

Valley Pioneer
8/25/76

Birding is exciting new sport

According to national and local figures, an exciting new sport that is becoming popular throughout the country is that of birding. It is described as a sport for all seasons, can be pursued at home or far away, alone or in groups, and with only a pair of binoculars and field guide, a birder finds he needs little investment in equipment to acquire an exciting lifetime hobby.

The appeal of birding is as diverse as its enthusiasts, as shown by members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Field trips attract many who enjoy hiking in the countryside in quest of new species and find the companionship of fellow birders rewarding. Birders learn early that the keeping of a "life list" adds to the pleasure and interest of bird identification, that is, a list of birds that one can identify by color, size, shape and habitat.

Among members of Mt. Diablo Audubon who have identified the largest

number of birds is Jean Richmond, editor of the chapter's monthly news letter, the "Quail." Jean has over 570 birds on her "life list," and having learned most of the local birds by name, a case of "bird fever" has led her to make trips as far away as Texas for the past three years. This year alone she traveled 6,200 miles throughout Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California, and sighted 264 species, adding 18 new birds to her "life list."

Members of Audubon Society invite anyone interested in learning about birds, to join them in their bird walks or at the meetings. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Avenue, Walnut Creek. For field trip information, call Jean Richmond at 837-2843, or Sally Steller, field trip chairman, at 837-9061.

THERE IS A MOST INTERESTING LADY in Alamo who loves the increasingly popular sport of "Birding." Jean Richmond, editor of the monthly newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, "The Quail," can identify by name more than 570 different birds!!

Jean admits that she has a "Gallop case of bird fever" which has led her to make trips as far away as Texas for the past three years. This year Jean traveled 6200 miles throughout Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California and sighted 264 species, adding 18 new birds to her "life list."

Jean notes that "birding" is truly a sport for all seasons and can be pursued at home or far away; alone or in groups, and with only a pair of binoculars and a field guide. She admits that not all bird enthusiasts have the time or money to travel widely to locate new species, but even an invalid's backyard can supply the source of many local birds and give the birder a rewarding interest.

The Audubon Society enjoys both field trips and regular meetings, and anyone interested in taking part in the Society's activities should call Jean at 837-2843 and talk to her.

Audubon Society To Meet

WALNUT CREEK — Slides by Phil Schaeffer of the Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary will be shown at Thursday's meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

The meeting, open to the public, will begin at 7 p m. at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave.

Also on the agenda is a bird presentation by Darrell Peterson.

Future club activities will include field trips to the San Mateo coast Sept. 11 and 18 and to Tilden Park Sept. 23. Call 685-7280 for further information.

Newly elected officers are Jim Edgar, president; Kent Fickett, vice president, program; Leon Borowski, vice president, conservation; Elizabeth Dickey, secretary; Florence Bennett, treasurer; Sally Steller, field trips; Mervyn and Norma Orteiz, membership; Agnes Eckford, publicity; Judith and Bruce Moorad, exhibits; Helen Gentile and Irene Hellekson, education; Jean Richmond, editor.

C.C. Times, Sept 8, '76

Audubon Society begins Fall season

Mt. Diablo Audubon will open its program for the fall tomorrow, Sept. 9, at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Avenue, with a slide show by Phil Schaeffer of Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary.

The regular meeting will be held at 8 pm and will be preceded by Birdingformation at 7 pm and social time at 7:30. "Parabolics" is the title of Darrell Peterson's presentation at the Birdingformation session.

Three field trips are scheduled for September including two weekend trips, Saturday, Sept. 11 which a group will travel to the San Mateo Coast with leader Jean Richmond, 837-2843 and on Saturday, Sept. 18 to outer Pt. Reyes with leader Darrell Peterson, 685-3781. Thursday, Sept. 23, Tom Steller, 837-9061 will lead a trip to Tilden Park.

Newly-elected officers taking over duties for the coming year at tomorrow's meeting are: president, Jim Edgar; vice president of programs, Kent Fickett; vice president - conservation, Leon Borowski; secretary, Elizabeth Dickey; treasurer, Florence Bennett; field trip chairman, Sally Steller; membership, Mervyn and Norma Orteiz; publicity, Agnes Eckford; exhibits, Judith and Bruce Moorad; education, Helen Gentile and Irene Hellekson; editor, Jean Richmond.

An exciting schedule of meetings, programs and field trips are being planned for the coming year. Anyone interested in any of the Audubon activities is cordially invited to attend.

Valley Pioneer
9/9/76

Concord Transcript

SERVING CONCORD, PLEASANT HILL AND CLAYTON

88TH YEAR, NO. 250

682-6440

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1977

Single Copy 10 Cents, Monthly \$2.00



Betty Gallagher and Jimm Edgar, president of the Mt. Diablo Chapter of the Audubon Society, scan the skies yesterday

For bird watchers, t'was a good day

By LANCE FREDERIKSEN
Transcript reporter

Rain trickled down their necks and fogged their binoculars, but did little to dampen the spirits of area bird watchers who took to the back roads and marshes Sunday for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society 22nd annual Christmas Count.

When it was over the ornithologists had stuck a new feather in their cap by setting a chapter record for number of species sighted.

Birders throughout the Central County said they saw spotted sand pipers and common snipe, red shafted flickers and yellow rump warblers, great blue herons and white crown sparrows and even a green heron and a tri-colored blackbird or two.

The yearly event is part of a national, and to an extent world-wide, count. Yesterday's tally was the 77th such bird survey of the Audubon Society.

The Mt. Diablo Chapter had its

first count in 1954 when 89 species and 6,222 birds were sighted. Last year recorded the greatest variety with 124 species. But that total was topped by four in Sunday's count.

Jimm Edgar, chapter president, noted, however, that the total number of birds is expected to be down slightly from previous years. He said dry weather the past two years has resulted in about a six per cent drop in bird populations in the Bay Area.

"This is all part of what interests the birders," he explained. "There's the competitive part of trying to find as many new species as possible, but there's also a very strong conservation element in the organization."

Edgar noted that the society is a non-profit group, so it does not take expressly political stands. But it does inform the people, he noted, on ecological concerns in the area.

The chapter president said

growing interest in the environment has been a boon to the birders.

"It's exciting to see so many young people getting involved."

"I think it's a reflection of the wildlife and the environment around us . . . And birds are something you can focus on."

"It's tough to concentrate on coyotes and animals like that, but birding is something you can do anywhere."

Edgar says that each watcher

keeps a lifelong list to record the different species he has seen.

"In California there are more than 500," he explains. There are more than 600 species in North America.

The 1976 record number of sightings was 293, made at Vera Cruz, Mexico. The top figure in the United States was 216 at Freeport, Tex.

Results of the counts are compiled each year in the spring issue of "American Birds."

Bird Count Posted

Bob Richmond, compiler of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count, reported yesterday interesting results of the group's twenty-second annual count.

When the society began its yearly check in 1954, at least 89 species of birds were sighted. This year a new high of 127 species were seen and the 75 observers marked an increase of 80 per cent in the number of watchers.

More than 51,621 individual birds were recorded, the second highest on the Mt. Diablo Society records. The count was held Sunday, Jan. 2, a rainy blustery day, not conducive to birds or watchers.

The Mt. Diablo chapter count is part of a national event started by National Audubon Society in 1900. While it will never find its way to the sporting section of a paper, this competitive exercise has been described as the sport in which more active participants take part than any other sport in the country.

It has been referred to as the "biggest birding bash of the year," the crazy Christmas carnival," and epidemic winter madness."

However, it includes people of all walks of life, and can be far more taxing than many true "sports."

Christmas counting means more than just a day in the field, followed by a social dinner after dark. Besides the physical pleasure, companionship of other birders, and the competition both with other groups and with one's own past record, the count yields information of considerable scientific value.

As a result of the count, locating wintering species and estimating their numbers can be recorded. Distribution of our bird population can be mapped and which species are estimating their numbers can be recorded. Distribution of our bird population can be mapped and which species are increasing or declining can be determined.

It gives firm figures of the rarest species and those which may be endangered.

Photog To Give Bird Program

A well-known nature photographer will lead the Thursday meeting at 7 p.m. of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on both the Birding-formation session on birds of Arizona and also narrate a slide show on flowers, mammals, birds and scenery of Arizona at the regular 8 o'clock meeting.

Frank Beyer is well known as an accomplished photographer as well as an excellent speaker. Refreshments will be served at 7:30.

The meeting will be at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Public is welcome.

Field trips scheduled for this month:

Thurs., May 12, 8:30 a.m. — Jean Richmond (837-2843) will lead a trip to Las Trampas Regional Park, leaving Alamo Market Plaza at 8 a.m.

Sat., May 14, at group will carpool at Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center at 7:30 a.m. and arrive at Annadel State Park at 9. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).

Transcrip Audubon trips 5/6

A number of field trips are slated this month by the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

May 12 at 8:30 a.m. Jean Richmond (837-2843) will lead a trip to Las Trampas Regional Park, leaving Alamo Market Plaza at 8 a.m.

May 14, a group will carpool from the Copper Penny restaurant at Sun Valley Mall at 7:30 a.m. and arrive at Annadel State Park at 9 a.m. Leader is Florence Bennett (933-3781).

May 25 at 8:30 a.m. a trip is slated for Briones Regional Park. Leader is Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).

Arizona topic of Audubon meeting

At the May 5 meeting of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, Frank Beyer will lead the 7 pm Birding-formation session on Birds of Arizona, and also narrate a slide show on flowers, mammals, birds and scenery of Arizona at the regular 8 pm meeting. Beyer is well known as an accomplished photographer as well as an excellent speaker.

Refreshments will be served at 7:30. The meeting will be held at the Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Avenue, Walnut Creek. The public is welcome.

Valley Pioneer 5-4-77

Thursday, May 12, at 8:30 am Jean Richmond, 837-2843, will lead a trip to Las Trampas Regional Park, leaving Alamo Market Plaza at 8 am.

Saturday, May 14, a group will carpool at Copper Penny, Sun Valley Center at 7:30 am and arrive at Annadel State Park at 9. Leader: Florence Bennett, 933-3781.

Wednesday, May 25, 8:30 am, Briones Regional Park. Leader: Elizabeth Dickey, 254-0486.

Anyone interested is invited to join with Audubon groups.

Audubon slate

The Audubon Society has scheduled a meeting for Thursday and three field trips for this month.

The group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Women's Club, 124 Lincoln Ave., in Walnut Creek. Frank Beyer, an accomplished photographer, will speak on birds of Arizona and conduct a slide show on flowers, mammals, birds and scenery of Arizona.

Field trips scheduled for this month include May 12, with Jean Richmond leading a trip to Las Trampas Regional Park, leaving at 8:30 a.m. from the Alamo Market Plaza.

Another trip is scheduled for May 14 and will go to Annadel State Park. Group members should meet at the

Copper Penny in the Sun Valley Center at 7:30 a.m. to join a carpool.

Audubon members will also take a trip to Briones Regional Park, May 25, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Further information concerning activities and trips can be obtained by calling 685-7280.

C.C. Times 6/3/77 Audubon Field Trips

WALNUT CREEK — The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society has scheduled four field trips for the coming months.

Saturday, Bob McCarthy will lead a group up Pine Canyon. Participants meet at 8:30 a.m. at Castle Rock Park. June 9, Jean-Marie Spoelman and other bird watchers will look for summer birds at Redwood Regional Park.

A two-day trip to Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley is scheduled for June 18 and 19. For reservations, call group leader Florence Bennett, 933-3781.

July 9, Jean Richmond and a group will drive to Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area to observe birds such as the yellow-billed cuckoos.

Saving Alaska

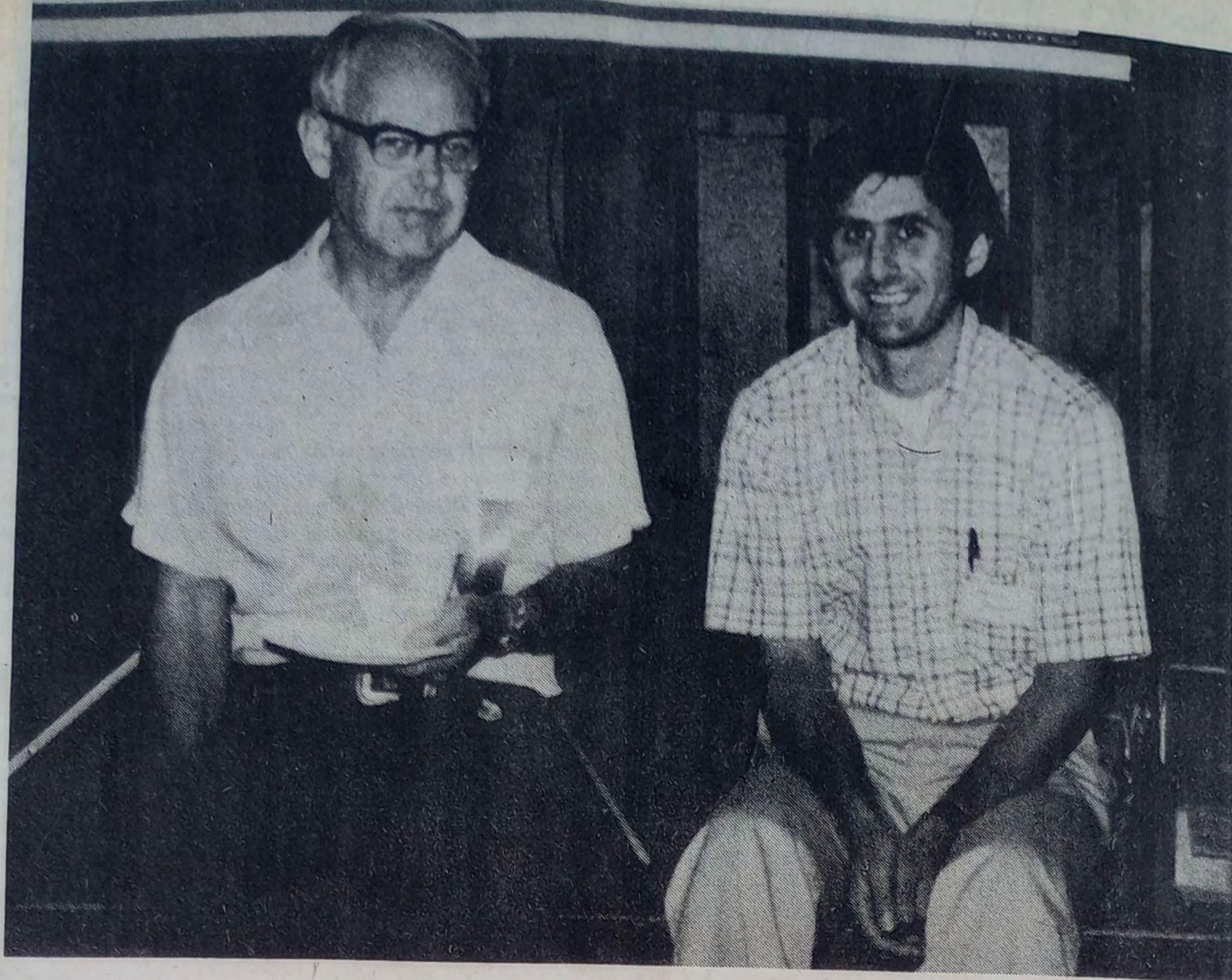
Those interested in protecting the irreplaceable natural values of Alaska — the caribou, grizzly bears, seals, birds, whales and glaciers, as well as the traditional life - styles — will be vitally interested in a meeting of the Subcommittee on Alaska Lands to be held Saturday in the Board Room, San Francisco Board of Education, 135 Van Ness Ave.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 granted 44 million acres of land, but Congress has recognized the national interest needs in Alaska and authorized the Secretary of Interior to identify up to 120 million acres for possible inclusion in the four federal conservation systems — national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and national forests. This amendment, HR 39, introduced by Morris Udall, will provide needed protection for fragile Alaskan wildlife and wilderness, and it is directed that Congress take action on the legislation by December, 1978.

The Honorable John Seiberling, chairman, House Subcommittee on Alaska Lands, has scheduled a series of seven meetings across the country, the fifth of which is in San Francisco, June 18. Seiberling is asking those concerned with the protection of Alaska to attend the meeting. He also suggests writing our Congressmen urging them to attend.

AGNES ECKFORD
Concord
Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

C.C. Times 6-14-77



Mount Diablo Audubon Society recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the club. John Davis, left, discusses the early days with Society President Bruce Moorad.

Audubon Chapter 25th Year

WALNUT CREEK - Mount Diablo Audubon Society, now in the twenty fifth year as a chapter, presents Marianne Danielson, chief of Interpretation and Resource Management for San Mateo County Park and Recreation Division.

The subject of the illustrated talk, "Following Plumage Changes from here to the Tundra", is a journey in tundra and forest last summer, showing wild life, flora and birds.

The program, at 8:30 p.m. takes place on Thursday, November 3, in the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave. Walnut Creek.

The meeting begins at 7 when Frank Beyer will give information on the identification of shore birds.

Field trips in November emphasize the winter marsh. Saturday, Nov. 5, 8:30 a.m. meet at Palo Alto salt marsh, carpool will meet at Alamo Market Plaza at 7:15, leader Tom Steller.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m., Mountain View Sanitation District, Martinez, a marsh utilizing reclaimed waste water and recently a subject on the MTWTF evening show, leader Irene Hellekson.

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m. Palo Alto salt marsh, carpool meets at Alamo Market Plaza 8:15 a.m., leader Elizabeth Dickey.

Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m. Lafayette Reservoir, leaders Helen and Jerry Gentile.

An Audubon Wildlife Film will be shown at Diablo Valley College

Gymnasium on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. entitled, "Palm Springs to Lake Louise," narrated by Norm Wakeman.

All of the society's activities are open to interested persons, who are invited to attend. For more details call 284-2260.

Bird Group Celebrates

WALNUT CREEK-Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 6 in the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224, Lincoln Ave.

A special invitation is extended to all charter and other early members to share in early history and a special anniversary cake.

Interested early members whom the club has been unable to contact may call Bruce Moorad, 938-4446, Mervyn Ortez, 283-3072, Kent Fickett 798-7421 or Norah Bain 254-4516 for more information or transportation to the meeting.

The program will include a talk by charter member Isabel McGeehan, an account of early field trips by Mrs. Sally Steller at 7:30, and a film, "It Began With the Birds," about the National Audubon Society at 8:30.

Several society field trips are planned for October. For information call 284-2260. All interested persons are invited to par-

Photos by
Norah Bain

25th ANNIVERSARY
October 6th 1977



Betty + Harry Adamson. Isabel Mc Geehan



Joy Meagher.



Harry Couden. Betty + Harry Adamson. Sally Stellen
Isabel Mc Geehan. Dorothy Couden



Joy Meagher.



Harry Couden. Betty + Harry Adamson. Sally Stollen
Isabel McGeehan. Dorothy Couden

25th ANNIVERSARY
October 6th 1977



Sally Stollen. Isabel McGeehan.

25th Anniversary Oct 6. 1977



Harry Cowden.



Frank Byers.



Evelyn Mann. Norma Warner. Katie Hoover
(Hassler)

MDAS. XMAS BIRD COUNT

AUDUBON DAILY FIELD CARD

BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC STATES

(California, Oregon and Washington)

Locality

USN Weapons Center - Central San

Observer(s)

Jimm Edgar, Ben + Betty Gallagher,
Joy Meaker.

Date

12.31.77

Time

7

to

5

Wind

light

Weather

Fair

Totals: Species

Individuals

(Solid lines separate orders; broken lines separate families)

LOON, Common
Arctic
Red-throated
GREBE, Red-necked
Horned
Eared
Western
Pied-billed
ALBATROSS, Black-footed
Fulmar
SHEARWATER, Pink-footed
Pale-footed
New Zealand
Sooty
Slender-billed
Manx
PETREL, Fork-tailed
Leach's
Ashy
Black
PELICAN, White
Brown
CORMORANT, Double-cr.
Brandt's
Pelagic
HERON, Great Blue
Green
EGRET, Common
Snowy
HERON, Bl.-cr. Night
BITTERN, Least
American
IBIS, Wood
IBIS, White-faced
SWAN, Whistling
GOOSE, Canada
BRANT, Black
GOOSE, Emperor
White-fronted
Snow
Blue
Ross'
DUCK, Fulvous Tree

Mallard
Gadwall
Pintail
TEAL, Green-winged
Blue-winged
Cinnamon
WIDGEON, European
American
Shoveler
DUCK, Wood
Redhead
DUCK, Ring-necked
Canvasback
SCAUP, Greater
Lesser
GOLDENEYE, Common
Barrow's
Bufflehead
Oldsquaw
DUCK, Harlequin
SCOTER, White-winged
Surf
Common
DUCK, Ruddy
MERGANSER, Hooded
Common
Red-breasted
VULTURE, Turkey
CONDOR, California
KITE, White-tailed
Goshawk
HAWK, Sharp-shinned
Cooper's
Red-tailed
Red-shouldered
Swainson's
Rough-legged
Ferruginous
EAGLE, Golden
Bald
HAWK, Marsh
Osprey
FALCON, Prairie
Peregrine
HAWK, Pigeon
Sparrow

Eastern group MDAS



Local 'birders' taking part in Audubon Society's annual bird count included, from left, Jay Meagher of Pleasant Hill; Phil Stringer and Marilyn Strong of Byron; Norah and Hugh Bain of Orinda, and Bob Gallagher of Concord.

By Bob Pepping

A Hobby That's 'For the Birds'

From Page 19

Members carry field guides with pictures and characteristics of the various species annotated with the date and place they saw a particular bird.

"Birding can be competitive with yourself or your friends," Edgar said. One of the hopes is to see a new bird. You never know what you might see, what you

might have been missing."

But the excitement of seeing a new or rare bird is not the only reason for birding, he said.

"I spent years hunting and fishing and never appreciated the natural beauty of the things around me. When you start birding you also get to know more of the flora and fauna."

Many of the members

are very conscious of what they see happening around them.

"The interest for many members is not only in birds, but in broader environmental issues," he said.

Some of the birds seen in the county in past years are becoming scarce, he said, because the habitat is changing as the county grows.

Almost 1,000 strong, the local chapter takes about three field trips every month, keeping members informed through newsletters and an information line (284-2260).

"We're always happy to take along interested people," Edgar said. They will even lend binoculars to the neophyte and match them up with a more experienced member.

community calendar

SATURDAY

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society field trip, 8 a.m. Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, car pool, 7:30 a.m., Pleasant Hill Road, north of Highway 24.

'Birding' group going strong

Mount Diablo Audubon membership is now over 1000.

The local Society was started 25 years ago by a handful of conservation-minded birders.

"This present large membership is evidence of increasing interest in conservation of our wild lands and natural resources, as well as the observation and identification of birds as a hobby," said Norah Bain, publicity chairman.

Purchase by the National Audubon Society has preserved many unique and beautiful areas as sanctuaries for wildlife throughout the nation.

The local society offers meetings and films on conservation related subjects, as well as several field trips each month to varied habitats for bird observation.

A valuable feature of the monthly meeting is a half hour of 'Birdingformation'

which offers instruction on field identification, procedure, equipment, photography and birding locations useful to the beginning and experienced birders alike.

Meetings are on the first Thursday each month at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek at 7 p.m. Interested persons are invited. Call 284 - 2260 for more information on a taped message.

Audubons Now 1000 Strong

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Meetings are on the first Thursday each month at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek, at 7 p.m.

Interested persons are invited to attend. Call 284-2260 for more information on a taped message.

Members in the News



Lafayette wildlife artist Harry Adamson received a Ducks Unlimited honor for his waterfowl paintings.

C.C. Times 5/28/78

MT. VIEW MARSH AUDUBON WINNER

40,000 READERS

NO NEWS-GAZETTE
BY 7:30 A.M.—CALL
228-6400 BY 9 A.M.

Martinez News-Gazette

THE COUNTY SEAT MORNING FAMILY NEWSPAPER

WEATHER REPORT

SMALL CRAFT ALERT
WARMER TODAY
HIGHS IN 70S

VOL. 121—NO. 84

10¢ DAILY
AT ALL NEWSSTANDS

COUNTY SEAT OF CONTRA COSTA—MARTINEZ, CALIF.— WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1978

Formerly Contra Costa Gazette,
Pleasant Hill News

TWO SECTIONS, 16 PAGES



AUDUBON AWARD FOR MARSH CREATION

Presenting Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's "Industrial Citation" to Mt. View Sanitary District for creation of a fresh water marsh as a wildlife

habitat is Bruce Moorad, society president. The plaque is being accepted by Francesca Demgen, the district's aquatic biologist.

Photo by Norah Bain.

During the winter months, the two-pond, eight-acre marsh that uses treated waste water from the Mt. View Sanitary District plant becomes a resting place for migratory ducks.

By Kathy Baker

Sanitary District Makes a Marsh

A Good Use for Dirty Water

By NILDA REGO

MARTINEZ — Millions of gallons of waste water are flushed down drains every day in the Bay Area, not doing much good for any living thing.

Not so with the 660,000 gallons of treated effluent leaving the Mt. View Sanitary District plant.

The district considers its effluent to be an asset, a valuable resource to be used in a beneficial manner.

For more than two years the waste water from the 12,000 customers in a six-square-mile area east of Martinez has been serving a variety of wildlife in two marsh ponds next to Highway 680.

The two-pond, eight-acre marsh areas were flooded in November 1974 with treated waste water from the sewer plant.

Francesca C. Demgen, biologist for the district, reports a balanced ecosystem has been created with the pond-marsh areas at its base.

Raccoons, pocket gophers, bullfrogs, turtles, snakes, ducks, birds have been making the ponds home. Demgen said the best time to spot the wildlife is at dawn before the rest of the world wakes up and starts making noises.

During winter months the ponds serve as a resting ground for thousands of migratory ducks.

And the treated effluent which winds its way from the ponds through a slough finally in the Carquinez Straits becomes better, healthier quality water than already in the Bay, Ken Renkert, district manager, has said, because of the ponds.

The marshes were created out of political necessity, a way of keeping the small district from being swallowed up by the gigantic Central Sanitary District.

It would have cost the taxpayers millions of dollars if Mt. View Sanitary District had been forced to join Central San, said Renkert.

Instead, the district received permission from the California Regional Quality Control Board to deviate from the plan, which would have Central Sanitary District the regional agency controlling all sewage.

The deviation hasn't cost millions, but \$40,000.

Regional plans adopted in 1971 for the Bay Area would have had the M.T. View Sanitary District pumping its effluent to Central San.

To give impetus to such a regional plan the federal government would only give grants to projects listed under the plan.

The Mt. View Sanitary District board didn't want to connect with the bigger district.

Mt. View had just built a secondary treatment plant at a cost of more than a million dollars. The connection to the bigger district would have left the new Mt. View facility useless and would have cost more millions.

Besides the money, there was the thought that Mt. View with its secondary treatment plant was doing a much better job of treating its sewage than Central San which at the time could only provide primary treatment.

Federal and state regulations attempting to clean up the nation's waterways had been changing continually. The law which especially plagued the little Mt. View Sanitary District was the one which prohibited the dumping of treated effluent into any body of water except where tidal action existed. The district had been dumping its treated effluent in Peyton Slough.

State and federal officials, however, were beginning to recognize the importance of reclaiming water.

J. Warren Nute and Beverly Jams of the J. Warren Nute, Inc., of San Rafael came up with the concept of using the effluent water to create the marshlands and enhance the wildlife habitats, said Demgen.

The regional water board granted the district three years to operate the ponds in a pilot program to study the feasibility of such a project.

The three years will be up in December, but just last month the permit was extended for another six months.

Nute, in a report to the Mt. View board of directors, spoke of the tremendous importance of marshes to the ecology of the bays and oceans.

He said during the past 100 years California marshlands have been drained or filled to make way for agriculture and industry.

The Mt. View project would be a way to add to a system which had only seen subtraction for many years.



The best time to spot wildlife is at dawn.

By Kathy Baker

the same spot as above, but at 8:30 a.m. Reader will be Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486).
For the latest information about the local society dial AUD UBON on your phone.

tween July 1 and Aug. 24 of Dubois, Wyo. in the W tude of 7,500 feet. *Conc*

Only 30 left in California

Condor disappearing

By MIKE LEFKOW
Transcript staff writer

The California Condor, the largest bird to fly on the North American continent, may be "on the way out," according to a federal biologist.

Sanford Wilbur, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife condor researcher, said there are about 30 condors left in California, 20 less than a decade ago.

"We're either at a crossroads or beyond it," Wilbur said. "I hate to be pessimistic, but all indications are that the species is on its way out."

Meanwhile, representatives of the National Audubon Society and a group of independent advisors are meeting in Washington D.C. with Assistant Interior Secretary Robert Herbst to discuss the problem.

Herbst has been asked to help speed action on proposals to breed the birds in captivity in hopes of saving the species.

Wilbur based his estimate of 30 Condor on a survey last month that detected just 16. He added that no nests were found containing young condors.

Wilbur said condors tend to return to their current nesting sites south of San Luis Obispo despite dwindling food supplies and drastic environmental changes.

Most of the surviving birds live in the Los Padres National Forest.

Unseasonably warm weather has delayed the migration of waterfowl to

wintering areas, but duck populations in California have climbed past the three million mark, the state Department of Fish and Game has reported.

Almost 2.5 million of the ducks are pintails and most can be found in the Butte Sink. Other heavy concentrations of duck are located in the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath national wildlife refuges, Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, the Grasslands of the San Joaquin Valley, and the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

Audubon film

"Wilderness Alberta" will be the next Audubon film at Diablo Valley College's gymnasium at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Narrated by Albert Karonen, the film is an exploration of Alberta's northern forests and the alpine regions of Banff and Jasper National Parks.

Admission is \$2 and \$1 for children under 12.

12-Martinez News-Gazette, Thursday, Oct. 26, 1978

Bird Camp Scholarship

Mount Diablo Audubon Society is offering a full scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp for 1979. Interested persons should send a letter to Bruce Moorad, Mount Diablo Audubon Society, P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek 94597 before Dec. 1.

Letters should explain why the applicants feel they would be a good selection and

describe how they would put the training to use. Preference will be given to those working with young people who are not already proficient in ecology.

Four sessions, of 12 days are offered between July 1 and Aug. 24. The camp is 12 miles southwest of Dubois, Wyo. in the Wind River Mountains, at 7,500 feet.

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U.S. to Spend Millions

'Last Resort' Plan to Save the Condor

Los Angeles

After four years of study and controversy, the federal government has committed itself to staving off extinction of the California condor with one of the most expensive and elaborate endangered-species programs ever attempted.

The plan, which involves breeding condors in captivity and releasing young birds to the wilds, is described by officials as a last, desperate attempt to save the species. If the plan fails, they say, the last remaining condor colony, near Ojai in Ventura county, will almost certainly disappear over the next few decades.

"We look at it as absolutely the last resort," said Keith Shriner, associate director of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. "If there was any other way, we would take it, but it's pretty well agreed that we don't have an alternative. Either we do it or we lose them."

Late last week Shriner distributed to other federal officials a "working paper" that for the first time formally committed the government to the captive breeding program.

In a telephone interview from his Washington office, Shriner described the report as offering several possible approaches to the program, ranging from a small-scale plan of egg incubation to a far more elaborate system of capturing and breeding wild condors.

However, several officials asso-



The last remaining condor colony is near Ojai in Ventura county

ciated with the program said one alternative is generally favored and headed for adoption. Here are the basic steps of that plan:

- The capture of a number of younger, "immature" condors from the Sespe sanctuary and removal to several large cages for breeding.

- Continued breeding in captivity through two generations of condors to produce at least 100 members in the third generation.

- Acquisition of additional condor habitats near the California coast. Such acquisition would not necessarily involve land purchases but rather the purchase of easements guaranteeing the isolation required by condors.

- Research programs using surrogate species, such as common vultures or South American condors, to develop techniques for releasing captive-bred birds back to the wilds.

- Release of the young condors to these sanctuaries, probably not before the mid-1990s and perhaps not before the 21st century.

When Shriner was asked for his own estimate of this plan's cost, he paused, sighed, and said, "a lotta bucks. Many, many bucks." The major factor contributing to the cost is the time — 30 to 40 years — involved in the plan, and Shriner estimated that the final price will go into the millions.

Over the past ten years, the government has spent \$1.85 million on another large-scale program for the whooping crane. Generally believed to be the most expensive project to date, the whooping crane expenditures "will seem small by comparison" to the condor effort, Shriner said.

Where the condor program will get its funds is now the chief concern of officials. Sometime this spring, the Fish and Wildlife Service and several major environmental groups will go to Congress with a request for a supplemental appropriation to pay for the project, but the outlook for complete funding is not promising.

Should the appeal fail altogether, the endangered species program would be forced to cut back or eliminate other rescue projects to pay for the condor plan. Since there is a spending ceiling of \$25 million for all such programs, the cutbacks elsewhere could be severe.

Ironically, then, the condor project conceivably could lead to the extinction of other species whose survival depends on support from the government. "I promise you I'm thinking about that very hard today," said Shriner. "The choices must be right; we don't have the luxury of being wrong."

Over the last half decade it is estimated by some biologists that the sole remaining condor colony has produced one chick per year and lost two adults for a net loss of one bird per year.

However, disagreement about the exact population has led to the lingering dispute over the captive breeding program. Carl Koford, ornithologist at the University of California at Berkeley, has challenged counts by government biologists and the Audubon Society as haphazard and amateurish.

Our CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT on December 30 was a great success, thanks to our compiler George Scheffel and his assistant Jimm Edgar. The thick early morning fog gave way to mostly clear sky by mid-morning, the temperature was cold early in the day but became comfortable in the afternoon, the wind was generally light. The 56 observers found a total of 130 species (second only to last year's 132) plus 3 additional races, and tallied a total of about 67,300 individual birds which is a bit higher than most recent years. We added 2 new species to our CBC list: 8 Cattle Egrets and an Osprey. Other good finds included Rough-Legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Marbled Godwit, Common Raven, Rock Wren, Tricolored Blackbird, Rufous-Crowned & White-Throated Sparrow. Seen during count period but not on count list: Quail 2-79

Wildlife 'Artist of Year' Frames Birds

By CAROL FOWLER

When Harry Curieux Adamson was a boy, growing up in Oakland and Hayward, he often went to the Livermore hills with his friends to hunt for snakes. But in time, he found that he was more interested in the birds who soared in the air than in the reptiles in the grass.

He began to browse through bird books, identifying those he saw in the field and drawing them. The interest proved to be abiding and today, at 63, Adamson has become one of a handful of internationally famous wildlife artists. He was named by the national Ducks Unlimited as artist of the year for 1979 for his painting, "Wild Heritage — Widgeon."

The art work features a cascade of distinctively marked widgeon dropping into a marsh for a landing. One already skids along the water surface; the rest have webbed feet dropped and wings arched, ready to meet the earth.

Interviewed in his Lafayette home, Adamson claimed that the fall background in the painting is the kind of fine autumn day that a waterfowl enthusiast would like to be out in the marsh.

Adamson lavishes as much care on his background as he does on birds. Each tule is painted accurately with a central spine and light and shadow patterns; a cattail bursts apart in an explosion of fuzz; white and gray clouds mottle the sky.

Good wildlife art captures the scene with startling accuracy so that the birds come alive for the viewer. With Adamson's painting we hear the beat of wings and the hiss of feet skidding on the water.

Adamson donated "Wild Heritage — Widgeon" to Ducks Unlimited. A special issue of 1,600 high quality art prints, numbered and signed by Adamson, will be distributed to Ducks Unlimited chapters for fund raising auctions.

The strong interest in wildlife art is a relatively new thing, according to Adamson, spawned by the ecology movement. He looks back to 1937 as the year when he really started, although he had been drawing birds since he was 6 or 7 years old, "in my own quaint way."

In the 1930s Adamson met Paul J. Fair, sculptor, painter, taxidermist and photographer who created backgrounds for many of the dioramas at the California Academy of Science. Fair criticized Adamson's work and told him to concentrate on waterfowl: Adamson remembers this support and criticism as his only art training.

Fair introduced Adamson to the Crossroads of Sport in New York City where Adamson sold work during the 1940s. That and Abercrombie and Fitch were about the only outlets in those days.

"Only sportsmen would hang waterfowl paintings in



Harry Adamson with one of his wildlife paintings — this one of orange-breasted falcons.

their homes, and then, only in the den," recalls Adamson, a gentle spoken, tall man.

All of Adamson's early work was created in tempera, an opaque water-based medium. When a collector wanted a large painting, Adamson switched to oils.

Earning a living during these early years was not always easy, but Adamson had the life-long support of his wife Betty, who retired recently after working 40 years at the University of California. She has also spent a lot of time with him in the field, hiking, climbing and observing wildlife.

In the past, Adamson did considerable drawing from life. "If you see a bird landing, and concentrate hard

for a few moments it becomes almost a photograph in your brain. If you put it down inside four or five minutes, you catch the action."

The camera, he feels, works more quickly than the eye and if the artist patterns flight movements from photographs, the birds will appear grotesque.

He has spent a great deal of time around Sutter Buttes in the Sacramento Valley, an area rich with a wintering waterfowl population. The Buttes thrust up in the background of his latest painting of pintail ducks.

Adamson disdains the use of photorealist techniques in wildlife art. "Some of these fellows," he paused, "and gals who do birds find it a lot easier to paint a slide on the screen and just say that. You

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Adamson disdains the use of photorealist techniques in wildlife art. "Some of these fellows," he paused, "and gals who do birds find it a lot easier to project a slide on the screen and paint from that. You get the feeling they simply can't draw." Consequently, there are only six or eight wildlife artists whom Adamson considers tops.

Not only has the artist tramped over most of the major waterfowl breeding areas of North America, he has visited Australia and New Zealand. The result of that trip is a painting of exotic pink-eared ducks. "Hunters here wouldn't recognize this species."

Making hundreds of black and white preparatory sketches before he touches brush to canvas, Adamson explained that he does not always have to work out in the field now. Years of experience have given him a sure hand and eye. "I can visualize a pintail in almost any position," he smiled.

By the time he starts to paint, he has a relatively clear idea of the composition, although "birds appear and disappear in the sky all the time."

He completes about four or five paintings a year, working painstakingly to achieve the standards of perfection he sets for himself and that he feels his collectors expect. "I don't slap out small paintings," he remarked.

Most wildlife paintings go to a publisher who then prints a limited edition that Adamson signs, often affixing a "remarque," a pencil drawing beside his signature, to a certain number of the prints, a gesture that enhances their value. A print in his home bore an exact likeness of a blue-winged teal. He chose the same species for the remarque, but put the bird in a different attitude than those in the print.

If a painting is sold to a private collector, he must give permission for the edition of prints. Most of Adamson's paintings have been sold, although he receives the first copy of his print editions.

Does he miss his paintings?

"Not really. We don't have the room to hang them all and by the time I'm finished, I'm thinking about the next painting."



Harry Adamson's brush touches up a pintail duck painting.

Adamson's wildlife prints are available at the Picture Frame at 1426 South Main St. in Walnut Creek.

Clubs Pits for the birds

Participants will meet by the aviary for a lakeside stroll at 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, led by Win-
Orcutt, 944-0593.
Carpools are organized for each outing.
A taped message giving details of trips and meetings can be heard by dialing AUD-UBON.

Audubon film screened

Richard Martyr, National Audubon Society Western Regional representative, will present a film and discuss Audubon affairs in the west at the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's next regular meeting, Thursday, Dec. 6.

The film is entitled

Valley
Pioneer
11.28.79

"Rare and Endangered Species," and will follow a discussion of the Christmas Bird Count by John Davis at 7 p.m. The Christmas Count will take place Saturday, Dec. 29, and Davis will be the compiler. All birders, regardless of degree of expertise are invited. For more information, call Davis at 228-9516.

Two field trips are scheduled for December.

The first will be Sunday, Dec. 9, to the Niles Canyon Gravel Pits. For more information, call leader Jimm Edgar at 283-3510.

The second trip will be at the Lafayette Reservoir on Wednesday, Dec. 12. Leader Irene Hellesksen at 229-1837 has the information.

Audubon Society meetings are open to the public and are held at 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

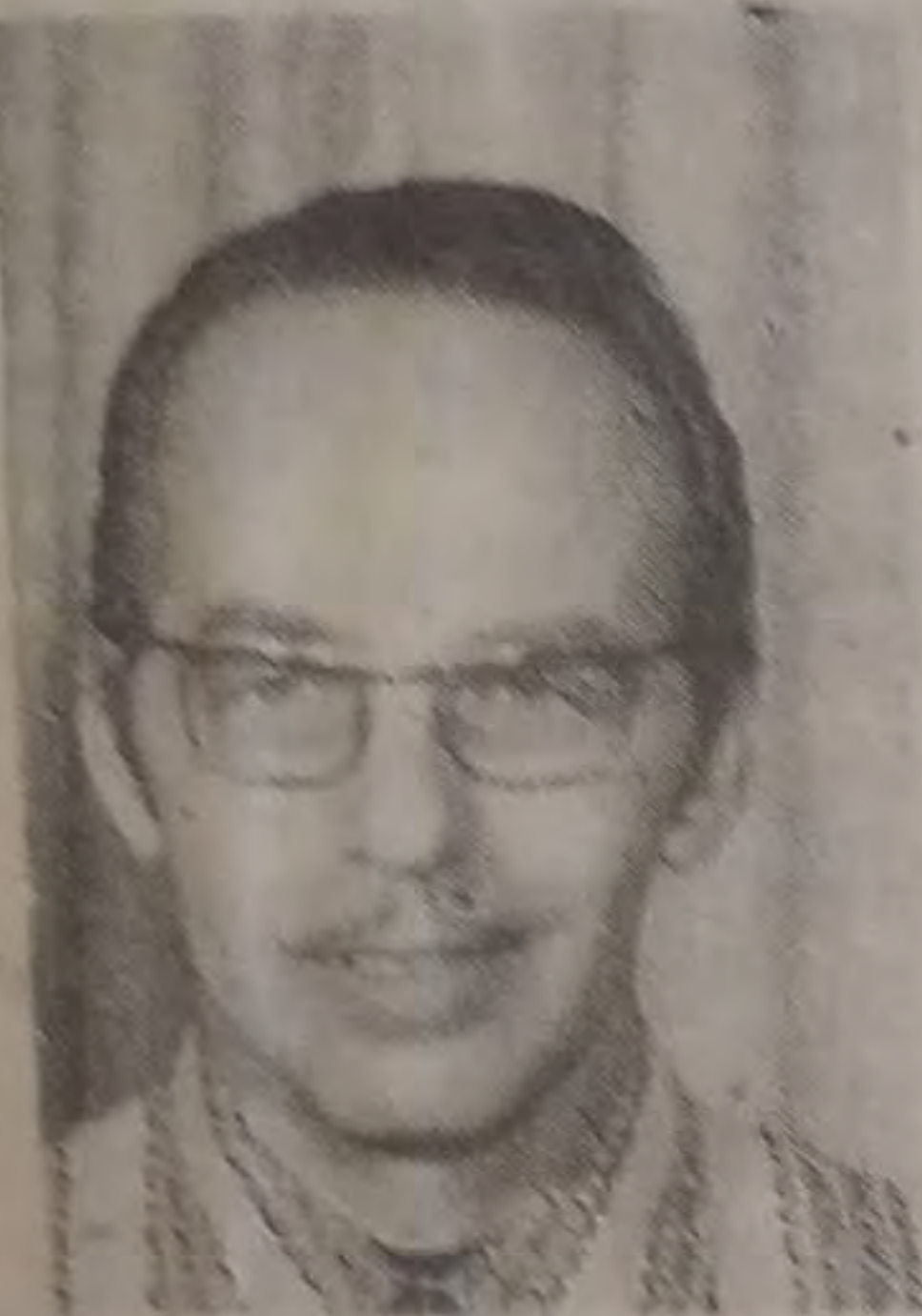
Audubon Society: The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will present guest speaker Richard Martyr, National Audubon Society western regional representative at 7 p.m. at the Walnut Creek Women's Club Thursday at 7 p.m. The film "Rare and Endangered Species" will be shown. Call 283-8266.

Contra Costa
Times 11.30.79

City clubman

Christmas Bird Count coming soon

Concord Transcript 11.28.79



By
Brooks
Kuehl

Christmas count planned Dec. 29

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is participating in the National Audubon Society's 80th annual Christmas Bird Count which begins Saturday, Dec. 29, and will continue through Jan. 1.

The Audubon Society, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary in January, sponsors the count every year to determine the species and distribu-

tion of birds throughout the U.S., Canada, Central America and West Indies Islands.

The results are published by the society in its journal, "American Birds" in July.

The Mt. Diablo chapter will hold its bird count on Dec. 29. For more information, call 228-9516; members and non-members are invited to participate.

Valley Pioneer 12.19.79

Audubon's Bird Count

WALNUT CREEK — Bird watchers, people with a spare afternoon, or anyone looking for something unusual to do during the Christmas season, are invited to help out in Saturday's Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas bird count.

Rain or shine, bird counters will be out in force Saturday to compile bird population figures for the National Audubon Society's annual report.

The object of the count is to find as many species of birds as possible within a 15-mile radius. The aver-

age for this area is about 120 species.

For more information, call John Davis at 228-9516.

Contra Costa
Times

Guest speaker for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society at its next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. will be Richard Martyr, National Audubon Society Western Regional representative.

Martyr will show the film "Rare and Endangered Species" and discuss Audubon affairs in the west at 8:30 p.m.

When the group assembles at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek, John Davis will lead a discussion on the Christmas Bird Count. The public is invited to attend all society activities. Call AUD UBON for updated information.

For field trips, the Society will tour the Niles Canyon gravel pits on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. Leader is Jimm Edgar, 283-3510. Carpooling will be at 8 a.m. at El Cerro Blvd. and I 680 in Danville.

Then on Wednesday, Dec. 12, it will be the Lafayette Reservoir at 8:30 a.m. with leaders Irene and Erling Hellesksen, 229-1837.

The big annual event, the Christmas Bird Count, will be Saturday, Dec. 29 with John Davis serving as compiler. His phone is 228-9516. He notes that birders of all degrees of expertise are welcome to help on this event.

Nature

Visit the Pits: The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will sponsor a field trip to the Niles Canyon gravel pits Sunday at 9 a.m. A car pool will leave from Interstate 680 and El Cerro Boulevard at 8 a.m. Call Jimm Edgar at 283-3510.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society: 7 p.m., Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Richard Martyr, will show the film "Rare and Endangered Species" and discuss Audubon affairs in the west, at 8:30 p.m. For more information call AUD UBON.

Contra Costa Times 12.5.79

Contra Costa
Times 12.7.79

CC's Bird Watchers: Tracking the Great Blue Heron

By KELLY GUST
Times Staff Writer

WALNUT CREEK — Slowly appearing through the fog, the great blue heron hung briefly over the townhouse rooftops and glided silently to the pond.

"Ohhh. It's a blue. It's a blue," Jerry Gentile shouted in excitement.

The rest of the group dissolved into a chorus of "Ah's" as the heron, long legs tucked tightly underneath it, moved through the morning suburban mist.

Olive Chadeayne gravely marked a "one" next to the line for great blue heron on her chart, the only one they'd see Saturday morning.

As the rest of Contra Costa slept, 12 teams of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society members fanned out in a 15-mile circle in central county, tallying the numbers and species of birds they spotted.

Once a year, rain, snow or mud; National Audubon Society members turn out for the annual Christmas bird count. Thirteen hundred chapters across the U.S. head for the great outdoors in one giant eight-hour field day.

When most people think of birds, or exotic birds to be included in official counts, they think of the great outdoors and birds winging their way across open fields.

But with new construction pushing birds out of their territories, Gentile's group found themselves roaming city parks and residential streets tracking their prey.

Within the first three hours at Heather Farms Park, and on the streets of southeast Walnut Creek, the group spotted hundreds of birds of 30 different species.

The great blue heron, and two great egrets, rubbed shoulders with the ruddy ducks and mallards of Heather Farms Park pond.

Starlings and scrub jays mixed with the coots and golden-crowned sparrows in the streets of the city.

"It's not the thrilling or exciting area" to cover, like the bird-covered hill areas, Helen Gentile admitted, "But it's vital."

"We have to get a count of some type so we know what's going in the parks," Jerry Gentile said. "As they build more, a lot of birds are chased



hill areas, Helen Gentile admitted, "But it's vital."

"We have to get a count of some type so we know what's going in the parks," Jerry Gentile said. "As they build more, a lot of birds are chased into the parks, they see it's green

And the birds patrol their green areas and swoop over the residential areas, far from the open spaces they once knew.

"See that," Jerry Gentile said, pointing up at a falcon. "That's a kestrel. They used to call it a sparrow hawk, but this development pushes them together and they interbreed" creating new species.

"This development is really something," the Martinez man said shaking his head. "We were here two years ago and there wasn't this much."

Despite new development, the Mt. Diablo chapter had its largest count, since it started five years ago, in 1978.

However, the group numbers have increased too. The local chapter now has more than 1,000 members.

With 56 observers in 1978 the local chapter spotted 130 species and 67,300 birds.

However, with about 9,000 different species in the world, that's a small amount.

In 1978 the count in the Atlantic area of the Panama Canal Zone scored an all-time high with 354 species. The highest U.S. count was Freeport, Texas, with 216.

The Audubon Society has been conducting the count since 1899. The number of participants has grown from the original 27 to about 31,000.

The figures compiled by local chapters is nothing near an accurate total of all U.S. birds, but it does give the society information on bird movement trends, and a handle on the numbers of endangered species.

"We have to do this," Jerry Gen-

Olive Chadeayne of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on the annual bird count at Heather Farms Park Saturday. Not every bird is exotic, but they're all counted.

tile said. "They're part of the chain, the life-cycle. How goes the bird, so goes man. It's all part of the chain, we have to know what's happening to them."

"Besides," Helen Gentile added. "It's the only hobby I know of that gives me five things: exercise, fresh air, sunshine, education and sociability..."

"We were in our fifties when we

started," Gentile acknowledged. They've been birding for seven years, ever since she was accidentally hooked.

A neighbor was trying to identify a small bird in her backyard, she insisted it was a wild canary.

"Well, I had to know what it was," she said. "I researched it and discovered there was no such thing. I bought myself a book and six

months later I got myself a \$35 pair of binoculars so I could see better, and I was hooked."

Gen Graves story is pretty much the same. The Walnut Creek woman spotted a strange bird in her backyard feeder and she started researching it.

Buying a bird book lead to buying binoculars, "And when you look at that little grey bird with the binocu-

lars you see it isn't a little grey bird at all, it has beautiful colors," which leads to looking at more birds, which leads to becoming addicted.

It's been four years since Graves bought her first bird book, but she has already spotted about 1,000 different species, and has traveled all the way to Peru to do bird watching.

As the sun refused to break

through Saturday morning's fog the little band of birdwatchers beat their cold hands a little harder, and stomped their feet a little more to fight off the frostbite.

"You know, there are no songbirds up," Olive Chadeayne, the official tallier, noticed.

"Well, they're smarter than we are then," Jerry Gentile laughed.



Jerry Gentile. Performing an important service.



The bird tally. Helen Gentile: "It's the only hobby I know of that gives me five things: exercise, fresh air, sunshine, education and sociability."

NORTH EASTERN CALIFORNIA FIELD TRIP
JUNE 17-25, 1978



Jackie Knisley. Sally Steller. Hugh Bain.



Searching for Sage Thrasher.





Lassen N.P.

Group + Steve Layman
our guide.



Betty + John Williams.



Lassen N.P.



Elaine + Tom Lee. Lassen N.P.

Outdoors

Members Flocking to Diablo Audubon Chapter

WALNUT CREEK — Membership in the Mt. Diablo Chapter of the Audubon Society is multiplying faster than some of the bird species the members watch.

According to Norah Bain, spokeswoman for the chapter, membership is over 1,000, compared to just a handful when the chapter began five years ago.

Bain said the membership has resulted in continuing area work in natural resources and bird watching as a hobby.

The local chapter offers films on conservation, meetings and several field trips each month to various habitats for bird watching.

At the chapter's monthly meeting, members feature a half-hour "Birding-information," which offers instruction on field identification, procedure, equip-

ment, photography and other information for both the beginner and experienced bird watcher.

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Walnut Creek Women's Club, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek.

Here are the chapter's upcoming events.

— The monthly meeting will be held March 2.

— There's a field trip at 8:30 a.m., March 4 to the

Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

— A 9 a.m., March 9 field trip to Tilden Park.

— A 9:30 a.m., March 11 to Bodega Bay.

— A 9 a.m., March 15 trip to Rockville Hills Park. —

An Audubon film on the Rio Grande River will be shown at 8 p.m., March 20 in the Diablo Valley College Gymn.

For information, call for a taped message at 284-2260.

CHAPTER ISSUES INDUSTRIAL AWARD

Mount Diablo Audubon Society has awarded an Audubon Chapter Industrial Citation to the Mountain View Sanitary District of Martinez for their role in developing a fresh-water marsh which functions as a tertiary treatment facility as well as a valuable wildlife habitat. The two pond, eight-acre marsh has been utilized by over forty water related bird species and numerous mammals, amphibians, and invertebrates. The Environmental Protection Agency has contacted the district to learn more of this innovative and alternative system for reclamation and re-use of sanitary waste.

The Audubon Industrial Citation program works to promote a climate in which industrial decision-makers are motivated to implement ecologically sound solutions to operational problems. For more information please contact the Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.
