



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Jan. 10)

January, 1972  
Vol. 18, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Jeff Foott will speak again on sea otters.

Next Field Trip: Early February. (None planned in January)

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
Buzz Moss will take us to 'Mule Deer Country'.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just a year ago we had the pleasure of studying the sea otter, thanks to young Jeff Foott, who had spent much time and film in making a photographic study of this sea mammal. All who attended that program were impressed by his detailed presentation. Since that time Mr. Foott has done more studying and taken a lot more pictures and now has an enlarged program. This he will present to us at our next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 6th, at 8 p.m., in our usual Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Even if you saw Jeff Foott's program last January you will be interested in the new material he will present.

.....

As of this printing, no field trip has been arranged for January. The generally sloppy weather conditions in early January, plus the normal post-holidays lull, usually mean poor attendance at January outings. The Christmas Count generally serves as the mid-winter field trip. We expect to resume field trips in February.

+++++

After a lapse of several weeks the Audubon Wildlife Films will resume with a showing of 'Mule Deer Country' by Buzz Moss. Mr. Moss lives in Murray, Utah, and we can expect to see some Utah scenery as well as other portions of the mule deer range, which stretches from Canada to Mexico and from the Sierra to beyond the Rockies. The film gives the life history of the mule deer.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our December meeting Paul Covel, Naturalist at Lake Merritt, discussed the waterfowl management problems there and at other bird refuges in the West. His slides dealt primarily with the ducks at Lake Merritt. One problem he discussed in detail was duck botulism. Paul said that no commercial laboratory is now making botulism antitoxin, because there's no profit in it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob McCarthy brought a letter he had received from one of our young members, Kathy Taylor, who was so touched by the TV presentation of 'Eagle and the Hawk' that she had to write a letter of appreciation to someone and singled out Bob as being a local Audubon leader. In turn, Bob was so impressed by Kathy's sincerity that he sent the letter on to Paul Howard, National Audubon's representative in Sacramento, in order to show NAS that their efforts to produce an excellent TV spectacular were not in vain. (Unfortunately, notification of the programming of this Audubon release was not received in time to inform local Audubon members in 'The Quail').

.....

Despite horrible weather the day before, a successful field trip was held on Saturday, Dec. 4, to Fort Cronkhite and Rodeo Lagoon. Leader Frank Beyer reported on the trip as follows:

"We had a disappointing turnout, for only six birders made up the group. We had a wonderful day, however, and found 60 species, including two life birds for Mrs. Keating, our guest from Oklahoma. The albino Red-tailed Hawk was at his post to greet visitors, and we had good close-up views of many other birds. We saw more Western Grebes than I have ever seen before - literally thousands, and the sea was peppered with them for miles. We just missed seeing a Harris Sparrow that the McIntoshes at Richardson's Bay Audubon House had trapped, banded and released just before we got there.

"The following birds were seen: Eared, Western & Pied-billed Grebes; 32 White Pelicans; Brown Pelican; Double-cr. & Brandt's Cormorants; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egrets; Pintail; Ring-necked Duck; Canvasback; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-br. Merganser; Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawks; Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Black Turnstone; Willet; Dunlin; Glaucous-winged, Western, Ring-billed & Heerman's Gulls; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Ruby-cr. & Golden-cr. Kinglets; Starling; Audubon's & Townsend's Warblers; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-cr., Golden-cr. & Song Sparrows".

+++++

#### Observations:

Lynn Farrar spotted a Lapland Longspur at his feeder recently.

Jean Richmond observed a Sora Rail at Alameda South Shore on the day of our December meeting.

Al Boileau, on a trip to the East Coast in late October, had the pleasure of seeing a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on the Brigantine Golf Course north of Atlantic City. On his return to his home in Rossmoor he saw two birds at the feeder that looked like European Tree Sparrows.

A news item in mid-December says that 59 wild Whooping Cranes (54 adults and 5 young) are wintering at Aransas National Refuge. This is up a little from the 57 counted last year. 21 Other Whoopers are in captivity in this country, mostly at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dave and Alyce Bowman, formerly active members in our group, were seen at a recent stamp show in San Francisco, and both looked pretty good. The Bowmans moved to Medford (Oregon) over a year ago, helped to organize an Audubon club there, and Dave is presently its Treasurer.

"Another member moved away. I'm living in the beautiful Redding area". Thus writes Ruth Karlsrud, now living in Central Valley, Ca. 96019, P.O. Box 1198.

.....

Mrs. Robert Zedekar (3300 Moorewood Ct., Sacramento, Ca. 95821; phone 916-482-2294), Field Trip Chairman for Sacramento Audubon, has asked me to mention in 'The Quail' that she and her husband will be taking 18 persons to the Hawaiian Islands on a bird and sightseeing trip, March 11-20. The group will visit the four main islands. The approximate price of \$400 will include air fare, hotels and car rentals. If interested, you can get more details from Mrs. Zedekar.

+++++

Audubon Canyon Ranch has announced that Cypress Grove, 9 acres of Tomales Bay land, will eventually be turned over to the Ranch for use as a wildlife refuge. The Ranch has also purchased some 42 acres of Tomales Bay tidelands in six separate parcels. Contributions will be needed for the latter and can be sent to the Ranch at Stinson Beach, Ca. 94970. (At our December meeting we voted to send them some money).

Pres. Nixon has asked Congress to dig up money to buy over a half-million acres of the Big Cypress Swamp in Florida. The swamp provides more than half of Everglades National Park's water supply.

The federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has approved a \$2.05 million grant for purchase of 4100 acres of Annadel Farms near Santa Rosa for inclusion in the state park system. This will finance half the cost. The remaining cost would be met with funds from the State Parks Foundation, a private corporation which accepts gifts for the park system.

\*\*\*\*\*

We still have some National Audubon members that we haven't officially welcomed into Mt. Diablo Audubon. So now we greet:

(from Lafayette) Mrs. Johnson Clark, Miss Ann Nelson, Malcolm Ponder, Dr. T. Walter Reed, D. Scott & William Spaulding, Jr. ...  
 (from Concord) Dr. Earl Cramer, Brian Kilcourse, Mary Lee Randles & Kenneth Rishell ... (from Martinez) Michael Biggi & Gus Pacheco ...  
 (from Walnut Creek) Dr. John B. Darby, Dr. Carlos Delgado, Robert E. Gordon, Mrs. Mabelle Hill, Dr. Walter Littlejohn, James M. Livermore, Mr. & Mrs. A.B. Petromilli, Mrs. J. McKirmy, the Robert Staffords, and Wilbur & Eloise White ... (from Orinda) Heidi Jacob ... (from Antioch) Joann Johnson ... (from Pittsburg) Dr. John W. Copeland.

.....

For your information, our Treasurer is

Mrs. Doris Eckstrom, 1100 Singingwood #6, Walnut Creek 94595

\*\*\*\*\*

# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724



(Next Deadline: Feb. 7)

February, 1972  
Vol. 18, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
A movie on the Wood Duck will be shown.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. Alameda South Shore Park.  
Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
Bower E. Rudrud shows 'Treasure of East Africa'.

\*\*\*\*\*

Those who enjoyed 'The Way of a Trout' at our November meeting are looking forward to our next program, which will feature the showing of a highly-praised film by the same producers. This film describes the life of the Wood Duck. It will be shown at our usual meeting place, Sun Valley Meeting Room B, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3rd.

.....

The following Saturday our genial President will lead a field trip at Alameda South Shore Park, which, under the right conditions, can give some of the best birding in the Bay Area. At the moment Bob McCarthy has not been able to find a tide table for early February, so he cannot guarantee the tide status on the morning of February 5th, but he asks that we meet at 9:30 a.m. and hope that the tide will be such that a lot of birds will be seen. Even if the tide is not in our favor, there will still be many species of birds around. If time permits we may work ourselves towards Bay Farm Island.

To get to our meeting place: Drive into Oakland and take the Webster St. Tube to Alameda and go down to Central. Turn left on Central and go up 2 blocks to Washington Park on your right. Turn right at the park and go down to the bay. Turn left at the bay onto Shoreline Drive until you come to a salt marsh marked with a 'Wildfowl Sanctuary' sign. You'll see Bob McCarthy and others somewhere in this area. Park nearby and join the crowd.

+++++

Yet another Audubon Wildlife Film on East Africa will be shown at the Diablo Valley College Gymnasium on Thursday, Feb. 24th, at 8 p.m. Bower E. Rudrud will show and narrate pictures taken on a safari through Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Included will be the usual run of African animals in the usual African locale. "It is beautifully filmed".

\*\*\*\*\*

The largest turnout we have ever had at a meeting braved the cold evening of Jan. 6th to see Jeff Foott's latest slides on sea otters plus many slides of ~~pk~~ pelagic birds and animals associated with the otter. For three years Mr. Foott has been studying and photographing the otters and currently is making a film for British TV. In order to get some of the closeups we saw, he dived among the otters, finding that they were just as curious as he was. His slides were excellent, and the comments he made added to our enjoyment. He told us that the Fish & Game Dept. has recently announced that there are now about 1060 otter off the California coast.

Chris Nelson brought us up to date on the action towards creation of a South S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Chris says that a new bill, H.R. 12143, has been introduced under sponsorship of a multitude of legislators. There will still have to be more Committee meetings, so we voted to donate some funds to help send delegates back to Washington to testify in favor of the bill. The latest word is that the Interior Dept. has given the bill the highest priority.

Chris also announced that a docent program is being started at the Sunol Valley Regional Park. Chief function of the docents will be to schedule pre-trip appearances before school groups to help them get more out of their field trips. If interested contact Chris at 228-9369.

.....

No official report on the Christmas Count yet, but Jane Helrich says that about 40 showed up at her home in Clayton for the potluck. About 113 species were thought to have been seen this year. Jane also remarked that we are fast losing ponds in our part of the County. As she says, "Heather Pond is now going down the drain", and she pointed out that a recent count had shown only 18 species compared to a normal average 42 count. (I might add that I birded Ellis Lake during the Christmas Count and was disappointed to find that the destruction of habitat brought on by all the apartments and 'improvements' in the area have left the pond virtually free of birds except for half-tamed coots and ducks). Jane pointed out that a reverse trend is evident in Cowell, now that the town has been razed and the remaining trees have brought in a good selection of birds.

\*\*\*\*\*

President Bob McCarthy pointed out at our January meeting that within a few months we will need a new slate of officers, and he urged that members not be reluctant in accepting a request to take over an office for next year. It was also mentioned that a new Editor will be needed. That's true, for I will be resigning from 'The Quail' staff with the issuance of a May/June bulletin just 3 months from now. Yes, after 11 years of faithfully meeting deadlines and attending every meeting, the time has come to take care of my health and pass the job on to someone else. It has been suggested that future editors serve only two years at the most. If you can type with a couple of fingers and can express yourself in writing, contact Bob McCarthy (934-2724) or Ed Mize (686-1341) and we'll give you pointers. Remember .. no Editor .. no bulletin .. no Society.

+++++

Observations:

A dead hawk attended our last meeting, and the experts finally decided that it was a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Jean Richmond reported a White-throated Sparrow in her backyard on Dec. 3. On the 28th she and her husband were successful in the search for a Red-necked Grebe at the Berkeley Aquatic Park.

Frank Beyer reported Common Merganser at Lakes Hermann and Madigan in the Vallejo area.

An item in the 'Chronicle' says that a 'Swain son's thrush' bird band discovered in northern Peru was traced to a bird banded in Pennsylvania, 3150 miles away, four years previously.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory counted 1 Cattle Egret during its Christmas Count, and, according to the paper, one has been following a donkey around near Gualala on the Mendocino Coast. (It's only a question of time until we find them locally. The bird is 'smaller, stockier and thicker-necked than the Snowy Egret'.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Parks:

At long last Mt. Diablo State Park has been recognized by the state Department of Parks and Recreation. Director William Penn Mott, Jr. says that money to purchase more land will be available in the next fiscal year. Eventually it is hoped to add 5,000 acres to 'our' park.

Mt. Tamalpais State Park has also been expanded by 1300 acres, while Big Basin State Park has increased by 320 acres.

The state has completed purchase of the 4150 acre Annadel Farms property east of Santa Rosa for a park. It is hoped that three buffer parcels totaling 696 acres can be purchased soon.

.....

Contact Richard Bower (1910 Eloise Ave., Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523) if you are interested in a Diablo Hiking Club trip to Santa Barbara Island, one of the Channel Islands. A group of 48 plans to spend two days camping on the mainland and two on the island, March 28-31. A fee of \$25, and you pay transportation to and from Oxnard and bring your own food and water.

+++++

We continue to expand our membership and greet our newest members:

from Concord: Philip A. Rice and Thomas P. Switzer

from Diablo: Norval Fairman

from Pleasant Hill: Michelle Markling

from Walnut Creek: Steve Krenzelo and H.L.B. West.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mount Diablo Audubon Society, Inc. meets at 8 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month, except during the summer. Meetings are held in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Joint Membership in National Audubon & Mt. Diablo Audubon: \$12 Individual Membership, \$15 Family Membership, \$8 Student Membership. This amount is tax deductible and includes the National AUDUBON MAGAZINE and the local bulletin, THE QUAIL. Subscription to THE QUAIL separately is \$2.50 per year. Our Treasurer is -

Mrs. Doris Eckstrom, 1100 Singingwood #6, Walnut Creek 94595.

.....



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, CA. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: March 13)

March, 1972  
Vol. 18, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Bob Gill of San Jose will discuss the proposed South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 12. Bodega Bay. Leader: Harry Couden (Phone: 934-8873). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at The Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay.

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, March 23, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Bob Davison and his 'Journey in Time' (Grand Canyon).

\*\*\*\*\*

In recent years we have given help and money towards creation of a South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. At our next meeting we will collect a dividend, since our speaker will be Bob Gill, Research Assistant in Ornithology at San Jose State College, who will show slides and discuss the five major habitats in the proposed refuge. Last year he did a breeding bird survey of the South Bay for the California Fish and Game Department. He's enthusiastic about his subject, and we can learn a great deal about the area, which may become the first major refuge adjacent to a metropolitan area.

+++++

Our March 12th field trip will repeat last March's trip to Bodega Bay under the leadership of Harry Couden. Last year 30 observers found 65 species, including the four Grebes, Black Brant, Red-throated Loon, and Harry's specialty - the Long-billed Marsh Wren. Let us hope that this year will be as good, despite an unfavorable tide.

Make special note that the trip is on a Sunday and ten days after our March 2nd meeting. Harry and Dorothy will meet us at 9:30 on March 12th at wharfside at The Tides Restaurant, centrally located in the town of Bodega Bay. It's about 2 hours from Walnut Creek via Petaluma. Bring sustenance, sharp eyes, a 'scopes, etc. Harry Couden will bring the good weather.

\*\*\*\*\*

The final Audubon Wildlife Film of the season will be shown at the Diablo Valley College Gym on Thursday, March 23rd, at 8 p.m. Robert W. Davison will narrate a spectacular film entitled 'Journey in Time', which shows the Grand Canyon from bottom to top and all points in between, picking up various animals and birds in the different life zones. It promises to be an excellent film.

\*\*\*\*\*

A good crowd, including several youngsters, attended our February meeting to see the interesting J. W. Wilkie film entitled, 'The Wood Duck's World'. Basically it dealt with 7 ducklings crawling out of their nest in a tree, plopping to the ground, only to face eventually a hungry turtle, fox, and Peregrine Falcon.

Chris Nelson brought us up to date on the South S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge bill, which was to pass the House four days later. Chris also explained why the East Bay Regional Parks didn't seem keen on going for the no-price-tag San Leandro Bay project offered by the Port of Oakland.

Jean Richmond took over the Conservation Chairman's chair vacated by Ann Cavanagh, who is busy moving to Walnut Creek.

+++++

#### Observations:

Jean Richmond must get around, for she said she saw Ferruginous Hawk at Dillon's Beach, Harris Sparrow on Pt. Reyes Peninsula, White-throated Sparrow at her feeder, and Long-eared Owl in the peach tree.

Chris Nelson said that there were 400 Band-tailed Pigeon in Briones Park, and one of the students reported a Golden Eagle there.

.....

A joint Mt. Diablo-Napa/Solano Field Trip to Joice Island was held on Jan. 22 with Frank Beyer as leader. His report is as follows:

"Six Napa/Solano and six Mt. Diablo members and a guest turned out for the trip. We got a late start because the group who were having retriever trials near the Refuge entrance covered up the entrance sign with their own and some of us got lost. We saw more than 40 species at the Refuge and added some more by visiting the little airport near the Luther Gibson Highway to bring the total to 52. The day started chilly and grey but got better as it went along. The birds seen were:

"Eared & Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Great Blue Heron; Snowy & Common Egret; Whistling Swan; Canada, White-fronted & Snow Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Ruddy Duck; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Coot; Killdeer; Greater Yellow-legs; Long-billed Dowitcher; Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed & Bonaparte Gulls; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Western Kingbird; Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Pipet; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Yellowthroat; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned & Song Sparrows.

"Mt. Diablo Audubon members present were: Elizabeth Dickey, Doris Eckstrom, Florence Klinger, Bob McCarthy, Mr. & Mrs. Gus Pacheco, (Helen & Frank Beyer also of Napa/Solano) and 1 guest."

\*\*\*\*\*



1971 CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORT  
(Lynn D. Farrar)

"The 1971 Christmas Count of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society was held on December 26. A mild, clear day greeted about 30 bird enthusiasts, who just before dawn began counting all birds found in a circle 15 miles in diameter extending from Avon to Mt. Diablo and West Pittsburg to East Lafayette.

"115 Different species of birds were seen. The total number of birds counted was more than 46,500.

"Highlights of the day were: a Black-necked Stilt seen at Bollman (Mallard) Reservoir and only the second count record; a European Widgeon at the same place and also a second record; and two Glaucous Gulls at the Martinez dump near Pacheco. These latter are East Coast gulls which in recent years have been appearing more frequently on the West Coast. Also, an adult Prairie Falcon was found at Pacheco, and two Golden Eagles, one near Clayton and one west of Pacheco.

"Strangely, while several rare birds were seen, a few quite common ones were not found or their numbers were amazingly low. Missing were the Ring-necked Duck, Goldeneye, Pine Siskin, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Only 42 Robins were found all day, compared with 2,428 the previous year, 31 in 1962, and 5,829 in 1961.

"The first MDAS bird count was held in 1954, when 89 species and 6,222 birds were seen. A total of 169 species has been sighted in the 18 years of the count. The highest number in one year was the 123 species spotted in 1963.

"Following the Count, a potluck dinner was enjoyed by a large group of Auduboners at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Helrich."

(Editor's Note: For the first time in years a report of the Christmas Count appeared in a local paper, thanks to the efforts of Lynn Farrar and our Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Agnes Eckford. Agnes is also responsible for the appearance at our meetings of many visitors who have read her publicity in one of the area papers.)

\*\*\*\*\*

At a recent BAAC (Bay Area Audubon Council) meeting in Palo Alto it was announced that Sacramento Audubon had joined BAAC. Also, that the newly-formed Napa/Solano Audubon Society had been granted a provisional charter. Three of its officers are from Mt. Diablo Audubon, namely: Frank Beyer, President; Hersch Bayes, 1 of 3 V.Pres; and Helene Beyer Secretary/Treasurer.

Concern was expressed over the proposed diversion of American River water through the Folsom-South Canal. ... A report was also made on extensive aerial surveys of the oil sumps in the South San Joaquin Valley that are said to kill far more birds than did the famous S.F. Bay oil spill.

+++++

Our membership continues to expand, and we greet the following newcomers:

From Walnut Creek: Verne Burnelew, Mrs. Hugh Burnett, S. L. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Manzer, the Gerald Rhine Family, Mrs. Virginia Wilkinson, and Dr. & Mrs. Tom Winner;

From Concord: Allen Delgado, W. E. Redding, Jeannine Robertson, Prof. Boor Singh, and Mrs. W. L. Stoeckle;

From Pleasant Hill: John H. Eichstedt, M. A. Foley, and Ethel Scully.

\*\*\*\*\*



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, CA. 94597

(Next Deadline: April 10)

April 1972  
Vol. 18, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 6, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Annual Wild Flower program. Frank Beyer will show a set of slides, 'From Sea to Sierra'.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. Briones Regional Park. Meet at the park entrance at the top of Briones Road and walk up a dirt road to see the wild flowers. Leader: John Davis (228-2509)

\*\*\*\*\*

When there was a little difficulty in announcing last November's program in advance, we just promised you a 'Mystery Program'. At our next meeting we will have this same 'Mystery Program', but this time it won't be a mystery ... it will be Frank Beyer giving a repeat showing of his excellent slides of California wild flowers. Those who attended our November program were so pleased with Frank's pictures and narration that he was asked to give a repeat performance at our annual Wild Flower meeting, held on Thursday, April 6, 8 p.m. in Sun Valley Room B.

Frank Beyer's program will be an excellent chance for you to brush up on your flower lore before going on the annual Wild Flower Walk, which again will be held in Briones Regional Park under the leadership of John A. Davis. Many of John's wild flower pictures were used in the Briones Regional Park flower kits now available in some of the local libraries. He frequently walks into Briones, and thus he knows where many elusive plants or shrubs can be found.

We meet at the top of Briones Road at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 8th. To get there, first find your way to the junction of Alhambra Valley Road and Reliez Valley Road. A short jog to the west and Briones Road takes off to the left up the hill. Drive carefully up the hill to the end of the road. Chris Nelson lives up there, and I'm sure that he will have his gate open so that you can park your car on the grass if necessary. Bring flower books, shoes, and lunch (if you plan to stay that long). The walk is up a pretty good grade in places.

\*\*\*\*\*

The March meeting was well attended and featured Bob Gill, who came up from San Jose State to present a program on the proposed South San Francisco Bay Refuge. Bob spent part of last summer conducting a breeding bird survey in the proposed refuge and took many pictures, which he showed during his talk. Featured were many nests - some in the darndest places. (The Caspian Tern, for instance, just dumps the eggs on the dirt and hopes for the best!) Many pictures of the Clapper Rail were shown. Bob said that he found 87 of their nests during his survey.

+++++

The February field trip to Alameda South Shore was a washout - by the rain, that is. Leader Bob McCarthy, hearing the gentle pitter-patter of rain that morning, rolled over and slept some more.

Harry Couden led the field trip to Bodega Bay on March 12, but he apparently stopped in at 'The Tides' restaurant for more than a shrimp cocktail before he sent in his report of the more noteworthy birds seen. I quote:

"A beautiful day in a beautiful setting attracted 19 of us. Funny thing happened: When the Canvas backed into a Pintail, the Ruddy ducked and belted a Kingfisher. This made the Heron greatly blue, but affected the Sandpipers least.

Then there were these memorable events:

The Burrowing Owl wouldn't run  
The Marsh Wrens billed along  
A hovering Os was Praying  
And sparrows were all Song.

The Common Loons were common  
The Snipes were waiting there  
The White-tailed Kites were kiting  
And omni Godwits everywhere."

+++++

#### Observations:

Jean Richmond has been keeping her eyes open and has recently seen: a pair of Egyptian Geese; Harris Sparrow at Sunol; Ferruginous Hawk at Alamo; an Albino Marbled Godwit at Bodega Bay; and Tufted Duck at Stowe Lake in Golden Gate Park.

And Stowe Lake is where Ed Eichstedt saw a Half-black Whitebird (or was it a Half-white Blackbird?). Also he saw there a Gull that nobody could identify, although some claimed it was an Iceland Gull.

Reports filter in of numerous Whistling Swans around Woodbridge, on the way to Stockton. Some say the deaths could be attributed to either avian cholera or too much pesticide.

The Point Reyes Peninsula Christmas Count flushed out 200 species - the highest total ever in Northern California. Included were 2 Cattle Egret and 6 Peregrine Falcon.

Jean Richmond also calls our attention to an article in a recent 'Chronicle' which says that 67 Woodcock have been released in the Consumnes River bottom near Elk Grove. Transplants will continue until about 200 birds are in the Valley. The bird has never been seen west of the Mississippi in the wild. It should do well in our river bottom land and may eventually result in a new and glamorous bird for the hunters and binocular birders.

+++++

About 7 years ago, at the suggestion of Jane Helrich, we sent a resolution to the State Fish and Game Commission urging them to restrict tidepool collecting by students. There had been evidence that some accessible tidepool areas were being ruined by wasteful collecting. After all these years Fish & Game has finally handed down a regulation prohibiting the collection of such things as starfish, sand crabs, barnacles, and sand dollars without a written permit. Now, if you collect without a permit you may also collect a fine of 500 bucks and 6 months in the cooler. Maybe some day the denizens of the seashore will be restored to the numbers they were when you were a kid!

\*\*\*\*\*

Ida Geary, long-time editor of Marin Audubon's 'Redwood Log' and author of 'Marin Trails', has authored a new book, 'The Leaf Book, A Field Guide of Plants of Northern California', illustrated with plant prints by her. (You may have seen some of her plant prints in a recent issue of AUDUBON Magazine.) The book is being sold for the benefit of Audubon Canyon Ranch at \$4.75 + 24¢ tax. Signed copies are available by sending this amount and mailing instructions to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Coast Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

\*\*\*\*\*

Boise Cascade Corp. is trading to the State 658 acres of Mendocino grassland (including over five miles of ocean frontage) for 977 acres of redwood and Douglas fir at the southern tip of Jackson State Forest. Over a mile of the newly acquired beach will be near Mendocino, and four miles will be between MacKerricher Beach State Park and Ten Mile River north of Fort Bragg. The forested land being traded is between Fort Bragg and Willits.

\*\*\*\*\*

(I'm surprised that Couden didn't see a pair of Green Falcons at Bodega Bay!)

\*\*\*\*\*

Our membership list continues to expand as recent joiners of National Audubon also become members of Mt. Diablo Audubon. We greet the following newcomers:

(Lafayette) Bernton Hart, Paul R. Thornton, Mrs. Sidney White and Sam Whiteside; (Danville) Mrs. John Meyer and Jim Riggs; (Orinda) Howard Knight; (Walnut Creek) John Gilchrist; (Concord) Adrienne Ormsby; (Pleasant Hill) Robin Grieve; (Martinez) C. A. Laguna; (Antioch) Richard Phillips; (La Jolla) Mr. & Mrs. Evarts.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next issue of 'The Quail' will be a combined May & June bulletin, since I will probably be out of town on vacation for awhile at write-up time in mid-May. The next issue will also be my last gasping effort editorially. As yet, no one has stepped forward to take over the job as Editor, so no telling when later bulletins will appear. ~~So~~ C'est la vie, as we say in Gay Paree.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ed Hize, Editor .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, CA 94518 .. Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, CA. 94597

May & June, 1972  
Vol. 18, No. 11 & 12

Next Meetings: Thursday, May 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Slide show by members.

June -- , Annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting.

Next Field Trips: Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. Pine Canyon.  
Leader: Bob McCarthy (934-2724).

Saturday, June 10, & Sunday, June 11. Yuba Pass.  
Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).

\*\*\*\*\*

In days gone by we used to show members' slides at our annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting, but it was found that sometimes this led to late hours when some of the exhibitors got carried away. Now, for the first time, we are going to try a Members' Slide Show at a regular meeting.

You are asked to show no more than 10 slides and to keep comments within a reasonable time period. The subject can be anything connected with nature - flowers, birds, trees, animals, scenery, etc. Bob McCarthy, as an example, will be showing slides of Yosemite taken 25 years ago (before smog).

Bob will have a projector that can handle single slides. Contact him before or at the meeting and he will schedule your sterling performance. The meeting is in our usual spot: Sun Valley B, May 4th, 8 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting will be in early June, but the date and location have not yet been announced. You will get details at the May 4th meeting, or you can contact Bob McCarthy at 934-2724 and get the lowdown. If you attend the potluck, bring assorted eating utensils, food for a few, and have folding chairs and maybe a card table in your car in case of need.

\*\*\*\*\*

(The June meeting and field trip are mentioned in this 'Quail' because there will not be a bulletin next month. When it's a choice between a 'Quail' and some vacationing, my vacation always wins!)

\*\*\*\*\*

The May 6th field trip will be to Pine Canyon, one of the best birding areas around here and one we haven't been to in years. Bob McCarthy, our leader, has permission from the owners (the Fords) for us to enter the property as a unit, so meet promptly at 9 a.m. at Castle Rock Park about a half-mile beyond the swimming pool. To get there: Go S.E. on Oak Grove Road, cross Ygnacio Valley Road, pass the 'Red Rooster' and the entrance to the golf club road, and where Oak Grove splits into North Gate Road (to Mt. Diablo) and Castle Rock Road take the right road (which is the right road) to its end. Wear sturdy shoes, prepare for sun and shade, bring some sustenance, and it might help to have an Audubon card with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

An overnight trip is planned to the Yuba Pass area this year on the weekend of June 10 and 11 with Frank Beyer as leader. Saturday we'll see mountain birds and wildflowers west of the Pass, primarily on the Gold Lake Road, and Sunday we'll look for marsh and desert wildlife in Sierra Valley, east of the Pass. Find your own accommodations in motels or in Forest Service or private campgrounds nearby. Details will be given at the May 4th meeting, but if you don't attend that meeting contact Frank Beyer at 707-644-0236 (in Vallejo).

\*\*\*\*\*

Our April meeting was well attended by persons who seemed pleased to see Frank Beyer's second showing of wildflowers 'From Sea to Sierra'. And that's what Frank did - he started at Pt. Reyes Seashore and worked uphill into the High Sierra Country. We saw a wide variety of beautiful flowers. Special emphasis was given at times by first showing flowers at a distance and then working up to portrait distance in subsequent slides. After his flower pictures, Frank flashed a few pictures taken on the recent Audubon Asilomar Conference boat trip. Featured was the Black-footed Albatross.

Bob McCarthy summarized activities at the Conference. He heard too many speeches to give much detailed information about any one. Bob enjoyed the Conference and met a lot of fine people. His only adverse comment was that some of the 'rap' sessions were dominated by people "grinding their own axes".

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Observations:

Bob McCarthy said his motel at Pacific Grove furnished a nest of Pigmy Nuthatches near his door.

Jean Richmond said that her White-throated Sparrow stayed around until the end of March. Raptors seen included: Rough-legged Hawk at Pescadero, Osprey at Bolinas and Pt. Reyes, Pigeon Hawk, an immature Eagle at Grizzly Island. She also saw European Widgeon, Eared Grebe and Horned Grebe at Alameda South Shore.

Jon Williams tracked down a Canyon Wren at the Pinnacles and a MacGillivray's Warbler near Carmel.

Russ Epley writes that on Mar. 26 he found 5 Harlequin Duck at Ano Nuevo State Park, along with Oystercatcher and many Black Brant. All but about 50 of the brant were heading north, leaving the others behind the island out of the wind.

\*\*\*\*\*

Harry Couden returned "from some exciting birding in Mexico during Easter Week" and sent in this bird list for the 3/12 Bodega Bay trip: "Common & Red-throated Loon; Eared, Western & Pied-billed Grebe; Cormorant (sp.); Great Blue Heron; Snowy Egret; Black Brant; Mallard, Pintail, Canvasback & Ruddy Duck; Cinnamon Teal; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; White-winged, Surf & Common Scooter; Turkey

"Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Osprey; Coot; Semipalmated & Black-bellied Plover; Killdeer; Black Turnstone; Common Snipe; Willet; Least & Western Sandpiper; Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Western & Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Crow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Northern Shrike; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Black-bird; House Finch; House, White-crowned & Song Sparrow. 52 Species."

\*\*\*\*\*

We greet the newest National Audubon/Mt. Diablo members:

from Concord... Mr. & Mrs. G.C.Hammon, H.M.Harris, Jose Madruaga, Mrs. Louis Norberg, Adrienne Ormsby, F.M.Smith, Nancy Vancouvering, Mr. & Mrs. R.V.W. Van Noord, George D. Whaley;  
 from Diablo ... Dr. & Mrs. Louis W. Lewis;  
 from Lafayette ... Robert Carlson, Mere Cook, Mrs. Vivian Park, Karen Tancredy, Janet Tulloch;  
 from Martinez ... Mrs. Elaine A. Beadle, The MacDonald Family, Mr. & Mrs. C.O.Stevenson, Mrs. C.M.Whitnah;  
 from Pleasant Hill ... Mr. & Mrs. J.V.Harman, Bud Rice;  
 from Walnut Creek ... Olive Chadeayne, The Gallaghers, Mary Muerle, Mrs. Harriet Orleman, M.B.Peacock, Daniel Schoenholz, Roger Shore, Mrs. John T. Stringer, S. Woods.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, this is the end of an era. I have mentioned several times in recent months that, after 11 years, I'll be resigning as Editor of 'The Quail' at the end of this Audubon year in June. (At present there is no new Editor, but we have hopes that someone will volunteer soon.)

In my farewell issue I want to express appreciation to many of the people who have helped me during these years. Thanks go especially -

To the dozens of members who have written or spoken words of appreciation and encouragement these many years;

To Betty and Jon Williams and family, who have handled the mailing of most of 'The Quail' this past year. And to Frieda Shackelford, who mailed out copies in the early years of my term;

To Chris Nelson, who arranged for the address labels to be printed and who has frequently sent in items of interest;

To Bob McCarthy, who has kept the phone busy giving me information before deadlines;

To Harry Couden, Frank Beyer, Lynn Farrar and others, who have sent in field trip lists promptly;

To Jean Richmond, Harry Couden, Tom Schulenberg, Harry Adamson and others who have sent in bird observations;

To Mary Dunn at Phillips (Avon) who Dittoed 'The Quail' in purple ink for ten of those eleven years;

And, above all, to my patient wife, Joan, who has understood that there have been times when I've had to give 'The Quail' top priority. This past year Joan has been the valuable messenger between our home and the printer's office.

*Ed Mize*

Retiring Editor

1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, CA. 94518

MOUNT DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Special Bulletin  
May, 1972

Details of our June Potluck Dinner-Meeting were not available at the time the May/June 'Quail' was printed. This bulletin is therefore being issued to give members information about the Potluck Dinner-Meeting and the June Field Trip.

Potluck:

Thursday, June 1st, about 6:30 p.m., at the home of Carl and Agnes Eckford, 3831 Walnut Ave., Concord.

(Walnut Ave. is about halfway between Clayton Rd. & Concord Blvd.)

You can go out Clayton Rd. and make a left turn onto Farm Bureau Rd. just beyond the Babel Lane signal, go down Farm Bureau to Walnut and turn right. The Eckford home is on the left (north side) of Walnut a long two blocks east.

Or you can go east on Concord Blvd. or Willow Pass Road and turn right onto Farm Bureau and turn left onto Walnut.

There will be lots of traffic, so give yourself time.

Plenty of parking space, eating space, and house space. If the weather is warm we can eat outside. A business meeting and possibly a short program will follow dinner.

Bring salad, dessert, or hot dish - enough for your gang and a few other gangs. It wouldn't hurt to call Agnes at 685-7280 and tell her how many in your party and what food you will bring.

Have a card table and chairs in your car in case of need. Bring plates, cups, eating utensils, etc.

Bring no money ... the Potluck is FREE!

Field Trip:

Saturday and Sunday, June 10th & 11th. Yuba Pass Area.

Leader: Frank Beyer - Phone 707-644-0236 (Vallejo).

Explore Yuba Pass area, Gold Lake Road, Sierra Valley dry country, marshland, and possibly the hot springs. Expect to see a wide variety of birds.

Meet both Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m. at the campground near Yuba Pass (Highway 49, east of Downieville & Sierra City).

We will bird Saturday morning near Yuba Pass, lunch in that area, and then proceed to the Gold Lake area and probably the Sardine Lakes area. Sunday morning we will go east into Sierra Valley. Return home when you feel like it.

Plenty of camping space should be available. No snow expected this year. Motels probably in Downieville and on up Highway 49.

Call Frank Beyer for more details, if necessary.

....

We need a new meeting place next year. Sun Valley 'B' is not for us, except for a payment of \$40 a night! If you have definite information on a possible place, call Bob McCarthy at 934-2724.

We also need a President, Vice President (Program Chairman), Secretary & Editor. Call Bob McCarthy and say, "Yes, I'll serve".

.....





# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526

(next deadline: Sept. 10)

July, August, September 1972  
Vol. 19, No. 1, 2, 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 7; 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.  
Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave.,  
Walnut Creek. NOTE OUR NEW MEETING PLACE!!!  
A film on Monarch Butterflies will be shown.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Sept. 9, 10:00 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional  
Park; Leader: Chris Nelson (228-9369).

\* \* \* \* \*

Our first fall meeting will inaugurate our use of the Women's Club of Walnut Creek for our monthly meetings. The Women's Club is on Lincoln Ave., just east of North Broadway. Lincoln Ave. is between Ygnacio Valley Rd. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. in downtown Walnut Creek.

The program for the evening will be a film titled "The Monarch Butterfly". Those who saw "The Way of a Trout" and "The Wood Duck's World" know the excellent quality of these films.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our field trips get under way again for the season on Saturday, Sept. 9 with a trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park led by Chris Nelson. This is an excellent place for birding as there are varied habitats within the park and the walk is mostly level. Chris has made arrangements for us to visit the Indian Mounds after lunch.

To reach the park: Go down Nimitz Freeway to Jarvis Rd. Turn west to the signal at Newark Blvd., turn right, go across the railroad tracks, continue about a mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. Turn left into the park.

\* \* \* \* \*

There was a great turn-out at the home of the Carl Eckfords in June for our annual potluck dinner. The weather was marvelous, the food delicious, and the company very enjoyable. A good time was had by all. We all had ample opportunity to wish retiring Editor Ed Mize a happy retirement. Paul Howard of Western Regional Audubon in Sacramento was on hand to add his congratulations to Ed on behalf of National Audubon. Thanks, Ed, on behalf of all members past and present for the tremendous job you have done for so many years to put out "The Quail".

At the Potluck-Meeting in June the following members were elected to serve during the 1972-73 year:

President:	Sally Steller	
Vice-President:	Marvin Larsen	(VP serves as program Chairman)
Secretary:	Lucy A. Hall	
Treasurer:	Doris Eckstrom	
Field Trips:	Jon & Betty Williams	
Editor:	Jean Richmond	
Membership:	Joy Meagher	
Hospitality:	Betty Landrum	
Publicity:	Agnes Eckford	
Conservation:	Ann Cavanagh	

If you have any information or suggestions that may be of help to these hard-working people please let them know. Also, if they call upon you to lend a hand in some capacity, give them a great big "YES, I WILL!"

\* \* \* \* \*

The weekend trip to Yuba Pass June 10-11 led by Frank Beyer was a great success. Twenty-five enthusiastic birders turned out for a marvelous weekend in spite of the storm Friday night which dumped much rain followed by snow which remained on the ground most of Saturday morning. Sunday produced a gorgeous day for the trip into the Sierra Valley east of Yuba Pass. Many of us feel that this should by all means become a regular trip each year. With such a variety of habitats there are a great many species of birds to be found in that area. Leader Frank Beyer reports the following species were seen:

"Pied-Billed Grebe, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard (including a nest with 6 eggs), Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe (performing his winnowing flight), Willet, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope (including a nest with 4 eggs), Ring-Billed Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Vaux's Swift, Red-Shafted Flicker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, White-Headed Woodpecker (including nest), Traill's, Hammond's & Dusky Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Black-Billed Magpie, Mountain Chickadee, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Long-Billed Marsh Wren (including nest), Sage Thrasher, Robin, Hermit & Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Nashville & Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-Headed & Red-Winged Blackbird (both feeding young), Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, Savannah & Vesper Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Brewer's, White-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow. Also reported by individuals apart from the group but in the trip area were: Mountain Quail, Spotted Sandpiper, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker, Common Crow, Brown Creeper, Dipper, Yellow & Hermit Warbler, House Sparrow, Black-Headed Grosbeak, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Green-Tailed Towhee. The total for the trip was 80 species."

Quite a few pictures were taken on the trip plus many more that Frank and his family took on another trip to the area a short time later. Perhaps those who have pictures should contact Frank, looking toward the future when possibly a slide show on the area could be presented.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in a plane crash near Reno June 30th of John Eichstedt. His parents, Ed and Edna, have been members of Audubon for some time and John followed in their footsteps by joining us earlier this year. We extend our greatest sympathy to his wife and children and to the other members of his family. They prefer donations to the Eichstedt Memorial Fund, c/o Jan Schlosser, College Park High School, 201 Viking Dr., Pleasant Hill.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don Millen, a long-time member of Audubon, was honored by being chosen from a large field of candidates to participate in a special week-long training session at Purdue University in Indiana July 16-24. The conference brought together education leaders to hear experts on new ideas in education. Don has been active in education for 20 years, presently being principal of El Dorado Intermediate in Concord.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUCCESS AT LAST! The United States Senate passed the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge bill in mid-June and on July 1, 1972 President Nixon signed the measure. This is the culmination of a great deal of hard work on the part of a great many people. Congratulations to each and every one of you who contributed in any way to help put this bill across.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOUQUETS AND THANK YOU to Wells Fargo Bank! Since Jan. 1, 1972, Wells Fargo has extended to its checking account customers the option of applying a portion of their renewal fee toward conservation. Paul Howard, of National Audubon Western Regional Office, recently announced the receipt from Wells Fargo of a check for \$2500, representing contributions specified by customers for Audubon in the first 6 month of 1972. These funds are to be spent within the State of California. We gratefully acknowledge on behalf of all our members this contribution to Audubon.

\* \* \* \* \*

There are 3 weekend U.C. Extension courses being offered this fall. "A Weekend With Sierra Birds" Sept. 16-17; "Birds of Pt. Reyes", Sept. 29-Oct. 1; "Birds of Sacramento Valley" Dec. 2-3. Anyone wishing further information please contact the Editor.

\* \* \* \* \*

We welcome the following new members of Audubon:

Concord: O.E. Arwold, Lt. Katherine V. Buck, USA Ret, Mr. & Mrs. K. Scheyer, Donald G. Seward, Miss Linda J. Elliott; Pittsburg: Horace E. Carlson; Danville: Dorothy DeMartini; Walnut Creek: Eleanor Diel, Eric P. Johnson, Dr. & Mrs. R. W. Sayre, Hollandia Scott, Mrs. Rose Taylor, Wm. A. Trieber, Robert L. Aston, Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Rankin; Lafayette: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Miller, Glenn T. Seaborg, Marjorie L. Sperry; Antioch: G.N. Anderson, C.L. Davidson, Sr.; Martinez: Charles F. Matlock; Pleasant Hill: Mrs. Paul B. Miller, Edward R. Schneegas; Crockett: Charles Wind; Orinda: Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Dill.

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations:

Jon and Betty Williams found a Black-Backed 3-Toed Woodpecker at Butte Lake in Lassen National Park this summer. At Butt Lake, near Lake Almanor, they saw 2 occupied Osprey nests and also 3 large snags which have nesting Double-Crested Cormorants---about 18 nests on one snag alone.

Harry Couden and Lynn Farrar spotted Worm-Eating Warbler and Wood-cock one week in May, life birds for both of them. They were not together however---Harry was in Minnesota and Lynn was in Massachusetts!!! Harry further reports that the following week the Coudens and their guests took a trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County to see the Great Blue Harem. Peeping Coudens???

Harry and Betty Adamson and Jean Richmond saw a Black Brant, 4 Harlequin Ducks, Least Terns, Marbled Murrelets, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows at Ano Nuevo State Reserve July 8 on a Golden Gate Audubon field trip.

Rich and Jean Richmond saw a Black-Throated Sparrow at Lake Tahoe May 30, a vagrant to that area, and on June 29 saw a pair of Pine Grosbeaks on Tioga Pass Rd. in Yosemite and Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches at Ellery Lake east of Tioga Pass.

A Wandering Tattler was seen by several people at Watergate in Emeryville on August 1. The bird was in summer plumage with the dark barring on the underparts clearly visible.

Grasshopper Sparrows were seen this year in Las Trampas and Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks and at San Gregorio.

Black-Chinned Sparrows were found in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and in Laurel Canyon at Tilden Regional Park as well as their usual summer areas on Mt. Diablo.

The fall migration started the first of August and lasts until mid-October with its peak about Labor Day weekend. Lynn Farrar reminds us to keep our eyes open for warblers, especially immature Townsend's and Hermit, and to check the hummers for possible immature Rufous. Western Wood Pewees and Western Tanagers are other possibilities for our area. Along the coastline and the Bay watch for migrating shorebirds. All sorts of interesting birds pass our way on their journey south at this time of year and the alert birder may be rewarded with a real find.

As Editor of "The Quail" I would appreciate any interesting nature observations either near home or on trips away from this area. To facilitate publishing them properly, I would prefer to have them in writing along with your name, place and date seen. They may be mailed to my home or given to me at meetings. You may also phone me at home but I may sometimes be hard to get---no telling when I might be out chasing birds somewhere. Thanks in advance for your help in informing other members where interesting things are to be found.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor--125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507--phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526

October 1972  
Vol. 19, No. 4

Next deadline: Oct. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5; 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.;  
Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave.,  
Walnut Creek. Frank Beyer will present slides of  
our Yuba Pass trip in June.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, October 8, 9:00 a.m., Palo Alto Salt Marsh.  
Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Next Screen Tour: Monday, October 30, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College  
gym. John Taft takes us to "Yosemite---An Ecological  
Visit".

\* \* \* \* \*

Frank Beyer's slide program will prove to any sceptics that we really did have quite a storm that weekend in the Yuba Pass area. He also has many pictures of birds, wildflowers and animals of which there were many in spite of the rain and snow that fell Friday night. Those who have seen the slides inform us that they are up to Frank's usual excellent quality.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field trip to Palo Alto Salt Marsh will be on Sunday, October 8. This is level walk out through the marsh with many interesting birds in prospect. To get there go down Nimitz Freeway to Jarvis Rd. Turn west, cross the Dunbarton Bridge and continue to Bayshore Freeway (US 101). Drive south on 101 to the Embarcadero Rd. exit. Cross over the freeway and continue east to the yacht harbor. Meet at the duck pond on the left near the nature center at 9:00 a.m. Bring scopes.

Looking ahead, Harry Adamson will be leading a trip to the refuges in the Sacramento Valley the weekend of December 2-3, Saturday at Gray Lodge and Sunday at Sacramento Refuge. Details will come in a later edition, but if you plan on going up for the weekend, Harry recommends making your overnight reservations now.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first Audubon Wildlife film of the season will be shown on Monday, October 30 at 8 p.m. in the Diablo Valley College gym. These films are a public service by DVC and are free.

\* \* \* \* \*

The new budget will be considered and voted upon at the October meeting. If you want to get your two cents worth in regarding this, be sure you are in attendance.

\* \* \* \* \*

The trip to Coyote Hills on September 9 brought out 26 people who saw or heard 59 species. Chris Nelson was out of town but had arranged for an able substitute, Norman Kidder, to lead the trip. He gave a very interesting talk at the Indian Mounds, where we birded as we listened and interrupted the talk several times when an interesting bird showed up. The following species were seen:

White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Common & Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, White-Tailed Kite, accipiter (Cooper's Hawk?), Golden Eagle (immature), Red-Tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Willet, Least Sandpiper, dowitcher sp., American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, Ring-Billed Gull, tern sp., Mourning Dove, White-Throated Swift, hummingbird sp., Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Traill's & Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-Green, Rough-Winged, Barn & Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, White-Breasted & Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Warbling Vireo, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged & Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser & American Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

The group toured the Marine Biosonar Lab in the afternoon and saw harbor, fur and elephant seals and sea lions. There was an ill-tempered 15-foot individual which had to be isolated in a tank by himself.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our hospitality chairman, Betty Landrum, regretfully resigned but we were not without a chairman for long. Before the September meeting Helen Gentile asked if she could help with anything, and when asked about the job of hospitality chairman she readily accepted. Thanks, Helen!

Last month I omitted from the bulletin the name of our new mailer. He is a hard-working young man named Doug Kerr.

\* \* \* \* \*

**HELP FOR THE RARE ONES.** Since June 1, 1972 it has been illegal in California to sell any products made in all or part from the following species: alligator, crocodile, cobra, kangaroo, polar bear, leopard, colobus monkey, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, python, vicuna, sea otter, mustang horse, sea turtle, Spanish lynx, seals, sable antelope, wolf, zebra and whale. Any sale or attempted sale should be reported to the Attorney General's Environmental Unit, 5th and Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Ca. 95814, phone 916-455-6118.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Clayton resident was cited last month for shooting a Turkey Vulture. A policeman heard shooting, investigated and saw vultures take flight from the trees then one fell after a shot from a rifle.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are happy to welcome the following new members of Audubon:  
Walnut Creek: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Castro; Lafayette: Kirsten N Bedford;  
Concord: Joseph R. Glover, Eileen B. Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Peter M. Morris.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Observations:

Dorothy and Harry Couden vacationed in Idaho this year, traveling up the Snake River, into Hell's Canyon, from Lewiston. They saw 0.4 species per mile, give or take a few feathers.

About 7 p.m. on August 4 a Great Blue Heron flew around the home of the Toasperns in Pleasant Hill, then landed atop a nearby telephone pole. It preened for about 10 minutes while it had its picture taken, then with a shake of its feathers it flew off.

The Stephen Pecks have a home overlooking Ellis Lakes in Concord which have a number of feathered visitors. The more unusual regulars are a pair of Green Herons which nested nearby and raised at least one young. Two Kingfishers have a habit of dropping by for a meal, alerting the Pecks with a rattle. Other regular visitors include 2 Caspian Terns, 3 Forster's Terns, Black Phoebe and a family of Hooded Orioles. If anyone is interested Stephen will be glad to show them where the Herons usually are. Contact him at 1841 Laguna St., #302, Concord; 689-4904.

A Caracara was at Alameda and Bay Farm Island August 7-13. No one knows where it came from or whether it is an escapee. It neither looks nor acts like its near relatives, the falcons.

There were 8 Baird's Sandpipers at Nicasio Reservoir in Marin County August 10-15.

On August 16, Edward Schneegas and Gordon Gould, an ornithology student from Humboldt State University, saw two Pileated Woodpeckers about 3 miles southwest of Groveland, Ca., at about the 2,000-foot elevation. They were observed for approximately an hour at close range.

At 9 a.m. September 7, Helen and Frank Beyer observed two Bell's Vireos at their home in Vallejo. The birds were observed as close as 6 feet with naked eye and with 7x glasses from 20 feet. The eye ring, greenish back and faint wingbars (plus yellowish tinge on the underside of one bird) seem to separate them from Warbling and Hutton's Vireo.

Carl and Agnes Eckford had many Bullock's Orioles at their feeders this summer and just before they left, Hooded Orioles came for several days in early August.

The Richmonds had many Red Crossbills around their place at South Tahoe the last two weeks of August.

Warblers are turning up in the area on their way south. Bob Mc Carthy had a pair of Wilson's in the toyons for several mornings the end of August and a Wilson's also appeared in the Williams' yard on September 9. The Richmonds had an Orange-Crowned in their backyard on September 1 and 2.

Good birding spots for October: Point Reyes, Tomales Bay, Drake's Esterco, Coyote Hills, Alameda South Shore, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Richardson Bay, Palo Alto Salt Marsh, Rodeo Lagoon and Lafayette Reservoir. Also San Pablo, Briones and Upper San Leandro Reservoirs if you have a scope and a little luck. Lake Merritt in late October becomes the winter home of hundreds of waterfowl.

I am delighted with the response to the request for observations. Keep your binoculars and pencils handy and let me know what flies by.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526

November 1972  
Vol. 19, No. 5

Next deadline: Nov. 15

- Next Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. Seward Whitehead will present a slide program, "Waterfowl and Birds of Prey".
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, November 4, 9:30 a.m., Rodeo Lagoon area. Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).
- Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, November 28, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College gym. "The Big Sky Wilderness" by Allan Cruickshank.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our program for November will be another evening of viewing excellent slides of our feathered friends. Seward Whitehead is an enthusiastic and very capable birder and photographer. Those who know him will be happy to see him on the program and those who do not yet know him are in for a pleasant introduction.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Saturday, November 4, Frank Beyer will lead a field trip to the Rodeo Lagoon area in Marin County. The territory will produce more than just water birds as there are several varied habitats there. The albino Red-Tailed Hawk is back again this year and there is no telling what else may turn up in that particular locality. That hawk, incidentally, is known to some as "High Voltage" due to his habit of often perching atop the poles which carry high voltage lines.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the east end of the Fort Cronkhite tunnel. To reach the meeting place, cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take the Alexander Ave. turnoff which is JUST beyond the Vista Point at the north end of the bridge. Follow the signs to Forts Barry and Cronkhite. Meet at the signal-lighted tunnel. The trip will be cancelled in case of rain.

\* \* \* \* \*

Well-known Allan Cruickshank spent a year photographing the wildlife and wonders of Montana for "The Big Sky Wilderness" which will be shown on Thursday, November 28, as part of the Audubon Wildlife film series. We in this area are fortunate to be able to see these films at no cost. Most showings of the series charge an admission fee but at Diablo Valley College the films are presented as a public service by the college. The film will be shown in the college gym.

\* \* \* \* \*



The field Trip to the Palo Alto Salt Marsh was attended by 13 birders who had a great day in spite of high overcast and wound up spotting the following 48 species:

Pied-Billed Grebe, Double-Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common and Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, White-Tailed Kite, Marsh and Sparrow Hawk, Ring-Necked Pheasant, American Coot, Semi-Palmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-Bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Northern Phalarope, Western, Ring-Billed and Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-Winged, Tricolored and Brewer's Black-bird, House Finch, White-Crowned and Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

On November 22 Wheatly Allen will bring his bird sculptures to Oakland for a 2-week exhibit and benefit sale for The Nature Conservancy's Northern California chapter. Kaiser Center and Grodin's, 300 Lakeside Dr., will display the Mendocino artist's beautiful works. A similar exhibit and sale about two years ago for Audubon Canyon Ranch raised enough money to buy an acre for the Ranch. Last year Governor Reagan commissioned a carving of California Quail as a gift for Emperor Hirohito. The Nature Conservancy will honor Mr. Allen with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on November 29 in Kaiser Center, Oakland.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations, Harry Adamson! Each year Harry, like other artists, contributes a painting to Ducks Unlimited to be sold to raise funds for that organization. This year Harry's oil of "Pintails" sold for more than a Peter Scott painting.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEVERAL SUCCESSES! The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge is now a reality as the Sonoma County Supervisors finally gave their approval. This refuge contains 11,000 acres, extending from the mouth of Petaluma Creek to Mare Island, and includes lower Tubbs Island, 4941 acres of tidal mudflat and 4776 acres of open water.

The marsh behind the Safeway store on Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon, was the subject of a recent study by two Audubon members in Marin County. They recommended that "it be recognized as a gift of nature and that Tiburon obtain it". As a result, Tiburon is now going to rent the property from the owners and preserve it as a marsh. Congratulations to the City of Tiburon!!!

The East Bay Regional Park District announced October 13 that they had acquired 1000 acres of beautiful shoreline along Point Pinole from the Bethlehem Steel Corp. The property includes more than three miles of shoreline, plus rolling meadows, eucalyptus forests and spectacular views of the Bay. The new park will probably not be opened to the public for ten to twelve months. Final details have still to be worked out, including an appropriate access route.

The House passed on October 11 the bill creating a 34,000 acre, \$119 million Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco and Marin Counties. The following day the Senate approved the measure and sent it to President Nixon for his signature. The President is expected to sign the bill as he has endorsed the idea of the park.

\* \* \* \* \*

Audubon's Richardson Bay Sanctuary is now on the winter schedule, effective through March 30, 1973: open to the public Friday, Saturday, Sunday; by appointment Wednesday and Thursday; closed Monday and Tuesday.

\* \* \* \* \*

Members are advised that when they renew their membership in National Audubon Society that they remember to SPECIFY Mt. Diablo as the chapter to which they want to belong. National may or may not send their names to our treasurer unless this is done. There apparently are some areas which are not considered Mt. Diablo "territory" but steps are being taken to try to remedy the situation. Meanwhile, be sure to specify MDAS.

\* \* \* \* \*

Those who buy canned drinks with those plastic loops to hold the six pack should always remember to cut all the loops with knife or scissors before discarding--even in their own garbage can. Birds get their heads caught through those loops and cannot get free, with the inevitable result of starvation unless they can be caught and released from their prison. Even properly disposed of, those loops, unless cut, can be a hazard as many birds are attracted to the area of a dump.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bob McCarthy and Jean Richmond attended the Bay Area Audubon Council meeting in Marin County in October and have much to report at our next meeting. A great deal of time was spent discussing the proposed membership campaign. Paul Howard, Western Regional Audubon representative, explained many changes over what was presented to our members recently.

Among other things discussed, was the matter of transportation for the personnel of Point Reyes Bird Observatory to the Farallon Islands after Coast Guard back-up crews are removed from the islands. It is necessary to take these people to and from their important work there on a regular basis. The Dean Witter Foundation will match funds, up to \$15,000, to be used for anything connected with the work of PRBO on the Farallons, whether it be transportation, staff, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

The two-day Condor count in Southern California by some 60 observers indicated a minimum of 36 of these birds. The total is 2 above last years count, but Department of Fish and Game officials said there may have been others not counted due to weather conditions or nesting activity. Incidentally, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society has a Condor Fund to support the activity of their Condor naturalist. Contributions may be sent to: SFVAS "Condor Fund", P.O. Box 2504, Van Nuys, Ca. 91404.

This years census of Kirtland's Warblers in its only breeding grounds, in Michigan, reported 200 males, almost identical to last years low count.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIRDING AT BAYLANDS** Two walks will be conducted at the Palo Alto Baylands to assist Audubon members in locating and identifying fall and winter birds of the area. Species of special interest include Clapper Rail, Blue-Winged Teal and White-Tailed Kite, plus many species of ducks, shorebirds and gulls. Bring binoculars, scopes and field guides. Meet Saturdays, Oct. 28 and Dec. 2, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the Baylands Nature Interpretive Center at the end of Embarcadero Rd. See the October "Quail" for directions. The center is just beyond the duck pond.

\* \* \* \* \*

COLOR-TAGGED PELICANS. The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has banded and color-marked some 5500 young Brown Pelicans between 1970 and 1972. If you spot a Pelican with a band and/or marker please note carefully and report the following information:

- 1) color of plastic streamer, or whether only a plain band was seen, or leather plus band, etc.
- 2) which leg the band and/or marker was on
- 3) the DATE and LOCATION of the sighting
- 4) was the Pelican dead, alive, sick, etc. when seen; if captured for some reason, read the band number and release the bird with the band/marker still attached. Please do not harm the Pelicans.
- 5) if you are really ambitious, additional data of interest can include: activity, number of other Pelicans and other birds in association, unusual behavior, movements, dates of first arrival and departure, age-ratios, counts, etc. Also info on unmarked Pelicans.

Send reports to: Dr. Daniel W. Anderson, US Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O.Box C, Davis, Ca. 95616.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Observations:

Early arrivals at Lake Merritt in Oakland include Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, American Widgeon and Redhead.

Frank and Helene Beyer must have tired eyeballs by now! On Sept. 19 they saw 13 Lewis' Woodpeckers on Pleasants Valley Road and over 70 more along Putah Creek Rd., 11 Phainopeplas in one clump of toyon and wild grape at Lake Solano and at least 30 Yellow-billed Magpies on Pleasants Valley Rd. With Napa-Solano Audubon Sept. 16 they saw 5 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2-3 Elegant Terns, a Say's Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, and a PEREGRINE FALCON at Tubbs Island.

Ed and Edna Eichstedt and Jean Richmond saw 7-8 Pectoral Sandpipers at Pescadero October 3. There were Pectoral Sandpipers at Rodeo Lagoon October 10.

The field trip to Palo Alto Salt Marsh produced a Lesser Yellowlegs.

Harry and Betty Adamson had 4 Wood Ducks flying along Las Trampas Creek behind their home Sept. 17. The first Lincoln's Sparrow in their yard this season turned up Sept. 14.

On Sept. 15 Marie Mans found at Crane Flat Meadows (6500-ft. elev. in Yosemite) a Say's Phoebe flitting about among 3 Great Gray Owls, one an immature.

The Richmonds had a Red Crossbill fly over their backyard on Oct. 14---found after being heard.

Rich and Jean Richmond took a 12-day trip to Arizona the latter part of September, spotting a total of 164 species which included 51 "lifers". Among the birds seen were: Gray Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 9 species of hummingbird including Lucifer, Rivoli's, Blue-throated and Violet-crowned, Ladder-backed and Arizona Woodpeckers, Coues' Flycatcher, Bendire's and Crissal Thrasher, Black-and-white Warbler, Rufous-winged, Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrow. What a trip (!) is their report.

Good birding spots for November: Continue the same places listed last month and add Tubbs Island and the Albany mudflats. The migrating shorebirds may have left for the south but loons, grebes and waterfowl will be arriving in great numbers, and the wintering shorebirds will be everywhere. November 19-22 will have very high tides in the morning so should turn up Rails at such places as Alameda South Shore.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jean Richmond, Editor---125 Via Serena, Alamo, Ca. 94507---phone 837-2843



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597  
P.O.Box 53

Pres.: Sally Steller  
591 Fulton Way  
Danville, Ca. 94526

December 1972  
Vol. 19, No. 6

Next deadline: Dec. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 8 p.m.; social time 7:30 p.m.; Women's Club of Walnut Creek, 1224 Lincoln Ave., Walnut Creek. The program will be a discussion by Mr. Gary Bogue on the use of the poison, 1080, in Contra Costa County.

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3; the refuges in the Sacramento Valley. Leader: Harry Adamson (283-2164).

Christmas Count: Saturday, December 30. Marvin Larsen (937-1429), compiler, Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486) and Lynn Farrar (283-3938) assisting. Count period: December 16 through January 1.

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 25. Details next month.

\* \* \* \* \*

The program for the December meeting will be a talk by Mr. Gary Bogue on the use of the poison, 1080, on ground squirrels in Contra Costa County, and the resulting effects on other wildlife. For the past five years Mr. Bogue has been the Curator of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek. He is also the author of a column in The Green Sheet, "Raising Wild Pets".

\* \* \* \* \*

The weekend of December 2-3 we will travel to the Sacramento Valley Refuges under the leadership of Harry Adamson. We meet at 9:30 Saturday at the Interpretive Center at Refuge Headquarters of Gray Lodge Waterfowl Refuge. To reach there, go via Interstate 80 and State Route 113 to Yuba City then State Route 99 north 10 miles to Live Oak and follow the Refuge signs on Pennington Rd. At the Check station pick up a windshield sign then proceed 2 miles to the headquarters. On Sunday we will meet at 8:30 at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Drive north on Interstates 80, 505 and 5 to Norman Rd. (between Williams and Willows) then north on the old highway about 2 miles and turn east into the Refuge. If you cannot go both days, by all means drive up for either one. Hopefully, you followed Harry's advice some time ago and already have overnight reservations. If not, do so immediately.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHRISTMAS COUNT DAY for Mt. Diablo Audubon will be Saturday, December 30, with the post-count pot-luck at Stellers' home that evening. If you plan on coming, please phone Sally to let her know and to find out what you should bring. Marv Larsen (937-1429) is compiler for the count, ably assisted by Elizabeth Dickey (254-0486) and Lynn Farrar (283-3938). Anyone who can help on the count in any capacity should call and volunteer. Experience is valuable, of course, but definitely NOT necessary to be of great assistance in this project. Groups go out and count all the species and the individuals they find in assigned sections of a 15-mile diameter circle whose center is near Cowell. Counts such as this are conducted all across the country.

Those of you who maintain feeders can help with the count by turning in a list of the birds which appear there. Please contact Marv, Elizabeth or Lynn to let them know you have a feeder and to get specific instructions for the count.

Those who have yard lists for the count must mail them to Marvin Larsen, 1195 Saranap, #11, Walnut Creek 94595, no later than January 3, as the total count must be compiled and sent to National. Please indicate which species are seen on count DAY and which are seen during the count PERIOD.

We need a VOLUNTEER to accept telephone calls concerning any rare (for our area) species which may turn up, especially the following: Common Loon, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Snow Goose, European Widgeon, Wood Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, Semi-Palmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Burrowing and Long-Eared Owls, Poorwill, Lewis' Woodpecker, Common Raven, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Orange-Crowned, Black-Throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Slate-Colored Junco, Sage and White-Throated Sparrows. The phone number will be in the next issue which will be out a little early.

\* \* \* \* \*

In spite of the rainy weather preceeding the November 4th field trip to the Fort Cronkhite area, 23 birders turned out and experienced only one brief shower early on the trip. Judging from the comments of people who did not go, Jupiter Pluvios was evidently far too busy here at home to bother us any further in Marin County. We turned up 62 species, including a male Pigeon Hawk, but "High Voltage" evidently blew a fuse or suffered a short circuit as we did not see him in spite of intensive searching. However, we did find the following species:

Horned, Western and Pied-Billed Grebe, White and Brown Pelican, Double-Crested and Pelagic(?) Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common and Snowy Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Ring-Necked Duck, Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's(?), Red-Tailed, Pigeon and Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, American Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Glaucous-Winged, Western, Ring-Billed, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gull, White-Throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Shafted Flicker, Black and Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-Crowned and Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, Red-Winged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-Sided and Brown Towhee, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox and Song Sparrow.

\* \* \* \* \*

If any of you are planning a trip out of our area and would like some help in finding birds in the area you plan to visit, please contact the Editor. Mt. Diablo Audubon exchanges bulletins with a number of other Audubon Chapters and these bulletins can be very helpful in knowing what birds to look for or people to contact for information.

**BIRDERS' HOTLINE.** The Audubon Leader informs us that a taped message with up-to-date reports of sightings of unusual birds in the Greater New York Area (including nearby Connecticut, New Jersey, Long Island) is operated jointly by National Audubon and The Linnaean Society. Out-of-towners planning visits to New York should make note of the phone number: 212-832-6523.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PLEASE** do not discard past issues of Audubon Magazine. If you no longer want them, they can be put to good use by school children. Virginia Schaefer will be in charge of distributing past issues to schools in this area.

**OWL PELLETS** are also valuable to Virginia in connection with her teaching job. If you should find any, please contact her about getting them to her. Mrs. Leo Schaefer, 801 North Gate Rd., Walnut Creek 94598, phone: 939-5260 (home) or 689-7940 (work). Thanks for your help.

\* \* \* \* \*

Allen Cruickshank, author, photographer, lecturer and teacher, has just retired after thirty-seven years on the staff of the National Audubon Society. The Audubon Leader adds that Mr. Cruickshank was recently honored by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology with the Arthur A. Allen Medal for his outstanding service to ornithology. His film, "The Big Sky Wilderness" was the November presentation of the Audubon Wildlife Film series at Diablo Valley College.

\* \* \* \* \*

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge has a manager, L.A. Mehrhoff, who comes here from Illinois where he was associated with the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

\* \* \* \* \*

Audubon Leader also notes that a bill was passed by Congress increasing the penalties for killing or molesting Bald or Golden Eagles and plugging loopholes in the old law. For a first offense of "knowingly" or "with wanton disregard" causing the death of an eagle there can now be a fine of up to \$5000 and/or a year in jail---and double that for a second offense. Offenders' grazing permits can be revoked. Meanwhile, legal action on the 1971 shootings is moving slowly ahead.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, some of whom are transfers from other chapters:

Antioch: Sister M. Hubert OP; Concord: Mrs. Ray C. Jackson;  
Lafayette: David E. Hobbs, Robert B. Means, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Vogel;  
Martinez: Mr. & Mrs. Lewis B. Cevasco; Pleasant Hill: Barbara Bowes,  
 Donna Petri; Walnut Creek: Dr. & Mrs. Robert R. Aksamit, James O. Dunning, Lester R. Foley, Charles & Carol Harper, Capt. Thomas H. Johnson, Douglas S. Kerr, Teresa E. Kreiberg, William Lovelace, Walter A. Sitarz.

\* \* \* \* \*

Observations:

Two Red-Necked Grebes were at Point Reyes October 24.

A male Wood Duck was seen on Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, November 9.

At least 3 male Barrow's Goldeneyes were on Lake Merritt November 4, along with Common Goldeneyes.

The Caracara was still at Alameda as recently as mid-November at the latest report to your Editor. The last sighting found the bird chasing a Turkey Vulture.

Harry Adamson reports an adult Pigeon Hawk was seen from his yard in Lafayette November 6, the first record he has there in 21 years of birding at that location. The previous day he saw a Golden Eagle from his yard.

On the Fort Cronkhite field trip November 4 a male Pigeon Hawk was seen flying over Rodeo Lagoon.

A Rough-Legged Hawk was spotted on Tubbs Island October 28 by your Editor.

A Clapper Rail was seen at the Bay Bridge toll plaza mud flat on October 31.

Marie Mans reports that Frank and Dorsey Spencer of Walnut Creek, birding friends of hers, found a Clark's Nutcracker along the Mt. Wittenburg trail in Pt. Reyes National Seashore September 30.

The Editor heard a Red-Crossbill in Tilden Park November 9.

Al and Ann Boileau have had a European Tree Sparrow in their yard at Rossmoor since October 12. This is the second year the bird has turned up there. Next year, too, hopefully. On October 20 they had a White-Throated Sparrow at their feeder.

A Slate-Colored Junco was near the Little Farm, Tilden Park, on November 9.

Keep your eyes and ears open for mountain species this year as they have appeared around the Bay Area in unusual numbers this fall. Such things as Red-Breasted Nuthatches and Golden-Crowned Kinglets, for example, are ordinarily found here in small numbers but are being seen in many places and in unusually large numbers. Townsend's Solitaires have been found by several people. Clark's Nutcracker was spotted at Pt. Reyes on an Ohlone Audubon field trip October 14.

Good birding spots for December: The places listed in the October and November issues are still good. Conn Dam in Napa County is good for land and water birds. Bodega Bay is good for waterfowl and shorebirds. The area around Thornton will produce Whistling Swan, White-Fronted and Snow Geese, and Sandhill Cranes. The Barrow's Goldeneyes are at Lake Merritt for the fourth consecutive year that I know of from my own observations. Other things are possible at Lake Merritt, such as the pair of Hooded Mergansers there last year. The mud flat on the north side of the Bay Bridge toll plaza, Jewel Lake in Tilden Park, Golden Gate Park, Bon Tempe and Lagunitas Lakes in Marin County, and the frontage road near the small airport south of Cordelia on Highway 21 in Solano County are other birding spots of note in the area. For specific directions to any of these places and the birding possibilities, contact the Editor.

There will be extreme high tides again the mornings of December 18-21, bringing the rails out of the marshes at places like Alameda South Shore.

I am indebted to The Gull, Bulletin of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, for information regarding birding areas to add to my own records.

\* \* \* \* \*