier, at least two major projects are now being considered in the Delta. A 1330 home development project proposes to do nothing with the existing levee, but to avoid flooding the proposed dwellings, the proponent plans to create another levee a short distance inside the existing levee. The current residents of the area, numbering about 100, appeared at the Supervisor's meeting when the project was discussed. All were wearing lifejackets. The residents asked the questions, "What do we do if the outer levee breaks? Will we be in the midst of a flooding river?" Good questions, not yet answered.

REMEMBER THE TALE OF TWO CITIES?

You still can (and should) write to the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, Honorable Dan McCorquodale, Chairman, expressing YOUR views of SB 1250. (SB 1250, if enacted, would block any water district from having a say about water usage in its own area. EBMUD might be forced to provide water to Dougherty Valley despite its objections.)

PARKS AND WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

The long-planned Parks and Wildlife Initiative effort is under way. Hundreds of thousands of signatures MUST be obtained within the next few months. It will take an all-out effort to collect the signatures. It is planned that the initiative will be on the ballot in 1994. Passage of the initiative will provide funds with which to purchase wetlands, additional park lands, and protect vital wildlife habitat. This is an initiative that EVERYONE should like. It will provide funds to purchase land, thereby eliminating the "fuss and to do" over such issues as "taking." You can assist. Write Californians for Parks and Wildlife (CALPAW '94), 926 J Street, Suite 612, Sacramento, CA 95814.

PCL NEWS

Not all of the California legislative news is bad, as if that isn't a recognized fact. The PCL (Planning and Conservation League) is supporting a number of good bills. AB 205 (Friedman) will require a tree-planting plan as a part of all new construction projects and will protect trees that are historically, environmentally, or culturally significant. SB 67 (Petris) will outlaw the commercial hunting of bobcats and the use of hounds in hunting black bear. AB 437 (Margolin) will expand the "bottle bill" to require refund values on wine, liquor, and non-carbonated water containers. AB 417 (Sher) will impose liability and insurance requirements on operators of low-level radioactive waste dumps. Without this last bill, Californians would pick up the costs of damage to the public health and the environment associated with an accident or leak at a low-level radioactive waste dump.

The news isn't all good, however. Several bills (AB 185 (Knowles-Andal) and SB 61 (Ayala)) propose construction of the Auburn Dam, price tag \$1.2 billion. Also, more than 50 bills have been introduced to attempt to "gut" the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). That is the state's basic environmental protection law that requires the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports. Despite complaints about CEQA, the fact remains that hundreds of thousands of homes have been constructed in California, which belies the argument that CEQA requirements are too stringent. Without CEQA, our environment would really be in trouble. Finally, the state's Endangered Species Act is also under threat, the worst bill being AB 249 (Allen). This bill would remove wildlife habitat destruction from the list of activities considered as a "take" of endangered species.

Letters giving YOUR point of view on any of these specified pieces of legislation can be addressed to your state senator and assembly representative as follows: Honorable _____, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Planning and Conservation League is currently soliciting donations to ensure it will be able to carry out a heavy agenda as a proponent and/or opponent (as the case may require) of pending legislation. If you wish to make a donation to PCL, send your check to PCL, 926 J Street, Suite 612, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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.

Thursday, June 3, **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: Denise Wight, 370-7342

Category 2

Saturday, June 5, **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: Pat MacEachron, 934-3041

Category 2

Wednesday, June 9, **Annadel State Park**. Carpool 6:30 a.m. southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet 8:00 a.m. parking lot of Annadel Park. Go north on I-680, turn west on I-780, go through Vallejo, and west on SR 37 to SR 121. Turn left onto SR 12 for about 17 miles past Sonoma. Turn left onto Los Alamos Rd., right on Melite Rd., then left on Montgomery Rd. for 0.6 mi. Turn left on Channel Dr., 2 mi. to road end. Yellow-breasted Chats, Pileated Woodpeckers.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732

Category 2

Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20, **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 10-11. See the May *Quail* for information on motels in Mineral.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BRIONES WILDFLOWER WALK, March 31.

It was a cool, clear day. In the course of our walk from the parking lot up into the grassland area, 50 wild plants which were in bloom were identified. Fifteen persons attended. At the end of the wildflower walk, which also included birding, Maury Stern and several others continued to the upper ponds for more birding.

John Davis

GARIN REGIONAL PARK, April 3.

Ten members and guests met on this beautiful morning. Nestled within the very city limits of Hayward, it seems, this beautiful valley reminds one of how the Meyer's Ranch would have looked in the 1880's. How wonderful to have saved this land for all to enjoy. Of the 58 species seen during the day, five species of swallows and six species of raptors were highlights. Good views of just returned Northern Orioles were nice also. As always it was a very pleasant outing that concluded with lunch at the park headquarters.

Jimm Edgar

LAKE LAGUNITAS, April 7.

The sun was shining, the birds were singing in the trees and five birders enjoyed the Marin springtime. Unfortunately, many of the birds remained invisible in the trees. One-quarter of the 66 species reported were heard only. Several others were seen only by the most alert and the sharpest-eyed, including Vaux's Swift, Purple Martin, and a Common Loon in breeding plumage. We all enjoyed a trio of Common Mergansers on the lake, and all saw well Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned Warblers.

Elizabeth Dickey

DONNER CANYON, April 17.

The field trip was cancelled due to rain.

IDA CLAYTON ROAD, April 22.

Nineteen members and guests birded and wild-flowered along Ida Clayton and Butts Valley Roads on a sunny, cool, but breezy day. 67 species were recorded but not seen by all. Migrating birds seemed to be few or missing altogether. Highlights were a Golden Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker heard by all but seen only by Denise, and a Costa's Hummingbird seen by a few. The highlights along Butts Valley Road were the beautiful fields of wildflowers, including many "lifers" for many of us.

George Finger

DEL PUERTO CANYON, April 29.

An enthusiastic group of 16 birders enjoyed a full day of great birding in spite of the strong wind. The highlights included 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, 6 Lawrence's Goldfinches, 12 Lewis' Woodpeckers, Gray and Hammond's Flycatchers, Burrowing Owl, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Lazuli Bunting, Phainopepla, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Species total: 74.

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.

American Bittern: 2 on 4/17 along J-4 near Bruns Road. (SG)

Cattle Egret: 5 on 4/22 in Alviso. (FB, MJC)

Wood Duck: 3 on 4/14 at Murrietta Wells, Mines Road. (FB, BG, MJC)

Blue-winged Teal: 1 pair on 4/14 at Shell Marsh. (GF)

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 male on 4/17 at Pt. Isabel near Albany. (SG)

Oldsquaw: 1 female seen on 4/2 (GF, JR), 4/3 (FB), 4/22 (FB, MJC), 5/2 (JR), and 5/3 (BR), all at Doolittle Pond near Alameda.

Osprey: 1 male on 5/2 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Merlin: 1 on 4/25 over her Alamo home (JR); 1 male on 4/29 at Las Trampas Regional Park (BR).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 on 4/3 and 4/23 over her Alamo home. (JR)

Black Oystercatcher: 1 on 5/5 at Alameda Naval Air Station's breakwater. (BR)

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 on 4/13 at Hayward R. S. (BR)

Black Tern: 18 on 5/9 at Hayward R. S. (BR)

Cassin's Auklet: 2 on 4/13 off Pigeon Point, San Mateo Co. (JR)

Greater Roadrunner: 2 heard on 4/20 on Ida Clayton Road (JR); 3 on 4/5 (JR, GF) and 1 on 4/6 and 4/14 (FB, MJC, BG), all in Del Puerto Canyon; 3 on 4/14 along Mines Road (FB, MJC, BG).

Burrowing Owl: 2 on 5/4 at Mile 1.4 and 2 at Mile 2.4 along Del Puerto Canyon Road. (JR)

Spotted Owl: 1 on 4/20 at Tomales Bay State Park. (FB, BG, MJC)

Vaux's Swift: 2 on 4/22 at Sunol Regional Park. (BR)

Costa's Hummingbird: 1 on 4/17 in her Alamo garden (JR); 1 on 4/16 in Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park (GF).

Calliope Hummingbird: 1 on 4/13 in her Alamo yard (JR); 1 on 4/27 in Mitchell Canyon (GF).

Rufous Hummingbird: 12-15 on 4/17 at Redwood Regional Park (SG); 20 on 4/17 in White Canyon, MDSP (SG).

Western Wood-pewee: 1 on 4/2 at Garin Regional Park. (BR) Early.

Hammond's Flycatcher: 12 on 4/17 (SG), 3 on 4/27 (GF), and 2 on 4/27 (FB, BG, MJC), all in Mitchell Canyon (SG).

Dusky Flycatcher: 1 on 4/16 in Mitchell Canyon. (GF)

Gray Flycatcher: 1 on 4/16 (GF) and 1 on 4/27 (FB, BG), both in Mitchell Canyon.

Purple Martin: 2 on 4/22 at Sunol R. P. (BR) Now very rare in the East Bay.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 on 5/7 at Blue Oak, MDSP. (KH) Late.

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 on 5/4 below Juniper Campground, MDSP. (KH)

Phainopepla: 7-8 plus a nest on 4/25 in the Ohlone Regional Wilderness. (BR)

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 on 4/27 at Sunol R. P. (BR); 4 on 5/4 near Frank Raines Park, Del Puerto Canyon (JR).

Blue Grosbeak: 1 on 4/26 in Del Puerto Canyon. (GF)

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1 male on 5/9 at Hayward R. S. (BR)

Lawrence's Goldfinch: a pair on 5/8 in Ohlone R. W. (BR)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, 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.

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by *Jill Hedgecock*

BLACK BIRD SING!

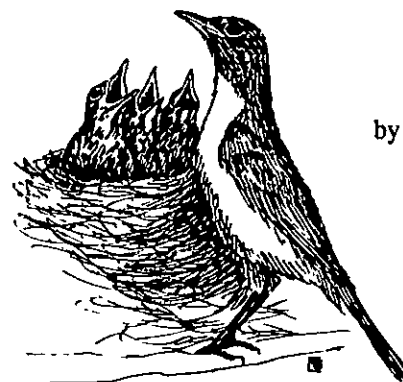
A musical theater production about why migratory songbirds are dying throughout North and Latin America. In this entertaining adaptation, the birds/actors enact the repercussions of rainforest destruction, habitat fragmentation, and the cowbird epidemic. A special showing for Audubon members will be held on Sunday, June 6, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bolinas Community Center in downtown Bolinas. The admission is \$8 for adults and \$7 for children. Other show dates are June 4 and 5 at 8:00 p.m.

HURRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD...

Warner Brothers has instituted a new policy to use Medite, a medium density fiberboard, in lieu of its traditional use of lauan tropical hardwood. Other companies, such as MCA Television (formerly Universal Pictures), Paramount, Sony, and Disney have also started experimental programs using Medite.

RAINFOREST COOKIES

Rainforest products are available at Lucky Supermarkets in Heaven Scent cookies. Proceeds from the sale of these cookies go toward rainforest preservation. Gobble 'em up!!!!

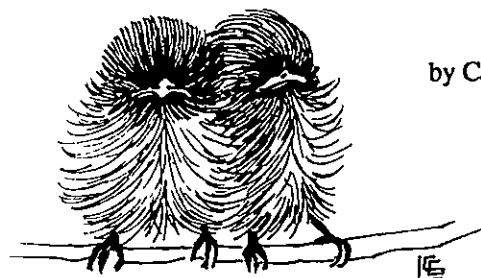


Original sketch
by Carol Lutz

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them in person soon: N. P. Barton, Virginia Bergesen, Paddy Bishop, Ann Borba, Ann Bowes, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Briggs, Frances Calvin, Shirley Carpenter, Joe Carvalho, Emerald Chao, Diane Clancy, Mary Clark, William C. Clune, John E. Coie, Marcus J. Cole, Patti Cole, Henry Conversano, Jackie Crocker, Richard J. Crow, Flo Curry, Lucille Cuzzillo, Betsy Ann Dalenberg, Elaine Dannelley, Denise Dashiell, Gary Delson, Dorothy Dozier, Glenda Dugan, Leland Elster, Robin Engler, Alta Fernandez, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ferriera, Mary Fish, Mr. and Mrs. George Fran, Maree Frederickson, Jennifer Gale, Jane Granieri, Gen Graves, Samuel Groff, Allan Hansell, Mrs. R. C. Harriss, Charles Hartman, Steven C. Hartman, M. Heising, Mable L. Hinton, F. Hoffmann, E. J. Horton, Grace Hsu, Lola N. Jose, Mary Kerwin, Matty Kilpatrick, Thomas Kirk, Richard Koontz, Lyle Lander, Carol Lane, Kathleen Langlais, Dolores Lattanzio, Seth B. Lueders, Donald Maisel, Sharon Marandola, Alison Marshall, Louise Massante, Vicki McFadin, Emily Miles, Joe Mirabile, Kim Moore, Jeanetta Mora, Evan

Morgan, Mrs. Richard J. Morin, Beverly A. Muha, Peter K. Murakami, Kathleen O'Donnell, Merle L. Osgood, Robert Ozaki, M. Patterson, Donald Peccia, Deborah Perry, Richard Perry, Linda Phillips, Joyce Pitkin, Dale Porter, Bernard Ramelot, Derek and Janice Ransley, Mrs. Robert Rice, Craig Rock, Mrs. Mark Rowles, K. Rudolph, Peggy Rushton, Dane Saint John, Ena Saylor, Elaine E. Schneider, Blair Sparks, Theodora Spehr, Bill Stamos, Joann Sussman, Ruth Sweet, J. Tannenbaum, Mary Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. James Torre, Diane M. Valentine, N. L. Van Patten, Gail E. Ventham, Anne Virgadamo, M. B. Wilson, Sandra Witt, A. Wong, and Marshall Zaidel.



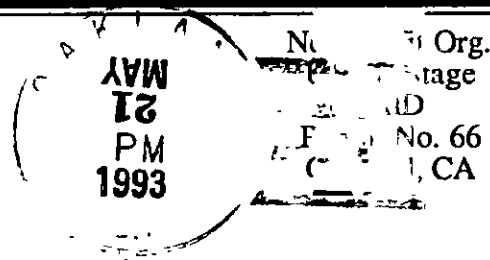
Original sketch
by Carol Lutz

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Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0053



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TIME VALUE MAIL

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by *Jim Lomax*

We wind up another year with our potluck dinner this month, so bring your pictures and show and tell articles. I was in south Florida last month but I'm saving those pictures for a "Birds of Florida" show for next year. However, I do have some pictures which I'll bring, including the Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Dusky Thrush, Spotted Owl, Long-eared Owl, Snowy Owl, Laysan Albatross, American Tree Sparrow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and more.

Our Birdathon was an adventure this year, and those who went out deserve an "above and beyond" ataboy from all of us. You may recall that it poured rain most of the day, but our dedicated souls counted 150 species exactly. So if you pledged, now is the time to send in your check made out to our chapter. Those people to be commended: Opal Callaway, Britta Cascio, John Davis, Vida Dawn, Helen Derman, Justin Doucette, Sheree Doucette, Steve Glover, Jill Hedgecock, Jane Jenny, Tom King, Dee Mitchell, Sandy Shaffer, Bessie Smyth, Maury Stern, and Denise Wight. Thank you all.

We have started the Burrowing Owl Project which is in its third and final year. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile effort, call me and I'll bring you a grid to work.

As you know, there are no general membership meetings in July or August, but the Board of Directors meets anyway. Anyone who wants to get more involved in our chapter and/or has some burning idea to develop into a project, come to a meeting or call me and discuss it. I'm always interested in new ways to help wildlife and the habitat.

RECORDING WORKSHOP

The Nature Sound Society will hold its ninth annual Field Recording Workshop June 18 through 20 at the San Francisco State University Field Station at Yuba Pass. The weekend event, with a theme of "Wilderness Values," is co-sponsored by the Oakland Museum and features workshops, hands-on demonstrations, and field recording opportunities for beginning and experienced nature sound enthusiasts and recordists. Guest instructors this year will include Doug Quin, Ruth Happel and Dan Dugan.

The cost is \$135 for Nature Sounds Society members, \$150 for non-members, and includes food, lodging, and workshop events. Transportation is not included. To register, call the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Department, (510) 238-3884, extension 111. Space is limited and early registration is advised. For more information, call Catherine Girardeau, (415) 821-4264, or Paul Matzner, (510) 238-3884.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

720 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
798-0303

BIRD SEED SALE

15% off on all 25 and 50 lb. bags
(Also, suet is 30% off on cakes and 60% off on tubs)
Sale ends 5/31/93

Over 430 Bullock's and Hooded Orioles have been seen so far in Contra Costa County this spring. Have you put up your oriole feeder? Also, both species have been seen eating suet. There is a new orange suet now available.

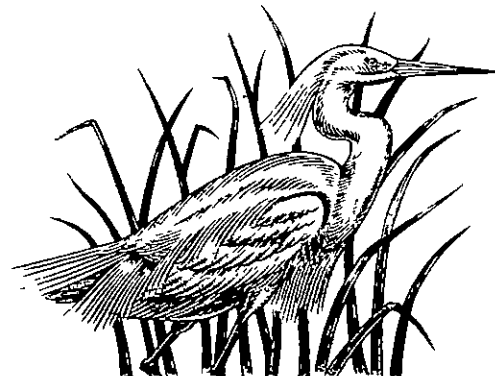
Something new! Check out the new butterfly feeder, which provides nectar and fruit for butterflies.

STATE OF THE ESTUARY CONFERENCE

The San Francisco Estuary Project and the California Academy of Sciences will hold the second biennial State of the Estuary Conference on Saturday, June 5. The conference will be held at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The highlights of the conference will spotlight Estuary science, policy, and action. There will be presentations from scientists Dr. J. R. Schnubel, Dr. Sam Luoma, and Dr. Josh Collins. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi has been invited to speak on her San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Act of 1993. The *Chronicle's* Elliot Diringer will talk about the role of the media and Barry Nelson will talk about the role of the citizen watchdog. Finally, "Teaming up for the Bay and Delta," a new short video which demonstrates hands-on restoration efforts, will be premiered.

Cost of the conference which includes lunch is \$20. For more information, call the San Francisco Estuary Project at (510) 464-7990.



The QUAIL

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

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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 1993

Vol. 39 No. 11

Next Deadline: August 12

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 8, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Pam Keiser, 505 Wild Flower Place, Danville, 838-8840. The August board meeting will be Thursday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jim Lomax, 3636 Lolita Dr., Concord, 825-1513. 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 Wednesday, July 21, 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, please call Elizabeth at 254-0486 before the meeting. Anyone interested in helping plan next year's field trips is welcome to attend.

The contributions from the 1993 Birdathon have now been received and our chapter would like to thank the following for their generous support:

Norah Bain
Thomas Bowdle
Britta Cascio
Elizabeth and Marriott Dickey
Sheree Doucette
Lauren Finch
Hugh and Rosita Harvey
Jill Hedgecock
Pam Keiser
Louis Lazaroff
Jim Lomax
Edna Mass
Al McNabney
Linda and Tom Stump
Harry and Helen Tassell
Gifford and Winnifred Young
Wild Birds Unlimited

The Birdathon money goes toward supporting the Audubon California Legislative Affairs Director as well as the activities of our chapter.

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, Sunday, July 10-11, **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 has flush toilets.

Leader: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Saturday, July 31, **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 14, **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

Saturday, August 28, **San Francisco Bay Refuge — Coyote Hills**. Carpool 7:30 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the refuge visitor's center off Thornton Rd. Take I-680 south to Fremont. Exit at Washington Ave. and continue to end. Go right at Fremont Blvd., and turn left onto Stevenson to I-880. Go north on the freeway to Thornton Ave. and go west (left) to refuge entrance.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 1

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MINES ROAD, May 1.

May Day was celebrated by ten members touring Mines Road. Wildflowers and green hills provided stunning vistas throughout the day. 81 bird species were seen or heard. A Red-tailed Hawk harassed a Golden Eagle directly over us, and a roadrunner was seen by all as he cooed softly from a fence post. Other highlighted birds were Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Wild Turkey, Lazuli Bunting, and a Red-shouldered Hawk being mobbed by magpies, jays, and a mockingbird.

Hugh Harvey

BRIONES PARK, May 6.

The seventeen birders were treated to Lazuli Buntings, Western Tanagers, and Northern Orioles on this cold, overcast morning. For the second year in a row, most birds were identified by song, but difficult to see. We did see nests of bushtits, robins, and Warbling Vireos. 52 species were encountered.

Denise Wight

MITCHELL CANYON, May 8.

Colorful birds and flowers highlighted by Lazuli Buntings and Mariposa Tulips brightened the walk for seventeen members and guests. White Canyon provided a pair of Bushtits and their remarkable nest for observation. Evidence of nesting birds was abundant. Wildflowers enhanced by sufficient rains this winter were outstanding, and over 30 species were identified.

Mary Jane Culver

MT. DIABLO, May 13.

Fifteen birders enjoyed sunny weather with some wind. Among the 48 species seen were Sage Sparrow, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers, and lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

Elizabeth Dickey

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, May 22.

Although not announced beforehand, this trip was a joint effort between our chapter and Napa-Solano. The beautiful weather helped produce a singing male Townsend's Warbler, three Black-chinned Hummingbirds, numerous Blue Grosbeaks, and a singing Yellow-breasted Chat. 59 species seen.

Steve Glover

CASWELL STATE PARK, May 26.

Five members spent a beautiful day at this lovely riparian area along the Stanislaus River with 65° temperatures, blue skies, and white, puffy clouds. After lunch we went to Durham Ferry State Recreation Area. 67 species were seen or heard, including the local specialties: four Swainson's Hawks, Bank Swallows, and many House Wrens. Other highlights included Wood Ducks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

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.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1 on 5/31 building a nest at the San Ramon Royal Vista golf course. (KH)

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel: 1 on 6/3 at the Alameda Naval Air Station. (BR) Probably about six Alameda County records.

Wood Duck: 1 female with 5 young along Calaveras Creek, south of Sunol Regional Wilderness. (SG)

Oldsquaw: 1 alternate plumage male on 5/14 at the Alameda N. A. S. (BR)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: a pair found nesting in Ohlone Regional Wilderness on 5/22 (BR); a pair on 6/1 (KH) on territory on Mt. Diablo and the nest seen on 6/2 (GB).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 still behind his San Ramon home through 6/7. (SG)

Wild Turkey: 1 on 6/7 at Del Valle Regional Park. (JS)

Mountain Quail: on 5/14, 2 seen and 3 heard in Gates Canyon and 10 heard in Mix Canyon, both in Solano Co. (FB, MJC).

Red-necked Phalarope: 1 on 5/27 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. (JR)

Arctic Tern: 1 on 6/1 at Hayward R. S. (RL, KD, BR)

Burrowing Owl: 14 on 5/22 southeast of Byron (FB, MJC, RS); 20 adults and 10 juveniles on 5/28 in east Contra Costa County (GF).

Common Poorwill: 1 calling in broad daylight on 5/16 along South Gate Road, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH)

Rufous Hummingbird: 1 male on 5/10, 5/16, and 5/24 in her Alamo yard. (JR) Late.

Hairy Woodpecker: 1 nest on 5/20 in Pine Canyon, MDSP. (KH)

Eastern Kingbird: 1 on 5/25 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (JR). Also on RBA.

Yellow-billed Magpie: 1 on 5/28 along Bethel Island Road. (GF) Fourth county record since 1983.

Canyon Wren: 5 on 5/16 in about a one-mile stretch of Calveras Creek (SG); 1 on 5/22 at the Wind Caves in Las Trampas Regional Park (KH, JL). Canyon Wrens have now been found at four locations in Contra Costa County.

Northern Parula: 1 on 5/24 (GF, MP) and a pair on 5/25 (JR) at Mile 1.06 on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Also on RBA.

Townsend's x Hermit Warbler hybrid: 1 on 5/11 at Oak Knoll Picnic Area, MDSP. (JR)

Black-throated Gray Warbler: found on 5/22 nesting in Ohlone R. W. (BR) First Alameda County nesting record.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 5 on 6/11 along Piper Slough, Bethel Island. (GF)

Western Tanager: 1 female on 5/25 entering a nest in Mitchell Canyon (DW), the first time nesting has been proven in central Contra Costa County; 1 found nesting on 5/22 in Ohlone R. W. (BR)

Lazuli Bunting: 20 on 6/1 along South Gate and Summit Roads. (KH) This is an irruption year for this species.

Black-chinned Sparrow: 2 on 5/11 and 5/25 along South Gate Rd. (FB, BG, MJC); 6 on 6/3 on Mt. Diablo, including 5 at Muir Picnic Area (KH, GF). This is an irruption year for this species.

Observers: Gary Beeman, Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Kelly Davidson, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Ruth Stewart, Joel Summerhill, 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.

SPECIAL PELAGIC TRIPS

Shearwater Journeys has been offering pelagic natural history trips along the California coast continuously for the past 17 years. This summer, Shearwater Journeys is offering three MDAS "discount days," on Saturday, July 24, Saturday, August 21, and Sunday, August 22. The normal fee for the July trip is \$59 a person and the normal fee for the August trips is \$64. The non-refundable discount fee for all three MDAS trips is \$44 a person. The July 24 and August 22 trips will visit Monterey Bay, and the August 21 trip will visit the Monterey Seavalle. Send your check, indicating you are a MDAS member, and a self-addressed stamped envelop to Shearwater Journeys, P. O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. For further information, call Jim Lomax at 825-1513.

A MORNING WITH BRUCE BABBITT

by Al McNabney

An inspiration! A session I wouldn't have missed! I was SO pleased Audubon participated in this meeting with Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Chairman of the House Interior Committee George Miller. There were solid questions from the audience, and a vision for our nation and public lands expressed with eloquence by the Secretary. There was also an exchange of serious and humorous commentary between the Secretary and George Miller. Most of all I left the meeting with a feeling of hope and expectation. Now it is rumored the Secretary will be tapped for the U. S. Supreme Court. Have a good summer and WAIT until the next edition for my full report on "A Morning with Bruce Babbitt."

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members and hope to meet them at meetings and field trips: Mariece Batey, Janet Burg, Don Carey, Patsy Champion, Lisa Cleaves, C. C. Cromwell, Sophie W. Dyer, Barbara Eakin, Paul Eason, Patrick Flanagan, Eliane Friedman, Douglas Gary, Alison Gibson, Judith Gordon, Richard Hadley, Judi Harvey, Linda Kerth, Sean King, Doty Kunstman, C. Mendelson, Cameron Mitchell, Virginia Nagy, Paul Newman, Laurene Pahl, Patricia Reitz, Jean Sammons, David Sanan, Harriette Sporling, Ricky Tang, Toni Trautt, Gloria Trimble, Barbara Waddell, Apulina Wareen, Pauline Webber, and Howard Wilkins.

THE LAST WORD

The year has slipped by and I want to conclude another year as editor with thank you's to those who have contributed to the *Quail*. First, I want to thank my "regulars," Denise Wight, Al McNabney, Elizabeth Dickey, Steve Glover, Jim Lomax, and Mike Williams for their monthly contributions. I also want to thank the field trip leaders for their reports and all those who have sent in items of special interest. A special thank you goes to Carol Lutz whose sketches have graced these pages during the year. Another special thank you also goes to Betty Gallagher and her crew, who assemble and mail the finished *Quail* each month. There would be no *Quail* without all your efforts. Finally this year, I also want to thank Jim Lomax for Procedure No. 2701. He'll understand.

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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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: Beverly Hawley, 947-0479

September 1993

Vol. 40 No. 1

Next Deadline: September 9

September Program:

The Wildlife of East Africa

Welcome back! We start our season on **September 2** with nature photographer Bill Klapproth who will share a few of his images from his most recent safari in Africa. He will lead us through the fantastic game areas of Kenya, including the Aberdares Mountains, Samburu, the Rift Valley, Masai Mara, and Nairobi National Park. From tiny sunbird to the magnificent elephant, a wide variety of birds and mammals will be covered. We will also trek high into the Virunga Mountains of Rwanda to observe several families of Mountain Gorilla.

Bill Klapproth is a local photographer who travels and photographs extensively throughout North and South American, Europe and Africa. His specialty is nature and wildlife images, and his lectures focus on animal behavior and ecology. Bill has presented his slide programs on wildlife and travel photography in many parts of the United States. Locally, Bill has lectured to various civic and community groups, and he is currently serving as a guest lecturer on the staff of the San Francisco Photography Center.

September bird information will be given by Denise Granados who will speak about Avian Activities, a new program at the Lindsey Museum which gives volunteers an opportunity to work with captive birds such as ravens, magpies, woodpeckers and shrikes.

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, September 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Al McNabney, 1161 Leisure Lane #7, Walnut Creek, 945-1785. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

Needed: Raffle Prizes. Chapter expenses have greatly escalated in recent years, requiring the Board to explore fund-raising activities. Last year's raffles at our regular meetings were very successful, but we are in great need of attractive prizes for the '93 - '94 meetings. If you have a NEW item that you think would make a suitable prize and would be willing to donate, please call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732. The raffle prize for September will be Maryjo Koch's classic, out-of-print book *Bird Egg Feather Nest*.

with emphasis on delta hydrology, wildlife habitat, wetlands management and special studies."

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

BRUCE BABBITT AND GEORGE MILLER -

A DUO FOR THE FUTURE

A phone call inviting yours truly to a meeting at the John Muir House brought far more than was ever anticipated. Some twenty individuals, including press, political figures, notables, and "us," were in attendance. Congressman Miller, intending to introduce Secretary of the Interior Babbitt, gave what he eventually called "the longest introduction he'd ever given in his life." While the intro was lengthy, no one fussed, for it was all VERY interesting. The preliminaries over, Babbitt provided a thumbnail description of his thoughts and policies on everything from land use issues to how best to protect the endangered species. After that, the Miller/Babbitt show really began. Juggling one hot potato after another, each seemed to try to outdo the other in discussing how to do things, what needed to be done, and who had responsibility. The audience learned a lot from those exchanges. For example, Babbitt's idea *re* endangered species: Don't wait until the next to last bee, bug or tree is in trouble, start early, look at entire areas, see "what's there," and then work to ensure policies will be in place so creatures won't wind up in crisis. Responding to a query from a county supervisor, the Secretary pointed out "the Federal Government isn't in the business of deciding land use and/or land use policy;" such decisions are the responsibility of county and city governments. It was clear to all present that if Babbitt and Miller could but have their way, many of our serious environmental problems would be met head on. I would guess the results would be favorable. The meeting was one of the most inspiring I've had the privilege of attending in a long, long time.

DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER

This name probably doesn't mean much to you now, but learn it and learn about it, for it promises to become known nationwide. The Ironhouse Sanitary District, Oakley, brings to mind days of yore in Contra Costa County. The first leading dock in the county was in East Contra Costa County and was called "Ironhouse." Nowadays the Ironhouse Sanitary District is in the midst of a major environmental project because its Board of Directors has had vision and determination. The DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER is today more than just an idea and the planning for it is actively moving forward. Representatives from the Board of Supervisors, Los Medanos College, and the East Bay Regional Park District, actively supported by MDAS and a number of individuals, have been meeting for several months, developing a plan for the Science Center. The mission's statement says it all:

"The Delta Environmental Science Center will provide a diverse array of innovative, experiential science education programs of the highest quality

This writer predicts the Delta Environmental Science Center will be to wetlands, wetland habitat, and wildlife what the Monterey Bay Aquarium is to ocean life. It is an exciting prospect and project.

WETLANDS REGULATION

Months of discussion and many meetings have so far failed to produce a county regulation to implement the strong wetland support provided by the County General Plan. The problem is opposition, mainly from the Business Industry Association and some delta agricultural people, who "so far" adamantly oppose ANY county regulation of wetlands. As a result, the focus now is on the possibility of creating a Contra Costa County wetland mitigation bank. Among the concerns about such so-called wetland mitigation measures are the following:

Man has exerted many efforts to create wetlands. More often than not, these efforts have failed.

Often, when wetlands have been created, there has been no long-term program to ensure the created wetlands will continue to be of value.

Where would the mitigation occur, locally or in some far distant location.

Who would provide a long-term plan for study, maintenance, and operation, and where would funding to ensure the plan is carried out be found.

What would be the amount of mitigation, i.e., how many acres of wetland would be created for each acre of wetland used for other purposes.

DOUGHERTY VALLEY

Yes, it's been a LONG, HOT summer. You've (hopefully) had time for that long vacation trip to Tahiti, Alaska, or possibly Macquarie Island in the antipodes. While you were gaddin' about, life continued in Contra Costa County. Legal actions *re* Dougherty Valley are still with us. The developer, so it is reported, refuses to permit qualified people to study the area for Kit Foxes. Then there's SB 1250, special interest legislation of the worst kind. SB 1250 would force EBMUD to provide water, which EBMUD asserts it doesn't have, to the Dougherty Valley's 11,000 home project. Isn't it interesting to see the political people working so very, very hard to ensure water for about 25,000 people who aren't even here yet, rather than fret about providing water for existing residents?

BREAKTHROUGH ON BAY/DELTA PROTECTION

It is anticipated there will be great news before long as a result of legal actions initiated by environmental organizations. There will be action to FORCE the state to protect the values of San Francisco Bay and Delta. Watch your daily paper for an announcement.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 92-93

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Operating Account: | \$2,202.22 |
| Conservation & Education Fund: | 13,391.20 |

INCOME:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| National Audubon Society dues share | \$8,485.49 |
| Subscriptions to the <i>Quail</i> | 860.00 |
| Sales, <i>Birding Northern California</i> (To Conservation & Education Fund) | 3,964.64 |
| Other sales | 418.65 |
| Donations to MDAS | 573.40 |
| Fundraising | 2,474.00 |
| Bird-a-Thon donations | 673.00 |
| Wild Birds reserve | 1,517.18 |
| Dow President's Award | 500.00 |
| Interest earned (net of bank charges) | 360.82 |

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| TOTAL INCOME: | 19,827.18 |
|---------------|-----------|

INCOME + BALANCE FORWARD:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Operating Account: | \$17,742.52 |
| Conservation & Education Fund: | 17,678.08 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Production and distribution of the <i>Quail</i> | \$8,748.04 |
| Rent, general meeting | 750.00 |
| Administration | 269.09 |
| Audubon lobbyist | 650.00 |
| Conservation | 470.21 |
| Membership | 104.78 |
| Program presentation | 921.65 |
| Education | 153.48 |
| Field trips | - |
| Fund-raising expenses | 1,915.47 |
| Hospitality | - |
| Publicity | 30.10 |
| Christmas Bird Count | 227.26 |
| Sales expenses | 2,985.39 |
| Telephone (AUD-UBON) | 159.19 |
| Insurance | 521.00 |
| Bay Area Audubon Council | 80.29 |

CONTRIBUTIONS:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| National Fish and Wildlife Fund (Burrowing Owl Project), Citizens for a Better Environment, Planning and Conservation League, etc. | \$1,225.00 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: | \$19,210.95 |
|----------------------|-------------|

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Operating Account: | \$ 2,662.41 |
| Conservation & Education Fund: | 13,547.24 |

1993-94 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 trips marked with a star (*) are new trips.

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. | 9 | Thur. | Ironhouse Sanitary Plant * | Mar. | 2 | Wed. | Hayward Regional Shoreline |
| | 15 | Wed. | Hayward Regional Shoreline | | 12 | Sat. | Tomaes Bay |
| | 18 | Sat. | Moss Landing - Elkhorn Slough | | 17 | Thur. | San Mateo Coast |
| | 23 | Thur. | Alameda South Shore | | 26 | Sat. | Black Diamond Mines Reg. Park |
| | 30 | Thur. | Bolinas Lagoon | | 30 | Wed. | Briones wildflower walk |
| Oct. | 2 | Sat. | Outer Point Reyes | Apr. | 2 | Sat. | Garin Regional Park |
| | 10 | Sun. | Point Diablo (Hawk Hill) | | 7 | Thur. | Ironhouse Sanitary Plant |
| | 13 | Wed. | Bodega Bay | | 13 | Wed. | Lagunitas |
| | 23 | Sat. | Abbott's Lagoon | | 16 | Sat. | Donner Canyon |
| | 28 | Thur. | San Mateo Coast | | 21 | Thur. | Ida Clayton Road, Napa Co. |
| | | | | | 27 | Wed. | Del Puerto Canyon |
| | | | | | 30 | Sat. | BIRDATHON |
| Nov. | 4 | Thur. | Mt. View Sanitary - Mallard Res. | May | 5 | Thur. | Briones Park - West |
| | 6 | Sat. | Limantour | | 7 | Sat. | Mines Road |
| | 10 | Wed. | Charleston Slough | | 11 | Wed. | Mt. Diablo State Park |
| | 20 | Sat. | Alviso * | | 14 | Sat. | Mitchell Canyon - Wildflowers |
| Dec. | 2 | Thur. | Altamont | | 19 | Thur. | Gates Canyon - Putah Creek * |
| | 8 | Wed. | Niles Canyon | | 25 | Wed. | Caswell State Park |
| | 11 | Sat. | Palo Alto Baylands | | 28 | Sat. | East Contra Costa County |
| | 18 | Sat. | CHRISTMAS COUNT | June | 2 | Thur. | Las Trampas Regional Wilderness |
| | 29 | Wed. | Lafayette Reservoir | | 4 | Sat. | Outer Point Reyes |
| Jan. | 8 | Sat. | Putah Creek - Lake Solano | | 8 | Wed. | Annadel State Park |
| | 13 | Thur. | Lake Merritt | | 18-19 | S-S | Yuba Pass - Sierra Valley |
| | 22 | Sat. | Grizzly Island Wildlife Refuge | July | 9-10 | S-S | Lassen National Park |
| | 26 | Wed. | Sunol Regional Park | | 30 | Sat. | San Mateo Coast |
| Feb. | 5-6 | S-S | Los Banos | Aug. | 13 | Sat. | Bodega Bay |
| | 9 | Wed. | Thornton - Stockton Ponds | | 27 | Sat. | Coyote Hills Regional Park |
| | 19 | Sat. | Bodega Bay | | | | |
| | 24 | Thur. | Berkeley Shoreline | | | | |

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, September 9, **Ironhouse Sanitary**. Carpool 7:00 a.m. at southwest corner of Sun Valley parking lot. Meet at 7:45 a.m. in Oakley near railroad tracks, opposite Third Street. Take Hwy. 4 to Oakley. Meeting point is three miles into Oakley on Main Street. **New area**. Possibilities include shorebirds, Yellow-headed Blackbird, river otter, and beaver.
Leader: Shirley Ellis, 939-9091 Category 1

Wednesday, September 15, **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: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 2

Saturday, September 18, **Moss Landing - Salinas River**. Carpool 6:45 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 8:30 a.m. in Moss Landing at the big turnout opposite Dolan Rd., just south of the PG&E plant on SR 1. Water, shore birds, possibly vagrants.
Leader: Jean Richmond, 837-2843 Category 3

Thursday, September 23, **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 Government Island exit. Continue on Kennedy St. to the 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 shorebirds; Clapper Rails possible.
Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 1

Thursday, September 30, **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: Denise Wight, 370-7342 Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK, June 3.

Six observers had great luck finding a singing Grasshopper Sparrow atop a thistle for long, close scope views. Another was seen nearby on barbed wire. Best views ever for this leader; it was hard to leave them. Also Lazuli Buntings seemed to be everywhere. 42 species total.

Denise Wight

OUTER POINT REYES, June 5.

Seven birders spent a beautiful day at Point Reyes; however, most of the birds were elsewhere. We saw a total of 44 species. Highlights were two families of owls, an adult and two young at Drake's Beach and another adult with two young at the Light-house.

Pat MacEachern

ANNADEL STATE PARK, June 9.

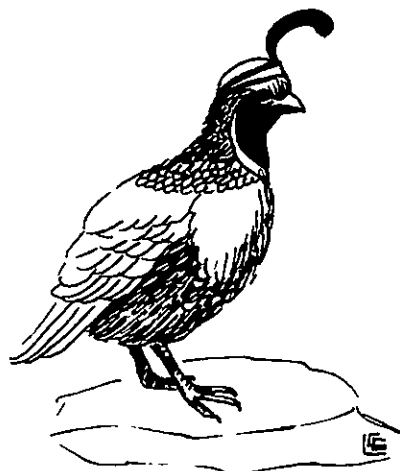
Five birders enjoyed a warm but not uncomfortable morning hoping vainly for the Pileated Woodpecker so often seen even in the parking lot. Late spring rains produced such lush growth in the Yellow-breasted Chat's habitat that no one was able to get a glimpse, although we heard him continuously. The most memorable sightings were a Wilson's Warbler gathering nesting material a few feet from us (unusual downward viewing) and a California Quail sitting high in a tree overhead (unusual upward viewing). 38 species were seen.

Barbara Vaughn

YUBA PASS, June 19-20.

An unusual early June snowstorm at the Pass had melted by the weekend and the twenty-five birders enjoyed beautiful weather. The late spring, however, reduced the number of species seen to 83 by the group and another 13 heard or seen by birders on their own. We did find many of the area's specialties, including Common Snipe, Common Poorwill, Black-backed and White-headed Woodpeckers, Williamson's Sapsucker, several flycatcher species, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. All in all, a lovely weekend.

Barb Burek and Dan Van Zile



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.

- American White Pelican: ~300 on 7/14 along Hwy. 37. (G&WY)
- Pelagic Cormorant: 3 on 7/3 at Pt. San Pablo, Richmond. (SG)
- American Bittern: 3 on 8/1 on Dupont's property, Antioch. (SG, BR)
- Great Blue Heron: at least 39 nests found 7/11 on Eucalyptus Island, Contra Costa Co. (SG) This island is at the east end of Clifton Court Forebay. To my knowledge, this rookery was unknown previously and did not exist in the early 80's.
- Snowy Egret: at least 60 nests on 7/3 on Brooks Island in Richmond. (SG) This is the only rookery in the county.
- Wood Duck: 1 eclipse male on 8/1 at Dupont. (BR, SG)
- Gadwall: 3 on 6/27 at the Ironhouse Sanitary District, Oakley. (SG) No county nest records yet.
- Ring-necked Duck: 1 male on 6/19 at Marsh Creek Reservoir, east of Clayton. (SG) Accidental in summer.
- Oldsquaw: 1 male on 7/27 at the mouth of Pescadero Creek, San Mateo Co. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.
- Common Merganser: 1 female, first seen 7/11, summering at Clifton Court Forebay. (SG)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 adult and 2 immatures on 7/23 in Dan Cook Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH, RL)
- Cooper's Hawk: 1 nest on 6/12 and 2 young on 6/21 in the Ohlone Regional Wilderness. (BR)
- Swanson's Hawk: 87 immatures on 6/17 (BR), 35 including 1 dark phase adult on 6/19 (SG), and as many as 18 still present through 8/12 (SG), all along Mountain House Rd. in Alameda Co.; 2 on 7/18 (SG) at Clifton Court Forebay and 4 on 8/8 (SG) near Herdlyn Rd., both in Contra Costa County. Normally extremely rare in either county.
- Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 6/19 along Mountain Rd. (AE) First East Bay summer record.
- Peregrine Falcon: 2 on 7/13 at Año Nuevo. (FB, MJC, EL)
- Prairie Falcon: 2 on 7/12 near Byron. (FB, MJC, EL)
- Common Moorhen: 2 families on 7/8 and 7/16 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (JR, BR) First nesting there.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 on 7/29 at Hayward RS. (FB, MJC, BG)
- Willet: 1 on 6/13 at Piper Slough. (KH, SG)
- Little Curlew: 1 adult on 8/8 at the Santa Maria River mouth, San Luis Obispo Co. (KH, JL) Also on RBA. Fourth North American record, third for California.
- Baird's Sandpiper: 1 juvenile on 7/24 at Hayward RS. (BR)
- Red Phalarope: 1 on 7/7 (BR) and 7/8 (JR) at Hayward RS.
- Mew Gull: 1 second summer bird on 7/17 at Hayward RS. (BR) Probably present all summer but rare.
- Long-eared Owl: heard on 6/26 in Pine Canyon. (KH)
- Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 6/12 at Sunol Regional Park, apparently without a mate. (SG) Very late migrant or summering?

- Bank Swallow: 3 on 6/19 at Piper Slough. (SG)
- Canyon Wren: 1 on 7/23 in Dan Cook Canyon, MDSP. (KH, RL) Now known from five locations in the county.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler: 1 on 7/23 feeding a cowbird near Ohlone RW. (KH)
- Northern Parula: 2 on 7/7 along Gazos Creek Rd. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.
- Western Tanager: 1 on 6/26 feeding fledglings at Rose Peak, Alameda Co. (BR) Probably first proven county nesting in decades.
- Blue Grosbeak: 1 male on 6/19 carrying food (SG) and 2 males on 7/12 (FB, MJC, EL) at Piper Slough.
- Lawrence's Goldfinch: 1 on 6/29 at the summit of Mt. Diablo. (KH, RL)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Art Edwards, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Eugenia Larson, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Gifford and Winifred 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.

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.

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INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

ENDANGERED NATIONAL PARKS

When most of us think of national parks, we think of the great outdoors, camping, hiking, a visitor center, perhaps even guard stations and park fees. In South America, however, many parks exist only on paper, although even this designation does provide some protection. Recently, the State Legislature of Venezuela has requested the declaration of Cinaruco/Capanaparo Park in Venezuela as a National Park be annulled. This park houses a great variety of wildlife, including ibis, herons, egrets, capybara, and giant anteaters. The annulment effort could set a devastating precedent for other national parks and must not be allowed to occur.

TO LOG, NOT TO LOG, TO LOG

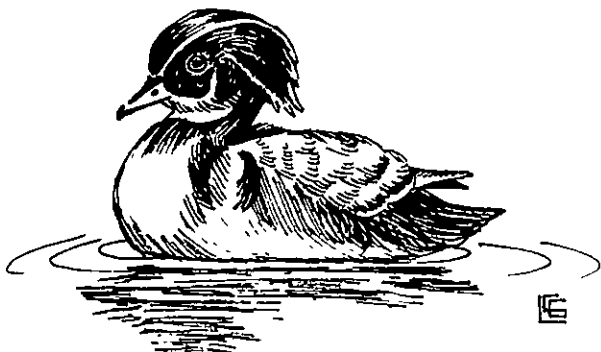
An injunction to halt illegal logging on indigenous Indian lands in the Brazilian Amazon was suspended in May by Judge Eustaquio Silveira. This reversal has devastating consequences for the ecology of these reserves. To allow the illegal logging to go unchecked is clearly not in the interest of justice nor the indigenous Indians which live on this land. As a result of this decision, pristine rainforests are now in jeopardy.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

720 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
798-0303

Suet in summer? Many people used to associate suet with winter bird feeding. However, new, different suet doughs can withstand high temperatures and are very suitable to summer feeding. Summer birds that enjoy suet include jays, titmice, chickadees, towhees, nuthatches, flickers, and woodpeckers. Explore a different type of bird feeding and behavior. Bring this article and receive a 15% discount on suet or suet feeders.

How can you share your hobby and get paid at the same time? Come join us at Wild Birds Unlimited. We are now accepting job applications for part-time workers. If interested in a fun experience, call Mike Williams.



CLASSES AND EXCURSIONS

FALL FIELD CLASS

Norah Bain's fall class will meet Tuesdays between October 5 and November 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The class is suitable for both beginning and intermediate birders. For more details call Norah at (510) 254-4516. Register by mail only by September 1 at the Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. The class fee for Orinda residents is \$42, for nonresidents \$45.

FALL FIELD ORNITHOLOGY CLASSES

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will start September 8, 9, and 14. All classes meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street in San Francisco. Tuesday classes are an introduction to birds and birding. Wednesday classes are a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds. Thursday classes study land birds. Fees are \$65 for each seven week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information, call San Francisco City College Continuing Education Office at (415) 267-6514 or (415) 561-1840.

FALL EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is sponsoring three workshops in October and November for teachers. "Adopt An Endangered Species" for grades K-8 emphasizes the promotion of student action toward protecting threatened and endangered species habitat. "Tule Technology of the California Indians" for grades 2-6 teaches how the California Indians lived sustainable lives while using the diversity of their natural habitats. "Down, Daring, and Dirty: Close-up Encounters with the San Francisco Estuary" for grades K-12 includes both hands-on activities and information for teaching about wildlife of and issues affecting the San Francisco Estuary. For more information, write Fran McTamany at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560.

BAY SHORE STUDIES

Richardson Bay Audubon Center needs volunteers to lead field trips to help students become aware of the Bay and its wildlife. Training classes are held on Fridays, starting September 17, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. No previous experience necessary. Call Meryl Sundove at (415) 388-2524 for more information.

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

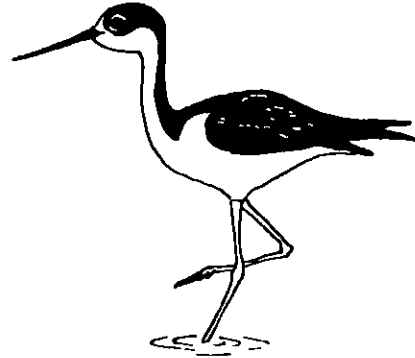
Every fall thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese return to their wintering grounds on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico. Birders can enjoy the spectacle of the migrating flocks, along with an impressive line-up of experts and events at the sixth annual Festival of the Cranes from November 18 to 21. Speakers include authors Donald and Lillian Stokes and International Crane Foundation director George Archibald. Festival information and tickets are available from Festival of the Cranes, P. O. Box 743 NR, Socorro, NM 87801, (505) 835-0424.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new MDAS members and hope to meet them soon at our activities: J. Abdulla, Howard Adams, Andrew and Judith Adler, Edna Basom, Don Berry, Donald Blomberg, Ross Bonander, Harry Bows, Leonard Candors, R. P. Clayton, Margaret Cormack, B. J. Dias, Jeanne Dolese, Alice Du, Jara Edman, Leslie French, Carol J. Frischmann, Leona Galloway, Mrs. Burma Grandt, Russell Greenwood, Joan Hall, Vivian Hammond, Gary Hargrave, Mrs. H. Hargrove, Barbara Hayes, Brian Henehan, Kay Hogg, Debra Janis, Clifford Jensen, Frank Julian, Wendell Knoshaug, Sheila Light, Lois Lippincott, Tim Lovewell, Sarah M. Lynch, Diane Maclean, David Madden, Ann Maroiarty, E. Massengill, Mrs. Arch McPherson, David Morris, Mrs. J. M. Murdock, Kristine Northam, Lindsey Pannell, Geoffrey Pickton, Gregory Santos, Jacqueline Sarfati, Jo Sinclair, S. Skiff, Leonard Spector, Don Spotts, David Starr, William Steiger, Russell and Marion Stephas, Doris Tobin, Louise Toewater, Mike Wallace, and Kerry Worden.

AWARD BY DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

The President's Award for Community Service was awarded to both Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the East Bay Chapter of the Native Plant Society by Enrique Sosa, President, Dow North America, at a ceremony on June 16. Checks for \$500 were presented at that time to both the recipients. Our chapter offers sincerest thanks to Dow for this recognition.



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.

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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

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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: Beverly Hawley, 947-0479

October 1993

Vol. 40 No. 2

Next Deadline: October 14

October Program:

The Birds of Florida

The October 7 program will be presented by our MDAS president Jim Lomax who went to Florida at the end of last April for two weeks. He drove over 3100 miles from the Osceola National Forest near the Georgia border to Key West at the end of the Keys, covering both coasts and the interior of the state. He will show over 75 species of birds, including all the egrets and herons, Swallow-tailed and Snail Kites, Red-headed and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Shiny Cowbird, Florida Scrub Jay, Mangrove Cuckoo, Smooth-billed Ani, Magnificent Frigatebird, Bahama Mockingbird, Anhinga, and many more.

"Those Little Brown Birds" - some help in sparrow identification by Jimm Edgar will be the October bird information.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jim Lomax, 3636 Lolita Dr., Concord, 825-1513. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

General meetings of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society are held on the first Thursday of every month from September through June. Our 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

1993 MDAS Member Survey

Included in this issue of the *Quail* is a short survey to be completed by our members. Please take a few minutes to fill out this form and return it to the editor by **October 14**. Full details on page 5.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Al McNabney

SUMMER DOLDRUMS

Oh, really? A helicopter school flying out of Buchanan Field in Concord incurs the wrath of residents. Hours and hours of conversation and many ergs of energy fail to find a solution to the noise problems. Alternative landing sites ranging from the budding international (?) airport at Byron to hillside locations west of Martinez have all been examined. So far no acceptable alternative site has been found. NO dull moments here.

Then there's Dougherty Valley with its impacts on people, birds, the kit fox, traffic, air quality, etc., etc. Attorneys are meeting and talking on the phone, environmental folks are trying to bring issues to the attention of the people, and SB 1250, dubbed the sleeze bill of the year, waddles through the legislative process. Maybe it's dead for the legislative session. 'Nuff to keep one alert here.

Finally, proposed "large lot rezoning" is under consideration. Five-acre zoning called for by the Briones Hills Agricultural Preservation Agreement is up for reconsideration. Agricultural lands in the East County are being given serious attention. Twenty-nine applications for land use changes affecting 2,043 acres are being processed. In all, pending applications involve 3,137 acres of East County land. Bye, bye to Contra Costa County's excellent agricultural activity.

WETLANDS

Still unsettled are major issues over the handling of remaining Contra Costa County wetlands. Despite hour on weary hour of meetings, little progress has been made toward achieving regulations so Contra Costa County will have "some" control over wetlands. The General Plan provides good policy, but implementation has been tough. Comment in the local press urges further efforts. Good idea, but getting disparate interests to agree is much easier said (urged) than done. In the meantime, the Governor weighs in with a proposed wetland policy. Considering what's happened to the state's water policy, one has to wonder. Wetlands! We constantly get our feet wet with this one.

DESIGNER GASOLINE *ET AL.*

If you've managed to keep up with what's going on in the world of clean air and alternative fuels, you will know that U.S. law **REQUIRES** refineries to create reformulated (cleaner) gasoline. As a result, massive refinery improvement projects are underway, requiring the expenditure of millions of dollars. One local refiner is under much pressure to reduce its proposed discard of selenium into bay waters as a part of the upgrading of the refinery's equipment. The issue doesn't involve visible emissions from a tall smokestack or toxic clouds wafting over

people's homes. Selenium discharges go into the water. Fish and water life of all sorts eat and drink the stuff. Eventually adverse effects show up in the form of deformed birds and toxic fish. Remember Kesterson?

EARTH DAY

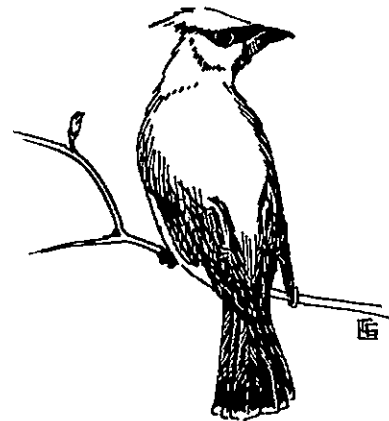
Preparations are under way for next year's Earth Day. NO question, Earth Days have raised public consciousness about environmental issues. Improvement in disposing of solid waste, for example, is evident. But has the Earth Day effort produced effective political action? Good question. Some are beginning to wonder. Public meetings about serious environmental issues are not well attended. Meetings held to afford "we the people" an opportunity to tell decision makers what we think bring precious little public comment. Those having a pecuniary interest are usually well represented, know their rights, and are very vocal. Can we do better?

CAL/PAW

By the time you read this, we'll have about six weeks left to obtain the 650,000 signatures necessary so the proposed bond act can be on the ballot in 1994. As of this writing, it does NOT appear Contra Costa County will produce the number of signatures pledged, although statewide there is an expectation that the required number will be obtained. Standing on a street corner, petition in hand, asking passersby to take a minute to sign, produces "interesting" results. A day at Walnut Creek's Broadway Plaza produced satisfaction. Lots of interest, lots of signatures and a feeling of a job well done. In contrast was the day spent at Concord's fair. Signatures were hard to come by, people NOT friendly. Mom and Pop passing with a couple of little ones, refusing to sign, "We don't need any more parks." Representative? Who knows, but the contrast remains and it's worrisome.

BETHEL ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Watching the terrible flooding of farmlands, cities, and towns along the Mississippi River should have brought some pause to those seeking to build hundreds of houses on Delta islands such as Bethel Island. The level on which the houses are to be constructed is many feet (14 to 18) below the river level. Just imagine what will happen to the unlucky folks who purchase a home in such a project when, as, and if a levee breaks during a time of high water. Need we say more?



FIELD TRIPS

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

Difficulty of field trip:

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

Saturday, October 2, **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. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for more information.

Category 2

Sunday, October 10, **Point Diablo**. 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 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 parking lot at the upper lagoon. If clear weather, carry lunch to stay on Hawk Hill until mid-afternoon for migrating hawks and possibly swifts.

Leader: Jim Lomax, 825-1513

Category 2

Wednesday, October 13, **Bodega Bay**. Carpool 6:45 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

Saturday, October 23, **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: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 3

Thursday, October 28, **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 the parking lot. Ocean and shorebirds, possible migrants. Call Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486, for more information.

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LASSEN NATIONAL PARK, July 10-11.

Seven members and guests spent a beautiful weekend in 70° weather. Birds were heard much more than seen, starting at 5:15 a.m., when Olive-sided Flycatchers, Western Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadees, and Cassin's Finches made the morning chorus special. Six woodpecker species were seen, with especially good looks at a nesting Williamson's Sapsucker and a young Black-backed Woodpecker. Manzanita Lake had the most diverse habitat with Spotted Sandpiper, Vaux's Swift, and American Dipper seen on or over the lake, while Orange-crowned, Wilson's and Nashville Warblers were in the willow thickets. Summit Lake campground provided many Western Tanagers, Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finch, and Bufflehead. Other highlight birds included Rufous Hummingbird, Clark's Nutcracker, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, and Lincoln's Sparrow. 47 species were seen by the group, plus 3 more seen by the trip leader while scouting.

Maury Stern

SAN MATEO COAST, July 31.

Seven birders enjoyed the usual array of birds on an unusually warm day on the coast. We saw Wandering Tattler, White-winged Scoter, at least fifteen Marbled Murrelets, lots of Sooty Shearwaters, and an alternate-plumage Red-throated Loon. We got superb looks at Black Swifts, but missed Bank Swallows at Año Nuevo. The brief view of a calling Red Crossbill was frustrating in the sweltering heat along Gazos Creek Road, but seeing the Wilson's Phalarope and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Pescadero River mouth cheered us up. 73 species total.

Denise Wight

BODEGA BAY, August 14.

Fourteen birders enjoyed a relaxed, pleasant day at scenic Bodega Bay. Much time was spent pondering the sighting of an Arctic Tern at the Tides Restaurant. Other highlights included Ruddy Turnstones and Black-bellied Plovers in beautiful plumage. A deer was observed at the Hole in the Head, along with several Black-crowned Night-herons, a Great Blue Heron, and a Virginia Rail. En route, hundreds of White Pelicans were seen west of Vallejo along Highway 37. 71 species seen or heard.

Shirley Ellis

COYOTE HILLS, August 28.

Nine birders enjoyed a quiet, warm day with 53 species seen. The only highlight was a Lesser Yellowlegs.

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.

Buller's Shearwater: 1 on 8/31 from Pescadero Beach in San Mateo Co. (JR)

Manx Shearwater: 1 photographed on 8/29 for half an hour on Monterey Bay. (JL, many observers) First documented record for California.

Black-vented Shearwater: 2 on 8/31 off Pescadero Beach. (JR)

Brown Booby: 1 adult female seen on 8/28 at the Farallons. (SG, KH, JL) Also on RBA.

White-faced Ibis: 4 on 9/1 at Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso. (JR, GF, KH)

Lesser Golden-Plover: 1 fulva race adult on 8/18 and 1 in flight on 8/23 at Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR)

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 on 8/18 (BR) and 1 on 8/21 (RL, KH, SG), both at Hayward RS, extremely rare in the East Bay: the fifth Alameda County record, the first since 1981; 1 on 8/31 at Pescadero Marsh. (JR)

Wandering Tattler: 1 on 9/2, 4 on 9/5, 2 on 9/8 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Little Curlew: 1 seen again on 8/9 at the mouth of the Santa Maria River, San Luis Obispo Co. (FB, MJC, Bo&BG) This is thought to be the same one that was here in 1983 and 1984.

Surfbird: 1 on 8/18 and 1 on 9/8 at Hayward RS. (BR) Rare this deep in the Bay.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 on 8/18 at Hayward RS (BR); 2 on 8/10 at Horseshoe Pond, Pt. Reyes (JR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 on 8/31 at Pescadero Marsh. (JR, RD)

Pomarine Jaeger: 1 on 9/1 at Hayward RS. (BR) Rare but regular inside the Bay in the fall.

Parasitic Jaeger: 1 juvenile on 9/2 and 9/3 at Hayward RS. (BR) Status same as Pomarine except slightly more common.

South Polar Skua: 1 on 9/5 at Hayward RS. (BR) Probably the first record inside S. F. Bay and certainly the first East Bay record.

Arctic Tern: 1 on 9/1 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Black Tern: 2 at Rodeo Lagoon. (DW)

Tufted Puffin: at least 8 on 8/28 near the Farallons. (SG, KH, JL)

White-winged Dove: 1 on 9/7 at Hayward RS. (BR) Second county record, both at Hayward RS.

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 8/27 (KH, MJC) and 3 on 9/3 (KH) at Pine Pond, Mt. Diablo State Park.

Gray Flycatcher: 1 on 9/4 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Eastern Kingbird: 1 on 8/26 at Hayward RS. (BR) Probably the second county record.

Purple Martin: 8 on 8/10 at Pt. Reyes headquarters. (JR)

Pygmy Nuthatch: at least 4 on 8/24 at S. F. City College. (FS) First he's seen there in 15 years.

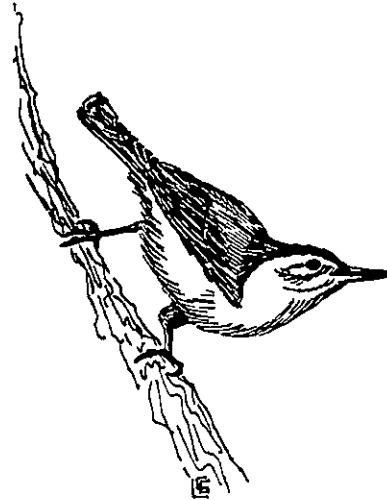
California Thrasher: 1 on 8/26 (JR) and 8/31 (BR) at Hayward RS. First for the shoreline.

Phainopepla: 1 male on 8/30 over her Alamo home. (JR)

Red-eyed Vireo: 1 on 8/31 along Gazos Creek Road. (JR, RD)
Red Crossbill: at least 50 on 9/4 at 5 Brooks, Pt. Reyes (SG, RL); 10 on 9/5 at Lincoln Park, S. F. (SG).

Observers: Florence Bennett, Mary Jane Culver, Ruth Dement, George Finger, Bob and Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Kevin Hintsa, Ron Lindeman, Jim Lomax, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Fred Safier, 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 sketches
by Carol Lutz

LAST CHANCE

The deadline for signing up to sponsor an Audubon Adventures class is early this year, **October 22**. 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.

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INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

BIRDS, TROPICAL RAINFORESTS AND THE U. S.

Many of the hummingbirds, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, and vireos we've come to know and enjoy as "our" backyard birds are experiencing population declines. Why? Partly, because these birds spend the winter in tropical forest habitat, an ecosystem that is being destroyed at a rate of up to 100 acres per minute. Approximately 30% of the birds that breed in the U. S. winter in the tropics. Would you believe that there is more to do in the U. S. to protect rainforests and the birds that live there than in the countries where tropical rainforests occur? World Rainforest Week, an event to draw national attention to the alarming rate of destruction of this precious ecosystem, is from October 16 through 24. For more information, please call me at (510) 256-8270. In addition, to celebrate this event, join the San Mateo coast field trip on Thursday, October 28, to look for fall migrants.

1993 MDAS MEMBER SURVEY

Our chapter recently was asked by the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society to make a short telephone survey of a few of our current members as well as a couple of former members. The results of this short survey were very interesting and have prompted us to include this questionnaire for the full membership. The results will be forwarded to the Western Regional Office, so this is your chance to let the MDAS board and National Audubon know how you feel.

Are you happy with the direction National is taking on current conservation issues? How do you feel about the Audubon magazine? Have you had problems renewing or changing your membership? Do the chapter general meetings run too long? Not long enough? Please comment on any issues of concern to you. Positive comments on things you think Audubon is doing right as well as discussion of problems you have found will be appreciated.

This membership survey is being conducted anonymously to allow full freedom of expression, but feel free to sign your form if you wish. If you would like a reply, please call MDAS president Jim Lomax at 825-1513, and he or a board member will return your call.

Please return your form by **October 14.**

Thank you for your cooperation in giving the MDAS board a better understanding of the current feelings of our members.

NEWS FROM WILD BIRDS

720 Contra Costa Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
798-0303

FALL SEED SALE

15% off all 25 lb. and 50 lb. bags
(9/20/93 - 10/31/93)

| Sale prices | 25 lb. | 50 lb. |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Woodland Mix | \$8.46 | \$15.73 |
| Deluxe Blend | 12.11 | 20.83 |
| Special Blend | 12.54 | 21.68 |
| Black Oil Sunflower | 11.47 | 19.97 |
| Thistle | 36.51 | 67.96 |
| | 5 lb. 8.08 | 10 lb. 15.26 |

Individual seed also 15% off in 25 and 50 lb. bags

FREE BIRDSEED STORAGE - you can 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.

SUET

Suet is animal fat to which different ingredients are added, such as seed, fruit, and peanuts, to attract different varieties of birds. Offering suet in your backyard is a great way to attract a wide variety of birds from chickadees to woodpeckers to nuthatches and many others.

SUET SALE

\$0.30 off all suet cakes and \$0.60 off all suet tubs
(Sale ends 10/31/92)

ANNIVERSARY

September 25, 1993

Join us in celebrating our second successful year. We want to thank you for making this another exciting year. Special events on this day include:

- Hawks and other Lindsay Museum birds
- Wild Bryde Jewelry's Trunk Show with 800 different pieces of nature jewelry
- A free suet cake for each customer
- Many in-store specials

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet in person at meetings and trips: Sherrie Albin, Carolyn Alfstad, Stephanie Andrews, Penny Barrett, H. Carlson, Ernie Carroll, C. Carter, Ron Chin, Jan Cook, Linda Ehler, Kathryn Emery, J. Erben, Susan A. Ernst, Kathy Evon, Janet Ferman, Thomas Finger, Gay Frank, Harold Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Healy, Anthony Johns, Steven R. Johnson, Imani Joseph, John Kelly, M. Krupa, Suzanne Lutz, C. Marglon, Brian McFarland, Dee Meyers, Mrs. I. Morey, D. L. Otten, G. and M. Petovello, Lowell Saumweber, M. Simkins, Maryann Skowronski, Peg Steunenber, Thomas Switzer, Larry Viel, and Jarid Wilson.

1994 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

The 1994 Entertainment Book is here! Save 50% on travel, restaurants, theater, retail, service, hotels and motels, and MUCH, MUCH more.

The 1994 Entertainment Book can be used IMMEDIATELY and is available at Wild Birds Unlimited, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, and at the monthly general meetings. 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.

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BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 53

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

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Secretary: Beverly Hawley, 947-0479



November 1993

Vol. 40 No. 3

Next Deadline: November 11

November Program:

Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas

At our November 4 meeting Dave Shuford from Point Reyes Bird Observatory will discuss the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas and sign copies of the book he recently published on the project. The book documents the distribution of all of Marin County's breeding birds and provides detailed information on habitat needs, nesting sites, foraging strategies, food requirements, and historical population trends. Dave will discuss what a breeding bird atlas is and how it has revolutionized the way we look at distribution of birds, what some of the results of the Marin Atlas are, and how documenting is proceeding elsewhere in California. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about our nesting birds and see the first book on Marin County's diverse birdlife!

Dave Shuford graduated from U. C. Davis in 1975 with a Master's degree in Ecology and has worked as a biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory ever since. Although his field work has ranged from the arctic tundra to the Antarctic icecap, Dave's primary research interest is the distribution, abundance, and habitat needs of California birds. Dave is currently documenting the importance of wetlands throughout the west to shorebirds via the Pacific Flyway Project, studying the effects of changing lake levels on the breeding California Gull population at Mono Lake, and documenting breeding distribution and habitat needs of birds in the Glass Mountain region of Mono County via another atlas project.

November Birding Information will be given by Jim Lomax and will be a fun, informative picture quiz showing several species and then discussing what they are and why. Class participation encouraged. No homework, no grades, and you need not study.

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 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Barbara Burek, 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, 229-0394. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

1993 MDAS Member Survey

More than 100 questionnaires have been returned by members to date. The results will be presented at the November meeting and in the December *Quail*.

CONSERVATION NOTES

by Al McNabney

A TOWER OF BABBLE, 1993

This is the age of information. News is everywhere. Then there is the radio talk show phenomenon. What is heard is usually NOT news and is often NOT informative, and yet is capable of creating huge nationwide outpourings.

A former state governor writes a book in which she "takes on" most of the scientific arguments concerning such things as global warming and thinning of the ozone layer that protects us from ultraviolet and other sun rays. Knowledgeable people discount the book as being MOST unscientific. It is touted on radio talk shows.

In addition to the usual ways of exposing a book to the public, we now have the radio talk shows AND the so-called hosts. The hosts come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and a few have less than a HUGE ego. Some of the hosts would have been considered buffoons in another age and time. They would have had a soap box in a park from which views could be espoused. The weight given to such views would have equated with the arena and the soap box. Ego does NOT equate with nor create wisdom, nor does it provide FACT.

The first amendment of our Constitution gives us the RIGHT of free speech. Few would really want to cause any change in the individual's RIGHT to speak his or her mind. Listening to the often inane questions posed by the radio talk show host and the more often very inane comments from callers, the story of the Tower of Babel comes to mind. It also should remind us that having the RIGHT to speak does not carry with it much, if any, obligation to speak factually or truthfully.

Of the targets of talk show hosts' comments are government and the people we have elected to carry out our business. Real government involves serious individuals working through the disparate opinions, considering the facts, and then "trying" to make the decisions that solve very complicated problems. We have the RIGHT to take issue with decision-makers' decisions and we should so do when we believe a decision is wrong.

To be led by a talk show host whose main interest is to ensure that the ratings of a radio station stay high, rather than attend to LEARNING about the business of government probably will not lead to good government. In the environmental world where pecuniary interests can easily be considered ahead of the environmental issues, it is essential that we KNOW the facts. Hyperbole, misinformation, and political obfuscation through the mask of a talk show host will NOT solve environmental questions.

AG LANDS & THE FUTURE

Once again issues over agricultural lands are creating political discourse. At a recent discussion of lot sizes and land uses, when agricultural lands were involved, a spokesman for the "ag" interests suggested to the political decision-makers in charge of the meeting that environmentalists should NOT have a say in the discussions.

Contra Costa County voters supported the creation of urban limits lines, as advanced by the County. Now, a couple of years later, decision-makers are being urged to permit changes in lot sizes and land usages in lands outside the urban limit lines. These questions of land ownership and land usage are important. The ability of agriculture to survive as we have known it is even in question. The public as well as wildlife have a stake (although wildlife has no voice or vote) as to how agricultural lands are used in the future. There are indications that if development continues to "gobble up" the ag lands, then California's ag activity will not be able to provide food and fiber for the population of the state, let alone the rest of the nation and the world, as is now the case.

LAND USES, FURTHER

When the 1993 California legislature convened, issues over land use, i. e., CEQA, were HOT. Business groups argued that the law was cumbersome and costly, and was driving JOBS out of the State. Whether such arguments were factual or not, the recession has hit the state's business and work force hard. Legislation was passed during this session which will have impacts on the ability of the public to have meaningful input on land use issues. Bills AB 1888, S 919, and S 1031 streamline environmental review with master environmental review reports and focused EIR's, reform CEQA procedural and litigation processes, and include a requirement that CEQA guidelines be updated every two years.

We don't argue for a moment that better ways of doing public business are unneeded, particularly when determining proposed land usages. We do worry that environmental issues of huge import are being and will be given short shrift, all in the name of progress. If such be the case, it is not those of us here today that will suffer, it will be future generations. We wonder what our children will be saying of the ways we've handled our environmental issues.

CAL/PAW, PARKS, AND THE FUTURE

Signature gathering for the important ballot initiative known affectionately as CAL/PAW is moving toward a conclusion. The stakes are enormous. If the measure does qualify for placement on the 1994 ballot, it will permit people of the state to decide whether or not they want more parks, open space, wetlands, and such. It isn't too late to sign a petition. If you haven't done so, do it NOW.

FIELD TRIPS

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

Difficulty of field trip:

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

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

Category 3: Difficult, extensive walking, rough terrain

Thursday, November 4, **Mt. View Sanitary Plant.** Meet at 8:15 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, November 6, **Limantour.** Carpool at 7:00 a.m. at Acalanos 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: Maury Stern, 284-5980

Category 2

Wednesday, November 10, **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: Betty Gallagher, 682-2458

Category 2

Saturday, November 20, **Alviso.** Carpool 7:30 a.m. El Cerro Blvd., west of I-680. Meet 8:30 a.m. in parking lot of Alviso Marina. From southbound I-680, turn west at Calaveras exit (SR 237). Turn right on N. 1st St., right on Gold St., left on Elizabeth, and right toward the Alviso Marina. This is a new area to explore for shore and water birds and an opportunity to learn an area where many rarities have been reported.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486

Category 2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

IRONHOUSE SANITARY PLANT, September 9.

A delightful breeze stayed with us most of the morning, on what was expected to be a very hot fall day in Eastern Contra Costa County. Sixteen birders enjoyed seeing this area of great potential, where 48 species were seen or heard. Several River Otter slides were found, but the otters remained out of sight. Among the sandpipers were one Spotted and many Least and Western. The Greater Yellowlegs seemed to be thriving. The consensus was that the trip was a successful one to a new area that will be preserved - cheers!

Shirley Ellis

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE, September 15.

The trip began with a search for rarities at the end of Winton Avenue. Although several had been reported here, the best to be seen was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Three members went on to the Nature Center area. The number of species seen was low (about 35), but the numbers were high. A flock of 1000 Western Sandpipers and hundreds of larger shorebirds and ducks made an exciting day.

Elizabeth Dickey

MOSS LANDING, September 18.

Ten birders made the trip on a cool overcast morning which turned warm and clear before noon. Moss Landing produced many Snowy Plovers, a Red Knot, and one Pomarine and at least five Parasitic Jaegers. Moon Glow Dairy had two Pectoral Sandpipers. A Merlin flew over Salinas River WMA and a lone Red-necked Phalarope was at the pond. At Pt. Piños, 150 Sooty Shearwaters flew by and a Wandering Tattler stood on the shore. The Carmel River mouth had three Lesser Yellowlegs and Mission Trails Park had a Tennessee Warbler. A total of 73 species was found.

Jean Richmond

ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE, September 23.

Six members greeted the mild, hazy morning hoping for rails and sight of an immature jaeger that had been hanging around. We were rewarded with excellent sightings of both Virginia and Sora Rails and aerial displays by the jaeger. 40 species tallied.

Barbara Vaughn

BOLINAS LAGOON, September 30.

Seven birders enjoyed the 85 species of birds around the Bolinas area. It was one of those pleasant fall days, with duck species just starting to return for the winter, sparrows, too, and a few migrants. Highlights included seeing a Tennessee Warbler with a nearby Orange-crowned Warbler for comparison at Agate Beach. At the sewer ponds only a few of us saw the Lesser Yellowlegs, but all got a scope view of a Pectoral Sandpiper. 5 Brooks produced 11 lovely Wood Ducks.

Denise Wight

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.

Flesh-footed Shearwater: 3-4 on 10/9 at Cordell Banks, Marin Co. (SG)

Wood Duck: 1 female on 9/13 for first Hayward Regional Shoreline record. (BR)

Harlequin Duck: 1 male on 9/20 (FB, MJC) and 9/21 (FB, MJC, JR, G&TF) at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 on 10/7 in Inverness, Marin Co. (JR)

Swainson's Hawk: 16 on 9/22 and 6 on 10/3 along Mt. House Rd., Alameda Co.; 3 on 10/3 near N. Bruns Rd., Contra Costa Co. (SG)

Ferruginous Hawk: 3 on 10/3 near Byron Hot Springs. (SG)

Black Oystercatcher: 1 on 9/25 at the Albany Dump, Alameda Co. (SG) Also on RBA.

Ruff: 1 immature male from 9/9 through at least 9/13 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Franklin's Gull: 1 from 10/8 (AH) through, at least 10/13 (JR, BR) at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont. Also on RBA. Probably the third county record.

Long-eared Owl: 1 on 9/14 in the Winton parking lot at Hayward RS. (BR)

Willow Flycatcher: 1 last seen 10/2 at Pine Pond, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH) Late?

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher: 1 on 10/6 (JR), 10/7 (GF, KH, JR, RR), and 10/10 (EH, GB) at Pine Gulch Creek in Bolinas. Second Northern California record; the first record, one week earlier at Pt. Reyes, proved to be another bird! Also on RBA.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 on 9/26 (BR, SG), 9/28 (FB, MJC, EL, GF, MP), 10/2 (JE), 10/5 (FB, MJC, EL, JR), and 10/7 (JR, RR) near Nicasio, Marin Co. Also on RBA.

Pygmy Nuthatch: 1 on 10/5 at Coyote Hills. (BR)

Sage Thrasher: 1 on 10/7 near the MCI Station, Pt. Reyes. (JR)

Yellow Wagtail: 1 on 10/6 at Hayward RS. (BR) About the fifth state record.

Red-throated Pipit: 1 on 9/28 at Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (GF)

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 on 10/2 along Pescadero Creek, San Mateo Co. (JR, GF) Also on RBA.

Red-eyed Vireo: 1 on 10/2 at Phipps Ranch, San Mateo Co. (JR, GF) Also on RBA.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 on 10/5 at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (FB, MJC, EL, JR); 1 on 10/12 (BR, SG) and 10/13 (BR) at Coyote Hills. Also on RBA.

Magnolia Warbler: 1 on 10/7 at the Fish Docks. (JR, RR, KH, GF)

Cape May Warbler: 1 on 10/7 at the Fish Docks. (KH, GF, JR)

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 on 10/5 (FB, MJC, EL, JR) and 10/7 (GF, KH, JR, RR) at the Fish Docks.

Prairie Warbler: 1 on 10/10 at Pine Gulch Creek. (SG, EH, GB)

Hooded Warbler: 1 on 9/20 at the Lighthouse. (FB)

Canada Warbler: 1 on 9/28 at Hayward RS. (BR, SG) This is probably the second county record.

Dickcissel: 1 on 9/20 at Lake Merced. (JR, AS)

Tree Sparrow: 1 on 10/5 at the Nunes Ranch. (JR)

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 from 9/14 through 9/17 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Brewer's Sparrow: 1 juvenile on 9/30 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Black-throated Sparrow: 1 on 9/28 at Nunes Ranch. (GF, MP, FB, MJC, BG)

Lincoln's Sparrow: 11 on 10/3 at Piper Slough. (SG)

Swamp Sparrow: 1 immature on 9/28 at Hayward RS. (BR, RL)

Bobolink: 1 on 9/18 (BR) and a second on 9/28 (RL, SG) and 9/29 (BR), both at Hayward RS. Fourth and fifth county records.

Orchard Oriole: 1 female or immature on 9/25 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Northern Water Thrush: 1 on 9/19 in her waterlily garden. (S¹²)

Observers: Florence Bennett, Ginny Bergeson, Mary Jane Culver, Jimm Edgar, George Finger, Toni Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Ed Hase, Alice Hoch, Kevin Hints, Eugenia Larson, Ron Lindeman, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Rich Richmond, and Adrienne Spraille. Susan Price

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

INTERNATIONAL CORNER

by Jill Hedgecock

GOING, GOING, ALMOST GONE

The results are in on the status of migrant songbirds and the news is BAD, BAD, BAD. Since 1980, sightings of Olive-sided Flycatchers have decreased 22%, Northern Orioles 27%, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 33%. These alarming decreases have occurred in slightly more than a decade. Slightly more than one-half of all breeding populations of migrants here in the Bay Area are decreasing. For more information, see "Silence of the Songbirds" by Line and Goldsmith in the June, 1993, issue of the National Geographic Society magazine.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Jim Lomax

I am an avid birder who also likes to photograph birds, but a couple of years ago I became influenced by two people, also birders of repute, who observe other forms of life in the wild. Kevin Hintsa studies and knows butterflies and plants. When birding with him, you see and learn what flower or tree you're looking at and what butterfly is on the flower. After birding with Kevin for some time, I bought a guide book on butterflies and learned that there were millions of them and they all look the same. My life list of butterflies is very short. I also bought a guide book on trees, with a little better luck. Kevin knows lizards, too, although I don't have the guide book yet. The point, however, is that there is a tremendous amount of life out there that most birders give little attention.

So I began to note and list other wildlife, too. I have seen such things as Knobcone, Bishop, Lodgepole, Gray (formerly Digger), Ponderosa, and Monterey Pines here in California, Washoe Pine in Nevada, and Long-leaf Pine in Florida, which, by the way, is the preferred nesting tree of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. There are a multitude of trees and plants which are easily picked up birding. California Buckeye, Saguaro and Jumping Cholla Cactus, Date Palm, and Santa Cruz Island Ironwood (unchanged in six million years and only occurring on Santa Cruz Island of the Channel Islands) are examples. With Kevin, I have seen butterflies such as Hairstreaks, Blues, Coppers, Sulfers, Nymphs, Monarchs, and Red Admirals. He has pointed out Alligator, Western Fence, and other lizards, while I have been able to identify Common Collared, Regal Horned, and Red-backed Whiptail Lizards in Arizona. There are also snakes, land turtles, and frogs. And mammals. I once rounded a corner on a dirt road in the Chiricahua Mountains while birding there in 1992 and came upon a mother Black Bear with her cubs.

The other person who has expanded my horizons is Debi Shearwater. Besides pelagic birds on her boat trips, she has shown me five kinds of whales, Blue, Gray, Humpbacked, Minke, and Bairds Beaked, three dolphins, Pacific White-sided, Common, and Risso's, and two porpoises (which I found out the other day in Latin means pig fish, for the squealing noise they make), Harbor, and Dall's. On a trip this summer with Kevin (he pops up everywhere) and Steve Glover heading out to the Farallon Islands to see yet another bird (Brown Booby), we saw the largest sea turtle in the world, 8 feet long and 2000 pounds, which can dive 400 feet, staying down for two days, the Pacific Leatherback Turtle. This species dines mostly on jellyfish and plastic bags, the latter of which are killing it and putting it in endangered species status.

The list goes on, but the point here is that while birding, you have a great opportunity to notice other forms of life as they disappear right in front of your eyes.

MONTEREY BREEDING ATLAS

Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society proudly announces its latest publication, *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Monterey County*, edited by Don Roberson and Chris Tenney. The Atlas features breeding distribution maps for 178 native and feral birds in Monterey County, based on a five-year field project from 1988 through 1992. Species accounts include summaries of habitat, local range, breeding biology, conservation concerns, and history, and are illustrated with the work of 14 artists. The species accounts were written by six authors: Don Roberson, Chris Tenney, Stephen F. Bailey, Rita Carratello, Brian J. Weed, and Robert F. Tittle. This timely 448 page publication is a "must have" book for every Central California birder. It is available in soft cover for \$24.00 and hardcover for \$51.00; the price includes tax and shipping. To order, make your check payable to MPAS, P. O. Box 985, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. The Monterey Atlas would be an excellent companion to the Marin Atlas to be featured at our November program.



Flammulated Owl
by Sophie Webb

DONATIONS TO MDAS

Our society receives from time to time generous donations, gifts and bequests given in memory of friends or relatives or as spontaneous contributions to the society's activities. These gifts are welcomed as a significant support of our goals of wild-life appreciation and conservation.

This month MDAS would like to express its appreciation for a donation made to the chapter by Bessie Smyth of Martinez. Her generosity is very much valued.

We would like to encourage all our members and friends, in this upcoming season of giving, to think about what they receive from Audubon and to make an extra gift to MDAS to help us start the new year right.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly greet these new MDAS members we hope to meet in person at meetings and trips: Dorothy Alfara, Sally Arney, Rhonda Bartlett, Duane Beddoes, Mrs. Seymour Berek, Forrest Bottomley, Bette Bourdet, Susan Bristow, Dana Bruzzone, J. J. Candelario, Harvey Corales, Adrian Dalsey, Matthew Dalton, Barbara Davenport, Erin Davis, Donald L. Delp, Greg Dettman, S. Dorrington, Lois Dunbar, Sallie Ekern, Betty Lou Ewing, Robert A. Field, Gay Frank, Joseph and Jeanne Frank, Mrs. T. Gillis, Virginia Griner, Constance Hall, Melvin W. Hallock, Amy Harris, Michael Hogan, June Horn, Charles Hutchison, Sal Ingrande, Ellen Johnson, Marilyn Johnson, Dud Kennedy, Donna P. Klein, Linda Korenman, J. Lapitan, Debbie Lewis, Susan Lincoln, Gus Malmquist, Lynne Manus, Odie Mayer, Gerald McFarland, Michael Oransky, M. Piccone, L. Quinn, Ron Raab, Vicki Resch, Rod Rodrigues, Marguerite Rowe, Georgia Rutkowski, Phyllis Salzman, D. J. Santone, John Stone, Barbara Strehlitz, Floris Vanbruegel, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Vanbuskirk, J. Wade, William Weiner, Robert Wilson, Donald Wolfe, and Mary Anne Wormsted.

HOLIDAY GIVING

It's not too early to think about Christmas giving with the '94 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 '94 is \$40 (20% goes to MDAS). Buy one for yourself and one as a gift. Books 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.

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The QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597-0053

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Hospitality: Gloria Lotten, 866-1619

Education: Sheree Doucette, 682-6278

Secretary: Beverly Hawley, 947-0479



December 1993

Vol. 40 No. 4

Next Deadline: December 9

December Program:

The Endangered California Clapper Rail

Local wildlife photographer Katherine Rambo will give a slide presentation on the imperiled California Clapper Rail for our **December 2** meeting. There are less than 600 California Clapper Rails left in the world, all restricted to the tidal marshes in the San Francisco Bay Area. This special lecture will focus on Clapper Rail habits, natural histories, pressures they face from increased development, and historical relationships between people and the rails. This slide show will be of particular interest to MDAS members as we have been conducting a census of Clapper Rails in Contra Costa County for the past two years. Please join us for this informative program.

Katherine Rambo's photos have been exhibited throughout the San Francisco Peninsula. Her photo "Snowy Egret--Flight" was first in the color division in the 1992 Coyote Point Museum Photography Contest. She is a native Californian, with family roots in this area dating back to the Gold Rush. Her photographs convey her deep and passionate love for birds and nature. She is affiliated with the Focus Photographic Society, Bay Area Bird Photographers, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, and the Sequoia chapter of the Audubon Society.

Jimm Edgar will discuss the upcoming Christmas Count for December Birding Information. See Page 5 for further Christmas Count information.

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 MDAS board meeting will be **Wednesday, December 8**, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Jean Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo, 837-2843. The board meetings are open to all interested members.

1993 MDAS Member Survey results are on Page 2. Conservation Notes will return next month.

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

Change of Board Position: After five years as Publicity Chair, Shirley Ellis has asked to step down. The Board wishes to express its great appreciation for all the hard work Shirley has done for our chapter and wishes her well. Jill Hedgecock will take over the Publicity Chair duties.

1993 MDAS SURVEY RESULTS

by Barbara Burek

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to answer the Member Survey. Your comments and suggestions are very much appreciated. This report summarizes 126 questionnaires. A few more surveys have been received and will be included in the final full report which will be available at the December general meeting or by writing to me at 157 Mt. Kennedy Dr., Martinez, CA 9455.

Our current chapter membership is estimated to be about 1500 members, so the 126 questionnaires discussed here represent about 8.5% of our membership. 39 respondents are male, 84 female, and 3 decline to state. The number of respondents in the age categories given are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------|
| Under 30: | 3 | (2.3%) |
| 30-39: | 10 | (7.9%) |
| 40-49: | 24 | (19.0%) |
| 50-59: | 29 | (23.0%) |
| 60-69: | 28 | (22.2%) |
| Over 70: | 31 | (24.6%) |

One person did not indicate an age. The average length of membership is 10 years.

Questionnaires are divided into three subgroups: A. active members (those who participated in any chapter activity during the last two years) who mailed their questionnaires back to me, B. inactive members who mailed in their questionnaires, and C. members who had not sent in a questionnaire but filled one out at the October general meeting. The number of members in these three categories are:

| | | |
|-------------|----|---------|
| Subgroup A: | 56 | (44.4%) |
| Subgroup B: | 37 | (29.4%) |
| Subgroup C: | 33 | (26.2%) |

This division into categories is made because the general rule-of-thumb for our chapter is that about 200 members attend general meetings at least once during a year and about 100 members go on a field trip at least once during a year, with considerable overlap between the two. This means the vast majority of our members are not active and the Board does not usually have any feedback from these members, good or bad, about National Audubon or about our chapter in particular. It is hoped the inactive members who did return questionnaires are representative of the inactive membership as a whole.

The overwhelming reason for joining listed by all respondents as well as by each subgroup is birds and/or birding. For the entire sample, 64 people give that answer and for inactive members as well this is the most common answer (12 of 37). (A more general interest in nature as a whole is listed by 17 members.) The second most common response (27 of 128)

given is interest in or concern for conservation, ecology, or the environment. Often these two are combined, as "An interest in birds and protection of their habitat." At this point, one major difference between active and inactive members appears. Twelve active members cite "friends" or "fellowship" as the reason for joining and 12 list "chapter activities." No inactive member list "friends" and only two list "chapter activities" as their reason for joining.

The two questions about what members liked best and least about National Audubon were intended to draw feelings about the national society, but for 31 of the active members, it is a feature of the local chapter (meetings, field trips, the *Quail*) that they like best. For 15 inactive and 30 active members, conservation policies and actions of National Audubon Society are what they like best. However, 19 people, including some of those 45, also list some policies or actions by NAS as what they like least. Apparently there is general broad support for NAS's conservation policies but with some reservations. The feelings about the Audubon magazine are equally mixed, with 10 listing it as a "liked best" and 16 as a "liked least." Twelve people also complain about a lack of birds, although one gentleman thinks there is "too much birds." Only four people list a problem with the local chapter as "liked least."

Finally, *Quail* readership is very strong, even among inactive members. The most-read section of the eight listed is Field Trips (104 of 126). Apparently people like to read about the trips even if they don't go on them. Conservation Corner, Field Trip Reports, and Observations also enjoy broad support, although no section is read by less than half the respondents. Among the inactive members, Conservation Notes is the most-read section, followed by Field Trips. Only two of the respondents indicate that they do not read any of the *Quail*.

It is impossible in this one page to do more than give this short summary of the survey results. Overall, members who returned a questionnaire seem to be positive about belonging to NAS, and the local board, the chapter activities and the *Quail* are generally approved. Two points do stand out in the results of this survey, however, that members might like to consider. First, only three of those who answered the questionnaire were under 30 years old, and only ten were between 30 and 39 years old. Seventeen of the twenty-four new (0-2 years) members who answered the questionnaire are between 40 and 59. If these numbers represent our chapter as a whole, we are not doing a very good job of attracting new young members. What can we as members do to change this pattern? Second, only one person gives receiving a gift membership as a reason for joining Audubon. Can we as members encourage friends, neighbors, or family to join Audubon by giving them a gift membership? Further, do we ask others to join us at meetings or on field trips? A member's involvement with the local chapter appears to correlate with the length of membership. All of us who approve Audubon's efforts to preserve our world should consider what we can do to support Audubon beyond merely joining

FIELD TRIPS

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

Difficulty of field trip:

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

Thursday, December 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: Jean Richmond, 837-2843 Category 1

Wednesday, December 8, **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

Saturday, December 11, **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 Dunbarton Bridge to US 101 south. Take Embarcadero exit and go east on Embarcadero to stop sign. Go left toward Yacht Harbor, follow road to end in parking lot on right. This is a high tide day and we should see Clapper Rails and possibly Black Rails. Prepare for mud, cool breezes. There is a lot of waiting for the rails.

Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486 Category 1

Wednesday, December 29, **Lafayette Reservoir**. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the top of the dam. Parking costs \$4.00 and is prohibited at the bottom of the hill. A good place to learn local birds, and the chance of a surprise on the lake.

Leader: Barbara Vaughn, 376-8732 Category 2

Special Waterfowl Photography Trip. Fall migration is in full swing. Hundreds of thousands of migrating ducks, geese, swans, cranes and more, are returning to the Central Valley. Join Matthew Dalton for a day of photography at Grey Lodge National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, December 12. The participants are encouraged to bring a camera, lunch, and a few friends. A carpool from Walnut Creek BART will be arranged. Call Matthew at (510) 930-8243 if you are interested or want further information.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

OUTER POINT REYES, October 2.

The ten members and guests who braved a cold, foggy day on outer Point Reyes were rewarded with a good list of vagrant species containing either "black" or "white" or both in their names. In all, we saw 73 species. The highlights included White-winged Scoter, Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-throated Gray, a shy Blackburnian, numerous Palm, Black-and-white and Blackpoll Warblers, and White-throated Sparrow.

Bill Chilson

POINT DIABLO, October 10.

Sixteen birders carpoled to the Marin Headlands. We met first at Rodeo Lagoon to observe the shorebirds, waterbirds, waders, warblers, and bush birds, then we went up to Hill 129 (Hawk Hill) to see the raptors. Alas, raptors were far and few between. However, we did have an excellent talk on banding by the staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, giving us a close look at a young Cooper's Hawk. Total species: 42. The highlight species: a hunting bobcat at the old rifle range 50 feet away from those birders who stayed with the leader.

Jim Lomax

BODEGA BAY, October 13.

The day was one of ethereal beauty created by the fog which drifted in and out but never cleared. The sounds of civilization were muffled, adding to the peaceful experience of seeing or hearing a total of 68 species. Highlights of the day included hundreds of Dunlin and Marbled Godwits and from 50 to 100 Snowy Plovers. A group of four drove and walked around in circles enjoying this wonderful area.

Shirley Ellis

ABBOTT'S LAGOON, October 23.

Thirteen members and guests spent a beautiful and restful day at Point Reyes Headquarters in the mid-morning and at Abbott's Lagoon from late morning to mid-afternoon. Highlight birds at Headquarters included Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, and Red Crossbill. At Abbott's Lagoon, special birds were Black-vented Shearwater at an ocean feeding frenzy area just offshore, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, about 20 Snowy Plovers, and 2 Palm Warblers.

Maury Stern

SAN MATEO COAST, October 28.

Eight birders enjoyed 74 species in the best weather conditions likely along the coast. Highlights included the close fly-by at eye level of a Peregrine Falcon, a cooperative pair of Marbled Murrelets, several Black-vented Shearwaters seen well offshore, and a very entertaining group of three Black Oystercatchers at very close range. There were also six species of ducks in the small groups of waterfowl at Pescadero Marsh. Conspicuously absent were small sandpipers (Western and Least) normally found at several locations

Ed Hase

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.

Northern Fulmar: 1 on 11/2 at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse. (JR)

Brandt's Cormorant: 1 on 10/26 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline. (BR) Rare in the East Bay.

American Bittern: 1 on 10/31 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Wood Duck: 5 on 10/12 at 5 Brooks Pond, Marin Co. (MJC, BG, FB); 1 pair on 11/2 and 11/3 (CB) and 11/4 (JR) at Oak Hill Park, Danville.

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 on 10/19 at Bolinas Lagoon (GF, MP); 1 on 11/9 at Renillard Park, Larkspur (JR); at least 5 through 11/11 at Hayward RS (BR).

Tufted Duck: 1 male on 11/9 at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin. (JR) Also on RBA.

Harlequin Duck: 1 pair on 10/26 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes. (FB, HH, BG, MJC)

Black Scoter: 10 on 10/26 (FB, HH, MJC, BG), and 15 on 11/2 (JR), at the Fish Docks; 10 on 11/2 at the Lighthouse (JR).

Ferruginous Hawk: 1 on 10/28 at Las Trampas. (KH)

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

Virginia Rail: 1 on 10/25 at Pine Pond, Mt. Diablo State Park. (KH) First park record.

Lesser Golden-Plover: 16 on 10/12 and 12 on 10/26 at the Spaleitta Plateau. (FB, MJC, BG)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: 1 on 10/14 at Crittendon Marsh, Mt. View. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 on 10/15 at Crittendon Marsh. (JR) Also on RBA.

Ruff: 1 on 10/14 at Crittendon Marsh (FB, MJC), also on RBA; 1 last seen on 10/17 at Hayward RS (BR).

Franklin's Gull: 1 last seen 10/15 at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont. (JR, EH, KH, GF)

Tufted Puffin: 1 on 10/26 flying past Pescadero Beach. (JR)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 on 10/19 at Pine Gulch Creek, Marin Co. (BG, MJC, FB, GF, MP, JR)

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 on 10/12 and 10/19 in Nicasio, Marin Co. (MJC, FB, BG)

Tree Swallow: at least 2,000 (conservative estimate) on 11/1 at Clifton Court Forebay. (SG)

House Wren: 3 on 11/1 at Clifton Court. (SG)

Golden-crowned Kinglet: seen nearly everywhere during late October and early November, including at the summit of Mt. Diablo (KH) and the freshwater ponds at Hayward RS (BR)!

Yellow-green Vireo: 1 on 10/19 at Pine Gulch Creek. (GF, MP, JR, FB, MJC, BG)

Chestnut-sided Warbler: seen again at Coyote Hills on 10/14 (FB, MJC), 10/15 (JR, GF, KH, EH), 10/16 (BR), and 10/17 (BR, SG, MOB).

Prairie Warbler: 1 on 10/19 at Pt. Reyes Headquarters and a second on 10/19 at Pine Gulch Creek. (JR)

Palm Warbler: 1 on 10/22 at Hayward RS. (BR)

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 on 10/16 at Coyote Hills. (BR) First East Bay record.

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 on 10/14 (FB, MJC) and 10/17 (SG, BR, MOB) at Coyote Hills. Rare in the East Bay.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 on 10/16 at the Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes. (FB, MJC) Also on RBA.

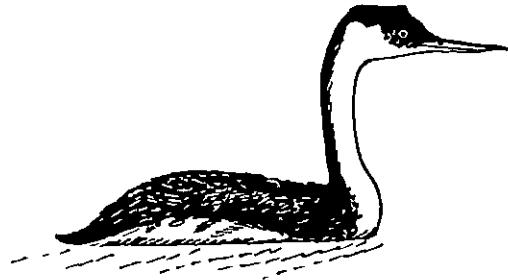
White-throated Sparrow: 1 adult on 10/30 in his Walnut Creek yard (GF, JR); 2 adults on 10/30 in her Concord yard (MJC).

Lapland Longspur: 1 on 10/26 at Drake's Corners, Pt. Reyes. (FB)

Cassin's Finch: 1 male on 11/9 at Hayward RS. (BR) Second Hayward RS record.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Carol Benson, Mary Jane Culver, George Finger, Betty Gallagher, Steve Glover, Hugh Harvey, Ed Hase, Kevin Hintsa, Marjorie Plant, Bob Richmond, and Jean Richmond and Many Observers.

Note: The Rare Bird Alert Number 528-0288 is now to be used solely for reporting observations. There is no weekly summary tape. The daily update number is 524-5592.



Original sketch
by Carol Lutz

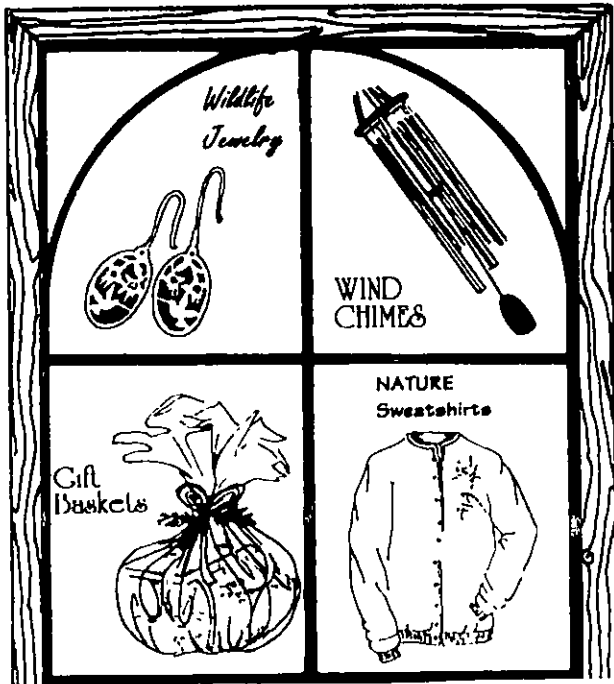
PURPLE MARTIN SURVEY

Brian Williams is trying to document the historical and present distribution of the Purple Martin in California as part of a study initiated by the California Department of Fish and Game. He will use this information to determine the status of the Purple Martin in California as well as for his own research purposes. He would greatly appreciate submission of any records regarding present or former Purple Martin nest sites and migratory staging areas. Brian requests as much of the following information as can be provided: dates; location including county, nearest town, elevation, landowner, and detailed site direction (photocopied topographic maps are excellent); number of individuals (or pairs or nests); stage of breeding cycle; nest substrate; reproductive success; habitat type including condition and the proximity to water; presence of starlings; and any other comments that may be useful. Please send information to Brian Williams, P. O. Box 605, Loomis, CA 95650 or call him at (916) 624-4861.

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**Binocular & Spotting Scope Seminar
Saturday, December 11**

Van Gilbert, certified optics expert, will give a 30 minute lecture at 10:00 a.m. on "How to Buy Birding Optics." This will be held at Cafe Milano, next to Wild Birds Unlimited. We will have many brands of binoculars and spotting scopes on display. As seating is limited, please call for a reservation. Van will also be in the store all day to answer questions. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Winter bird feeding tips:

- *Baffles keep feeders dry in wet months.
- *It's time to clean out birdhouses and put out new ones as birds roost in them in colder months.
- *Continue to feed Anna's Hummingbirds, a year-round resident.
- *Keep feeding stations clean to reduce spread of avian diseases.

94th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1993 MDAS Christmas Bird Count will be on Saturday, December 18. 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 75 field observers and 6 feeder watchers who tallied a new record of 159 species and who found four species never seen before on our Christmas Counts. 84,008 individual birds were counted during the day.

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. The doors will be open at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. 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 \$5.00 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: _____

NEW MEMBERS

Season's greetings to these new MDAS members that we hope to meet soon: Deborah Albert, Mrs. Toni Buchner, Elaine and Byron Campbell, Mrs. L. R. Clason, Phyllis Donald, L. E. Farning, the Ferree family, Mrs. Gay Frank, Mrs. L. Garry, Lee Glasgow, Hugh Grey, L. Haitisma, Ruth Haley, Joane Harmon, Bonnie Harrigan, James Hawkins, Harmon Howard, William Jones, Shirley Kettle, Suzanne Lee, Mrs. John Mason, Robert Millar, Ms. Casey Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Orem, Mary Phillips, Cindy Redmon, G. H. Robertson, Jill Sabel, Laura Samrad, Bill Stout, and Burke Woodward.

HOLIDAY GIVING

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

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Entertainment Books sell for \$40 each and MDAS receives \$8. Books are available at Wild Birds Unlimited, 720 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Call Barbara Vaughn at 376-8732 for more details.

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

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