



The Quail

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

JANUARY 1956

Vol. 2 No. 7

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, January 5.

Mr. Carl H. Fox of Berkeley will present the program. He will show some films that he took at the Audubon Camp of California and the Bear River Refuge in Utah.

FIELD TRIP - JANUARY 8 TO TOMALES POINT

On Sunday, January 8, meet at 9:30 a.m. at the town of Inverness in Marin County. The quickest route is by the Golden Gate Bridge through Ross, Fairfax and Lagunitas. Driving time approximately two hours.

If the weather is favorable this is one of the most interesting and scenic field trips on our calendar. Harlequin Ducks are the rare and colorful species almost always seen on this trip. In addition Old-squaws, American Scoters, Black Brant, Black Oyster-catchers, Surf-birds and Pigeon Guillemonts are often seen, a list of 70 to 80 species being not uncommon.

As we must obtain permission to drive through a private ranch in caravan, it is important that everyone be at Inverness at 9:30 sharp. There is a pleasant, relatively level, walk of 1-3/4 miles to the actual point where rocky surf, sea lions and tide pool life provide additional interest. We will have lunch at the point so please be prepared to carry your lunch. Bring warm clothing, lunch and something to drink as there is no water.

Leaders - Betty and Harry Adamson - Atlantic 3-2164

ASILOMAR FIELD TRIP - MARCH 3 and 4, 1956

Don't forget to send in your reservations prior to January 31, 1956 to Violet and Dick Beitzel, 1713 South 5th Street, Concord. Long House #6 only accommodates 30 people, but we must have 20 people on the trip in order to hold the reservation. Rates 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. Rates include single bed, two to a room, Saturday dinner and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR - JANUARY 24, 1956

Mr. Cleveland Grant will present "American Birds and Big Game". This presentation is the best of twenty years of photographing wildlife the continent over. Ruffed grouse, snowgeese, caribou, grizzly bears will be shown.

FIELD TRIP - CASCADE LAKE

Cascade Lake in Orinda provided a dozen members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society with a dozen American Mergansers, a dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets and a dozen plus four equals sixteen Hooded Mergansers on November 19. Although these are fairly good concentrations of the above not too common birds, a higher concentration of members might have brought an even higher concentration of birds.

Bear Creek and the San Pablo Dam area were also covered. Several junior birders showed fine skill and aptitude on this outing. Let's have more young ones.

The following 56 species were listed. This is not too high for this section, 68 to 74 being about par - more birders more birds.

Farallon Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Coot, Killdeer, Glaucous-winged Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Steller's Jay, California Jay, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Recorder - Opler
Leader and Historian - Veitch

FIELD TRIP - CONN LAKE

The trip to Conn Lake Reservoir was shared by a caravan of seven cars (two caught up a bit late), 12 families and bright, beautiful weather. This combination, plus assistance from mortar crews, manned by Adamson, Stallcup and Sather, enabled our group to spot 72 species.

The Lewis Woodpeckers were abundant at the north end of the lake where the Wood Ducks also congregated to a total of probably 300. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks at our stone bridge meeting place started off our day right.

The following species were spotted: Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Farallon Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Coot, Killdeer, Plover, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, California Jay, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-b. Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, Robin, Varied Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, also Starling.

- Mr. and Mrs. Harry Couden

FIELD TRIP TO WILLOWS AND GRIDLEY - NOVEMBER 5 and 6

Over 1,000,000 wild geese and ducks were observed by some 40 members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the Berkeley Hiking Club in a joint overnight trip to the Gray Lodge State Game Refuge near Gridley and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge near Willows on November 5 and 6. The above figure of geese and ducks is the professional estimate of refuge managers.

The weather started out overcast and misty Saturday but cleared up nicely at Gray Lodge providing much picture taking and mosquito swatting.

Best bird view: Some 50 Sandhill Cranes at 150 yards and staying there.

Best food view: Most of the party eating Chinese food (and reasonable) at the Lotus Inn in Marysville.

Best near miss: Two Emperor and/or Blue Geese flying overhead but heading in wrong direction to be identified by even professional water-fowl painter.

Sunday offered perfect fall weather clear and crisp at the Willows Area. Excellent photography, excellent volume and movement of birds. Excellent view of the entire reserve from the 100 ft.+ tower located there.

Best bird view: Some 40 White Pelicans flying in drill like maneuver, the sun reflecting on their wings as they banked and turned.

Best bird errors: Two Whistling Swans identified as White Pelicans. Two Avocets identified as Black Necked Stilts.

Best birds for life list: One Ross Goose in large flock of Snow Geese, two Starlings on power lines between Willows and Williams.

The following 83 species were located and identified:

Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Farallon Cormorant, Great blue Heron, American Egret, Black-cr. Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Greater yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Avocet, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, California Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-wing Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Goldfinch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Leader - Adamson
Recorder - Opler
Historian - Veitch

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Court, Concord
Mr. and Mrs. Bev. Wilder, 1304 Alma Avenue, Walnut Creek

For interesting reading try "Wild America" by Fisher and Peterson. This book tells of their trip from Newfoundland down the East Coast, through the Southern states, down into Mexico and up the West Coast into Alaska.

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The Adamsons have a Short-eared Owl recuperating from a wounded wing. Until recently he was content in one of their bedrooms, but now wants to have more space to fly. If any one wants to see him be sure to come over before January 15. (Please call before you come, -> Atlantic 3-2164)

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 5-5657
Sec.-Treas. - Mrs. Evelyn Mann, 120 Montecito Cres., Walnut Creek, YE 4-2265
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

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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, February 2.

Rev. John W. Winkley of Walnut Creek will speak to us on the Mother Lode Country and How the Gold Miners Affected It.

FIELD TRIP - TERMINOUS AREA - FEBRUARY 5

On Sunday February 5 we will meet the Sacramento Audubon Society in Thornton at 10:30 a.m. Drive the river road over the Antioch bridge and towards Sacramento as far as Walnut Grove, then turn east for some six and one half miles to Thornton where the Sacramento Society stops for coffee.

A few miles from Thornton there are usually 1500 to 2000 Sandhill Cranes wintering and White-fronted Geese, Swans and other waterfowl are often observed.

NOTE: If heavy rains continue the area will be impassible. The alternate trip will be to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County. We will meet at the Sausalito turn-out just north of the Golden Gate Bridge at 9:30 a.m.

BE SURE TO CALL LEADERS (Betty and Harry Adamson, Atlantic 3-2164) BEFORE SUNDAY IF YOU PLAN TO GO ON THE TRIP FOR THE LATEST DETAILS.

ASILAMAR - MARCH 3 and 4

Arrangements for our March 3 and 4 field trip to Asilamar are coming along with 21 members and friends signed up for the trip. Conference Contract and deposit has been sent to Asilamar. We are sure if any of you still wish to make reservations it is not too late. Please send your check to Violet or Dick Beitzel, 1713 South 5th Street in Concord or telephone them at Mulberry 2-9588. Rates are \$6.00 per adult and \$4.50 for small fry under 11 years and includes two single beds (with bedding of course) to a room, dinner on Saturday night and Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday. Long House #6 has been assigned to us. It will accommodate 30 people so let's fill it up. It is a little too early yet to give you the final plans and details but that will appear in the next issue of the Quail.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Aurora E. Aitken, 633 Center Street, Walnut Creek
Mr. Donald Grimes, 2978 Putnam Blvd., Walnut Creek
Mrs. Pearl Grimes, " " " " "
Mr. Richard Grimes, " " " " "
Mr. Thomas Grimes, " " " " "
Mr. Robert Perry, 1149 Bacon Way, Walnut Creek

TOMALES BAY TRIP - JANUARY 8

Although the private road to Tomales Point with its Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, etc. was closed because of excessive rains, fourteen die-hards met at Inverness on Sunday January 8 to see what they could see from State Highway #1 which runs along the east shore of Tomales Bay. The morning hours were fair with some sun but as the day wore on the familiar cumuli gathered giving the hint for departure.

For over a month "Asio" (*Asio flammeus flammeus*) a Short-eared Owl had been living with the Adamsons', being fed one or more mice daily (courtesy Cancer Research Dept., University of California). When found near Willows the bird had a crippled wing probably as a result of an encounter with a duck hunter and was weak with hunger. This was to be the day when he (or was it she?) was to be given his freedom. Many snapshots were taken as Asio perched on Betty's gloved hand, then he was tossed off and flew beautifully to a distant levee from which point partly hidden by the grassy cover he peered at his benefactors.

The party proceeded north along the Bay pausing at various small headlands and wharves to study the rafts of waterfowl which thronged the water. All three species of loons and four species of grebes were observed. Lunch was snatched while peering through telescopes and binoculars and the following 72 species were noted:

Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Farallon Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Baird's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Brewster's Egret, Black-cr. Night Heron, Black Brant, Mallard, Baldpate, Pintail, Redhead, Canvas-back, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, American Golden-eye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Steller's Jay, California Jay, American Raven, Crow, Wren-Tit, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Leader - Harry Adamson

CHRISTMAS COUNT

When the hardy group met at 7 a.m. the morning of December 26 at the Monument in Concord it was raining so hard it was difficult to distinguish the various figures in all their rain garb. Our intrepid leader, Paul Opler, encouraged us on so soon we were on our way to our various assigned areas. Most of the day was cold and dismal, so much so that even the birds didn't come out but we did get a total of 80 different species.

All those who participated in the count were invited to the Oplers for dinner afterward. We certainly wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Opler for opening up their home to us and providing large quantities of delicious food.

The following species were observed:

Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Brewster's Egret, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Shoveller, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, American Golden-Eye, Ruddy Duck, American Merganser, White-tailed Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Red-backed Sandpiper, Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's Jay, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-b. Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Red-wing, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

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MARCH 1956

Vol. 2 No. 9

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, March 1.

Mrs. Frank Scott of Berkeley will show us her films on the "Water Birds of California". There will be many fine scenes so be sure to bring an interested friend.

FIELD TRIP - ASILOMAR - MARCH 3 and 4

Here we go on our big (so says Dick) Field Trip of the year to Asilomar on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4. Through the very kind cooperation and help of Dr. R. P. Parsons of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society our trip will be just as successful as last year - if that is possible. We are happy to report that Longhouse #6 is completely filled and that means thirty members and friends on the trip. However, now that the faithful required number have signed up and paid up, it is still not too late to make your reservations. The Asilomar management assures us another Longhouse will be available if needed.

Saturday - March 3

Our trip this year will start at Moss Landing at 11 A.M. (allow about three hours moderate driving time to get there). We will be joined by the Monterey Bird Watchers led by Charles Anderson for a joint Field Trip on Saturday. Bring a paper bag lunch as we are told there is no suitable place for lunch at this point. For those of you who have not been to Moss Landing the best route is Highway 101 through San Jose and on to Gilroy. About twenty miles south of Gilroy turn right onto Highway 156. Six miles on Highway 156 you come to the intersection of 156 and Highway 1 at Castroville. Turn right through Castroville and continue on for two miles to Moss Landing. Stay on Highway 1 through Moss Landing and after passing the P.G. & E. Steam Plant you cross Elkhorn Slough over a cement bridge. About $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile north, or farther on, of that bridge you will see us waiting for you - if we get there first - on the left at Construction Road intersection. For any of you who wish to go "caravan" your trip chairmen will be at the Walnut Creek City Park ready to leave sharp at 7:30 A.M. No laggards please - 7:30 A.M. means 7:30 A.M. Lunch time and the early afternoon will be with the Monterey group who certainly know their Moss Landing vicinity and birds. It will be fun being with them. We will leave Moss Landing in plenty of time to be checked into Asilomar before Saturday evening dinner - which is at 6 P.M. - also sharp.

ASILOMAR TRIP (Cont.)

For our Saturday evening program Mr. C. Edward Graves, Western Representative of the National Park Association, will give us an illustrated lecture on "National Park Trails - Off and On". We hear Mr. Graves' color slides are very beautiful. Also, if projection material is available, a sound track movie borrowed from the Sierra Club on the Hetch Hetchy Dam during the big flood will be shown. We are sure this will be an interesting evening thanks to Mr. Graves.

Housing for the Night

Your rooms and bunk partner have been assigned and the Asilomar Gals have the list. All that you need do upon arrival at Asilomar is to step up to their desk and get your meal ticket and key. Your host and hostess, Violet and Dick, will pick up the check while your back is turned—but of course you have already paid for it we hope.

Sunday - March 4

Up with the birds and if it is like last year Norma Warner will be the early one that catches the fattest worm. Breakfast ten minutes after the bell rings at 8 A.M. After breakfast we will gather in our cars in front of the Administration Building for a morning on the beaches along the coast through Pacific Grove and on to Monterey. Back to Asilomar for lunch at 12:30. Our Field Trip will end after lunch.

Suggestions

Remember you are in one of the most beautiful spots America can afford and we have seen lots of them in our travels over the U.S. Take your time leaving the vicinity and visit historical spots here and there that time would not permit us to include as a group. Quaint Carmel and beautiful Carmel Mission is close by. The Seventeen Mile Drive is world famous for its beauty and Point Lobos State Park, south of Carmel a short distance, is "out-of-this-world". Many firsts abound in Monterey where California history was made. Visit the Butterfly House on lower Lighthouse Ave. near the beach for beautiful bugs and butterflies from all over the world. Pacific Grove has an outstanding museum (open on Sunday) with a wonderful collection of birds - dead and stuffed, of course. Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf far surpasses that of San Francisco's famous Fisherman's Wharf in our estimation.

On the way home you might leave Monterey at Del Monte direct to Salinas where you meet Highway 101 and then North. If you wish you might back track past Ford Ord (the way we enter Monterey from Moss Landing) on Highway 1 to Watsonville and then over Hecker Pass to Gilroy and up Highway 101. Oh, there are many ways to get home. We got you there now you find your own way home. Happy birding!

- Violet and Dick Beitzel

NEWS ITEM

You will remember good and faithful Mr. Isadore Pearlman and his daughter Judy who always attended our meetings quite a while ago and were with us on our Asilomar Field Trip in 1955. Saw hide nor hair of them since. Reason? Shortly thereafter the Pearlman family left for Europe and have been gone low these many many months. They are back home again and daughters Judy and Alice will be with us at Asilomar just where they left off.

FIELD TRIP - TERMINOUS AREA

On Sunday February 5 our Society met the Sacramento Audubon Society at the coffee shop in Thornton. The day was fair with a cold wind and waterfowl were flying more than if the weather had been warm and still. Some 40 persons turned out and after a short drive we were seeing Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, ducks and finally a large flock of Whistling Swans was found. They permitted the group to eat lunch on a levee road overlooking the body of water on which they were feeding so we spent the lunch hour watching 450 to 500 wild swans, an opportunity seldom presented. Canada and White-fronted Geese were seen here as were Florida Gallinules.

Then Ed. Pickett, the leader for the Sacramento Society, led us to the home of his daughter and son-in-law, the O'Neills. In the garden surrounding the house two Long-eared Owls are in winter residence. We were able to view this rarity at a distance of 12 or 15 feet, the bird being quite curious about all the people walking beneath its perch. This was a new life bird for many of the observers. The following 61 species were noted:

Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Egret, Brewster's Egret, Whistling Swans, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellow-legs, Red-backed Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Long-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, California Jay, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-b. Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, California Shrike, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Red-wing, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

-Betty and Harry Adamson, Leaders

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Randall, 541 Center Street, Walnut Creek

WHAT HAS BEEN OBSERVED

A White-throated Sparrow was observed in the Adamson garden in November, in the Stellar garden in December and in the Opler garden in January - of course we presume it wasn't the same one, or was it?

For some weeks two Emperor Geese have been observed on the coast near Santa Cruz. Quite a few people have made trips to see them.

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We are sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Hubbell on February 10.

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NOTE FOR TV FANS

Don't forget to watch "Mayor of the Town" on your TV Station KGO Channel 7, Thursday March 15 at 10 p.m. At intermission time the Audubon Society will present a brief message.

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APRIL 1956

Vol. 2 No. 10

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, April 5.

As we go to press we have not heard from the Program Chairman, but no doubt there will be an interesting program.

FIELD TRIP - APRIL 7 and 8 - "COLUMBIA OR BUST"

Birders, photographers, conservationists, flower lovers, rockhounds, gold panners, and historical bugs should all be delighted with the opportunity to visit the Columbia area come April 7 and 8. Take it from your advance scouts, Jack and Erna Irving and Bill and Katie Hassler the Sierra Foothills are superb at this time of year.

For those planning to go on Saturday and stay overnight, arrangements have been made for accommodations at the Columbia Gem Motel, an unpretentious but neat and clean establishment located just 1/4 mile before reaching Columbia. (Bill Hassler personally sampled every bed). Moderate rates prevail, from \$4 double to \$7 for 4 (5 if small children). Phone the Hasslers (YE 4-3151) for reservations on a first come first served basis. Check-in time deadline is 3:30 p.m. For the more rugged individuals camping spots will be available at the Irvings' place in Columbia. All going on Saturday please check at the Motel for further directions.

Program for Saturday will consist of free time sight seeing in Columbia; the old and restored buildings, Museum, Art Show, Opera House, etc., followed by a Pot-Luck dinner at 6 o'clock at the Irvings' Cottage. Please call the Hasslers in advance and let them know what dish you are bringing. Also bring your own dishes etc. (paper or other type).

For those coming on Sunday only, it is suggested that you leave by 8 a.m. which will allow plenty of time to reach a rendezvous with the rest of us at the large Free Parking Lot in Columbia at 11 o'clock Sunday morning which will be the starting point of our program.

Program for Sunday will include two short side trips; beginning at 11 a.m. we will proceed to a nearby lava mesa where birds and flowers abound. Bring a bag lunch for this one. At 2 p.m. we will again assemble and make a tour to the old Marble Quarry where we can hike down to the Stanislaus River amid the rugged scenery.

FIELD TRIP TO COLUMBIA (cont.)

Best route to Columbia, which is about 120 miles, is via Manteca, either by way of Dublin and Tracy or by way of Concord, Byron and Tracy. From Manteca proceed east on Highway 120 to Sonora, turn left on Highway 49 to Columbia which is 4 miles. Watch for the Columbia Gem Motel on the right side of the road just before town.

NOTE FOR TV FANS

Mr. William N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative and a Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, will be the guest of Thomas Mitchell's "Mayor of the Town" during the week of April 22-28, (April 26, Thursday, at 10 p.m. on Channel 7). April 26 is Audubon's birthday.

AUDUBON LECTURE - APRIL 17

At the Contra Costa Junior College on April 17 at 8 p.m. Mr. Harold M. Hill will show his film "Wings and Talons" - hawks, owls, eagles - exciting color movie of drama in the sky - with swift predators as featured stars.

WHAT HAS BEEN SEEN LATELY

Bob Perry had a Rufous Hummingbird in his garden on March 23.

The Adamsons observed an Orange Crowned Warbler in their garden March 23.

FIELD TRIP TO ASILOMAR - MARCH 3 and 4

Our Field Trip to Asilomar on March 3 and 4 can be counted off for another year as a "Great Success" despite last minute cancellations and disappointments. Thirty-nine of our members and friends were on hand for the two day event with five of our members joining the group for the Saturday morning joint Field Trip at Moss Landing with the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Someone counted sixty-two people while at Moss Landing. At this point Mr. Charles Anderson of the Monterey group acted as Leader and took us to locations in that area that proved good birding. In the afternoon we checked into Asilomar in time for room assignments and dinner. For the evening program Mr. C. Robert Graves, Western Representative of the National Parks Association took us on his "National Park Trails - Off and On" showing beautiful color slides to illustrate his lecture. This was followed by Mr. Merton Henshaw, Curator of the Pacific Grove Museum, with a sound movie in color of the Kelp Industry and the influence this seaweed had in our daily life. Both these programs proved outstanding and were well worthwhile.

Sunday morning after breakfast Mr. Charles Anderson again led the group on a trip from Asilomar up the coast line toward Monterey making several interesting stops, especially at the Scripps Institute. Our tour ended at Monterey where some got mixed up and visited Fisherman's Wharf and others the Commercial Wharf - both interesting places. On the way back to Asilomar for lunch some stopped at the "Butterfly Trees" to see the Monarch Butterfly. While there were thousands of these butterflies still at Pacific Grove their wintering season is just about over and they have already started to leave the vicinity. Also, due to the beautiful warm and sunny weather, hundreds had left the trees and were flying. However, it proved very interesting to those who have not seen the butterflies before. After lunch our Field Trip was officially over and the group scattered for points along the way - some down to Point Lobos and others via Santa Cruz to see the Emperor Geese. (The two Emperor Geese were seen at close range at Pleasure Point in Santa Cruz. Many colored photos were taken - Adamsons).

(continued)

ASILOMAR TRIP (Cont.)

We are indeed indebted to Dr. Robert Parsons, President of the Monterey group for his help and suggestions for our evening program and the joint field trip. To Mr. Graves, who is also Conservation Chairman for the Monterey Group and to Mr. Henshaw for their wonderful evening program and to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, two wonderful people who traveled to and from Salinas each day to lead us on our adventures. Without this group of kind people our field trip would have been just another weekend.

The following list of birds were observed:

Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Farallon Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Baird's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Brewster's Egret, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Greater Scaup Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, White-tailed Kite, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Snowy Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Short-billed Gull, Herrmann Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, California Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Crow, Robin, Varied Thrush, American Pipit, California Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Red-wing Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Nuttall's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

- Dick and Violet Beitzel

In addition to the above list many more birds were observed going and coming from Carmel by Paul Opler and Harry Adamson so Paul's list totalled 103 including a Duck Hawk and Emperor Geese.

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

MAY 1956

Vol. 2 No. 11



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, May 3.

Miss Joanne Taylor of Walnut Creek will give a talk on the "Mayan Indians of Mexico" illustrated with slides. Miss Taylor spent some time last summer studying at the University of Mexico.

FIELD TRIP - LIVERMORE HILLS - MAY 6

Meet in front of the Walnut Creek City Hall on Ygnacio Avenue at 8 a.m. sharp. At Diablo Drive in Danville turn left, cross bridge and proceed on Tassajara Road until intersection where you see the sign "Livermore" at a bridge. Follow that road right into Livermore to flagpole in center of town, then right past rodeo grounds to Tesla Road, then to Mines Road watching carefully for sign on right.

First stop is at the McCoy Ranch where among other birds there should be the rather rare Phainopepla. After visiting that area drive across a bridge and to the right a short distance to the back entrance of the Patterson Ranch. Then back and up the Mocho Canyon on the Mines Road as far as one cares to go. Dr. Harold Beaver of Palo Alto would have no objection to a picnic lunch on his place on the banks of the upper Arroyo Valle, at the base of Mt. Hamilton.

If the situation changes so that the road into Mulfontes is passable though rough and an overnight trip is feasible, announcement will be made at the May meeting, or if in doubt call the leaders.

Elizabeth O'Meara and Isabella McGeehon, Leaders- YE 4-2752

WHAT HAS BEEN SEEN LATELY

One adult White-throated Sparrow, possibly the same bird which was seen earlier but an immature, on April 17 by Sally Stellar.

Approximately two dozen Western Evening Grosbeaks along creek on April 7 and a few again on April 10 by Harry Adamson.

Paul Opler reports the following:

- 1 Wandering Tattler and 5 Hudsonian Curlews at Carmel - April 22.
- 9 Cinnamon Teal, 2 White Tailed Kites, 6 Greater Yellow Legs and 200 Red-Backed Sandpipers at the Sewer Farm - April 14

FIELD TRIP - COLUMBIA - APRIL 7 and 8

Fine spring weather and the desire to be out-of-doors enticed many Audubon members and their friends to Columbia for our April Field Trip. Thirty-one persons stayed overnight and fourteen more arrived Sunday for the day. Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Mrs. Erna Irving, her home in Columbia served as general headquarters for those who camped and for the Saturday night community pot-luck supper (and what a supper-Ed.).

After an afternoon of sightseeing, picture taking and birding the older group was content to sit around in the evening and sing songs, while the younger generation played flashlight tag outside and went on a snipe hunt. No snipe were captured.

Two field trips were held Sunday, the first to the old quarry in the early morning was especially interesting for bird life, rocks and fine scenery. The afternoon trip found the birds quiet, but many lovely wildflowers were in bloom. Paul Opler and Judy Perleman made a fine collection.

As leaders of this trip we wish to thank Mrs. Irving for all she did to make it a success and hope she has recovered from the ordeal of entertaining a horde of nature lovers.

The following list of birds were observed:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Horned Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Stellar's Jay, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, Bewick's Wren, Canyon Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Western Khatcatcher, California Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Redwing, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Nuttall's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Leaders - Bill and Katie Hassler

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Miss Margaret Edmunds - 813 El Rio Road, Danville

Miss Myla Austin, 2970 Consuelo Road, Concord

Mrs Evelyn Ryckman, 395 Gladys Drive, Pleasant Hill

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MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Mr. Wm. C. Adams, 44944 Lorimer Ave., Lancaster
Mrs. Olive Adams, 44944 Lorimer Ave., Lancaster
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Mrs. Betty Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette - Atlantic 3-2164
Mrs. Aurora Aitken, 633 Center Street, Walnut Creek
Mrs. Enid Austin, 1116 Mandana Blvd., Oakland - Twinoaks 3-2246
Miss Myla Austin, 2970 Consuelo Road, Concord
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Mrs. J. C. McGreehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-2752

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Mrs. Sadie Randall, 541 Center St., Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-3938
Mr. Ferd Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 4-8803
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Mrs. Katherine Samuelson, 3824 Walnut Ave., Concord
Mr. Carlyle Sather, 7880 Mission St., Colma
Mrs. Hilda Sather, 7880 Mission St., Colma
Mr. Ralph Savin, 540 Mayette Ave., Concord - Mulberry 2-2561
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Mrs. G. E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord - Mulberry 5-7897
Roger Leon Scholl, 41 Sandy Lane, Walnut Creek
Mr. Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Court, Concord
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Mr. David Smith, 79 Oak Knoll Loop, Walnut Creek - Yellowstone 5-5657
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Mrs. Bev. Wilder, 1304 Alma Ave., Walnut Creek



The Quail

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

JUNE 1956

Vol. 2 No. 12

ANNUAL DINNER

Our Society is having its first annual dinner and its success will largely depend on the support given by the members. After dinner we will have our regular business meeting at which time the officers for the coming year will be announced. Following the business meeting, we have a fine program which Chairman Dave Smith has arranged for months in advance. This will consist of a showing of Walt Disney's "Beaver Valley".

It was necessary to change the date of the meeting from the first Thursday (our regular date) to the following night which will be Friday June 8. The place is Lee's Las Palmas Restaurant, 1336 Main Street in Walnut Creek and the time will be 6:45 P.M. sharp.

Those who find it impossible to attend the dinner may come to the meeting afterward (at approximately 8 P.M.). It is suggested that they have coffee or dessert.

The dinner will cost \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children up to 12. This does not include tax or tip. Dinner will consist of soup, salad, choice of steak or chicken and dessert. Please make reservations before Sunday night, June 3 with the Adamsons, Atlantic 3-2164.

FIELD TRIP - CASTLE ROCK PARK - JUNE 10

We will meet in front of the Walnut Creek City Hall, heading east, at 8 A.M. From there we will go out to Castle Rock Park where we will stop and use as our starting and finishing point. From Castle Rock Park we will walk up the little canyon, past the check dam that was put in by the U.S. Soil Conservation and County Flood control boys. Going past the dam and on up the Canyon to the sandstone caves. On the way up we will go past one or two stock ponds where we will be able to see some shore birds (we hope). At the sandstone caves we will turn back and come back down to Castle Rock. Those who want to may stay longer or go on up the canyon if they are so inclined.

If it is a good old-fashioned summer day, this equipment will be desirable: swim suit, picnic lunch, plenty of time to spend the afternoon swimming or sunning, as you wish.

Oh, yes. Bring along 25¢ per person and 25¢ per car to gain access to Castle Rock Park.

FIELD TRIP - LIVERMORE HILLS, MAY 6

This expedition took twenty-one members from Walnut Creek to the Beaver Ranch on the upper Arroyo del Valle via the Mocho and San Antonio canyons - Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties.

We were sorry the five Coudens had an engagement which necessitated turning back even before reaching the San "Antone" valley with its acres of wild flowers - a wondrously beautiful sight.

First concentrations were the tall growing brodiaea laxa and the red-winged blackbirds of the Tassajara region..

Paul Opler who has become unofficially the official bird counter is preparing the full list, but worthy of additional mention are the pretty little plaintive-voiced plovers - the killdeers that first objected to us in the creek bed of the McCoy Ranch and were present every time we neared a stream. The bridge over the Mocho on the Wilson Grade proved an ideal spot from which to observe the Phainopepla, Bullock Orioles, a Western Kingbird out on a limb, and others more commonly found.

The Manns report a few Band-tailed Pigeons at day's end. Paul found the Chipping Sparrows up the hill back of the picnic spot on the Beaver Ranch, but the Lawrence Goldfinches posed on the wires at the barn for all to see.

A bit of geography may be of interest. The Mocho, Arroyo del Valle and Alameda are the three systems that drain the Mount Hamilton slopes westward into the Niles Canyon. The rather long steepish grade through the "black brush" is the China Grade and separates the Mocho from the Arroyo del Valle system. And for nomenclature, the latter is known as the "Bio" to the natives - no relations to the bayous of the Gulf country, but a Mexican and then an American corruption of the Spanish "Valle".

The following 63 species of birds were observed:

Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Mourning Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-Green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Steller's Jay, California Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-billed Nuthatch, House Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Western Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, California Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bicolored Redwing, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

Leaders - Elizabeth O'Meara and Isabella McGeehon

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Harry Couden - 1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Schad - 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord

Miss Emily D. Smith, 19651 Glen Una Drive, Los Gates

WHAT HAS BEEN SEEN LATELY

Sally Steller reported a Western Tanager in her yard on April 27.

The Adamsons have had young Scrub Jays and young Spotted Towhees coming to their feeding tray. Also a male and female Cowbird has been in their back yard for about a week. An Anthony Green Heron flew down their creek last week and Western Tanagers have been heard and seen for the past three and one half weeks.

READING MATERIAL

The June issue of "Arizona Highways" has an interesting article and good pictures of the Horned Owl. The "Pacific Discovery" magazine always has articles of interest.

AUDUBON CAMP

An interesting experience for two weeks this summer would be to attend Audubon Camp at Norden. The two week session with instruction on birds, geology, etc. costs \$95 including room and board. Anyone interested please contact the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

FIELD TRIP - WRIGHT'S LAKE - JULY 7 and 8

Just a reminder to save this week end for a wonderful trip to the Sierras. Good camping, swimming and above all a good chance to get acquainted with the birds in the Canadian-Hudsonian belt such as Williamson Sapsucker, Mt. Chickadee, possibly Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Green tailed Towhee, and Western Tanager. There is no close place to stay, so get out the sleeping equipment now. For those who do not own such equipment, it can be rented very reasonably at such places as Kelly's in Lafayette.

OCEAN TRIP

Non-fishing Audubon members who are interested in oceanic birds are invited aboard the "Rowland R Sr.", 65 ft. sport fishing boat. \$3.50 (half the regular fare) enables you to spend the day with the fishing party any day of the week. The boat leaves Berkeley Harbor at 5:45 a.m. Call for reservations-Skipper Bill Rowland, LA 5-0674, address correspondence to 512 Albermarle St., El Cerrito 8. Bring your lunch and binoculars and spend an exciting day on the only sport fishing boat operating at the present time from the port of San Francisco, which is licensed by the Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire off shore.

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JULY 1956

Vol. 3, No. 1

First meeting of the new administration is scheduled for 8 P.M. Thursday, July 5, in Room 201, Las Lomas High School. The movie, IT IS UP TO YOU, will be shown. This colored film made by the Contra Costa Park Council tells the County story from the days of the Indians through the pastoral era to the present time of diminishing country-side as industry spreads and population increases in density.

FIELD TRIP - WRIGHT'S LAKE - July 14 and 15

Overnight trip to Wright's Lake - elevation 7000. Take your best route to Sacramento then Highway 50 through Placerville to 5 miles east of Kyburz. A dirt road leads left to Wright's Lake, which is $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles off the highway. This road is rather steep in spots, but easily made by experienced mountain drivers. Headquarters will be at the end of the road at Forest Service Campground. From here trips will start at 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. Saturday and 8 A.M. Sunday. Campers be prepared for cold nights. The less hardy can find accommodations along Highway 50 or at Lake Tahoe 30 miles past our destination. Driving time from Walnut Creek about 5 hours to the campground at the lake.

Sooty Grouse, Nighthawks, Calliope Humming Birds, Williamson Sapsuckers, White-headed Woodpeckers, Wright's Flycatchers, Clark Nutcrackers, Solitaires, Hermit Warblers, Cassin Finches, Greentailed Towhees, and Lincoln Sparrows should be seen, along with some others not seen in the Bay Area.

Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather

FIELD TRIP to CASTLE ROCK PARK - June 10

Eighteen members and guests enjoyed this scheduled trip, which was a leaderless one since Marye and David Smith could not be present at the last minute due to the serious illness of Marye's brother. It is also probably the first field trip on which the group was composed solely of novice birders. Needless to say, the experts were missed.

The weather was good for birding; some wind, but warm sunshine. The group walked about 3 miles up Pine Canyon - the walk would have been extended, but hunger pangs overtook, and lunches had been left in cars. Birds were plentiful (particularly swallows) and active. The following 35 species were identified: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Whitethroated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Stellar's Jay, Scrub Jay, Plain

Titmouse, Slenderbilled Nuthatch, Creeper, House Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, California Shrike, Red-Wing Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, English Sparrow.

New members on the Pine Canyon trip were John Fitzpatrick of Berkeley, A. L. and Bea Petersen of Danville, Douglas O'Conner of Pleasant Hill - Guest: Miss Alice Peterson of Mountain View.

* * * * *

This Society has become a regular member of the Contra Costa County Park and Recreation Council.

Paul Opler reports he has been too busy catching bugs to identify the birds he has seen in passing.

The Adamsons have been leg-stretching of late - early in June a stroll to the top of Mount Konocti in Lake County, and two weeks later a back-pack trip up Snow Mountain in Colusa County.

Recently observed - a weasel streaking across a driveway. Was it looking for bird's eggs and nestlings?

At Mulfontes the Black Phoebe has used the revamped old nest for the fourth year on the back porch.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society is again saddened by the loss of one of the original members. Timothy Arnold Hassler, "Timmy", whose cheerful little presence enlivened many field trips, succumbed June 13 to the ravages of a rare form of leukemia. A full measure of sympathy goes to his parents - "Katie" and "Bill" and the two older brothers.

We extend sympathy also to Marye and David Smith in the loss of Marye's brother in San Diego.

1956-1957 Officers and Chairmen

President - Miss Norma L. Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane, W.C. YE 4-4604

Vice-President - Not yet filled.

Sec.-Treas.- Mrs. Sally E. Steller, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette - AT 4-4370

Field Trips Chairman - H. N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C., YE 4-8843

Membership Chairman - Mrs. Cecil J. Smith, 79 Oak Knoll Loop, W.C. YE 5-5657

Publicity Chairman - Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, P.O.Box 194, W.C., YE 4-4720

Conservation Chairman - To be appointed

Director - Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164

Editor of Quail - Not yet filled

Acting Editor - Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C., YE 4-2752



The Quail

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

AUGUST 1956

Vol. 3, No. 2

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

At the meeting on September 7, Mount Diablo will vote regarding its status with the National Audubon Society.

The issue at hand has been extensively discussed at several meetings and reports have been given by a special committee and our former board of directors.

The desire of many members to continue the local membership category, which is not recognized or sanctioned by National Audubon, has forced the group to choose from among three possibilities, as follows:

1. Continue as a branch without the present local membership category.
2. Change the status to that of an affiliate, and maintain the local membership.
3. Complete disassociation from National Audubon Society; continuing as a local nature and conservation group.

Any member in good standing who will not be able to be present at the September 7 meeting, but who wishes to vote, may fill in the ballot at the bottom of this page and mail in by September 1 to the Secretary, Mrs. Sally Steller, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette, California. Be sure to sign ballot or the vote cannot be counted.

-
- Continue as branch of National Audubon
- Change to affiliate of National Audubon
- Complete disassociation from National Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

This is an absentee ballot only

The August meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held Thursday, the 2nd, 8:30 P.M., at 43 Cuesta Way, home of the Ferd Ruths. Last house on the top of Cuesta, elevation 700 feet. Go by way of Oakland Boulevard, Terrace Road. Turn left on Loma Vista; left on Cuesta. Park in circle. The house will be well lighted. Note change of hour.

Ferd Ruth, elected vice-president of the Society at the July meeting, by virtue of his office is also program chairman. He invites members to bring their Kodachrome slides to share with others. He will show his of the Geology and Wildlife of Yellowstone National Park. Campfire sing; cake and coffee.

FIELD TRIP to BAY FARM ISLAND - SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

We will meet at 1:00 P.M. (high tide) at Santa Clara Avenue and High Street by Lincoln Park in Alameda. I have obtained a permit to use the picnic facilities in the park from 12:30 to 1:00 in case a picnic lunch first fits someone else's schedule, as it does mine.

Leader, Sally Steller

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP TO WRIGHT'S LAKE - JULY 14 and 15

A group of thirty-five bird watchers, fishermen, and just plain enjoyers of out-of-doors who belong to Mt. Diablo Audubon, for the most part, although a few of the hardier members of Golden Gate Society did attend. The weather was clear and warm although it was colder during the night. A majority of the resident bird species was observed by the group who took walks of two or three hours duration.

Birds seen at Wright's Lake and encompassing area: Mallard, California Gull, Nighthawk, Black Swift, Vauz's Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Red Shafted Flicker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Artic three-toed Woodpecker, Wright Flycatcher (by habitat), Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-Green Swallow, Stellar's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Slender-Billed Nuthatch, Creeper, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Warbling Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Brewer Blackbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Green-Tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-Crowned Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow.

Many interesting mammals were seen, including the marmot who nibbled at Harry Adamson's hod-carrying boots, and the marten that was treed by Richard Stallcup; Mule Deer, Marten, Marmot, Cony, Crowned Squirrel, Golden Mantled Squirrel, Badger.

The forests and meadows were dotted with many flowers due to the late season in the Sierra. The swimming was fine as can be attested by David Smith, and Mr. Adamson can make a swell hip-hole that alleviates sleeping pills and makes "no-doze" a necessity.

Trip reporter, Paul Opler

Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Sather, the announced leaders, were unable to go.

* * * * *

Two new members this month: Robert Cornelius, 3134 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek, joined at the July meeting; E. A. Albertson, P. O. Box 689, Sacramento.

East Contra Costa Junior College has just received a collection of California butterflies from Paul Opler. Ferd Ruth, biologist at the college, says this is a generous and valuable gift which will be put to good use at once.

The JUNIOR MUSEUM now has enrolled in its summer program 400 young people; age range 7 to 14; who are receiving 2 hours of laboratory work and 4 of field work weekly for 7 weeks. This project is sponsored by the Junior College and the Mount Diablo Junior Museum Association.

* * * * *

What are our members doing and seeing? The Quail would be glad to know. Doris Crosby and son Joe are giving their new station wagon a workout in Canada, starting in British Columbia. Doris announced Nantucket off the Massachusetts coast as ultimate destination. In Lassen she reported many nesting birds early in July.

Paul reports 20 Osprey on the Russian River, June 24; 3 Blue Grosbeaks, Bethel Island, July 6, and 1 Longtailed Chat, same day.

The eagle-eye of Evelyn Mann noticed a well-rounded hole high up on a telephone pole near the top of the Oakvale Road hill and suggested it might be the home of a woodpecker. Subsequent observation confirmed her suspicion.

A wandering desert tortoise was found in Sun Valley area in the garden of the William McGeehons. Thinking that any "turtle" would like a damp spot, the daughter of the house put it in the mud in a ditch. As this did not suit she and friend washed its feet and the family took the tortoise over for the Junior Museum.

* * * * *

REDWOOD CANYON and the SHEPHERD CANYON FREEWAY

Members are encouraged to write their supervisor expressing disapproval of the two alternate routes suggested in opposition to the State's direct and less costly route. These two routes, either of which would be destructive to the Redwood grove, are: The San Leandro Route (through the bottom of the canyon); and the Indian Valley Route. If you have never visited the Canyon, do make this short drive into an area of unbelievable beauty.

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Vice-Pres. & Program Chairman - Mr. Ferd Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, W.C., YE 4-8803
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Publicity - Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, P. O. Box 914, W.C., YE 4-4720
Conservation Co-Chairmen - Tommy and Mrs. Pearl Grimes, 2978 Putnam Blvd., W.C., YE 4-6467
Director - Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164
Acting Editor of Quail - Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C., YE 4-2752



The Quail

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

September 1956

Vol. 3, No. 3

The September meeting of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will be on the sixth, Room 201, Las Lomas High School, at 8 P.M. Because of the important business of voting on the future status of the Society, Ferd. Ruth, program chairman, has not planned to have an "outside" speaker, but will rely on home talent. "Local Conservation Matters are Our Business" (with Kodachrome slides) will be his own topic.

President Norma Warner reminds all members that after some months of discussion the Society will now vote: to remain a branch of the National Society, with no local memberships; to become an affiliate with local memberships only - the Chapter to pay the annual \$10.00 affiliate fee; or to become a purely local club.

A ballot for absentee voters went out with each copy of the August Quail.

FIELD TRIP - September 9 to Greco Island

One of the two sanctuaries recently established through the efforts of The Sierra Club and the local and National Audubon Societies. Meet at the Yacht Club, Public Dock, Redwood City at 10 A.M. BE PUNCTUAL! From there a boat ride to the Island. Tides control the timing of the trip. - Leader, N. L. Warner

The complete list of projected Field Trips will be released by Chairman Couden with the October issue of the Quail. In the meantime he can be reached by those wishing some advance information.

Sally Steller reports the August trip to Bay Farm Island. Seventeen members and guests enjoyed birding in weather unusually bright and sunny for the Island. Though shore birds were not present in as great numbers as later in the season, the Terns, Avocets, and especially the Black-bellied Plovers were in better plumage. Those of us less familiar with shore birds had an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with Ringed Plovers (Semi-palmated), Black-bellied Plovers, in breeding plumage, Dowitchers, Forster's and Caspian Terns.

The following birds were observed: Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Pintail, Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Ringed Plover, Black-Bellied Plover, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Curlew, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, Western, California and Ring-billed Gull, Forster's and Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Robin, California Shrike, English Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, and House Finch.

From Mrs. Viola Anderson for the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society an invitation to go on the Offshore Trip planned for September 14. Meet at Nicholl's Landing, 7 A.M., Santa Cruz Wharf. Adult tickets \$1.50 - children 75¢. For tickets and further information address Mr. L. M. McQuesten, 120 Otis St., Santa Cruz. Mrs. Anderson adds that Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Tern and other offshore birds will be in migration on that date. Also, Alcids and the Black-footed Albatross should be in evidence.

Ferd Ruth has released the winter Screen Tours list; all to be in Building 12; at 8 P.M., East Campus, Contra Costa Junior College.

October 1 - Ernest Edwards, Land of the Scarlet Macaw
November 28 - Alex Sprunt Jr., Cypress Kingdom
January 16 - Howard Cleaves, Animals at Night in Color
February 28 - Robert C. Hermes, Between the Tides
March 28 - Fran Hall, Hawaii U. S. A.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT - The Quail is under new management, and as is frequently the case under those circumstances, financial changes have to be met.

That all members may understand the situation a brief history is given. The first two editors - Mrs. Wm. C. Adams, Olive, and Mrs. Harry C. Adamson, Betty, in addition to being capable operators had access to first class office equipment and paper. No cost there to the Society. Mailing and the Masthead the only costs.

Now those services are no longer available. The stock on which The Quail is mimeographed will be purchased for the Society at a discount which will make the cost per sheet but a fraction of a cent. The Masthead remains the same - slightly over one cent per sheet, and the postage is still \$3.66 per hundred stamped envelopes. But the cost of stencils, the mechanical "phases" of cutting the stencil, and the mimeographing are a new cost. Although the charges aren't excessive, taken month after month the Society treasury will be very lean at the end of the year.

As is customary, copies are mailed to other societies and to prospective members. That is the right and friendly thing to do, but must be taken into consideration when costs are estimated.

While acknowledging the debt to Olive and Betty, we should not overlook the Masthead - the Quail himself - a gift from the accurate and generous brush of Harry C. Adamson.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society has been the recipient of much first class service gratis, and is now faced with realities - I. McG.

Birds of a feather flock together in Lenox, Mass. Ten Black-capped Chickadees were color banded. They were frequently observed feeding together all winter. The next year nine of them reappeared.

The Phainopepla is one of the birds where the nest foundations are laid by the male before the female arrives. Perhaps he wishes to impress his fiancée with his good providing proclivities.

Impressive is the large geodesic bird cage being erected on the shore of Lake Merritt near the duck feeding area. Twenty-eight feet high, thirty-six feet in diameter, it will be used to house rare birds, chiefly water birds.



The Quail

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

October, 1956

Volume 3, No. 4

The October meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society is scheduled for Wednesday, the 3rd., 8:00 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School with Howard Knight, a biology instructor at East Contra Costa Junior College the speaker, according to Ferd Ruth, program chairman. Knight will talk on the Olympic National Park where he has done much work as a summer ranger. More than one authority has called the Olympic the "park of parks".

The next Field Trip will be Sunday, October 7th., a half day walk with perhaps an occasional scramble, up Strawberry Canyon through which the little stream which rises in the Berkeley Hills back of the Botanic Gardens runs the length of the campus. Meeting time no later than nine o'clock at the Center Street entrance, thence up the canyon as far as inclination dictates. If lunches are taken, one easily carried is advised. There are good picnic spots at the top of the hill, and also in the eucalyptus grove not far beyond the entrance. Leaders - Isabella McGeehon, Elizabeth O'Meara.

October 1st., First Screen Tour of the new series. Land of the Scarlet Macaw, which is Mexico. A new member called asking where she might buy a ticket and was delighted to learn that in this county there is no admission charge, the cost being met by the National Audubon Society and the Junior College, and the Junior College is "we the people" - All Lectures in Room 12 - 8:00 p.m.

Mark October 6th., Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Dick and Violet Beitzel are holding open house to show the many pictures taken of their conducted tour through Mexico last summer. They have been importuned by so many so often that they have planned an evening of it. 1713 South 5th Street, Concord - Telephone: MULberry 2-9588 if you plan to go. They make but one request. Dick writes, please ask "the kids" to look at the glassware but "do not touch."

REPORT ON THE FIELD TRIP - GRECCO ISLAND - SEPTEMBER 9

Eighteen members met at Public Dock, Redwood City, and embarked on the Thunderbird, a former Coast Guard boat, now operated by the Mariners and their charming Skipper, Mrs. David Sears. During the short trip to the Island the members toured the boat.

Upon the Island (as yet unposted for Sanctuary) found $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cat-walk over marshland - at end of which small stretch of beach beside a slough. Lunch while enjoying flights of Willets, White Pelican and Marbled Godwits closely overhead. Twenty-nine species identified though most in flight. Younger members searched for shells and bits of driftwood (accumulating considerable slimy mud) and Entomologist Ryckman identified plant growth as well as securing specimens of certain bees which were of interest to him.

Back to Thunderbird where the Scouts launched a canoe and Pete and Dick rode lazily around, with Scouts and Judith Perlman doing the paddling. Later discovered that Judy suffered a smashed toe during the activity.

Though not as many species of birds were seen as might be expected, Member Sather remarked that "this trip is different; and everyone is really having a good time."

Here are the species seen: Pelican, White and Brown, Great Blue Heron, American and Snowy Egret, Pintail, Turkey Vulture, Marsh and Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least, Red-backed and Western Sandpiper, Long-bill Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, California and Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Barn Owl, California Woodpecker, Barn and Cliff Swallow, Savannah and Song Sparrow, English Sparrow - and two Sea Lions (Seals?) which delighted kids and adults with their antics. - N.L.W., Leader.

* * * * *

As a result of the vote taken at the September meeting Mount Diablo Audubon Society will terminate branch status and become an affiliate of the National Society as soon as the customary formalities have been completed.

* * * * *

The Pepper Tree Farm get-together the evening of September 15 was a delightful occasion of poolside eating and visiting after swimming as members and friends enjoyed the hospitality of Jack and Erna Irving. After dark in the huge living room Violet Beitzel was leader on a back-track field trip when she showed the pictures she had taken on trips of the last two years.

Glen Shanks of Concord has been at Kaiser Hospital with a broken back. It's coming along O. K. and he should be released in appropriate braces by the time of publication. His odd working hours explain why we haven't seen him more often. H. C.

Paul Opler reported a female cowbird following a deer in the Tuolumne Meadows region; sparrows at 13,000 feet on Mount Dana; Golden Eagles on Hunter's Hill, Vallejo; and on August 14, his first flight of ducks for the season, going ~~north~~ south.

The Adamsons who have a varied habitat in a smallish area recently observed Kingfishers and an Anthony Green Heron in their creek. At the feeding tray Rufous-sided Towhees, Wren Tits, Song Sparrows, House Finches and Scrub Jays. Last year a House Finch was foster mother to a Cowbird, this year a Song Sparrow. On their August trip to Round Top, 10,000 feet they saw a Rosy Finch at close range. On the same trip a male and female Pine Grosbeak at Woods Lake, a Townsend Solitaire and Nutcracker near Winnemucca Lake. Near Lake Topaz on the east Sierra slope American Magpies; the black-billed.

The first September weekend they drove the Sonora Pass road to Kennedy Meadows, thence south to Summit Creek where they camped before back-packing to Lewis Lake and Granite Peak. The vista included Mts. Banner, Lyall and Ritter. Birds of note: Rosy Finches, the Nutcracker, and Cree-tailed Towhee. Mammals; a Marten that inspected camp.

Joe Crosby with hook and line provided several meals of Eastern Brook Trout when he and his mother visited Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada.

President Norma Warner met an agitated hen Ring-necked Pheasant walking back and forth before the locked glass doors of the Walnut Creek City Hall, after work one evening.

Frances Blake found her bird bath in Walnut Heights crowded with quail drinking, not bathing.

Elizabeth O'Meara watched a Scrub Jay carefully bury an almond in a pile of shavings with ado. As he returned to his perch still squawking he spied a second almond and repeated his act.

President - Norma L. Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek - YE 4-4604
Vice-President - Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, YE 4-8803
Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Sally Steller, 939 Carol Lane, Lafayette - AT 4-4370

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE, 1956 - 1957

Some will put down these dates immediately upon their social calendars. Our sincere congratulations. Others will plan to, but forget. We join them in regrets. (There will be other reminders.) But to the rest of us this is our calendar, of outings and adventure, for the year! We add the other things of interest to this—not this to them.

October 7. Berkeley Campus and Strawberry Canyon.

Isabell McGeehon - YE 4-2752
Elizabeth O'Meara - YE 4-46-4

November 3, 4. Willows/Grindley Area

Betty and Harry Adamson - AT 3-2164

December 9. Conn Lake

Richard and Lee Stalkup - LOchhaven 9-3185

December 23. Christmas Count

Harry Couden - YE 4-8873

January 6. Tomales Bay

Violet and Dick Beitzel - MU 2-9588

February 10. Terminous Area

Bev. Wilder - YE 4-6353

March 10. Dillons Beach

Sally Steller - AT 4-4370

April 7. Redwood-Sequoia Regional Park

Paul Covel - KE 6-4120
Alexander Lindsey - YE 5-1724

May 4, 5, The Pinnacles

Judy and I. Perlman - AT 3-3021

June 9. Bollinger Canyon

Albert Cooperrider - YE 4-6021

June 23, 24 - Lake Tahoe

Mary Smith - YE 5-5657
Dorothy Couden - YE 4-8873

July 14. Bethel Island

Paul Opler - YE 5-5645
Margaret Edmunds - VE 7-2278

A letter from Walter Fitzpatrick of Yosemite explains why we have not included that trip which had been proposed for April 20 and 21. "...April is too early for the best birding...The summer visitors are just beginning at that time, and the high country is still inaccessible."



The Quail

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

November 1956

Volume 3, No. 5

Mount Diablo Audubon Society will meet in regular session Thursday, the 1st, 8 p m., Room 201, Los Lomas High School. Fred Ruth, program chairman, reports that Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Keitzel will conduct a colored slide tour "Seasons in the Yosemite".

Dick and Violet, charter members of the Concord Camera Club, have a row of trophies won in inter as well as intra-club competitions. Violet, listed in Who's Who in Color Photography in America, has had slides accepted in international showings. Dick who works in black and white has had several of his pictures taken on Audubon Field Trips placed in Boy Scout Competition. Recently he was one of seventy-five invited to participate in a special showing.

FIELD TRIP FOR NOVEMBER

On November 3rd and 4th we will visit the waterfowl refuges in the Sacramento Valley. This is an opportunity to be among concentrations of waterfowl numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese will be seen in large numbers. Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Terns and Ross Geese are among the possibilities. Bismarck, Starlings, Virginia Rails as well as many species of ducks are present on both refuges. It is a unique experience to drive or walk through flocks so great in number that there is an actual roar as they rise all around you.

On Saturday, November 3rd, meet at 10:30 a.m. at the headquarters of the Gray Lodge State Game Refuge which is reached by driving west from Route 99.E at Gridley for approximately 6 miles, then south on Farmington Road for about 2 miles, and west again to Refuge headquarters sign. Gridley is a 3 1/2 or 4 hours drive from the Bay Region. It is recommended that motels in Gridley be contacted IMMEDIATELY for reservations for Saturday night as they might be filled with hunters. The motels are Maxey Motel at Pacific Motel, Gridley, California. Bring plenty of warm clothing and suitable footwear for walking on possibly muddy roads or dikes, plus binoculars, telescopes, and maps for both days.

On Sunday, November 5th, 10 a.m. we will meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge about 7 miles south of the town of Willows on the east side of Route 99.W. Those staying at Gridley can drive west to Princeton and from there on the Hornum Road which bisects the Sacramento Refuge to 99.W and hence north to Refuge Headquarters.

Leaders, Dotty and Harry Adenson, Atlantic 3-2164

The next Person Tour is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, Room 12, 3 p m. West Campus, Santa Clara College. Alonzo Sprunt, Jr. will tell story of Cypress Kingdom with colored motion pictures. "Four regions are so mysterious as the cypress kingdom-towered labyrinth of the South, where bends of the Seminole and the cottonmouth."

Mr. Sprunt is the author of many articles and several books, and the father of "Sandy" who is well known on this coast where he served as a representative of the "National", and on the staff of the summer Audubon Camp at Norden, and upon one occasion was a guest of Mount Diablo Society.

Strawberry Canyon and Campus Trip, Berkeley, October 7th

Eleven members gambled on the weather and won. The campus "proper" was not rewarding, for Brown Towhees, Oregon Junco, English Sparrows, and one apparently acclimatized green Budgie were the score. Elizabeth O'Meara found it happily consorting with that Towhee and those Sparrows.

Several "firsts" were observed by several members, especially the Black-chinned Humming Bird which though common enough in that area does not come over the hills to Walnut Creek. Pete Veitch and Harry Coudon with glasses trained on the Hummer relayed a feather by feather report to Ye. Ed. as she checked with Peterson in hand.

Twenty-five was the final tally. Music by California Thrasher. Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Brewer's Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Robin, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, English Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Golden Crowned Sparrow, White Crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Wren Tit, Black-chinned Humming Bird, Anna's Humming Bird, Allen's Humming Bird, Red Shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, Steller's Jay, Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and that Thrasher over the fence in the chaparral. - Elizabeth O'Meara, Isabella McGeehon

Walter Fitzpatrick, our Yosemite Valley member, wrote of a trip with the Los Angeles Auduboners, "Got such nice things as the Santa Cruz Jay, Elegant and Least Terns, Wood Ibis, Pomerine Jaegers."

Another Albino reported: two months ago from Mrs. Gotschal in the L.A. area a pure white Scrub Jay, pink beak and legs, offspring of a pair of the regulation plumage. This month a white English Sparrow is reported from a Sun. 3 yard, in the "Western Tanager".

Sparrows - "Between the 16th and 23rd of September three of our common winter visitant sparrows appeared in the Adamson yard; Golden-Crowned, White-Crowned, and Fox. The Golden-Crowned does not nest in the United States. All those seen in your garden have made the long trip from Alaska or Canada. Banding or 'Ringing' (British) shows that these birds return to the same area year after year. Listen for three rather mournful notes running down the scale" A.C.A.

Elizabeth O'Meara reported September 23rd as the date of her White-Crowned in the garden. Same date that song was first heard in the McGeehon garden, observed bathing next morning; three days later the Golden Crowned were seen, but not until mid-October did a Fox Sparrow appear. E. R. Pickett of the Sacramento Audubon reported sparrows first observed about a fortnight later than in the Lafayette-Walnut Creek area.

In Upland Game of California, which may be had for the asking from the State of California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, it is good to read that the attempt to introduce the native Wild Turkey is proving successful with flocks now seen as far north as Mendocino County, in the drier areas.

In the October issue of Field and Stream is an article devoted to the Chukar Partridge, that handsome introduction from India which is thriving in the sage brush and Joshua Tree region of Southern California; Granite Range, Mohave Desert, Victorville, and other regions that are like its native habitat. About twenty years ago an attempt was made to acclimatize them in the Livermore hills, some in the Arroyo del Valle section. Unsuccessful.

So more and more come across mention of "anting" by birds. This peculiar activity has been studied for some years, and now the theory is advanced that it is a cleansing rite, just as some birds bathe in water, and others, like the quail, prefer dust baths. We wondered if the odd ant odor might be pleasing to the ant addicts.

New members:

Perry Fry, 3142 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek
Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson, Box 161, Concord
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Smith, 1312 Davis St., Concord

Miss Mary Jefferds who heads the National Audubon office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, wrote that she would like 150 copies of the Field Trip list released by Harry N. Couden, chairman. (Vote to the Ed. - they were sent)

P. S. "The Adamsons have just returned from a trip to the Southwest. The main object of the trip was to hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, stay overnight at Phantom Ranch and hike out by another trail. Naturally, all this could not be accomplished without seeing some wildlife.

"First, we joined friends in southern California for a day's trip along the coast. Elegant Terns were seen in good numbers; formerly very rare, they have been coming up from Mexico in much greater numbers recently to spend September and a portion of October on our shores. Then, toward San Diego to view Wood Ibis at the Lt. Maxton Brown Sanctuary at Oceanside; no true Ibis of course but the only member of the Stork family (Ciconiidae) in the United States. A Franklin's Gull, rare stray, was seen at the mouth of Malibu Creek. The aspens were an incredible yellow on the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, and later on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, where Wild Turkeys (fourteen in one flock) roamed in bands, and Gray-headed Juncos and Red-naped Sapsuckers were common around the camp grounds. Six Dusky grouse were seen and one bird even flew up and walked on the top of our parked car. Some of the mammals observed were Pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain Mule Deer, Albert and Kaibab (Tassel-eared) Squirrels, Badger and Kit Fox. While returning home through Nevada a Bald Eagle was seen heading for Lahontan Reservoir near Fallon." H.C. A.

The Mount Diablo Audubon Society

President: Norma L. Warner 3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4614
Vice-President: Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-8803
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Membership Chairman: Mrs. Cecil J. Smith, 79 Oak Knoll Loop, W.C., YE 5-5657
Publicity Chairman, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Neare, P.O. Box 194, W. C., YE 4-4720
Conservation Co-chairmen: Mrs. Donald Grimes and son, Thomas - new address not at hand. Formerly 2375 Putnam Blvd., Walnut Creek
Quail: Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek, YE 4-2752
Director: Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164

The Quail

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



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The December meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held Thursday the 6th at 8 p.m., Room 201 Las Lomas High School. Ferd Ruth, program chairman announces Alexander Lindsay as speaker, his topic the Junior Museum.

Mr. Lindsay a member of the Walnut Creek District school board, is serving as head of the Junior Museum project, now in its third year, with two particularly successful summer sessions to its credit.

Conn Lake Field Trip. On Sunday December 9th to Conn Lake in Napa County. This is an excellent area for observation of waterfowls: Wood Ducks, Bufflehead, Redhead, Geese and sometimes Whistling Swan, as well as land birds of the upper Sonoran Zone. Meet at the Stone Bridge on the Silverado Trail about one mile north of Napa at 9 a.m. Allow about one hour for the drive from Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Oakland, etc. Bring binocular, telescopes and lunches.

Leaders Richard and Lee Stallcup,
Telephone Lo 9-3185 - 6227 Buena Ventura, Oakland

The trip to this area last year was voted "one of the best". The brief visit to the Game Farm not far beyond the Stone Bridge, the weather, and the starlings consorting with Brewer's Blackbirds on the sheep ranch with their special theme song, "California Here We Come" were highlights of the trip.

No Screen Tour until mid-January, but Bird Count two days before Christmas. Leaders are Dorothy and Harry Couden who send us this:

Everyone belongs to one of the two groups: The Yardbirds or the Roving Reporters. The Yardbirds count and identify birds around home and community. Roving Reporters have a field day. All meet at the Coudens, 1491 Sunset Loop (in Sun Valley) 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. 50 cents for registration and potluck offering. Bring lists. Compilation of count follows potluck dinner.

The Roving Reporters (amateur and expert) meet at Greyhound Bus Depot near the Monument, 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch, binocular, telescopes and attire for hiking. There are five "territories" to cover within our official circular area which radiates $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the intersection of Ygnacio and Marsh Creek Roads. This area includes from Avon to a point midway between Pittsburg and Antioch on the north; Pacheco, Contra Costa Junior College and the hills in back on the west; Sseranap, Tice Valley and 2 miles north of Alamo on the Danville Highway; all except the lower southeast slope of Mount Diablo; and to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Clayton on the Marsh Creek Road on the east.

Important business on the 6th. Action on the proposed new By-Laws as presented by the revision committee consisting of Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, chairman, Mrs. John Irving, Mrs. Harry N. Couden and Harry C. Adamson. An effort is being made to have a copy of these proposals sent each member. If anyone has failed to receive a copy please notify Mrs. McGeehon, address on last page.

Mount Diablo Society is eagerly anticipating its first Bird Study section under the tutelage of Harry Adamson as proposed by Ferd Ruth, instructor of Biology at the East Campus Contra Costa Junior College. Further details later.

"Key to Wild Flowers, Ferns, Trees and Shrubs of Northern California" a recent book by Vesta Volt, National Press Palo Alto, price \$3.00 comes highly recommended. Christmas suggestion.

Observations: Thomas Grimes reports 4 Northern Phalaropes flying over the Moraga-Glorietta Wildlife area. One hit a power line and was killed in flight. A few weeks ago a real concentration of Western Meadow Larks was observed flying off the road left and right as Doris Crosby drove her car along Vineyard Avenue four or five miles southeast of Pleasanton. A quarter of a mile beyond one Yellow-billed Magpie sat on the wire with a row of just plain Blackbirds. Bandtailed Pigeons flew over Mulfontes near roosting time when Elizabeth O'Hearn was there the middle of November. November 24th a Meadowlark sang on the McGeehon hill, Oakvale Road. One White-throated Sparrow (normal range Eastern United States in winter) in the Adamson backyard since October 18th.

Earl Albertson, our Sacramento member came down on November 10th to see the White-throated Sparrow as it was a new "Life" bird for him. On the same day the Hooded Mergansers turned up on Pete Veitch's "preserve", Lake Cascade and Earl chalked up another "Lifer". On the 11th the Adamsons and Earl joined the Golden Gate Society on an early trip to Tomales Point and Harry's scope picked up a third bird for Earl's Life-list--Harlequin Ducks.

Young Conservationist. Thomas Grimes, who with his mother, Mrs. Donald Grimes is Conservation Chairman for Mount Diablo Society recently responded to the invitation to speak at the State Conservation Conference in International House on the University Campus in Berkeley. He spoke on the meaning of Conservation and was able to cite the Moraga-Glorietta Wildlife Area developed through the interest of the school principal and the enthusiastic participation of the youthful conservationists. Tom was happy to be able to report the project well under way when other speakers stressed the value of just such undertakings.

WATERFOWL REFUGES

November 3 and 4

Although only twelve people turned out for our two day trip to the Federal and State Waterfowl Refuges, between them they represented not only Mt. Diablo but Sacramento and Golden Gate Audubon Societies.

The trip turned out very well, the weather being fair and warm. Most of the participants enjoyed a Chinese dinner together Saturday night in Marysville after spending the day on the Gray Lodge State Game Refuge.

It would be futile to try and describe the scenes we saw, one must be there to be able to grasp the numbers. However in case anyone wonders if we saw many ducks and geese, there were roughly 350,000 present on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge alone while we were there. Mr. Eugene Kridler, Biologist, gave us a fine talk on the many crops planted as food for the waterfowl and then took us on a conducted tour of the refuge. As most of the geese were feeding in the south portion of the refuge, he unlocked the gates in.

order that we might drive near to them. He had a scope mounted on his jeep window and was the first to pick up the Yellow-headed Blackbirds which had eluded us until then. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Kridler for giving us several hours of his Sunday.

Some of the more rare, or seldom seen, species observed were Golden Eagle, Whistling Swan and Sandhill Crane. Approximately eight hundred Starlings were seen just north of the Sutter Buttes. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in small numbers.

The following 75 species were seen in the vicinity of the two refuges:

Hered Grebe; Western Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Farallon Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; American Egret; Brewster's Egret; Black-cr. Night Heron; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose; White-fronted Goose; Snow Goose; Mallard; Gadwall; Baldpate; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Cinnamon Teal; Shoveller; Redhead; Ring-necked Duck; Canvas-back; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Golden Eagle; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Ring-n. Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Florida Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Wilson's snipe; Greater Yellow-legs; Least Sandpiper; Long-bill. Dowitcher; Avocet; Herring Gull; California Red-shafted Flicker; California Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Yellow-billed Magpie; Crow; Slender-b. Nuthatch; Marsh Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; American Pipit; California Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; Yellow-throat; English Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Yellow-h. Blackbird; Red-wing Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Goldfinch; Green-backed Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-cr. Sparrow; Golden-crowned Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Starling.

Harry Adamson

For proficiency in sewing eighth grader, Penny Couden recently won a sewing machine, we hear. Congratulations, Penny, we are glad we know you.

And do not forget the Audubon conference at Mills College in January

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Vice-Pres. & Program: Ferd Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, W. C., Ye 4-2803
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