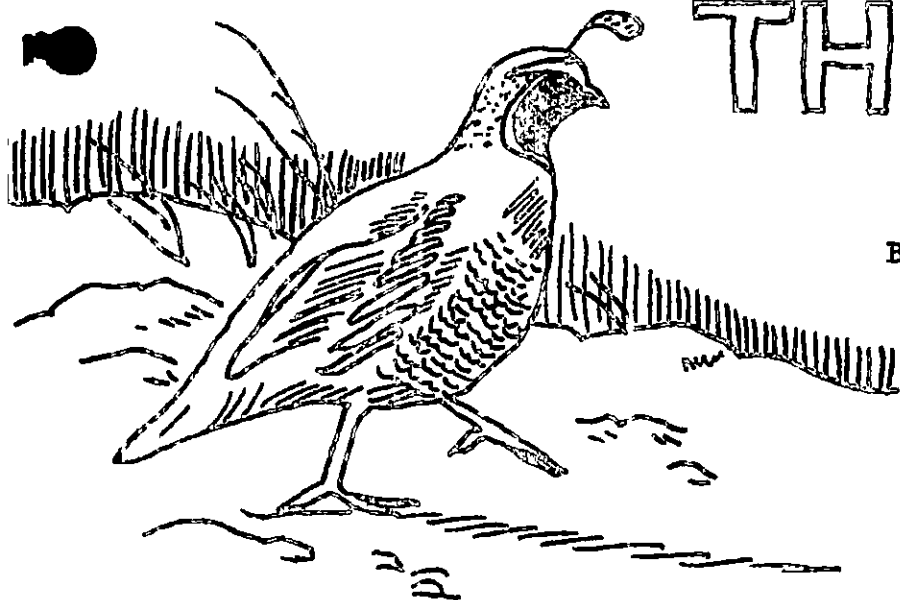


# THE QUAIL

Bulletin of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

January, 1955

Vol. 1 No. 3



## JANUARY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Room 501, Los Lomas High School on Thursday, January 6, 1955.

Mr. Del Armstrong of the Orchard Nursery will discuss shrubs, vines and trees bearing food attractive to birds, or offering shelter and nesting facilities. This will interest those just planting new home grounds or others wishing to attract more birds.

Several of the members will talk of bird identification, bird feeders and baths, nesting boxes and escape plantings. The membership will be asked to participate fully in the discussions.

## MONTEREY PENINSULA FIELD TRIP - JANUARY 15-16, 1955

Your trip chairmen are sorry they had to give you the rush act on your reservations for the January Field Trip to the Monterey Peninsula and time did not permit attaching their "dope sheet" to the last issue of the Quail. However, these sheets were passed out at our last meeting or received separate mailing. Reservations at Asilomar had to be made far in advance of anticipation. Twenty seven of our members have signed for the trip and this is indeed gratifying. Payments are being received and this is also gratifying to your trip chairmen. To those who have signed up we state the "Conference Agreement" contract, which included your reservation, was mailed to Asilomar on December 15th. All that is necessary now is to assign you to your rooms. To those of you who have not as yet paid your \$5.75 per person Violet and Dick Beitzel will be on hand at the next meeting so please don't forget your check books - otherwise they will be left holding the bag. Those on the sign up list are the Adamsons; Hasslers and Tim; Smiths; Hamptons; Cooperriders; Doris Crosby and Joe; Olive Adams; Judy Perlman; Isabella McGeehon; Norma Warner; Elizabeth O'Meara; Alice Kauffman; Minnie Pollock; Dora McConnell; Pete Veitch; Paul Opler; Isadore Perlman and Dave Smith; - oh yes - and the Beitzels.

For any additional information on the trip don't forget to call Violet or Dick - MJ 2-9583.

THE FIRST MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS COUNT

Pied-billed Grebe	2	Nuttall's Woodpecker	7
White Pelican	13	Black Phoebe	3
Great Blue Heron	3	Say's Phoebe	2
American Egret	3	Horned Lark	52
Snowy Egret	29	Tree Swallow	40
Black-crowned Night Heron	4	Steller's Jay	10
Mallard	3	Scrub Jay	78
Pintail	32	Plain Titmouse	59
Shoveller	7	Common Bushtit	62
Ring-necked Duck	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	35
Lesser Scaup	6	Wren-tit	1
Ruddy Duck	22	Bewick's Wren	5
Turkey Vulture	3	Long-billed Marsh Wren	20
White-tailed Kite	6	Rock Wren	1
Red-tailed Hawk	23	Mockingbird	23
Marsh Hawk	12	California Thrasher	4
Sparrow Hawk	82	American Robin	310
California Quail	367	Varied Thrush	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	Hermit Thrush	25
American Coot	400	Western Bluebird	14
Killdeer	72	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	31
Wilson's Snipe	60	Water Pipit	31
Willet	31	Loggerhead Shrike	88
Greater Yellow-legs	4	Audubon's Warbler	31
Lesser Yellow-legs	1	Common Yellowthroat	6
Least Sandpiper	80	House Sparrow	143
Western Sandpiper	15	Western Meadowlark	194
Glaucous-winged Gull	4	Red-winged Blackbird	210
California Gull	30	Brewer's Blackbird	1,500 ± 100
Ring-billed Gull	125	Purple Finch	1
Bonaparte's Gull	31	House Finch	158
Mourning Dove	21	Pine Siskin	2
Barn Owl	2	American Goldfinch	152
Screech Owl	3	Lesser Goldfinch	424
Burrowing Owl	3	Spotted Towhee	14
Short-eared Owl	1	Brown Towhee	49
White-throated Swift	2	Savannah Sparrow	27
Anna's Hummingbird	2	Oregon Junco	234
Belted Kingfisher	1	Chipping Sparrow	2
Red-shafted Flicker	115	White-crowned Sparrow	350
Acorn Woodpecker	52	Golden-crowned Sparrow	100
Lewis's Woodpecker	4	Fox Sparrow	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Song Sparrow	23
Downy Woodpecker	2		
Total number of species	89	Total number of birds	6,222 ± 100

Large flocks of geese, ducks and gulls, as well as 12 unidentified egrets were seen.

Twenty two cold but eager birders had a strenuous and successful day in the fields, swamps and mountains of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's Christmas Count area. It was a good showing for our first endeavor and all present at home or in the fields are to be congratulated.

EXCERPT FROM NEWSWEEK - DECEMBER 13

**"DIAL-A-BIRD** That acknowledged citadel of American bird watching, the Boston headquarters of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, last week began an impressive new service, the Voice of Audubon. By dialing Kenmore 6-4050, Bostonians may now summon a voice which delivers 30 seconds of up-to-the-minute news in the bird world as gathered by sharp-eyed volunteer observers. Also featured is a rundown on the weather and other information of value to nature lovers.

The broadcast is transcribed automatically by a machine similar to the ones used by telephone companies for their time and weather services. Unlike these machines, however, the Voice of Audubon listens as well as talks. At the end of the recorded message, there is a double beep on the line after which observers with anything unusual to report can speak right up into the mouthpiece, confident that their messages will be noted by the Audubon staff later.

Thus the Audubon Society can now spread the word more rapidly about such rare developments as blue geese landing at Plum Island, the flight of snow geese along the coast, or the sighting of an African cattle egret last summer in Sudbury and Newbury."

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Have you seen the January 1955 issue of "Sunset" - on page 16 there is an illustrated article "What Gull is That?"

The December issue of "Ford Times" has an article about "The Trogon - Feathered Rainbow".

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On January 10 the Audubon Screen Tour at the East Contra Costa Junior College 6 P.M. Building 12 is entitled "Outdoor Almanac" - a sweeping panorama of nature's animal cycle, the weasel, gray fox, deer, ducks - all with musical score and sound effects by Mr. Charles Mohr.

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ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Blazick, 2580 Lucy Lane, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-9610		
Arthur H. Beede, P. O. Box 1188, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-2060		
Mr. Bill Denhart, 35 Contra Cost Golf Club, Concord			Student
Mrs. Peter Howard, 2385 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek	Ye 2-2435		
Mrs. Roland Jones, 2657 Hoover Avenue, Walnut Creek			
Andrew MacCono, 1840 Geary Road, Walnut Creek			
Isadore Perlman and Judy, 1158 Glen Road, Lafayette	At 3-3021	Local	Nat'l
Mr. Bob Perry, 1149 Bacon Way, Walnut Creek			
Mr. W. F. Sager, 2756 Larkey Lane, Walnut Creek	Ya 4-4267		
Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Sutton, 2207 Charming Court, Concord			
Mr. Peter Veitch, 154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda	Cl 4-2419	Local	Nat'l
Mrs. Mae Watkins, 1107 Orchard Road, Lafayette	At 3-3424		
Mr. Bev Wilder, 1304 Alma Avenue, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-6353		



# The Quail

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

February, 1955

Vol. 1 No. 4

The distinctive and technically accurate letterhead which proudly adorns this issue of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society bulletin is now the permanent heading for our publication. A vote of thanks from the entire society is due Harry C. Adamson for our most attractive letterhead. We are fortunate to have such a well informed and gifted artist naturalist who gives so freely of his time and talents. His design and drawing of our very life like Quail will give pleasure to every member with each new issue for years to come.

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Room 501, Los Lomas High School on Thursday, February 3, 1955.

Mr. Jack Parker, Naturalist, or his Assistant, Miss Danielson, will talk about Tilden Park, and especially the conducted Nature Tour which we will enjoy on our March 6th field trip. They will also show colored slides and films of the Park, so that the program will appeal to the youngsters as well as adults.

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## MONTEREY PENINSULA FIELD TRIP REPORT

It hardly seems worth while to write an account of this trip as most of our active members were along for a very wonderful and full week-end. Twenty-six members and four guests were with us and we were very happy to have these four congenial people along.

Gathering shortly after one o'clock Saturday afternoon we drove to Point Lobos and despite the wind, cold and rain, had a wonderful trip seeing many birds, etc. Those in the lead on the trail to Bird Rock were fortunate in getting a close view of a Sea Otter swimming on his back on the surface of the ocean while he munched his abalone lunch. Several more were spotted through the glasses. Saturday evening we had a most enjoyable program with color slides of the Southwest being shown by Katie and Bill Hassler and a trip through Glacier National Park and the Canadian Rockies by Betty and Harry Adamson. We take this opportunity to thank these good members for their part in our program. Tired, but happy, to bed wondering "is the weather going to clear or ain't it?"

The schedule for Sunday morning included the viewing of the Monarch Butterflies - a most remarkable and enjoyable sight. The weather was still brisk and the butterflies were hanging mostly with closed wings and not much activity. They are a sight well worth seeing. From the butterfly trees a stop was made at the "bug" museum and I bet the gal was darn glad to see such a bunch of souvenir buyers come in. From there a trip along the beach back to Pacific Grove where we stopped at the Museum of Natural History which has a remarkable and compact display of birds(stuffed that is). Our final stop for the morning was at the picturesque Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey and then back to Asilomar for lunch. The afternoon was scheduled for the 17 Mile Drive but most had other plans or things they wished to do so you might say our Field Trip came to an enjoyable close at lunch.

We cannot speak highly enough or praise Asilomar as an ideal place for a group gathering. The grounds are beautiful, the hospitality of the highest and the food - the wonderful, the delicious knock-your-diet-for-a-loop food. In all we had a darn good time, didn't we? Only a congenial and friendly group such as ours could have had such a good time and we all know now what Norma sounds like in a shower at 5 A.M. That's not what is worrying Cecil Smith though - he wants to know who it is that has that cute little whistle at the end of a snore.

The bird count is furnished courtesy of Adamsons, Veitch and Opler - 102.

Pacific Loon	Black Oyster-catcher	California Jay
Red throated Loon	Snowy Plover	Yellow-billed Magpie
Horned Grebe	Killdeer	Crow
Eared Grebe	Surf-bird	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Western Grebe	Black Turnstone	Plain Titmouse
Pied-billed Grebe	Long-billed Curlew	Pygmy Nuthatch
Brown Pelican	Wandering Tattler	Creeper
Farallon Cormorant	Willet	Winter Wren
Brandt's Cormorant	Greater Yellow legs	Bewick's Wren
Baird's Cormorant	Least Sandpiper	Robin
Great Blue Heron	Red-backed Sandpiper	Varied Thrush
American Egret	Western Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Brewster's Egret	Marbled Godwit	Western Bluebird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Sanderling	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Avocet	Cedar Waxwing
Gadwall	Black-necked Stilt	California Shrike
Baldpate	Glaucous winged Gull	Audubon's Warbler
Pintail	Western Gull	Townsend's Warbler
Green winged Teal	Herring Gull	English Sparrow
Shoveller	California Gull	Western Meadowlark
Wood Duck	Ring billed Gull	Bicolored Blackbird
Canvas back	Short billed Gull	Brewer's Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	Bonaparte's Gull	House Finch
Bufflehead	Heerman's Gull	Pine Siskin
Surf Scoter	Horned Owl	American Goldfinch
Ruddy Duck	Belted Kingfisher	Green-backed Goldfinch
Red breasted Merganser	Red shafted Flicker	Spotted Towhee
White tailed Kite	California Woodpecker	Brown Towhee
Red tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Pigeon Hawk	Black Phoebe	Oregon Junco
Sparrow Hawk	Say's Phoebe	Nuttall's Sparrow
California Quail	Horned Lark	Golden crowned Sparrow
Ring neck Pheasant	Tree Swallow	Fox Sparrow
Coot	Steller's Jay	Song Sparrow

We want to again thank everyone for their friendly cooperation in helping to make the trip a success that you all say it was. Lots of work and worry, but well worth it - Violet and Dick Beitzel.

#### TOMALES BAY FIELD TRIP - FEBRUARY 6

Harlequin ducks will be featured on the February 6th field trip to Tomales Point.

When we scouted the area on January 26th we saw shore birds by the thousands come to feed at low tide. The long lines of white pelicans coming in low and overhead at 3:30 P.M. to land on a nearby island is a thrilling sight. The crystal clear tide pools with brilliantly colored rock bottoms contain a great variety of sea life to be explored. Here we saw a great green anemone 7" in diameter digesting a crab it had captured. Much other sea life, such as star fish, barnacles, sea urchins, etc., can be seen. Movies of some of these taken on the scouting trip will be shown at the regular meeting if they come back in time.

Meet at the Inverness Store at 11:00 A.M. It is located on the highway at Inverness (a mile or so beyond Inverness Park). Bring lunch, warm clothing and foot gear for hiking in damp grass and over slick rocks and wet sand at the beach. There will be at least a mile hike out to the point and the wind can be fierce.

Let's hope for good weather, but bring a stout heart, just in case.

From the Inverness Store we will go to the McClure farmstead at McClure Beach. We have permission to go through their property as a group to the Point. Lunch will be eaten at a comfortable spot, depending on the weather.

If you go through Vallejo and start a little early, you can stop along the marshy areas on Route 48. Hundreds of birds feed along this highway. Be sure to start early enough, as it is a 2 hour drive to Inverness.

If you have any questions, just telephone Mulberry 2-9342 - Jim and Wilma Hampton.

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#### HISTORY OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

In April 1953 a small group interested in the formation of a local Audubon Society met in the Community Room of the Coast Counties Gas Company, under the auspices of the Walnut Creek Recreation Council at that time headed by Wm. E. "Bill" Hassler.

Mr. Hassler acted as secretary for the evening. Chief speaker was the late Vaughn MacCaughy, a West Coast representative of the National Audubon Society. Other National representatives present were Alexander Sprunt, III, of the San Francisco office and the California northern summer camp, and Ferdinand Ruth, member of the East Contra Costa Junior College faculty and also of the summer camp staff.

First advice, given after the meeting adjourned was to postpone definite organization until the re-opening of schools in the fall. However those in attendance who had long hoped to have a local group of "bird watchers" felt immediate action preferable, lest the continuity of thought be broken and interest hard to re-awaken after a lapse of several months.

Accordingly, a second meeting was called that month. This, held at the Hasslers' was well attended, word having gotten around.

Mrs. J. C. McGeehon emerged as temporary chairman. Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara undertook to serve temporarily as publicity chairman. Plans were made for the initial field trip on May third to Tilden Park.

During the nooning the chairman named a By-Law committee consisting of Albert O. Cooperrider, Mrs. Cecil Smith and Mrs. Hassler. The second Thursday of the month at 8:00 p.m. was chosen as the meeting date and time.

Thus the first regular meeting was held May 14th. The By-laws were considered with definite action put over to the June meeting when the nominating committee reported. Nominating committee was Mrs. George Hoffschneider, Mrs. Mary Whitcomb, and Paul Opler.

At this meeting plans were made for the second field trip when the invitation to spend the day at Mulfontes in the Livermore hills was accepted.

In June with the By-Laws adopted and a regular corps of officers elected the Mount Diablo Audubon Society was on its way with Mr. Cooperrider its first president.

N.B. Historian's note - This is the truth, nothing but the truth, but not the whole truth. That will appear anon - Isabella McGeehon.

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Be sure to see the February issue of "Sunset" - in the section entitled Travel in the West for an article about shore birding in and around Moss Landing.

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There will be no Screen Tour during February.

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#### ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

Mr. Ray Mead, 1845 Poplar Drive, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-7983	Nat'l
Gene Harney, 1482 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek	Ye 5-5544	Nat'l
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-8873	
Mrs. Ina Schmid, 3121 College Avenue, Berkeley		

# The Quail

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

March, 1955

Vol. 1 No. 5



## MARCH MEETING

The regular meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, March 3, 1955 in the Biology Laboratory at the East Contra Costa Junior College at 8:00 P.M. in Building 8-C. Mr. Ferd Ruth, biologist, will address the group informally and show us the reptiles and other animals housed in the laboratory. He will be happy to answer any questions.

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## TILDEN PARK NATURE AREA - MARCH 6 FIELD TRIP

The group is to meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Field Museum for a trip through the Nature Area conducted by Ranger Parker.

To get to the Nature Area and the Museum, we suggest you drive to the Brazilian Room (there are numerous signs for it), continue past this building (north), and drive for about 1-1/2 miles (notice the tennis courts on your right). Along the road you will note signs pointing to the Nature Area. The Museum is within the fenced area where we are to meet.

This Nature Walk will be an ideal trip for children as well as adults. If we walk the complete trail, the whole trip will take about an hour and a half. All will be free to leave the trails for birding purposes; and you need not stay with the conducted group.

By twelve all will probably have returned. Outside the gates the Indian Camp area offers an ideal place for lunch, with tables, fireplaces, etc. Bring your lunch, and we will all sit down together. Undoubtedly there will be water available but it is best to bring a thermos. If rain comes, we no doubt can find a covered spot. While the group is together we can decide where next in the park we wish to go for we will still have several hours.

Wear stout walking shoes, bring your binoculars, cameras (maybe an extra sweater too, if the day is not balmy). We should see many animals, plants, birds, snakes and whatnot.



For those of you who attended the last regular meeting and heard about the small raccoon who lives in the Museum, we regret to report that she was recently shot by some fiend with a bow and arrow. Fortunately, she is recovering, but is sticking close to home. She should be well enough to greet us on March 6. - Norma Warner.

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### FIELD TRIP ON FEBRUARY 6

Mother Nature certainly was thoughtful to provide such a beautiful day for the Tomales Point Field Trip. The bright sun, clear weather and very little wind made it easy for 38 people to enjoy a marvelous setting. Paul Opler reported 74 species of birds were seen including about a half dozen harlequin ducks, an old squaw, pigeon guillemot, black oystercatcher, white winged scoter, hundreds of black brandt, a Lewis woodpecker, and many others.

Lunch was delayed until the group hiked about 2 miles to the point. We ate on a sloping ledge arranged so that any loose apples would roll down over the edge and into the ocean - right, Diane Smith. Brown pelicans accustomed to skimming just above the ledge as they rounded the point were very surprised to find Audubon's instead of cormorants resting on the ledge.

The tide pools were very beautiful in the bright sun. Large green anenomes and star fish were in profusion, as were mussels and barnacles. Also seen were a few sea bats, crabs, an abalone, and clams.

Considering the good weather, large turnout, lots of bird activity, abundance of sea life and the beautiful setting, it was a very successful trip.

A short poem by Paul Opler inspired by Mary Smith's experiences.

"A cat in a furrow  
Is different from an owl in a burrow,  
If it has ears, it is probably a cat."

Wilma and I extend our best wishes to the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and to the many friends we have met through the group. We know that the group will continue to grow and provide much good fellowship and many new and interesting experiences to those who see their opportunity to participate.

We will be living at 223 E Street, Apt. D, Davis, California. Drop in, anyone, if you come by. - Jim Hampton.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Let's forget the birds for a minute and talk about wild flowers. Violet Beitzel has had three of her colored slides of California wild flowers accepted for publication by the advertising agency handling Richfield Oil Company's forthcoming "Wild Flower Booklet for 1955." Richfield paid for them, too. Get your free copy at a Richfield station when the book is out to the public.

READ ANY NEW MAGAZINES LATELY?

Have you read "Nature Magazine" - articles about all phases of nature - birds, insects, animals, plants, geology, etc., as well as a column each month on photographing nature.

There is "The Desert Magazine" for those who are interested in that part of our country - many articles for rock hounds and hopeful uranium prospectors as well as articles about the birds, animals, flowers, etc. to be found in the desert.

"Arizona Highways" is fine for those of us who hope to travel in that area some-one-of-these-days. The February issue has several color pages of flowers.

Have you seen the magazine put out by the California Academy of Sciences? It is "Pacific Discovery" and has a great variety of articles about other countries and peoples, trees, animals, fish, birds as well as monthly columns devoted to astronomy and book reviews. (I haven't found this one on the newsstands yet, but the County Library at Martinez has copies for about the last seven years). Try to find the July-August 1954 issue which is devoted to New Zealand - there are two particularly interesting bird articles - "Flying Mammals and Birds Without Wings" and "Cape Kidnappers' Colony" which is all about gannets.

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ASILCMAR AUDUBON CONFERENCE

The yearly West Coast Audubon Conference will be held at Asilomar, April 2 to 5 (Saturday to Tuesday). In addition to the discussions and films, there will be field trips in the area, as well as a trip on the ocean to look for sea birds. If you can spare some time that weekend, do try to attend - even if only for a day or a few hours. David Smith is going to attend the complete conference, let's see if we can't give him support in representing the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. If you have any further questions or wish to make reservations, be sure to contact the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California.

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CONSERVATION

In receiving copies of the other Audubon Society bulletins, I have noticed that several of them have conservation or legislative chairmen who try to keep the other members up to date on proposals up before the State Legislature and in the Federal House and Senate that would affect animals, birds, fish, national parks, etc. Have you written to your congressman in an effort to help save Dinosaur National Monument?

There are various ways in which we can keep up to date on proposed changes - join the National Park Association, suscribe to "The Alert", a new publication devoted to current conservation problems in California. Subscriptions are \$2.00 each and can be sent to Margaret Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer, 1152 Picacho Drive, Claremont, California. The Sierra Club is another organization which is very active in conservation work. Under their sponsorship, on March 18-19 at the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, California, there will be the Fourth Biennial Wilderness Conference whose theme this year is "Building a Policy for Wilderness."

BIOLOGY 5

A very interesting class of nature is being offered at East Contra Costa Junior College this semester. It is designated as Biology 5, but covers all phases of nature, including conservation, vertebrates, invertebrates, and botany. Mr. Ferd Ruth is the instructor and is holding two sections, one on Monday and one on Tuesday. This is because the enrollment was too great for the one section which was planned. There will be six field trips in Contra Costa County during the semester as well as laboratory work. Unfortunately for those who are interested, but have not enrolled the two sections are closed. However, if the demand is great enough, there is a possibility that the course will be offered sometime in the future.- Marye Smith.

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WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING?

On February 3 Paul Opler saw approximately 75 white throated swifts foraging around as they passed through the Concord area.

On Sunday, February 13, the Adams saw about 3,000 - 4,000 (estimated) white fronted geese feeding in the freshly plowed fields and coming in for the night east of Isleton on Highway 12 going toward Lodi. From about three in the afternoon until the sun had gone down the sky was filled with various sized formations coming down and a few leaving - all the time there was constant conversation between the groups on the ground and those in the air.

On February 20 the Adams and the Adamsons joined the Sacramento Audubon Society on their trip to see the Sandhill Cranes near Thornton. We must have seen around 1,000 of these birds, as well as several smaller Little Brown Cranes. Another high point of the trip was a visit to a home near Courtland where two long eared owls roost from about mid-December through February.

If you see any unusual flights or flocks of birds, let me know so that we can tell the rest of our Society what they are missing.

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AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR

On March 9, 1955 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Fran William Hall will show "South to Siesta Land" at the Audubon Screen Tour at the East Contra Costa Junior College. Be sure to see this colorful picture of Mexico. After the meeting there will be a coffee hour at the Hasslers, 18 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek to which all are invited to meet Mr. Hall. At the meeting Thursday night, Katie will let us know if she has received a reply from Mr. Hall yet.

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ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

Kenneth and Harvey Kogut, 2640 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek	Ye 5-1662
Mr. and Mrs. Erick D. Johnson, 2750 N. Main Street, Walnut Creek	
Mrs. Alice R. Kauffman, P. O. Box 1005, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-7856 Local
Mrs. Mary C. Plant, 1131 Scots Lane, Walnut Creek	Ye 4-3260 Local
Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather, 1290 Grove Street, San Francisco	

# The Quail

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



April 1955

Vol. 1 No. 6

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 1955. Our speaker for the evening will be Kenneth D. Morrison, editor of the Audubon Magazine and Director of Public Information for the National Audubon Society. Mr. Morrison has been at the Asilomar Conference and is visiting the local Audubon Societies showing a film entitled "March Waters - Waste or Wealth".

Mr. Morrison has written and spoken widely on subjects pertaining to natural resource conservation. He has been especially active in promoting better public understanding of the persecuted birds, as well as those species of wildlife threatened with extinction. Audubon Magazine has received general acclaim for its leadership in this field.

Before taking over his duties in New York in 1949, Mr. Morrison was for three years Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society with headquarters in Minneapolis. He was appointed by Governor Luther Youngdahl to the State Bird Commission and was instrumental in the founding of nine Audubon Societies in Minnesota.

For three years Mr. Morrison conducted Audubon Wildlife Tours in Itasca State Park in northern Minnesota. While there, he developed the plan for a book, "Where to Find Birds in Minnesota", which he co-authored with Josephine Herz. Mr. Morrison is a former president of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the St. Paul Audubon Society, and is a graduate of the class of 1940 at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

From 1941 to 1946 he served as editor of the Conservation Volunteer, published by the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

Mr. Morrison's articles on nature and conservation subjects have appeared in Audubon Magazine, Natural History, American Forests, Nature Magazine, Farm Journal, This Week, and elsewhere. He is listed in "Who's Who in America."

Mr. Morrison's home is in Armonk Village, New York. He is a member of the National and Bedford Audubon Societies, Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, National Parks Association, American Ornithologists' Union, and Wilson Ornithological Club.

MULFONTES FIELD TRIP

Our next field trip will be to Mulfontes, the ranch in the Livermore hills belonging to Mrs. McGeehon and Mrs. O'Meara. The date has been set for the week-end of April 23 and 24th. In the event of rain, the trip will have to be postponed because of the condition of the road. For those who wish to make a week-end of it, come along Saturday afternoon with food and sleeping bag. For those who are not so fortunate, come on Sunday whenever you are able - be sure to bring your lunch. This is always a pleasant field trip for you may walk as little or as much as you wish - whether you hike all over the hills or sit on the front porch there are many kinds of birds (the feathered kind) around to entertain you. Attached you will find a map showing how to find Mulfontes. If you have any questions, telephone Mrs. McGeehon at Ye-4-2752 or Mrs. O'Meara at Ye-4-4720.

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FIELD TRIP MARCH 6

The March sixth field trip to Tilden Park proved most successful and enjoyable. The weather was perfect for the outing, and there was a goodly representation of members. We were pleased to have several Girl Scouts from the Walnut Creek area with their mothers and the Troop Leader; also numerous small fry who brought along their parents. A very pleasant surprise was the attendance of Wilma and Jim Hampton who drove all the way from Davis to join us.

When all had arrived at the Museum, the group was divided - Ranger Parker took the smaller youngsters on a sight-seeing trip which included visits with the caged animals. Ranger Danielson then conducted the adult group through the Nature Area which led us over hills varying from wooded slopes and canyons to wind-swept grassy exposures. Miss Danielson identified the flora of the area and pointed out indications of small animals who make the park their home, but who safely hid from daytime prying eyes. The members saw or identified 23 species of birds during the walk - mallard, canvas-back, ruddy duck, red tailed hawks, California quail, coot, mourning dove, red-shafted flicker, red-breasted sapsucker, black phoebe, Steller's and California jays, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, brown creeper, wren-tit, robin, hermit thrush, Audubon's warbler, brown towhee, Oregon junco, golden crowned sparrow and song sparrow. It should be pointed out that the area, wooded predominately with eucalyptus, does not furnish good cover for birds, which accounts for the few species seen.

By noon time all the amateur naturalists were back at the Museum. Those who brought lunches gathered at the Indian Camp for food, discussion and picture-taking - Norma L. Warner.

- - - - -

A poem from the Nature Magazine of October 1954 which I think also fits our plain titmouse.

Tufted Titmouse - Ray Romine

Impertinence personified,  
This tufted bit of pep and pride!  
Like a human wolf, he cocks his eye  
And whistles at each passerby.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING?

The Adamsons have been seeing Allen and Rufous Hummingbirds in the Red-Hot-Pokers in their garden during this month, also an orange crowned warbler.

On the mornings of March 24 through 26, the Adams have been watching Cedar Waxwings - 12 one morning, 40 some odd the next two - in the buckhorn tree back of their yard. We have also seen a female Black Chinned Hummer several times, and our Anna is back staking out her territory in the oak tree.

On Sunday, the twentieth of March, while driving north on highway 33, some ten miles south of Mendota, we (Olive and Bill Adams) found a pied-billed grebe calmly sitting on the white line in the middle of the road. He had apparently made a forced landing on the road, and being a grebe was unable to walk or to take-off from a flat surface. We stopped the car and picked him up. He was unharmed and quite docile. After unsuccessfully looking for water near the road we decided to take him where we knew there were other pied-bills. During the trip home to Walnut Creek he became very friendly and completely unafraid. The next morning, after a few pictures had been taken of the little pied billed grebe sitting on the chesterfield, he was taken to Lake Merritt in Oakland. After checking with the naturalist, the grebe was placed in the water. A very excited little grebe paddled in a circle near the shore, as though he didn't wish to leave his new-found friends. However, after a few more passes at the shore, a few drinks and many calls from the other birds, he paddled off, sank out of sight to reappear in the midst of a raft of new and rather more permanent friends.

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GIRL SCOUTING

Have you ever seen a child's eyes light up with the excitement of discovery? And have you ever thought of sharing your interest in nature and the out-of-doors with girls in a Girl Scout camp? There are many camps in the area offering opportunities for adults to help girls grow in their appreciation of the world around us.

A Girl Scout camp is organized in small unit groups where girls with their adult leaders plan and carry out a program relating to the outdoor setting. There are no classes - but a flexible program with opportunities for exploration following the girls' interests. In most camps girls range in age from 10 through 17 and come to camp for 12-day to 2-week periods. Adults interested in youth and the out-of-doors are needed.

For more information write - Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Region XII  
National Branch Office, P. O. Box 507, Palo Alto, California

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AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR

On Tuesday, April 12, 1955 at 8:00 p.m. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. will show "Top O the Mitten" at the Audubon Screen Tour at the East Contra Costa Junior College. This is an all color movie of the wildlife and scenic beauty of Michigan's lower peninsula. Mr. Pettingill has been invited to a coffee hour after the screen tour at the Adams, 1860 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek, but as yet we have not received a reply. Everyone is invited to attend - we will let you know the latest at the meeting on April 7.

GET OUT YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Have you seen the National Geographic Magazine during the past year? They have had several varied articles about birds - January, 1954 - "A Naturalist in Penguin Land" by Niall Rankin; February, 1954 - "Scotland's Golden Eagles at Home" by C. Eric Palmar; May, 1954 - "Split Seconds in the Lives of Birds" by Arthur A. Allen; August, 1954 - "A New Bird Immigrant Arrives" (Cattle Egret) by Roger Tory Peterson; as well as the commemorative issue of November 1954 on Audubon's 50th anniversary.

The March 21 issue of Sports Illustrated has an article "Boston Bird Watcher Walks with His Hero."

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Recently the National Audubon Society held its 25th annual bird count. How many volunteer counters participated and how many birds did they spot? Try to guess before you look at the answer below.

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AUDUBON CAMP - JUNE 26 - SEPTEMBER 3

The California Audubon Summer Camp at the Sugar Bowl Lodge is the place to spend two exciting stimulating weeks. I was there in 1953 and came home thrilled about what I had learned from the field trips, lectures, and the association with those who specialize in the various fields of nature. The training that is given, as well as the whole atmosphere there in the high mountains is a wonderful experience. - Marye C. Smith.

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DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Here is the reply I received from John Baldwin in response to our letter protesting the use of Dinosaur National Monument as a dam site.

"Thanks very much for your kind letter protesting the proposed use of Dinosaur National Monument as a dam site. I agree with your position 100% and have taken an active stand in opposition to the proposed Echo Park Dam here in Washington. Last week I appeared before the Senate Interior Sub-Committee to oppose this dam and have also asked for permission to appear before the House Interior Committee when it has hearings on this measure. I spent six days last summer in a rubber boat travelling down the Yampa River Gorge past this proposed site and am convinced that this dam should not be built in Dinosaur National Park. It is gratifying to have your support in this matter."

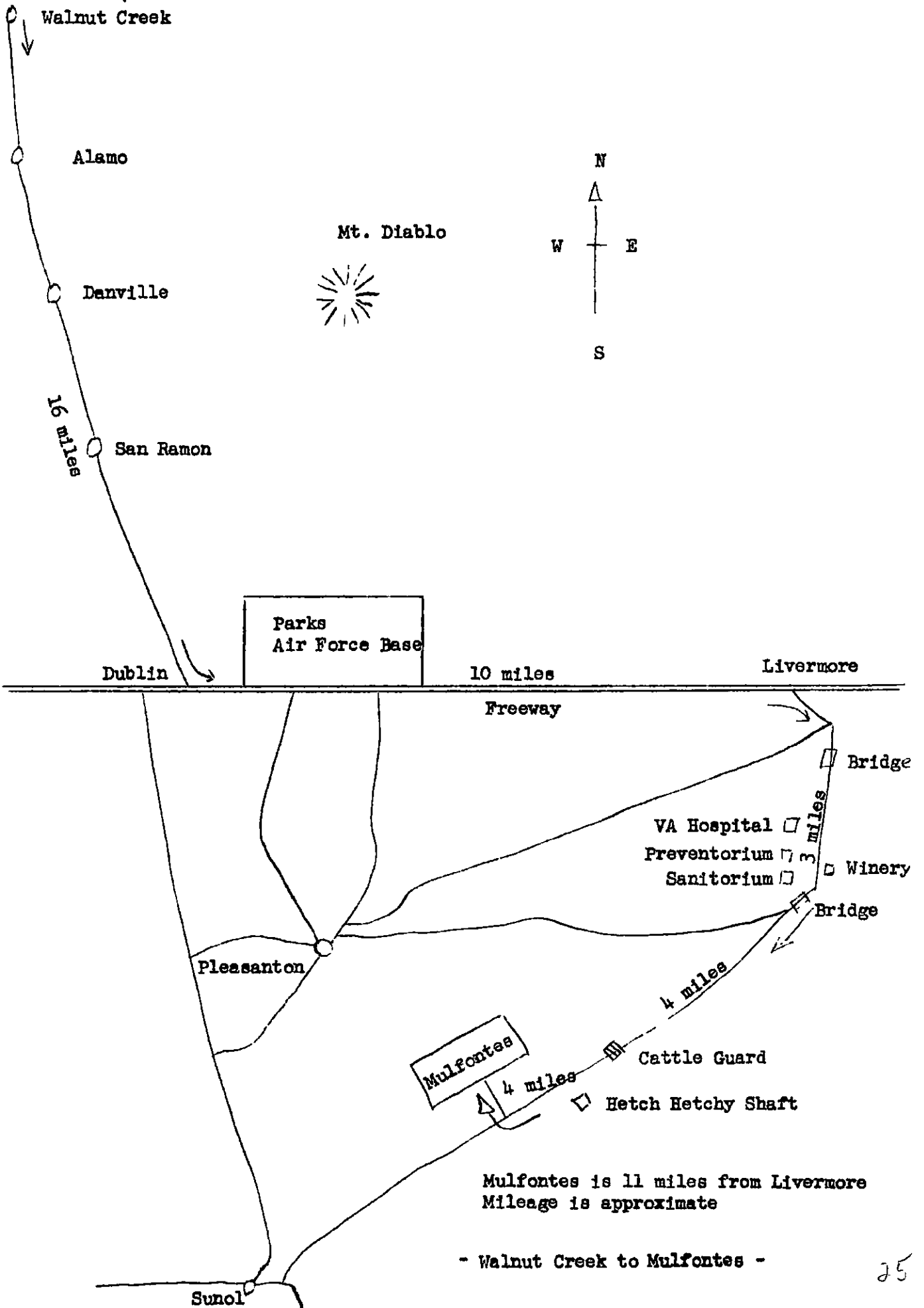
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7,384 observers counted 9,480,000 birds of 469 species. Were you close?

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ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

- |   |           |       |
|---|-----------|-------|
| Mrs. Dorothy Bergstrom, 3811 St. Mary Street, Martinez  | 2360-W    |       |
| Hope E. Adams, 901 Brown Street, Martinez               | 1511-J    |       |
| Kjersti Lundeberg, 2971 Hacienda Drive, Concord         |           | Nat'l |
| Mrs. Mary H. Hutchinson, 340 Miller Drive, Walnut Creek |           | Nat'l |
| Mrs. M. C. Whyte, 1520 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek      | Ye-4-2243 | Nat'l |
| Mrs. Arbert Hall, 427 Roberta Avenue, Concord           | Ye-4-4076 |       |







# The Quail

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

May 1955

Vol. 1 No. 7

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adamson will be the guest speakers with a program of Western Wildlife. Colored slides of interesting animals and plants of the area will be shown.

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## FIELD TRIP MAY 7 AND 8 - PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

On May 7th and 8th the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will visit Pinnacles National Monument, south of Hollister, California. This will be an overnight camping trip and will be a joint trip with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Approximately 3 1/2 hours driving time is required from the Bay Area. We will meet at 1 P.M. on Saturday in front of the Ranger Station for a short bird walk. Sunday, there will be a hike to Chalone Peak, altitude 3,300 ft. and/or an alternate walk around the scenic "High Peaks" circle.

As camping space is at a premium it is wise to arrive as early as possible on Saturday to "claim" a good level campsite. It may be warm during the day but the nights are usually cool so bring adequate clothing. There are no accommodations at the Monument but motels, etc. are to be found at Hollister, 33 miles north of the Pinnacles. Food for as many meals as you may deem necessary, comfortable walking shoes, a flashlight, and a canteen are virtual necessities. There is a moderate admission charge, good for one year.

We may not be able to camp as a group, but will make an effort to do so. Check with the ranger for information in this regard. Leaders - Betty and Harry Adamson, Atlantic 3-2164.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

The April field trip to Mulfontes was rained out, thus we will have two field trips in May. The Mulfontes trip has been postponed to the week-end of May 21 and 22. If you have any questions, telephone Mrs. McGeehon at Ye-4-2752 or Mrs. O'Meara at Ye-4-4720.

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HOW ABOUT A PAINTING?

In the April issue of Outdoor Life on page 34 under the Shopping column there is a picture and paragraph describing 3 18" x 22" size pictures, one of pintails, one of Canada geese, and one of mallards painted by Harry Adamson which may be obtained from the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. W P, 232 Carroll Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. The set of three sells for \$5.00.

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HOT BIRD BATH

Youngstown, Ohio - March 28 - James L. Wick, Jr. retired industrialist, provides the birds with a winter bird bath. The water temperature in the garden-variety bath is kept above freezing by a thermostatically controlled heating element.

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WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING?

Paul Opler spent Easter vacation down in the desert and reports the following interesting birds. At Littlerock in a grove of cottonwoods - Scott's Oriole, Cowbird, Prairie Falcon, Poorwill, Yellowthroat, Black Headed Grosbeak. In the canyons west of Palm Springs, Paul saw hundreds of hummingbirds - Black Thinned, Rufous, Annas, Costas as well as Phainopepla, Gambel Quail, Plumbeous Nighthawk, Violet Green Swallows and White throated Swifts.

On Saturday, the 23rd, he watched an Orange Crowned Warbler take a bath in the Briones area near Pittsburg.

Mrs. McGeehon has been letting greasewood grow in what used to be her chicken yard - and now finds that at least half a dozen quail have been foraging there, and using the water dishes which she now has to keep full again. At this time of year she finds her garden the noisiest - the calls of the quail and lark, shrieks of jays, clicks of hummers heading for the red flower rusaphia, the spotted towhee and his alleged song from the top-most twigs of the redwood, the gentle song of the junco, the sweetness of the house finch and white crowned sparrow, and high over all, literally and figuratively the mocker on the wires. Some days woody woodpecker adds his voice, other times he just knocks on wood. The hermit thrush comes out of hiding for a drink, but rarely joins the chorus.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Recently the Adamson's, Peter Veitch, and their friends the Stallcup's took a trip to the Brownsville-Harlingen area of southern Texas in search of some of the rare birds which come into the United States only in that region.

In addition, at this season, there are a great many species of birds which "funnel" through this comparatively narrow area in migration before spreading out in the states to the north and east. Some of these were observed which will account for names of certain birds usually thought of as occurring far east and north of the area concerned.

On the way south a quick side trip to Big Bend National Park rewarded us with the experience of getting into the heart of the Chisos Mountains, a rugged formation with an avifauna similar to that of the Chiricahuas and other mountain ranges of southeastern Arizona. Here we saw the beautiful Pyrrhuloxia on several occasions.

At Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf coast of Texas we had a wonderful view of a pair of Whooping Cranes flying by at 60-70 yards. This was undoubtedly the most memorable event of the entire trip and was something that we had hardly dared hope we might see as the cranes have a huge area to wander about in and there are only 21 of them left in the world. Mr. Julian A. Howard, the refuge manager, was very kind in taking us out to the observation tower from which cranes are sometimes observed. Roseate Spoonbills and Caracaras were other highlights of birding this refuge. While camped out in the brush that same evening we heard at least three Merrill's Pauraque's which we would probably have missed had we not camped out.

In the Harlingen region, Mr. Luther Goldman, refuge manager of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, directed us to the most likely spots for good birding. Sneaking through damp, rather jungle-like forest at the very break of day, we followed the ringing chorus of the Chachalacas until we were able to see three of the hen-like birds walking about on some large limbs silhouetted against the sky. Derby Flycatchers were catching frogs and swallowing them, Green Jays scolded from nearby trees, and Black-bellied Tree Ducks and Anhingas or Water Turkeys sat about on dead trees in the swamp. Just a taste of what it would be possible to see farther south, but very enjoyable. During the trip we saw the following 208 species of birds -

Scissor Tailed Flycatcher	Roseate Spoonbill	Black Vulture	Anhinga
Golden Throated Woodpecker	Eastern Meadowlark	Carolina Wren	Chachalaca
Black Bellied Tree Duck	Merrill's Pauraque	Eastern Bluebird	Caracara
Great Crested Flycatcher	Mexican Cormorant	Painted Redstart	Green Jay
Yellow Shafted Flicker	Little Blue Heron	Magnolia Warbler	Inca Dove
Black Crowned Titmouse	Rio Grande Turkey	Louisiana Heron	Cardinal
Yellow Throated Vireo	Red Eyed Cowbird	Indigo Bunting	Texas Sparrow
Ruby-Throated Hummer	Derby Flycatcher	Whooping Crane	Mottled Duck
Louisiana Waterthrush	Worm Eating Warbler	Brown Thrasher	Wilson Plover
Curve Billed Thrasher	Clay Colored Sparrow	Parula Warbler	Reddish Egret
Great Tailed Grackle	Broad Winged Hawk	Orchard Oriole	White Ibis
White Necked Raven	Long Billed Thrasher	Eastern Phoebe	Black Skimmer
Red Billed Pigeon	Sharpe's Seedeater	Scaled Quail	Arizona Jay
Upland Plover	Chimney Swift	Pyrrhuloxia	

The above birds are not listed on the Audubon Field Card for the Pacific, the following are:

Eared Grebe	Willet	Pygmy Nuthatch
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellow Legs	Bewick's Wren
White Pelican	Lesser Yellow Legs	Cactus Wren
Brown Pelican	Least Sandpiper	Canyon Wren
Great Blue Heron	Red backed Sandpiper	Rock Wren
American Egret	Long billed Dowitcher	Mockingbird
Brewster's Egret	Marbled Godwit	Robin
Anthony Green Heron	Avocet	Varied Thrush
Black cr. Night Heron	Black-necked Stilt	Western Bluebird
Fulvous Tree-duck	Ring billed Gull	Mountain Bluebird
Mallard	Laughing Gull	Townsend's Solitaire
Gadwall	Gull-billed Tern	Western Gnatcatcher
Baldpate	Forster's Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pintail	Brown's Tern(Least)	Cedar Waxwing
Green-winged Teal	Royal Tern	Phainopepla
Blue-winged Teal	Mourning Dove	California Shrike
Cinnamon Teal	Mexican Ground Dove	Black and White Warbler
Shoveller	Road-runner	Audubon's Warbler
Redhead	Elf Owl	Yellow-throat
Lesser Scaup	Burrowing Owl	English Sparrow
Buffle-head	Poor-will	Western Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Texas Nighthawk	Yellow headed Blackbird
Red-breasted Merganser	White throated Swift	Red wing Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Tricolored Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red shafted Flicker	Arizona Hooded Oriole
Cooper's Hawk	Gila Woodpecker	Scott's Oriole
Red-tailed Hawk	Lewis's Woodpecker	Bullock's Oriole
Red-bellied Hawk	Red-naped Sapsucker	Brewer's Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Cowbird
Harris's Hawk	Cactus Woodpecker	Cooper's Tanager
Bald Eagle	Western Kingbird	Blue Grosbeak
Marsh Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Evening Grosbeak
Cuprey	Black Phoebe	House Finch
Prairie Falcon	Say's Phoebe	Red Crossbill
Sparrow Hawk	Vermilion Flycatcher	Spotted Towhee
Bob-white	Horned Lark	Brown Towhee
California Quail	Violet-green Swallow	Abert's Towhee
Gambel's Quail	Tree Swallow	Lark Bunting
Ring necked Pheasant	Rough-winged Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Sora Rail	Barn Swallow	Vesper Sparrow
Florida Gallinule	Cliff Swallow	Lark Sparrow
Coot	Purple Martin	Desert Sparrow
Semipalmated Plover	Steller's Jay	Oregon Junco
Killdeer	California Jay	Grey-headed Junco
Golden Plover	Yellow-billed Magpie	Chipping Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	American Raven	Brewer's Sparrow
Ruddy Turnstone	Crow	Gambel's Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Pinon Jay	Lincoln's Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Mountain Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Hudsonian Curlew	Plain Titmouse	
Spotted Sandpiper	Verdin	
Solitary Sandpiper	Slender-billed Nuthatch	

MAGAZINES

The May 1955 issue of Sunset Magazine has an article and pictures of the Audubon Summer Camp at Norden.

Have you ever come across "Natural History" the magazine of the American Museum of Natural History? The one issue that I saw covered a great variety of subjects - "Cranetown" the story of the finest heron rookery at Reelfoot Lake by Roger Tory Peterson, articles about avalanches, ring tailed cats, chewing gum tree, and many more that I did not have time to investigate.

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Attached to this issue of "The Quail" you will find a revised mailing list for our Society.

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ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

June and Walter S. Meyer, 3081 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek  
 Emily and Edward Winnie, 1172 Pear Drive, Concord  
 Bill and Edie Monheit, 2940 Claremont Avenue, Berkeley 5,

Ye-4-9823  
 Mu-5-4917

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This is my last issue of "The Quail", but I hope not the last that we will be seeing of the members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

As you can see from Paul Opler's list of what he saw near Littlerock we have some different birds in our area - do come down and increase your life list, and stop by and see us. We have plenty of room.

We have only been birding shortly over a year and wish to thank the many of you who have helped us to learn and who have given so freely of your friendship and encouragement.

Next time you go to Los Angeles try the Tehachapi Pass route - Hope we'll be seeing you soon - at 1341 West Kildare Street, Lancaster, California - Olive and Bill Adams.



# The Quail

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

JUNE 1955

Vol. 1 No. 8

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beitzel will show some colored slides taken on one of their many trips.

## FIELD TRIP JUNE 5 - GOLDEN GATE PARK

On June 5 Mr. and Mrs. Cooperrider have planned a trip to Golden Gate Park. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Park Headquarters Building, Fell and Stanyon Streets. Be sure to place the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society card in a conspicuous spot in your car, as there will be many other cars in the Park on that day. We will bird in the morning, while the afternoon could be spent seeing other sights such as the Planetorium show at 2:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.; the Conservation Exhibit at the entrance of the Academy of Science Building or some of the lovely flowers which are now in bloom. Leaders - Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Cooperrider, Yellowstone 4-6021.

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING?

The Cecil Smiths report a pair of Sparrow Hawks nesting in a tree in their yard in Walnut Creek.

On May 14, about ten White Pelicans were observed flying over the top of Mt. Diablo by the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Several people have reported Western Tanagers in their yards.

## JUNIOR MUSEUM NEWS

The Junior Museum is underway for sure. Mr. Ruth and Mr. Metzger of the East Contra Costa Junior College are conducting classes this summer for young people from six to fourteen years of age with classroom work and field trips. It is a splendid opportunity for our young people to begin their acquaintance with nature and conservation. If anyone is interested in contributing money or time please call Mr. Lindsay, Yellowstone 5-1724, Seven Hills Ranch, Walnut Creek.

## MAY FIELD TRIP - PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Saturday, May 8, was rainy and bird watching was somewhat hampered although the group of people who had gathered by 1 p.m. did take a short walk and had a good view of a male Hermit Warbler.

Fortunately the rain ceased before dark and the group of fourteen members of the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies camped overnight, some had tents and others found dry shelter in an old CCC shed.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather camped there Friday night as well and saw a Golden Eagle and heard a Pygmy Owl and Poorwill.

Some people drove down Sunday morning which cleared beautifully and the group took the four mile walk over the High Peaks Trail with its spectacular rock formations, the Prairie Falcon being the highlight of the day.

The following seventy-five species of birds were seen: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Pygmy Owl, Poor-will, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, California Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Raven, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Western Bluebird, Western Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Macgilliv. Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Red-wing, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cal. Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow and a small flock of unidentified Gulls.

### PERSONAL NEWS

David Smith will be at National Audubon Camp at Sugar Bowl this summer. If you happen to be at camp be sure to say "hello" to him.

Bill and Olive Adams have left for Lancaster. We hope they will be happy in their new home and have good birding. They are being missed by their many friends.

Sage (The Adamson's desert tortoise) recently laid three eggs.

### SENATE BILL 126

This bill would require a \$1 license for the privilege of camping or picnicking by the wayside.

STAMPS

On April 4 the Canadian Government issued two new stamps, one showing the head of a Musk-ox and the other two Whooping Cranes of which there are just 21 left.

ADDITIONS TO THE MAILING LIST

Mrs. Enid Austin, 1116 Mandana Blvd., Oakland, California

Mrs. F. B. Hilmer, 6 Monto Veda Drive, Orinda

Mrs. G. A. Samuelson, 3824 Walnut Ave., Concord





# The Quail

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

July 1955  
Vol. 1, No. 9  
(Vol. 2, No. 1)

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek at 8 p.m., Thursday, July 7, 1955.

## FIELD TRIP JULY 9 and 10 - MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS

On July 9 and 10 we have planned a trip to Mt. Hamilton Springs on the headwaters of the Arroyo Hondo which is the principal source for Galaveras Reservoir. There will be nature walks on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning meeting at 9 A.M. at the campground. For those who would like to spend a night under the stars a fee is charged for camping Saturday night and an entry fee for Sunday. There is swimming in Isabel Creek. Drive through Milpitas about 3/4 mile and turn left on Berryessa road near the new Ford plant continuing on this road until one reaches the road from San Jose to Mt. Hamilton. After passing Smith Creek Ranger Station drive approximately two miles watching for the sign "Mt. Hamilton Springs", turn left and drive down hill two or three miles to DeWitt Portal's campground. Leaders - Harry and Betty Adamson, Atlantic 3-2164.

## FIELD TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK - JUNE 12

The group visiting Golden Gate Park on June 12 was rather small, but all felt it to be a very worthwhile trip. The Conservatory with its wonderful variety of tropical plants growing under favorable cover is in itself worth a trip to the Park. Likewise the Arboretum with its array of plants from different parts of the world, new to us, but thriving in our climate was of great interest. It should be said that the Aquarium attracted much attention with a number of new additions in the form of rare reptiles, etc. The Museum with a new group of water colors as well as paintings of Greek scenes was very worthwhile.

The weather was not conducive to seeing many birds in flight but the Arboretum furnished a large number of hummingbirds and a few song birds, such as the robin unafraid in her nest near the path.

The Planetarium put on an interesting show featuring eclipses of the moon and sun.

PERSONAL NOTE

Paul Opler will be leaving shortly on a trip to Mexico for about two and one half months where he will study birds and collect butterflies.

MAGAZINES

Natural History magazine for June has an interesting article on "How a Rattlesnake Strikes" and a story "Last of the Tlingit Sealers" concerning fur seals.

OFFICERS OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President	Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane Lafayette - Atlantic 3-2164
Vice President and Program Chairman -	David Smith, 79 Oak Knoll Loop, Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-2486
Secretary-Treasurer -	Mrs. Evelyn Mann, 120 Montecito Crescent, Walnut Creek, Yellowstone 4-2265
Field Trips Chairman -	Paul Opler, 415 Beatrice Road, Concord - Yellowstone 5-5645
Publicity Chairman -	Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, P.O. Box 914 Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-4720
Editor of Quail ..	Mrs. Beth Snyder, 449 Nob Hill Drive, Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-2486
Director -	Norma Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane Walnut Creek, - Yellowstone 4-4604

# The Quail

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



AUGUST 1955

Vol. 2 No. 2

## REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting for the month of August will vary from our other meetings. This meeting will be held as usual on the first Thursday, August 4, but the time and place will be changed. We will meet at the fireplaces in the Walnut Creek City Park at 6:15 p.m. for a pot luck supper under the trees. After we are replete with someone else's cooking, we will go to the Junior Museum on South Main Street, Walnut Creek.

John Bruce, who is in charge of the Junior Museum, will be there with Ferd Ruth and Edward Olson to tell us about the progress of the Museum, answer any questions and show us the materials and specimens which they have.

Isabel McGeehon, Yellowstone 4-2752, has offered to be the clearing house for reservations and suggestions of food to bring. Please call her before Monday night, August 1 as that is the deadline for reservations. Of course, bring your own silver, plates and cups. If you can come before 6:15 you can help Cecil Smith start the fire, as he plans to come early. Please bring family and interested friends.

The best way to get to the fireplaces in the park is to go on Ignacio towards Concord, turn right into the park just after passing the Recreation Building. The fireplaces and tables are in sight as you make this right hand turn.

## WHOOPIING CRANE STAGING A COMEBACK

A recent newspaper article states that four young whooping cranes were hatched in Canada this spring. The two pairs of young cranes were spotted by wildlife officials in Wood Buffalo Park. W. W. Mair, chief of the resource department's wildlife service located the nest area of three pairs of cranes about 50 miles west of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. The Air Transport Board has been asked to ban low flying in the area to protect the cranes. The world population of the cranes sank to a record low of 15 in 1941 but rose slowly to 24 in 1953. Their numbers started to drop again until last year there were only 21.

## FIELD TRIP AUGUST 6 and 7 - MT. DIABLO

The August Field Trip will be an overnight camp at Mt. Diablo Saturday evening, August 6 through Sunday morning the 7th. In this way most of the picnic crowds can be avoided and the native bird and animal life better observed. We have chosen Juniper Camp at 2900 ft. as our base as it is more secluded and set back from the main road. To reach it, go past the junction of the North and South Gate roads and on towards the summit, where you will find it opens off the left hand side of the road. Under the large oaks are good camp-sites, with tables, stoves and water.

After supper Saturday a walk up to the summit is planned, and on Sunday morning we will take the trail over to Deer Flat. If you are not able to come up and stay overnight, join us at 8:30 Sunday morning.

The entrance gates of the Park are closed from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Camping fee is \$1.00 per car, picnicing 35¢. Either bring your own food if you plan on a fire, or a bundle can be purchased from the Park Headquarters for 25¢. For any other information call Yellowstone 4-3151 - Bill and Katie Hassler.

## FIELD TRIP TO MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS

The July 9 and 10 overnight trip to Isabel Creek canyon on the north slope of Mt. Hamilton was attended by twelve people, the Sathers camped there Friday night as well as Saturday. The Hampton's drove all the way from Davis, Sunday we were joined by the Couden family,

As most of the nesting and consequent singing is over by July, birding was somewhat slower than it would have been a couple of months earlier, but we did see forty-three species of which the most interesting was the Water Ouzel or Dipper.

At 8:20 p.m. Saturday we caught a California Tantilla, a small secretive snake not often observed. Although this reptile does not offer to bite a human being, it has rear fangs and is poisonous to its tiny prey. On the Sunday morning walk up Isabel Creek a 4 ft. California Racer was seen streaking across the trail and into a small tree. Harry Couden climbed into the tree and grasped the snake by the tail and hung on although the snake bit him. With the assistance of others the specimen was lowered so all could observe the beautiful coloring and Jim Hampton could get a kodachrome photograph.

The water was a bit cold but some of the group did take a dip and others had a ride on a raft.

The following species of birds were seen:

Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; California Quail; Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; California Woodpecker; Hairy Woodpecker; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Violet-Green Swallow; Cliff Swallow; Steller's Jay; California Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bush-Tit; Wren-Tit; Dipper; House Wren; Canyon Wren; Robin; Cassin's Vireo; Warbling Vireo; Yellow Warbler; Pileolated Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Red-wing Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Cal. Purple Finch; House Finch; Green-backed Goldfinch; Spotted Towhee; Brown Towhee; Lark Sparrow; Oregon Junco.

Harry and Betty Adamson, Leaders

## FLAMINGO COLORATION

Denis L. Fox, Professor of Marine Biochemistry at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, is studying the physiological mechanism by which flamingos store up pigments from shellfish such as lobsters in their diet. American flamingos whose diet contained portions of the ground shell of the California spiny lobster developed striking pink coloration in the skin of legs and bill and in new feathers. Chilean flamingos on the same diet developed bright pink skin on their feet and leg joints but their feathers remained, as in nature, mostly white. The pigment astaxanthin found in the lobster shells colors the bird.

## WRIGHT'S LAKE

On July 16 and 17 the Golden Gate Audubon Society had an overnight camping trip to Wright's Lake north of Highway 50 in the Sierra Nevada. The lake is at approximately 7000 ft. altitude. Members of the Sacramento Audubon Society and some seven members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society also attended.

The Artic Three-toed Woodpecker is resident here in sparse numbers and was the object of much search but managed to escape the prying binoculars and telescopes.

However the people did get some good views of such seldom seen birds as Pacific Nighthawks, Pine Grosbeaks, Williamson Sapsuckers, Hermit Warblers, Spotted Sandpipers, Green tailed Towhees; Mountain Chickadees had nests right in camp and Cassin Purple Finches were abundant throughout the area.

- Harry C. Adamson

## FOSTER MOTHER TO WRENS

Mrs. Kathleen Link of 1030 Castle Rock Road has taken five fledgling House Wrens into her home having noticed that something had happened to the parent bird and the young were left to fend for themselves. They have survived several days of artificial feeding (mockingbird food). Mrs. Link recently lost her pet Brewer Blackbird and is happy with her new charges.

## NEW MEMBER

Roger Leon School, 41 Sandy Lane, Walnut Creek

## OFFICERS OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President--Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164  
Vice Pres. & Program Chairman - David Smith, 79 Oak Knoll Loop, W.C. YE 4-2486  
Sec.-Trea. - Mrs. Evelyn Mann, 120 Montecito Cres., Walnut Creek, YE 4-2265  
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Editor of Quail - Mrs. Beth Snyder, 449 Nob Hill Dr., Walnut Creek YE 4-2486  
Director - Norma Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4604

## AUDUBON DUES

Annual dues are as follows:

National \$5.00 - Local \$1.50 - Student (National) \$2.00



# The Quail

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

SEPTEMBER 1955

Vol. 2 No. 3

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek at 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 1955.

Dick and Violet Beitzel will show the pictures they took on various field trips such as Joyce Island, the Christmas Count, Pacific Grove, Tomales Bay, the Pinnacles and Mt. Diablo.

## FIELD TRIP SEPTEMBER 25 - BAY FARM ISLAND

On September 25 there will be a joint field trip with the Golden Gate Audubon Society led by Mrs. Junea W. Kelly and Paul Opler for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Bay Farm Island is noted for the numbers and variety of shore birds. We should see such birds as Black Bellied Plover, Marbled Godwit, Terns, Avocet, perhaps some still in the breeding plumage.

We will meet at 8:30 Pacific Standard Time at Santa Clara and High Streets, in front of Lincoln Park in Alameda. Leader - Paul Opler, Yellowstone 5-5645.

## REPORT ON POTLUCK SUPPER

Our pot luck supper on August 4 was a success in all ways. Even though a breeze came up, we enjoyed the various hot dishes, salads and desserts. Several members brought guests making our total attending about 37. We had a good time and plan to do it again.

John Bruce was our host for a very interesting evening at the Junior Museum. He answered questions about the program which has been in effect this summer. It is the hope that through a membership drive that the Junior Museum will become a year round facility for our young people.

## WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN LATELY?

The Adamsons report two flights of ducks flying south on Saturday, August 20.

Harry Adamson saw a Golden Eagle about one and half miles west of Danville over Las Trampas Ridge on August 11.

## MT. DIABLO FIELD TRIP - AUGUST 6 and 7

The August Field Trip was held at Mt. Diablo and those who attended enjoyed a brief respite from the hot weather of the valley. Fifteen of our members showed up for the outing, most of whom camped overnight. A moonlight hike to the summit was held after supper, where Harry Adamson saw the first Poorwill he had seen in this area. We had planned to hike down into Deer Flat the next morning, but as the deer season had opened the preceding day, it was thought wise not to venture too far into the realm of the overanxious nimrods.

Birds seen were: Turkey Vulture, Red tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Poorwill, Red shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Nuthall's Woodpecker, Western Wood Pewee, Steller and California Jays, Plain Titmouse, Slender billed Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Western Gnatcatcher, Warbling Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Black Headed Grosbeak, California Purple Finch, Greenbacked Goldfinch, Oregon Junco and the Fox Sparrow.

A deligent search was made for a horned toad, especially by the younger generation, but the only other animals seen were deer and squirrels.

- Bill and Katie Hassler

## MEXICO TRIP-TAKEN BY PAUL OPLER

Al. Samuelson and I had a very enjoyable trip to Mexico this summer. We started on July 13 and returned August 19, crossing the border at Nogales where we saw much poverty as was also seen during the first three or four hundred miles of the trip.

The first town worth stopping at was Mazatlan, a very scenic fishing town and seaport just below the Tropic of Cancer. At this town was the first taste of the tropics, graceful Man-o-War birds and a few tropical butterflies. San Blas a sleepy village three hundred more miles down the coast impressed us as being very clean, full of mosquitoes, but also full of interesting sights, such as the group of fishermen catching many large fish in a net just thirty yards off shore. Inland from the town were huge mangrove swamps where White Ibis, Spoonbills, Water Turkeys, herons, beautiful beetles, and more mosquitoes were found which helped shorten the stay at San Blas along with lack of insects not counting the mosquitoes. The Mexican plateau was the next phase. After going to the Paricutin volcano and seeing the buried city of San Juan, we went over the Sierra Madre Occidental to Mexico City. Many mountains bordering the Mexican plateau are very high in altitude, which is shown by the fact that an extensive spruce forest was encountered near Morelia. Mexico City was very interesting for the first couple of days, but then the city life and crazy, mad bus and taxi drivers began to get on our nerves, so off towards Vera Cruz we went. Before we got there, however, we stopped at Fortin de las Flores which was very beautiful. Here bananas, mangoes, coconuts, orchids, mountainsides just crawling with gardenias, myriads of tropical butterflies, lots of birds and no mosquitoes made the place ideal. Here we spent four days collecting insects. Every morning we would wake up and there would be Mt. Orixaba, the third highest peak in North America standing at 18,400 feet. It is only surpassed by Mt. McKinley and Mt. St. Elias, both of which are in Alaska. Vera Cruz was interesting but the Gulf of Mexico was muddy near the shore because of the large jungle rivers pouring into the Gulf at that point. Then we went back to Mexico City for a couple of days before going on to Acapulco where the best weather in Mexico is found.

The Pacific had a beautiful shade of blue and the scenery was terrific. We went on a trip in a glass bottom boat where we saw the most beautiful fish we will see for a long time to come. There were many large iguana sunning themselves on the rocks bordering the bay. North and south of the town there are beautiful long wide beaches that stretch as far as the eye can see, almost anyway. Then we headed back for Mexico City. By this time even the thought of Mexico City sent shivers down our spines so spent about three hours there and then we started up the east coast. We stopped at a little town called Zimapan and spent the night in a hotel comparable to the best in the U. S. for 12 pesos a piece or one dollar in American money. Tamazunchale didn't have much in the way of scenery except several Morpho Blues, one of the biggest and most beautiful butterflies of the Mexican fauna. We then went to Monterrey where we saw the Garica caves, which have less people in them than the Carlsbad Caverns, civilized people I mean not cavemen, of course. We then went to Carlsbad Caverns, the Painted Desert and the Grand Canyon which was one of the prettiest sights on the trip. The summer time in Mexico is the rainy season so we encountered rain almost every day except for one or two cloudless days in Acapulco. The winter is the dry season and is the time when most people go down. The rains do not hinder travel at all but clear the air of dust and give the foliage a fresh look.

Birds found in the United States and seen on the trip

Least Grebe	Coot
Pied billed Grebe	Western Gull
Brown Pelican	Jacana
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring Billed Gull
Anhinga	Royal Tern
Man-o-War	Least Tern
Great Blue Heron	Black Skimmer
Green Heron	Red-billed Pigeon
American Egret	Band-tailed Pigeon
Snowy Egret	Mourning Dove
Tricolored Heron	White-winged Dove
Wood Ibis	Inca Dove
White Ibis	Ground Dove
Roseate Spoonbill	White-fronted Dove
Pintail	Groove-billed Ani
Ruddy Duck	Roadrunner
Black Vulture	Barn Owl
Turkey Vulture	Texas Nighthawk
White-tailed Kite	Pauraque
Red Tailed Hawk	White-throated Swift
Swainson Hawk	Allen's Hummingbird
Gray Hawk or Mexican Goshawk	Anna's Hummingbird
Mexican Black Hawk	Green Kingfisher
Audubon Caracara	Red-shafted Flicker
Marsh Hawk	Gilded Flicker
Aplomado Falcon	Hairy Woodpecker
Sparrow Hawk	California Woodpecker
Scaled Quail	Gila Woodpecker
California Quail	Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Gambel Quail	Cactus Woodpecker
Bobwhite	Black Phoebe
Belding Plover	Say Phoebe
Mountain Plover	Vermillion Flycatcher
Killdeer	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Willet	Cassin Kingbird



Birds found in the United States (cont.)

Western Kingbird	Western Bluebird
Couch's Kingbird	Western Khatcatcher
Kiskadee Flycatcher	Golden Crowned Kinglet
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Phainopepla
Arizona Crested Flycatcher	Loggerhead Shrike
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Solitary Vireo
Horned Lark	Yellow Warbler
Purple Martin	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Cliff Swallow	English Sparrow
Roughed-winged Swallow	Cowbird
Barn Swallow	Boat-tailed Grackle
Violet-Green Swallow	Brewer Blackbird
Raven	Bullock Oriole
White-necked Raven	Scott Oriole
Crow	Hooded Oriole
Fish Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Green Jay	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Scrub Jay	Western Meadowlark
Stellar Jay	Common Meadowlark
Mexican Chickadee	Western Tanager
Mountain Chickadee	Pine Grosbeak
Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Bush Tit	Cardinal
White-breasted Nuthatch	Pyrrhuloxia
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Red Crossbill
Pygmy Nuthatch	House Finch
Cactus Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Bewick Wren	Brown Towhee
Canyon Wren	Abert Towhee
Curve-billed Thrasher	Red-backed Junco
Mockingbird	Chipping Sparrow
Robin	Lark Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird	Desert Sparrow

Birds not Found north of Mexico

Red-billed Tropic Bird	White-tipped Brown Jay
Plumbeous Kite	Black and Blue Jay
Roadside Hawk	Band-backed Wren
Blue Ground Dove	Clay-colored Robin
Military Macaw	Gray Silky Flycatcher
Blue-rumped Parrotlet	Red Warbler
White-fronted Parrot	Montezuma Oropendula
Chestnut-collared Swift	Yellow-winged Cacique
Bronze-winged Woodpecker	Slender-billed Grackler
Thick-billed Kingbird	Melodious Blackbird
Mangrove Swallow	Black-vented Oriole
Magpie Jay	Blue Bunting
Plain-tailed Brown Jay	Rusty Sparrow

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# The Quail

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

OCTOBER 1955

Vol. 2 No. 4

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 501 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek, at 8 p.m. on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1955.

Al. Samuelson and Paul Opler will tell us about their trip into Mexico this last summer. Al. will show the slides he took on the trip and Paul will identify the birds that they saw. The boys were gone about a month and traveled about 7000 miles, camping and only using motels when the weather was very bad. Al. is attending San Jose State, so that our meeting will be on the first FRIDAY in October instead of the first Thursday as it has been. The date is October 7th and the time is the same.

## FIELD TRIP OCTOBER 16 - DUMBARTON BRIDGE AREA

On October 16 at 9:30 a.m. we will meet at the KGO station on the north side of the eastern approach to Dumbarton Bridge. We hope to see shore birds, White Pelicans and perhaps the Clapper Rail. Bring lunch, something to drink and warm clothing as it may be foggy. Leader - Norma Warner, YE 4-4604.

## CURRENT READING MATTER OF INTEREST

A new book "The Birdman of Alcatraz" is on the book shelves of the stores and will soon be available in our libraries. It is about a man serving a life sentence in prison who has devoted his "time" to the study of birds. His study of birds has added great quantities of material to our knowledge of the diseases of birds.

The National Geographic for October contains a very interesting article by E. Thomas Gilliard of the American Museum of Natural History about his trip to New Guinea. His trip was considered a success when he was able to take a picture of a twelve-wire Bird of Paradise on its nest.

The October issue of Arizona Highways is devoted to travel in Mexico particularly the newly completed west coast highway from Nogales to Guadalajara. There are many pictures perhaps some duplicates of which will be seen in the slides shown by Al. Samuelson at our next meeting.

FIELD TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND - SEPTEMBER 25

On September 25 approximately 65 birders from the Sacramento, Mt. Diablo and Golden Gate Audubon Societies assembled at Lincoln Park at 8:30 a.m. and then toured Bay Farm Island. The day was clear and the jets from the Oakland Air Port continually buzzed over the birders and the birds. Despite the aerial disturbance 40 species were observed as follows: Brown Pelican, Pintail, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Caspian Tern, Vaux's Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, California Shrike, Yellow Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.  
Leaders - Mrs. Junea Kelly and Paul Opler

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Attached is a list of our coming field trips. Hope you will plan to attend all of them, as there will be some very interesting birds and places to see.

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FIELD TRIP TO WILLOWS AND GRIDLEY - NOVEMBER 5 and 6

As this will be an overnight trip we suggest that you make reservations in advance directly with a motel or wherever you wish to stay in Gridley. On Saturday we will visit the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge near Willows. That night we will stay in Gridley and on Sunday we will visit the Gray Lodge State Game Refuge. Large numbers of ducks, geese and perhaps Whistling Swans will be seen. Suggested motels at Gridley are the Marquay and the Gridley Motel:

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING LATELY?

Paul Opler reports that the Burrowing Owls and the Lewis Woodpeckers at the Monument Corner in Concord will soon have to find new homes because of the road construction. The other day a Lewis Woodpecker was trying to find a new home in a large oak tree, but a California Woodpecker chased the Lewis away.

Paul and the Adamsons report White-crowned Sparrows for the first time this fall arriving about September 21.

The Adamsons had their first Golden-crowned Sparrow on September 27. These common winter residents of our gardens nest entirely in Canada and Alaska and return to the same garden year after year to winter.

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If any of you are looking for Christmas presents or for that matter presents for any other occasion be sure to visit the National Audubon Office at 2426 Bancroft Way.

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AUDUBON DUES

National Audubon Dues (including National Audubon Magazine) \$5.00 per year  
Local membership in the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society \$1.50 per year

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FIELD TRIPS 1955-56

- October 16 Dumbarton Bridge Area  
Leader - Norma Warner - YE 4-4604  
3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek
- November 5-6 Willows-Gridley Game Refuges  
Leader - Pete Veitch - CL 4-2419  
154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
- November 3 Cascade Lake-San Pablo Reservoir  
Leader - Pete Veitch - CL 4-2419  
154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
- December 4 Conn Lake  
Leaders - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Couden YE 4-8873  
1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek
- December 26 Annual Christmas Count  
Leader - Paul Opler YE 5-5645  
415 Beatrice Road, Concord
- January 8 Tomaes Bay  
Leader - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adamson At 3-2164  
995 Carol Lane, Lafayette
- February 5 Terminus Area  
Leader - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adamson AT 3-2164  
995 Carol Lane, Lafayette
- March 3 and 4 Asilimar - Carmel  
Leader - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beitzel MU 2-9588  
1713 South 5th Street, Concord
- April 7 and 8 Columbia  
Leader - Mr. and Mrs. W. Hassler YE 4-3151  
18 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek
- May 5 and 6 Mulfontes  
Leader - Mrs. O'Meara and Mrs. McGeehon YE 4-2752  
2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek
- June 10 Pine Canyon  
Leader - The Smiths YE 5-5657  
79 Oak Knoll Loop, Walnut Creek
- July 14 and 15 Wright's Lake  
Leader - Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather  
1290 Grove St., San Francisco
- August 5 Moss Beach  
Leader - Mrs. Sally Stellar AT 4-4370  
939 Carol Lane, Lafayette



# The Quail

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

NOVEMBER 1955

Vol. 2 No. 5

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 201 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 3. Please note the new room number.

Mr. C. Eugene Johnson of Danville will give an interesting program on local birds. He has made a hobby of filming birds and has some very excellent shots.

## FIELD TRIP - NOVEMBER 5 and 6 TO GRIDLEY AND WILLOWS

On Saturday we will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the headquarters of the Grey Lodge State Game Refuge near Gridley where we will spend the day. That night we will stay in Gridley, so be sure to make a motel reservation in advance. For those arriving on Sunday meet the group at the Sacramento Valley Refuge near Willows at 10 a.m. Directions for driving - take U. S. 40 to Davis, then vis U. S. 24 to Knights Landing, Yuba City to Gridley, then approximately 4 miles west then turn south on Pennington Road and watch for Refuge sign on right. Driving time is about 3½ hours. Large numbers of ducks and geese should be seen and also swans, white pelicans and perhaps Sandhill Cranes. Be sure to bring lunch for two days, warm clothing and binoculars. Leader Pete Veitch - Clifford 4-2419.

## FIELD TRIP - NOVEMBER 19 CASCADE LAKE- SAN PABLO RESERVOIR

On the list of forthcoming field trips attached to your issue of October Quail, this trip was listed for November 3 but it is scheduled for November 19. Peter Veitch will show us the birds in his home territory around Cascade Lake and San Pablo Reservoir. Meet at 9 a.m. across from the Orinda Theater.

Leader - Peter Veitch - CL 4-2419

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Stallcup, 6227 Buena Ventura Avenue, Oakland  
Mrs. Myra Browne, 2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6  
Mrs. Erna Irving, 1575 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek

## FIELD TRIP TO DUMBARTON BRIDGE - OCTOBER 16

A small group met at the KGO Transmitting Station at Dumbarton Bridge, Sunday, October 16. The weather was beautiful; birding conditions perfect, marred only by the sight and sound of the hunter and his shotgun, a crippled Ruddy Duck on the sand and a mortally wounded White Pelican sprawled at the water's edge. Many Oregon Juncos were observed competing with the English Sparrows at a small feeding station maintained by the KGO Transmitter crew.

An unforgettable sight was an estimated 500 White Pelicans at ease in soldierly rows; and close at hand nearly 100 American and Brewster's Egrets, basking in the sun, all undisturbed by the gunfire.

Ducks sighted only in flight - confused, broken formations seeking refuge. As the group was leaving it was treated to a superb airshow of hundreds of Sandpipers, flying in formation, turning, banking at tremendous speed; glittering white in the sunlight.

The following species were seen in the immediate area:

Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Farallon Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American and Brewster's Egret, Pintail Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Avocet, Western Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Savannah Sparrow, House Finch, Oregon Junco, Meadowlark, Red Shafted Flicker, Brewer's Blackbird.

Leader - Norma Warner

## OCEAN TRIP

On Sunday October 16 the Adamsons at the invitation of President Bob Cunningham, joined the Sacramento Audubon Society on their boat trip to the vicinity of the Farallon Islands. Some 18 people boarded the "Privateer" at 5 A.M. and spent the next twelve and half hours being tossed about, although the sea was never really rough and only a couple of people experienced mal de mer.

Some Murres were seen in San Francisco Bay and many more outside the Golden Gate. The first Sooty Shearwaters appeared when we were only a few miles offshore and at least 75 to 100 were seen during the trip, some few coming very close. Pacific Fulmars were observed both the light and dark phase plumages being seen. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the number of New Zealand Shearwaters. This species classed as rare in Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" was seen commonly, a conservative estimate being that 25 or 30 individuals were observed. Pink-footed Shearwaters, although in smaller numbers, and two Forked-tailed Petrels were also identified.

Cassin and Rhinoceros Auklets were quite common and one adult Puffin in winter plumage was found near the North Farallon Islands. The Southeast Farallon was circled slowly and the groups of Steller Sea Lions were approached very closely. During the ten mile run between the S.E. Farallon and the North Farallon a Black-footed Albatross began to follow the "Privateer" and when the boat was stopped and suet was thrown overboard as many as five of the giant birds circled the craft and two landed nearby. At the same time an Audubon Warbler circled the boat repeatedly, evidently wishing to alight and rest but afraid of the people lining the rail. Many of the people had never seen an Albatross and were delighted as a sight of these magnificent birds is always hoped for on any pelagic trip. On the whole our short voyage was very successful and we wish to express again, our thanks to the Sacramento Society.

Harry Adamson

## NEWS ITEMS

The November issue of Sunset Magazine contains an article on the "Migrating Monarchs".

Recently a ranger and a boy scout reported seeing 86 bald eagles in less than an hour in Glacier National Park along McDonald Creek.

No doubt everyone has read of the hundreds of egrets massacred recently on the Marin Islands in San Francisco Bay.

A Lincoln Sparrow was seen in the Adamsons' yard on October 21.

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Field Trips Chairman - Paul Opler, 415 Beatrice Road, Concord, YE 5-5645  
Publicity Chairman - Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, P.O. Box 914, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4720  
Membership Chairman - Mrs. Katie Hassler, 18 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-3151  
Editor of Quail - Mrs. Betty Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164  
Director - Norma Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4604

## AUDUBON DUES

National Audubon Dues (including National Audubon Magazine) \$5.00 per year  
Local Membership in Mt. Diablo Audubon Society only - \$1.50 per year





# The Quail

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

DECEMBER 1955

Vol. 2 No. 6

## REGULAR MEETING

The next regular monthly meeting of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 201 at Los Lomas High School, Walnut Creek, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 1.

Mr. Walter Read of Walnut Creek will present our program for December. The program will be about some of the hobbies of Mr. and Mrs. Read.

## FIELD TRIP - DECEMBER 4 to CONN LAKE - Leaders Mr. and Mrs. Couden

We've just scouted the trip with the Adamsons for a 55 bird count, many of them firsts for us amateur Coudens. We should repeat many choice ones like these and more on the 4th: Common Loon, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Wood Duck, Canvas Back, Shoveller, Ring-necked, Golden-Eye, Bufflehead, Hood and American Mergansers, Whistling Swan, Black-crowned Night Heron and many land birds.

Meet at 9 a.m. Sunday, December 4 immediately across a stone bridge a short two miles beyond Napa on the Silverado Trail road (road bears left for each of two forks to this point). Driving time from Walnut Creek is about one hour. Good birding at the bridge until we leave for the State Pheasant Farm (which is enroute to Conn Lake on the Silverado Trail) for a look at some exotic feathered captives while any stragglers catch up. From there we will caravan around Conn Lake Reservoir. It will likely be lunch time when we come to the end of the lake where we will have lunch. After lunch we will backtrack to the other end of the lake to the Wilcox Ranch. Plan for adjournment about 2 p.m.

Bring a big lunch, warm clothing, as Conn Lake is somewhat higher in elevation and a bit damper than Walnut Creek. If it rains we can do birdwatching from the cars along the road around the lake.

Leaders - Mr. and Mrs. Couden - YE 4-8873

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For anyone who has T.V. there is program on Dinosaur National Monument this Monday, November 28 at 7 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS TO WILLOWS AND GRIDLEY NOVEMBER 5 and 6 AND TO CASCADE LAKE November 19 - Have not had a report from the leader so this write up will appear in the next issue.

FIELD TRIP TO WILLOWS AND GRIDLEY - December 10 and 11

For all those who were unable to come to the trip last month can do so on December 10 and 11 with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, leaders Harry and Betty Adamson. Meet at the Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuge near Willows at 10 a.m. For further information call the leaders at Atlantic 3-2164.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT - Paul Opler

The annual Christmas Bird Count will be on December 26, 1955, the Monday following Christmas. Meet at the Greyhound Bus Depot near the Monument at 7 a.m. Please bring a big bag lunch, binoculars and cold weather clothing which may be shed later in the day if need be. A fee of 50 cents must be assessed of each person participating in the count because of rising publication costs for Audubon Field Notes.

The object of the count is to help ornithologists figure bird movements, specie fluctuations and many other things.

The area covered is to be a circle with a fifteen mile diameter. The center of our circle is Clayton Valley Road and Treat Lane. Number of species and numbers of each species are counted. You are urged to listen for owls the morning before and the night after the count. Leaders should either go over their area on a map or scout the area if time is available. Anybody who sees birds in the area not see on the day of the count but between December 24 and January 2 should report these species. Number of individuals for this are not important unless the bird (s) is rare.

The counting will be done in five groups.

- Group I - Leader Bob Perry - for sturdy hikers  
Pine Canyon (Turtle Rock Ranch to Castle Rock), Clayton Valley Road,  
Clayton Valley Road
- Group II- Leaders Harry and Betty Adamson  
Sewer Farm, River Road (Avon to W. Pittsburg), Galindo Pumping  
Station, Arnold Industrial Highway
- Group III - Leader Pete Veitch  
Mt. Diablo (base to summit), Lakewood Area, Nortonville-Somersville  
Area, Kirker Pass
- Group IV - Leader Paul Opler  
Briones Hills, East Contra Costa Junior College and environs  
Hookston Area, Walnut Creek Cherry Lane, Tice Valley
- Group V - Yardbirds

There will be a bedraggled birdwatcher dinner at the Opler home at 6 p.m. The address is 415 Beatrice Road off Patterson Blvd., Concord. Mrs. Opler would appreciate help with salads, desserts and bread. Be sure to telephone the Oplers to make a reservation for dinner and what to bring. Telephone YE 5-5645.

ASILOMAR FIELD TRIP - MARCH 1956

Why plan in December for a field trip that doesn't take place until March of next year. ANSWER: It takes a great deal of advanced work for Violet and Dick Beitzel to plan a trip of this nature. Field trip is set for March 3 and 4, 1956 and advanced reservations have been made with the Asilomar management for Long House #6. (Long House #1 which we had last time is already spoken for.) Actual reservation forms have to be mailed to Asilomar one month in advance of our stay there. That brings us back to the first of February and we have to give you good people a month to make up your minds and save your pennies for your reservations. That brings us back to our first notice in the December "Quail".

Reservations can be made with Violet and Dick any time prior to January 31, 1956. Remember, the first come the first served. You must all realize the money-on-the-line is what counts when making your reservations. They must have this in advance of sending in the reservation form --- otherwise they will be "stuck" for your payment. Rates this year are \$6.00 per adult person - two to a room, \$7.00 for single adult person in a room and \$4.50 per kid eleven years or under. Rate includes single bed, two to a room, Saturday dinner and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Check in time is after lunch on Saturday and check out time is after lunch on Sunday. You furnish your own transportation, of course.

Detail for the program will be outlined later. Get your reservation in. We can't have less than 20 members on the trip and Long House #6 only accommodates 30 people. For sign up and reservations contact your Chairmen, Violet and Dick Beitzel, 1713 South 5th Street, Concord or phone them at MU 2-9588.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. John Bruce, 348 Verona Ave., Danville  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Eugene Johnson, Box 327, Danville  
Mr. Harold L. Paige, 1212 Monticello Road, Lafayette  
Mrs. Emma M. Whaley, 633 Center Street, Walnut Creek  
Mr. Golden L. Downing, 889 Mt. View Drive, Lafayette

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Those who bait waters to entice protected game birds for shooting are breaking a Federal statute as well as a State Law in California, be the baited area private or public. On October 16 nine men were arrested at two private duck clubs for doing that in Southern Alameda County. Possible punishment is a six months jail term and a \$500 fine. California has been accused of condoning the practice of baiting and shooting sitting ducks - not true.

- Mrs. McGeehon

BIRDS SEEN RECENTLY

The Smiths have a white headed Oregon Junco in their yard.

On November 10 the Adamsons saw a White-throated Sparrow and a Slate Colored Junco in their yard, undoubtedly the Junco is the same one that has been in their yard for the third year.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR - DECEMBER 7

Tom and Arlene Hadley will present "Into the North Woods" at the monthly Audubon Screen Tour at the East Contra Costa Junior College. Their film will show a trek into one of the great wilderness areas of the U. S., featuring an awesome spectacle of catastrophic forest fire. Time of showing will be 8 p.m.