



The Quail

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

January 1958
Vol. 4, No. 7

Happy New Year!

First meeting of 1958 is scheduled for Thursday, the 9th, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School, a week later than customary because the regular day falls on the 2nd, still in the holiday mood. John V. Bruce, Program Chairman, reminds members of Mount Diablo Society that Wallace J. Cassidy, Biologist faculty member of Castro Valley High School, will lead the postponed expedition to Yellowstone National Park that evening showing films and trophies along the way.

Next Field Trip will be Sunday, the 5th, with Dick and Violet Beitzel. This from Dick:

"In past years this trip to the tip of Tomales Point has proved one of our best and most looked-forward-to field trips, and again we hope it is so for our first trip in 1958.

We will meet in the parking space next to the store in Inverness at 9:30 a.m. and travel from there in caravan style to the McClure Ranch. As this is private property, permission is obtained in advance to take our cars thru to their second ranch farther on and hike about two miles to the point. The trail is not too difficult - even for kids and the older folks as well who always enjoy the trip. Pack your lunch and (a warning) don't make it too large for easy carrying, or your arms and backs will suffer and you will wish you hadn't brought all that junk along. On the point we will have front row reserved balcony seats in God's amphitheatre where we will watch the wonders of Nature unfold on the stage below us. Remember - it might not be such a glorious day as we had last year and it is January. Dress comfortable and warm - it might be cold. We can look to one disappointment. If there has been a rain just prior to our trip, the dirt roads thru Mr. McClure's ranch might not be advisable, as we can't expect him to give permission to tear them up. In that event we will re-route ourselves to another nearby location.

Best way to get there is over Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and down Sir Francis Drake Highway via Fairfax, Lagunitas and Olema to Point Reyes Station. Turn left to Inverness. Bird count starts at Point Reyes Station." The Beitzel's telephone is Mu 2-9588, Concord.

Next Screen Tour - Friday, Jan. 24th. "Yukon Indian Summer" under the leadership of Cleveland P. Grant as the expedition heads into the wilderness of Yukon Territory; breathtaking scenery in magnitude and wild beauty, along the way antelope, hoary marmot, deer, grizzly bear. To complete the tour Mr. Cleveland will give an account of the Yukon's Indian Culture.

Ferd S. Ruth, Program Chairman for these tours, announces the time as 8 p.m. and the place again the Diablo Room in the Student Activities Building, which is a great improvement over old Room 12. Last time there were a few seats not taken, but word gets around, and being a Friday night with no school next day, going early is still the best plan.

This is a busy time of year for the Carlyle Sathers which probably accounts for the delay in reporting the trip they led to the Conn Lake area December 8th. The Coudens and Frances Blake reported perfect weather, a good participation, about 80 species of birds in fine feather with special mention to the Whistling Swans, Lewis' Woodpeckers, Band-tailed Pigeons and Wood Ducks.

When Miss Blake first bought her homesite on Walnut Blvd., Walnut Heights area, Walnut Creek, she had many of those colorful Lewis' Woodpeckers about 15 years ago. Now, after a lapse of several years they are again wintering with her.

Also postponed until next time must be the Christmas Bird Count, now in progress while the Quail keeps pecking away at the typewriter.

Back tracking - bird tracking be it understood. November 23rd Mr. and Mrs. George E. Schad led the trip to Lake Merritt.

"The weather was ideal, but the turnout was not good. Possibly ten of our members were on hand. We were very fortunate in having Ranger-Naturalist, Paul Covel as our leader. After picking up about ten Girl Scouts who were in from Oakley, Paul led us to various points of interest pointing out the various ducks, naming and explaining their habits.

On our return to the Recreation Center, Paul showed us a Cork Tree, a Mediterranean Tamarisk and an Australian Tea Tree. Upon our arrival at the Center we were shown a number of stuffed ducks which gave us a close-up of some we saw on the lake. Also, in the hall we were given a treat of some slides taken by Mrs. Reynolds whom we all know for her wonderful photography of wild life on Lake Merritt.

Observations: Wood Duck, Tree Duck, Golden-eye, Gadwall, Pintail, Baldpate, Green-winged Teal, Canvas-back, Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Mallard; Coot; Cormorants; Black Brant, Canada, Lesser Canada, Cackling, Snow, Ross' and White-fronted Geese; Whistling and Australian Black Swans; Bonaparte, Glaucous, Ringed-bill Gulls; American Egret; Horned, Pied-bill and Western Grebes; White Pelican; Ring-necked Pheasant; Brewer's Blackbird; White-crowned, and English Sparrow; Domestic Pigeons."

That 100 species left over from the Nov. 9-10 trip sent in by Betty Adamson:

"Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross' Goose, Blue Goose; Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Red-head, Ring-necked Duck; Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite, Sharp

shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Virginia Rail, Sora Rail; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Greater Yellow-legs; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Long-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper;

American Avocet; California Gull, Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker; Black Pheobe; Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Robin; Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Yellow Throat; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee; Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow."

Falconry is legal in California. However, the birds so licensed must be native raptors. Permitted in California are Peregrine Falcon or Duck Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin or Pigeon Hawk, American Kestrel or Sparrow Hawk, American Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, Harris' Hawk, Marsh Hawk and Great-horned Owl.

This year in the Yosemite Valley Harry Adamson saw a Great Gray Owl capture its prey. There, a few years ago, he encountered a Hawk that had evidently had training in falconry.

The Society Board was last month assembled at the home of President Harry Couden. Bev Wilder moved and the motion carried that the Board recommend to the Membership that the date of appointing the nominating committee and the election of officers be set earlier in the spring, but that the new corps of officers actually assume office at the end of the fiscal year as at present. The vote on the proposed change in the By-Laws is to be held at the time of the regular February meeting.

Also, planned for an early date is a fund-raising pot luck dinner for the benefit of the general fund. Date and details to be announced after consultation with the probable hostess.

Appreciation of the problems that beset a Program Chairman are all too often overlooked. Time and effort go into that chairmanship in large measure. Providing worthwhile programs that will interest the membership, and that come "for free" is not easy. Thanks, currently and retroactively, are due. McG

The annual Northern California Regional Audubon Conference has been set for January 11th. It is a good meeting, worth attending even tho' not as an active participant. Six reservations are being made by Mount Diablo Society. Further information can be had of and will be given by the President, H. N. Couden - 1491 Sunset Loop, Walnut Creek - Ye 4 8873.

Flash! The Christmas Count, Dec. 22, blessed with beautiful birding weather and knowledgeable observers, exceeded highest expectations with a record count of 112 species!



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The next regular meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held Thursday, February 6th, 8 p.m., Room 201 Las Lomas High School. Program Chairman, John V. Bruce will introduce Capt. Ross Waggoner, chief law enforcement officer of the State Department of Fish and Game for this area, who will tell of Water Pollution, highlighting his story with a film which emphasizes the effect of water pollution on wildlife, notably fish and birds. Bring friends. This is a timely topic.

Next Field Trip.....Sunday, February 9th, Cascade Lake and San Pablo Dam area, Peter Veitch and the George E. Schads, leaders. "Pete" says bring the usual equipment, walking-shoes, binoculars, lunch, friends. Meet 9 a.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Next Screen Tour is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th, 8 p.m., Diablo Room, Student Activities Building, East Contra Costa Junior College, Ferd S. Ruth, Program Chairman. Olin Sewell Pettingill, Jr. will lead the tour to the Falkland Islands for a Penguin Summer. These islands, a detached part of Argentina, east of the southern tip, have little contact with the mainland. The people lead isolated, somewhat pastoral lives, while those odd birds that can walk and swim but not fly, go about in formal black and white, even incubating their eggs standing upright.

Perhaps the most quoted of Mr. Pettingill's writings is "Guide to Bird Finding."

Although business will be kept to a minimum when the Society next meets, the note on the recommendation of the Board, as announced in the January Quail, must be. If the vote carries, the election of officers will be earlier in the spring than June, as at present, but the new corps will not assume office until July 1st.

President Harry Couden has been flying about the United States the past few weeks. He will be gone again by the 6th of February. However, he will have done his home work, as usual, and Vice-President Bruce will have "the fun."

Harry reports that the ways and means potluck dinner, planned for this spring by the Board, will be at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Isadore Perlman, Lafayette, as suggested by their daughter, Judith, at the time of that meeting.

Judith collects the dues, you know, or at least she would like to do so at first notice.

"A Critic's Review of the Tomales Field Trip Performance" - by Dick Beitzel

"The January 5th Field Trip performance of the 'Tomales Point Story' in God's Amphitheatre was more or less disappointing to the twenty-six members and friends who attended. Although we were ushered to our reserved front row balcony seats by a rather weak sun, we found them already taken by cold winds, and the action on the stage below us was very mediocre. Stage setting, however, was beautiful, with tremendous, offshore, spray-blowing waves rolling in to crash on the high tide rocky stage below.

Perhaps the stars of the show were the flock after flock of Black Brandt Geese flying in from the ocean to more sheltered spots on the bay. Featured players were a group of seals body surfing, like true Hawaiians, on the crest of the breaking waves. At least they seemed to be having fun. After eating our "popcorn", standing up in the back row, we left after the first act, with some taking in the performance at McClure's Beach and others at Tomales Point State Park.

Cast of characters were: Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; White and Brown Pelicans; Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Black-crowned Night Heron; Snowy and Common Egret; Black Brant; Canvas-back, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Goldeneye, Old Squaw, Harlequin Duck; White-winger and Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks, American Kestrel; California Quail; American Coot;

Black Turnstone; Willet; Least, Dunlin, Western Sandpipers; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring and Mew Gulls; Common Murre; Rock Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker; Black and Saps Phoebe; Scrub and Steller's Jays; Common Raven; Common Crow; Common Bushtit; Wren-tit; Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Logger-head Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Savannah, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco.....Seventy-four in all."

"Mrs. Quail, 'This is my first experience in typing up a bird count and I wouldn't be surprised if I 'goofed' here and there. Not too badly, I hope.'

R.B."

Former Members: Mr. and Mrs. James Hampton are comfortably settled in Hemet, Riverside County, according to Christmas word from Wilma to Elizabeth O'Meara. "Jim", a charter member of the Society, was its second president.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Adams and their daughter, Heather, are now of Lancaster where "Bill" is in charge of 240 men in guided missile work. Olive was first editor of The Quail.

New Member: Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Carpenter moved from Berkeley to Orinda last year. Mrs. Carpenter is our newest member. We hope to meet them soon.

Felicitations and congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Baker. Mrs. Baker, long time editor of The Observer of the Sacramento Society, was, until recently, Mrs. Tisdale.

And, the Christmas Count - 112 species, 16907 individuals - Report from Harry and Betty Adamson.

"On December 22nd, at 7 a.m. with the temperature at 32 F, fourteen hardy birders met at the Monument in Concord bent on beating our year's count. In 1954 we had 89 species; 1955 (the flood year) 80; 1956 - 99 species. On the previous day we had heavy rains, but Sunday was clear and cold. Team leader, Pete Vitch with Glenn Shanks, Richard Stallcup and John Ralph covered the Mount Diablo area, Harry Couden and Bev Wilder did the Pacheco and Junior College area. Paul Opler with good assistance from Larry Curl with his intrepid scope, Mrs. Opler, Violet and Dick Beitzel had the Sewer Farm and river area. Harry and Betty Adamson tried to cover Tice Valley, Walnut Creek, Galindo Pumping Station, Clayton Valley, etc.

Bob Elstone from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada spent the morning with Paul and the afternoon with the Adamsons, in order to show him as many new birds as possible. Bob is touring the western U.S. and is interested in all wildlife, particularly birds. He is President of the Hamilton Nature Club. On Monday after the count, Harry took him to Tomales Point where he added several more new species, such as Black Oystercatcher, Surf Bird, Black Turnstone, etc. We enjoyed meeting Bob.

That evening when the group assembled at the Adamsons' for dinner, we were sure we had broken the 100 mark. When the total was tallied after dinner, we had 112 species, 13 more than last year. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Vanasek for allowing us to watch the birds on and around their feeder, which is on an extensive scale and lures a great many species, such as the prized White-throated Sparrow of eastern U.S. Harry and I wish to thank everyone who assisted us on the Count."

The birds - Snowy Egret, 11; White-fronted Goose, 24; American Widgeon, 69; Canvas-back, 149; Red-tailed Hawk, 29; California Quail, 250; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Horned Grebe, 4; Western Grebe, 14; Great Blue Heron, 4; Green Heron, 2; American Bittern, 1; Pintail, 213; Greater Scaup, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Eared Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 30; American Egret, 21; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Green-winged Teal, 12; Shoveller, 194; Ring-necked Duck, 39; Bufflehead, 1; Ruddy Duck, 1124; White-tailed Kite, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 18; Sparrow Hawk, 63; Florida Gallinule, 5; Ringed Plover, 1; Killdeer, 164; Wilson's Snipe, 46; Greater Yellow-legs, 64; Glaucous-winged Gull, 2; California Gull, 1; Barn Owl, 5; Burrowing Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Red-shafted Flicker, 529; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Scrub Jay, 164; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 5; Plain Titmouse, 60; Common Bushtit, 109; Wren-tit, 10; Sora Rail, 1; American Coot, 960; Black-bellied Plover, 18; Long-billed Curlew, 12; Lesser Yellow-legs, 1; Least Sandpiper, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 287; Mourning Dove, 54; Screech Owl, 1; Horned Owl; White-throated Swift, 9; Acorn Woodpecker, 58; Lewis' Woodpecker, 7; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 5; Black Phoebe, 8; Say's Phoebe, 9; Horned Lark, 71; Steller's Jay, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1;

Wrens - Bewick's, 9; Rock, 3; House, 1; Mockingbird, 36; Thrushes - Varied, 22, Hermit, 43, Robin, 1361; California Thrasher, 5; Western Bluebird, 83; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 97; Water Pipit, 51; Cedar Waxwing, 137; Logger-head Shrike, 40; Common Starling, 217; Hutton's Vireo, 3; Audubon's Warbler, 193; Common Yellow-throat, 11; House Sparrow, 376; Blackbirds - redwing, 1867, Brewer's, 3103; Brown-headed Cowbird, 9; House Finch, 5550; Pine Siskin, 44; American Goldfinch, 208; Lesser Goldfinch, 76; Brown Towhee, 46; Rufous-sided Towhee, 29;

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Sparrows - Savannah 368, Rufous-crowned 16, Sage 2, Golden-crowned 268, Fox 7, Lincoln 2, Song 251, White-crowned 774; Oregon Junco, 533; Willet, 9; Sandpipers - Red-backed 14, Western 25; American Avocet, 97; Short-billed Gull, 5; Bonaparte's Gull, 12. "

The Editor apologizes for not realizing until well into this list just how it was done. Thinking that 'it is never too late to go straight' tried to do so after discovering the error of her ways. In the process, the birds from 'Willet' on were left to be appended.

Conn Lake Trip, December 8th - from Tom Grimes, co-leader with Carlyle Sather.

"The weather was exceptionally good for birding. The sun was shining and there was little or no wind. It was an enjoyable trip for all, as 400 Wood Ducks and probably more were seen in the cove to the north of the lake. Other varieties noted were: Holboell's Grebe, Whistling Swan and both White-fronted and Snow Geese. The Band-tailed Pigeons were migrating through the area and several hundred were seen. The following 82 species were noted also:

Common Loon; Holboell's, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Farallon Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Geese - Canada, White-fronted, and Snow; Ducks - Gadwall, Mallard, Baldpate, Pintail, Shoveller, Green-winged Teal, Wood, Redhead, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy; Hooded Merganser, American Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Hawks - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-bellied, and Sparrow; California Quail; Ring-neck Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Gulls - California and Ring-billed; Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Woodpeckers - Red-shafted Flicker, Lewis', Acorn, Nuttall's, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe; Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Slender-billed Nuthatch; Creeper; Wren-tit; Rock Wren;

Thrushes - Robin, Varied, Hermit; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; American Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; California Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Blackbirds - Redwing, Brewer's; Finches - House, California purple, Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch; Towhees - Brown, Rufous-sided; Sparrows - Lark, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Song; Oregon Junco."

All these lists, but not a Slate-colored Junco! Last year one made the Count. Sacramento Society lists but one. At one feeder, Pebble Beach, Monterey Peninsula, five reported in The Starling.

President - Harry N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. Ye 4 - 8873

The Quail - Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Rd. W.C., Ye 4 - 2752



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March 1958
Vol. 4 No. 9

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, March 6, Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m. John Bruce, Program Chairman, promises an evening with insects. Paul Opler, charter member of the Society, now an entomology major at "Cal", will display some of his collections as he talks on, "The Value of Insects". "Rival Worlds", a color film and a Shell Oil Company production, is to be the second feature. Bring your friends.

From John. Remember, the "Richfield Wildflowers of the West" will bloom on the screen at the April meeting.

Next Field Trip, Calaveras Dam, Water Temple Area, Sunday, March 9th, will be led by Mrs. Gus "Inga" Lusebrink and Richard Stallcup. Meeting place is the Water Temple near Sunol, 9 a.m., just across the creek via bridge and to the right on the San Jose road. Lee Stallcup, father of Richard, suggested to Mrs. Lusebrink that if weather makes the drive on to the Calaveras Dam area inadvisable, the McCoy Ranch might be substituted. The McCoy place is about four miles beyond Livermore on the lower Mocho canyon road. The thickets along the stream and the orchards near the Water Temple should provide birds and things. As usual, walking shoes, lunch, binoculars, and friends. Phone MU 5-8732, or Stallcups, LO 9-3185

New Audubon car window emblems are available, and we quote Wm. N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National. "California Audubonites should be informed of the Motor Vehicle Code, which prohibits all stickers on rear window of vehicles, but permits them on lower right hand corner of windshield, or side windows to the rear of the driver, and so placed as not to interfere with his vision to the side or rear." (This is California Law. Those rear window stickers that proclaim one as traveled may not be illegal in the States of origin.)

April 12 - 13: Field trip to Columbia and the Sierra Foothills.... This weekend trip to the historic California ghost town of Columbia in the Mother Lode country will have 'something for everyone', authentic gold rush aura, wildflowers, rock hounding, good birding, fine food and fellowship. Mrs. Erna Irving has offered us their cabin as headquarters. Save the date!

The Nominating Committee of Norma Warner, Pearl Grimes, Glenn Shanks, has been appointed by the President.... Miss Warner, Chairman. According to the By-Laws as revised in February, they will report at the April meeting, when the new officers will be elected to assume office in July.

These new members are warmly welcomed: Mrs. Asher Opler, whom most of us have known from the beginning....Lauretta von Mosch, who comes with Secretary Myla Austin to regular meetings, has been on a field trip, and is ten years old... Mrs. John C. Basham, who has been enjoying Screen Tours the past two seasons, and who has lived many years with a yard full of Quail, against the hill on Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek. The Basham and Blake grounds adjoin.

Glenn Shanks has two more Junior Audubon Clubs going. Glenn enjoys his three hobbies, all the while sharing them, particularly with the rising generation.

Observations: While in the Tetons and Yellowstone last summer, Tom Grimes, on a Sierra Club Scholarship, saw Golden Eagles, Ospreys, Trumpeter Swans, and Sandhill Cranes as birds of special interest to him. Dr. Ralph Hall, entomologist with the Forest Service told him of seeing 12 Condors all at one time, last August, in Woody, just north of Bakersfield. There were other reports of Condors seen miles from their reservation. It was thought fires in Los Padres National Forest had forced their flight. And while practicing on insects near Bakersfield last summer Paul Opler hopefully looked for those giant birds.

When Harry Adamson spotted a Black-throated Gray Warbler in their garden, he chalked up the 101st species observed there. On January 8th he saw 5 Evening Grosbeaks in the same area. A month earlier he had seen Chestnut-backed Chickadees. These birds have been working eastward from Marin County, reaching Berkeley some time ago. Harry says a few were found in the Botanic garden there in September 1956. Matter of fact, the Mount Diablo Audubon Society found one or two in that garden that month. As Harry did a Lewis woodpecker in oaks up the Mocho, a Golden Eagle soared overhead.

As Frances Blake looked from her bedroom window toward the house where her brother, Arthur, did live, and where her brother, Charles, and wife plan to live, she saw a curtain moving. Thinking she had left a door or window open, and that some small boy might have accepted the challenge, she hastened down the hill to find a Lewis Woodpecker quite at home. Probably came down the chimney, as is the habit of Mulfontes Flickers.

Mrs. Asher Opler found rows of snowberries neatly fitted into holes in a pepper tree. Son Paul surmised a Sapsucker had been at work...Even though the food supply is ample, do woodpeckers feel impelled to keep on storing? We have seen the same acorns in trees year after year. Also some in a redwood fence post on the Patterson Ranch on the Arroyo del Valle, and, farther up the canyon, a supply in a Digger Pine.

Prexy Harry Couden reports: "My travels were more wide-spread than usual this last trip...the four corners of the country. First the Northwest for about ten days; thence to Florida's orange belt for a week; took another week to touch bases at Atlantic City (where my brother Dick, from Maine, stayed with me for a couple days), Philadelphia, and Salt Lake City; then spent a final two weeks taking a special course at UCLA, and meeting many Auduboners down there.

"In Florida I'd planned a Saturday field trip, but business interferred. However, I did identify some birds with assists from my business associate, Mr. Jim Hayes, and two books on Florida birds from the Tampa public library. Seven are life-listers for me, and there were a lot more I couldn't run down. Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Florida Cormorant, Common Loon, Lesser Scaup, Ring-neck Duck, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Great White Heron (both white and blue phases, 3 together), American Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture (I suspect), Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Southern Flicker, Southern Jay, Florida Cardinal, Tree Swallow, and lots of Mourning Doves,

Loggerhead Shrikes, Mockingbirds, Bluebirds, Meadowlarks, and Brewer's Blackbirds...I enjoyed most a Jimmy Durante-like character sporting a black tuft to the sides and rear of a bald pate, and a huge, red beak -- a shore bird I believe was a wintered-out Royal Tern"

WINTER SPARROWS -- by Harry Adamson

Many persons first becoming interested in birds are baffled and frustrated by the Sparrows. A bird book shows them, twenty or more birds more or less the same size, and mostly streaked with shades of brown -- enough to baffle anyone!

Well, in the brushy tangles and gardens of Contra Costa County the problem is really not as bad as it might at first appear. Winter is the time to study sparrows for the first time, preferably at a feeder where they become quite unafraid and their different markings can be studied.

Of course the very first step is to learn to identify and control the ubiquitous House Sparrow, formerly and erroneously called English Sparrow. This rascally creature, not one of our true sparrows at all, but one of the Weaver Finches found principally in Africa, was introduced by some ill-informed person and has spread over our entire country. If you want native birds at your feeder, it is absolutely essential to control the House Sparrow or he will "take over the joint", chase the other birds away, and eat all your seed. Personally I recommend a pellet rifle. It is comparatively noiseless, fairly accurate and does not carry so far as to be dangerous. If the House Sparrow is fired at a couple of times he becomes wary and will stay away from your feeder even if you don't hit him; otherwise he is bold as brass. I simply cannot put too much stress on eliminating the House Sparrow in order that you may really enjoy having the native American birds at a feeder.

Your next problem is to recognize the difference between the White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow. As adults there are not difficult to tell apart. One has black and white bars running the length of the head, and the other a dull gold crown bordered on each side with a blackish bar running the length of the head. It is the immatures that leave people shaking their heads and muttering. These too are not difficult once the rather subtle differences are learned. Both are clear-breasted birds (no spots or streaks) and at first glance may appear identical. However, the immature White-crowned has bars of russet and light tan in the place of the black and white it will assume in the Spring, and one of the bars, always contrasting enough to be noticeable, runs through the eye. In the young Golden-crown there is no contrasting line running through the eye, and such bars of color as may border the crown will not be dark russet as in the other species, but varying shades of amber. A little study of the two species together will soon make the observer familiar with the details. In addition, the grey breast of the immature Golden-crown is a slightly dirtier greenish-grey than the clean grey of the immature White-crown. The Golden-crowned is slightly larger also.

The Fox Sparrow and Song Sparrow are likely to be found only in areas that are covered with damp cover such as near creeks. They are both reddish brown birds, heavily streaked on the breast. The Fox is a third again as large, his back is plain reddish brown, and the upper surface of his tail quite reddish. Make sure the bird has a heavy seed-eating bill. If it has a narrow beak, the bird could be a Hermit Thrush. The Song Sparrow's back is streaked rather obscurely, and the breast streaks come together in the center to form a dark "spot". This center spot is found in some Fox Sparrows to some extent, but is less definite and noticeable.

The Lincoln Sparrow is also present in our area in winter, but in very small numbers. It is usually found in very damp situations such as boggy meadows bordering wooded areas. It is a tricky species to identify until the observer is very familiar with Song Sparrows, including immature Song Sparrows which come very close to Lincoln's in appearance at times. In general, the streaks all over the Lincoln are more finely drawn. The bird has a light center breast spot which some bird books do not show. The buffy coloring across the upper breast is a good field mark, the same area being whitish on Song Sparrows. Unless you have the two close together, it is better not to try identifying Lincoln Sparrows until you are very familiar with Song Sparrows.

In summer Lark Sparrows, Sage (Poll's) Sparrows, and Grasshopper Sparrows are found in limited numbers in suitable habitat in Contra Costa County, but they are very seldom to be classed as "backyard" birds.

The two crowned Sparrows are the chief problem because they are so widespread and common. If the light is good and the birds are fairly close, a little study will enable you to separate them with certainty. Once you have learned to separate birds like the crowned Sparrows, identifying other species of birds with more obvious differences will come easier. ...Harry Adamson

Good of the Order....Harry Adamson escorted an acquaintance from Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. a few months past, who was delighted to add twenty-nine birds to his life list.

The first duck sanctuary in the United States was established in 1840, Lake Merritt the place. Even then, the ducks flew in in thousands. The present hospitable feeding program was yet to come. Now it's a ton of milt a month, and an annual food bill of \$1,000.

The Pintails are the first arrivals, frequently staying from September to April. (They are about gone now--left early this year.) In addition to the many varieties of ducks that come and go at will are the exotics such as the Woodduck and Treeduck formerly housed in small cages near the feeding area, but now in the geodesic dome that looms at the north end of the Lake. Other foreigners are held captive by the simple wing-clipping device. Some of the captive birds appear to have become habituated, for they now nest about the Lake shore.

About 50 ducks are banded each year. Some go far to nest, even to the bleak Pacific Sea region. Paul Covel, park naturalist, known to almost as many persons as ducks, reported hearing of a Pintail wearing an anklet shot down in Siberia, thus establishing the long distance flight record.

At the shop where food for ducks, geese, gulls, pelicans, swans and what-not may be purchased, one may have 'for free' a list of the birds in the sanctuary, and the life story of each.

By-the-way Widgeon are again called American Widgeon after a period of being designated as Baldpate.

We read that the 12,902 citations for game law violations in 1957 set a record. Since we are 78,945.70

President: Harry N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. Ye 2870
Vice President: John Bruce, 348 Verona Ave., Danville, Ca. 94504
Secretary: Mrs. Alan L. Austen, 2970 Consuelo Rd., Concord, Ca. 94507
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The Quail

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

April 1958
Vol. 4, No.10

Mount Diablo Audubon Society will hold the next regular meeting in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday, April 3rd. John V. Bruce, Program Chairman, has announced that "Wildflowers of the West", by Richfield will be the feature of the evening.

This film, which has had frequent revisions, is too fine to miss, combining as it does vivid landscapes and individual specimens, correctly named. The Editor hopes the lovely picture of the Egret rookery on a farm near Los Banos is still included. The fresh white and grey boles of the sycamores, the big white birds, their big bunchy nests high in the trees were indeed dramatic. Added drama was the nest of Red-tailed nestlings, all dwelling in harmony. So bring your friends.

Business after pleasure. Election of new officers, a bit of unfinished business, last hour remarks on the field trip of the weekend, and consideration of the fund raising potluck supper at the Perlman's are "musts", we understand.

Columbia! Here we come! April 12 - 13. Jack and Erna Irving have offered the Auduboners use of their cottage as headquarters for this week-end field trip. Columbia, once known as the "Gem of the Southern Mines", the richest, noisiest, fastest growing, most spectacularly wicked camp in the Mother Lode, is 120 miles or about 2½ hours east of Walnut Creek in the Sierra foothills. Saturday afternoon will be at your pleasure for arrival time. We suggest you allow yourself ample leisure to enjoy exploring this authentic 49'er town with its colorful main street, historic school house....the first brick school house in California, now under restoration thanks to contributions of California school children who, two years ago, bought "bricks" at 10¢ each under sponsorship of California Teachers Association and raised \$36,500.00 for this purpose. Don't miss the cemetery with its inscribed marble tombstones, the epitaphs sketching a picture of violence and sudden death as experienced 100 years ago. Note too the scars left by hydraulic mining of \$87,000,000.00 in gold, and the iron doors on the Wells Fargo office which, since it had to serve as bank as well as express office, was fortified against attempted robberies. The State of California took over the entire town of Columbia as part of its State Historical-Park system to preserve it as a typical Mother Lode town for our enjoyment.

April Quail - 2

Six p.m. Saturday we'll meet at Irving's for dinner together...adults \$100, youngsters 50¢. Limited space is available in the Irving yard to put up your tent and/or roll out your sleeping bag. There is a licensed trailer court approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Columbia. The Columbia Gem Motel is just outside town on the Columbia-Sonora highway. Rates range from \$5.00 for a double-bed unit to \$8.00 for 1 unit, 2 double beds; kitchen \$1.00 extra. Other motels are in Sonora, $\frac{1}{4}$ miles away.

Fine white marble as well as gold was found near by. Sunday morning, 8:45, we've permission to pass through one of the quarries on our bird hike (an easy one). Last time we had a score of 55 birds including a Townsend Solitaire, two Golden Eagles, Violet-green Swallows, White-throat Swifts (as seen from above) Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Kingbird, among others.

Columbia is a rock hounds treasure trove. At 1 p.m. Sunday we'll meet with Mr. Jack Bhend, Dr. Paul Sikora and/or Mr. Stobaugh, experts all, for a discussion and scrutiny of the collection of the local Mineral Society.

Saturday or Sunday arrivals come to the Irving cottage, one block west of the I.O.O.F. Hall. Bring: walking shoes, binoculars, scope, camera, camp, trailer or motel necessities, milk for family if desired, Sunday breakfast and lunch supplies (or restaurants available in Sonora). Suggested route from Walnut Creek.....via Manteca, east on-120 to Sonora, left on 49 (watch signs) about $\frac{1}{4}$ miles to Columbia.

Reservations for Saturday dinner must be in by Tuesday, April 8., Ye 4 8873

Harry and Dorothy Couden, leaders
Jack and Erna Irving, hosts

Next screen tour will not be until Monday, May 5th, 8 p.m., again in the 'Gym', East Campus Junior College. Dr. Telford Work, who spent his boyhood in Southern California, is a graduate of Stanford University who has truly roamed the world, but is now living with his family in Poona, India where he directs the Virus Research Center. He is eminently fitted to bring us "Monsoon Mosaic."

Report on the good trip to the Calaveras Dam area - Mrs. Gus Lusebrink and Richard Stallcup our able leaders.

"The trip to Calaveras Reservoir and the Water Temple at Sunol was a most satisfying one on a beautiful day. There were about thirty birders and sixty-one species of birds were seen. We were disappointed in not seeing many water birds on or near the water, but were rewarded by seeing a Golden Eagle high on a peak perched on a bleached tree. The White-throated Swifts put on quite a show for us, darting out, sailing around and back to the Temple. We were fortunate in seeing several groups of deer bounding across the open spaces on the hillside.

Bird Species noted, March 9, 1958: Horned Grebe; Farallon Cormorant; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed Hawk; American Kestrel; Pigeon Hawk; Golden Eagle; California Quail; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Glaucous Gull; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers - California, Lewis'

and Nuttall's; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black Phoebe; Say's Phoebe
Stellers' Jay; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-
backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Slender-billed Nuthatch; Bewick's
Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Varied Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Band-tailed
Pigeons; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Shrike; Audubon's Warbler;
House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwing Blackbird; California Purple
Finch; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided
Towhee; Brown Towhee; Sparrows - Savannah, Lark, Nuttall's, White-crowned,
Golden-crowned, Song; Oregon Junco."

Geographical Nomenclature: A question as to the meaning of "Calaveras"
came up. Those who had known had to plead forgetfulness. As soon as
she reached home, the Editor consulted the Spanish Dictionary. "Skulls"
is the English of it. We quote from Erwin G. Gudde's 'California Place
Names'. "The place from which the creek, valley, and dam in Santa Clara
and Alameda Counties are derived was mentioned as early as 1809. The
name applied to Calaveras River, county and state park originated when
John Marsh and his party found a great many skulls and skeletons near
the river in 1836 or 1837".

Gudde does not identify the skulls that gave the name to the Dam region.
The reservoir was built by the old Spring Valley Water Company of San
Francisco. The City and County of San Francisco held an election whereby
most of the Spring Valley holdings were bought when the Hetch Hetchy was
being developed. Somewhere in those hills nearer the Temple than the
Dam is the west portal of the Hetch Hetchy tunnel which bores the Coast
Range. On the Arroyo Del Valle is a shaft which goes down to that
tunnel about 3 miles north of Mulfontes. During the construction period
for 3 years the City and County purchased water for mixing concrete
from several private holdings, Mulfontes among them.

More Spanish: Main tributary to Calaveras Creek is the Arroyo Hondo.
'Hondo', masculine form of the adjective because 'Arroyo' is always a
masculine noun, means 'steep, deep, or bottom', hence the creek might
even be the one that flows at the bottom of the canyon. It comes in
from the east.

Frequently one hears that stream name mispronounced. It is not 'Honda',
which is either the feminine form of the adjective, or a noun meaning
'a loop or certain type of buckle'. The loop on a roper's rope is a
'honda', feminine.

And Sunol, pronounced as tho a "y" followed the "n", is for Antonio
Sunol, native of Spain who was granted Rancho El Valle de ~~Sunol~~ ^{Sunol} in 1839.

New member: Mrs. Mabel Black Miller, Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill, plans
to be active when she has finished her classes and courses. We shall be
happy to have her.

Charter member: The Society was glad to greet and hear Paul Opler last
month. Paul was just entering high school when he joined as a charter
member. Now a Cal sophomore he is majoring in entomology and faithful
to his first love,....Butterflies. "We knew him when...!"

Observations: Among those who made the trip down Monterey way to see the
rare-to-these-parts King Eider and Barrow's Golden-eye were the Adamsons
and the Stallcup.

April Quail - 4

Birds of the Month: In one day recently while gardening, Harry Adamson observed 26 species. Flying high was a White-tailed Kite traveling right along as tho' well aware he was off his customary range. More recently he has seen from 2 to 21 Evening Grosbeaks eating the pods on the locust tree, a Golden Eagle and a flock of 20 Band-tailed Pigeons.

Early in March Elizabeth O'Meara observed her first Rufous Hummingbird of the season. These little jewels of the bird world merely drop in while in migration, do not nest in this area.

Nothing unusual in the McGeehon jungle, although the first three weeks of March revealed twenty-three species active. Reveille tapped out by a Woodpecker on a telephone pole guaranteed the advent of spring.

We read that the Goose is the highest flying bird, attaining 29,000' altitude at times. Small wonder the Graylegs fly the Himalaya Mountains.And that Humboldt County is about to erect a monument to the Klamath Weed Beetle that has restored 200,000 range land acres.

Mulfontes is scheduled for the field trip of May 3rd and 4th. Elizabeth O'Meara and Isabella McGeehon, Hostesses. Being but an hour and a half traveling time, at the most, this can be a two-day, one-day, or half-day trip. Full details in the May Quail which will be hatched at least a week before the trip.

National Audubon Society Camp Reunion, Sunday, April 20th, Fairfax Manor, Marin County. Make reservations early at the national office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, or by mail. The Quail has one reservation blank on hand.

Audubon summer camp at Sugar Bowl. It's not too soon to sign up. Complete information to be had at the same office.

* * * * *

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Vice President, John Bruce, 348 Verona Ave, Darville, Wc 7-2704

Secretary, Myla Austin, 2970 Consuela Road, Concord Mu 5-8137
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Membership, Norma Warner, 3163 Wayside Lane, W.C. Ye 4-4604

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Quail, Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C. Ye 4-2752

Field Trip Committee Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adamson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beitzel
Mr. Paul Alder



The Quail

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

May 1958
Vol 4., No. 11

The next regular meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday, May 1st. John V. Bruce, Program Chairman, also Vice-President the past year, is planning a Junior and Hobby Night, enlarging on the theme of a year ago. Natural Science hobbies are claiming more and more Elementary as well as Secondary School pupils in gratifying numbers, he and Glen Shanks report. Junior Audubon clubs are a specialty of Glen's.

Next Screen Tour will be the last of the season, Monday, May 5th, 8 p.m. in the "gym" of the Junior College.....Ferd Ruth, Program Chairman. "Ranch and Range in the Coast Range" will bring us home a thousand miles and more west of where we started the tours with Bert Harwell last fall. Albert Wool, a Stanford man, two years president of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, a California rancher born and bred, and conservationist withal, is more than filling the schedule of Dr. Telford Work, detained in India owing to the outbreak of a serious epidemic.

Field Trip, Sunday, May 3rd - McCoy Ranch and Arroyo del Valle Canyon. Meet at flag pole, east end of First Street in Livermore, 9 a.m. Bring lunch, walking shoes, binoculars, friends; the usual field impedimenta. Drive out Mocho Road to McCoy place, about 4 miles, right on the creek. There the California Thrasher may be on duty. And we may see how the Killdeer are making out with nesting this spring of high water. A short distance beyond, from the bridge, we hope to see that little black bird, the Phainopepla, busy in the nearby oaks.

Retracing the road as far as Marina Avenue, we shall turn left and drive across to Arroyo Road which leads into the Arroyo del Valle Canyon. After crossing the cattle guard on the Patterson ranch good birding should be right and left along the stream and on the nearby "benches" or a short distance up some of the smaller canyons, again the haunt of the California Thrasher, frequently seen about the gooseberry bushes at the foot of the long abandoned rocky road to the old Bouchet homestead.

If the grade to Mulfontes has been repaired, the latch string will be out at the top of the hill. Daylight Saving will be in force, so perhaps an early supper up there might appeal. Further information may be had of Elizabeth O'Meara, Ye 4 4720 or Isabella McGeehon, Ye 4 2752.

May Quail - 2

New officers of Mount Diablo Society elected at the April meeting to assume their duties July 1st, are: President, John V. Bruce; Vice-President, Glen Shanks; Secretary, Mrs. Harry N. "Dorothy" Couden; Treasurer, George E. Schad.

June 14th is the date of the fund raising potluck supper at the Perlman's. Ferd Ruth and John Bruce are cooking up entertainment, but the women of the Society are expected to cook up the food. In the June issue of the Quail look for final details.

August meeting - Janet Willoughby and her mother, Mrs. Taylor, have again invited us to make the August meeting a potluck picnic supper in their barbeque area, part of which went down stream during the recent high water. Also, one picnic table. Although the house was not flooded, water was up four feet in the basement.

Columbia Trip Report, April 12 - 13 Weather, beautiful! The old town's welcome mat was out and the hospitality of Jack and Erna Irving was not to be exceeded. Ten of us were onlookers at the square and folk-dance of the Columbia Stompers on Saturday night. Some of the experts inquired for Bev Wilder!! Our bird count was good. Most of it kept dribbling in on Saturday, the most everybody saw practically all species in the one day or the other: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle (Farrar), Mountain Quail, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Canyon Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Reported from the nearby approaches to Columbia, as folks arrived: American Kestrel, California Quail, Killdeer, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Barn Owl, Western Kingbird, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, Yellow-billed Magpie and Bullock's Oriole.

We count among the trips memorable moments: the relaxed good fellowship during the evening and morning gatherings of some 30 Auduboners at the Irvings....gathering watercress and drinking at the countryside spring, under Jack Irving's leadership....rambling about the old cemetery.... the cry of welcome when the bird-wise Sathers arrived, just in time for the Quarry field trip, Sunday morning....looking down upon the Stanislaus River scene below including the Violet-green Swallows, Turkey Vultures and the occasional White-throated Swifts.....being lectured on Columbia mining lore by a real strip miner himself....having the geological evolution of the Mother Lode explained....and watching the mining equipment models being operated by the carpenter-mechanic-minerologist who made it.

Warm personal thanks and those of the Society to our hosts, Jack and Erna....,

Harry and Dorothy Couden, Leaders

New members welcomed: Lynn Farrar of Diablo Drive, Lafayette. He belonged to the Sequoia Audubon Society, we understand, 'down the Peninsula'. Mr.

May Quail - 3

Farrar has been a regular attendant at Mt. Diablo Audubon Society meetings for some months. He and Mrs. Farrar went on the Columbia trip

And Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Glotfelty, Powell Drive, Lafayette, Dorothy Couden has known them through a mutual interest and work with Girl Scouts.

Recently we read that a small flock of Passenger Pigeons had been seen. We doubt that. The last one known, a female, died in captivity some years ago. Those pigeons were probably Band-tailed, very handsome birds, now protected, and not as numerous as they were a half century ago. Huge flocks used to winter in the Livermore hills, flying south in the morning, and back from foraging in the late afternoon to roost in the liveoaks along the Mulfontes grade. When startled they would fly out with great noise. About mid-April a flock flew over Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek. Perhaps the same one Harry Adamson had seen a few weeks earlier near Lafayette.

Norma Warner reported three Tri-colored Blackbirds in her orchard on Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek. The late and lamented flood made her place pretty swampy for a time.

A Lewis Woodpecker has taken over the birdhouse Frances Blake had planned for other birds.

Found: A black coin purse after the April meeting. Call Ye 4 8873.

Tickets for the Garden Tour are still to be had as announced by Golden Gate Society - benefit the Sanctuary Fund - Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17. National Audubon office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, tour treasurer, Mrs. A. G. Zimmerman, 29 Blackford Ct., Oakland, and Paul F. Covell, President, 2860 Delaware St., Oakland, all have tickets they will happily exchange for \$1.25.

Wm. N. "Bill" Goodall reminds us that making reservations for the 1959 Biennial Audubon Convention at Asilomar is advisable soon. The dates are March 21-22-23-24, the theme, "Outdoor Introductions," capacity of accommodations, 450. Those writing now will receive priority rating. Official registration blanks will be mailed late in the Fall. No-money need be sent at this time. Roger Tory Peterson, banquet speaker.

University of California release on a special summer session course is at hand. "Geology for the Layman" is a survey course with particular reference to California. The Berkeley class meets Tuesday, June 3rd, 7 p.m., Bacon Hall, Room 105.

"Astronomy for the Layman", same date, same time, in San Francisco, Room 110, Richardson Hall, San Francisco Extension Center, 55 Laguna St. In the same hall, Room 201, June 5, 7 p.m. the geology course will be given..

University of California Extension Offices will supply additional information, or call Ashberry 3 6000, Local 8221.

* * * * *

Harry N. Couden, President 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. Ye 4 8873
Isabella McGeehon, Quail Editor 2165 Oakvale Rd, W.C. Ye 4 2752



The Quail

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

June 1958
Vol. 4, No. 12

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be the long-planned, fund raising potluck supper at the Perlman home, 1158 Glen Road, Lafayette - At 3-3021. Price \$1.00 for adults, \$.50 for children. Participants bring own silver and dishes, swimmers their own towels and women be sure to wear bathing caps.

About 8:30, after supper, Ferd Ruth will show his version of Death Valley Days. First, he has to assist in a Fly-up Ceremony when his daughter, Penny, is promoted from Brownies to Girl Scouts.

Other arrangements are in the hands of the Coudens and Elizabeth O'Meara, publicity chairman of the Society. Last word - pool open at 3:30 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. Plan to bring a hot dish, a salad or a dessert. If at a complete loss as to what to bring, call Dorothy Couden, Ye 4-8873 for suggestions. Plan to prepare enough for three times the number in your own group. Dorothy says that means "a hot dish for 15" for her. Coffee will be provided, but those wanting milk bring their own supply.

This is the first fund raising effort of Mount Diablo Society, although a non-profit supper did enrich the treasury by \$7.50. Money is needed if the Society is to do more than merely exist; if it is going to be able to promote or participate in recognized Audubon activities that reach out to the general public. Attendance is invitational, but not restricted to actual members ... the potential member's money is just as good.

Field Trip - Saturday and Sunday, June 7th and 8th, Mount Diablo. B. B. Wilder has assumed leadership owing to the inability of Myla Austin to do so. She has been awarded a Scholarship to the National Audubon Summer Camp at Sugar Bowl, so will soon be on her way north. Bev can be reached by dialing Ye 4-6353. He will scout the area, but cannot do so before The Quail goes to press, which, because of the legal holiday, has to be one day early.

Present plans are: Meet Saturday morning, 9 a.m., Pine Canyon picnic area; at Pioneer Camp, Mount Diablo, 1:30 p.m. Take bird walk; direction -- choice of the crowd. Sunday, be ready for trail by 9 or 9:15 a.m.

June Quail - 2

taking Deer Flat Trail or North Peak Trail. Again, choice of the crowd. Should be back in camp by 11 or 12 o'clock.

Pioneer Camp has been reserved for Saturday night. Less likely to be foggy than Juniper. There is a small toll charge per car at the entrance gates and for overnight. Campers bring own wood or buy it from the Ranger Station.

Re wood - the Editor left some at Juniper Camp several years ago, but as that is probably long gone, she offers free wood from her scrap pile to those in need. Call Ye 4-2752.

N. B. Look out for skunks. They might be rabid. That is not a joke. Recently a rabid polecat attacked a cow near Marysville and a dog near Gridley. And we have just read they have been found in the Livermore area.

Livermore Hills Field Trip, May 4th. Elizabeth O'Meara and Isabella McGeehon, leaders.

The weather was perfect. The sun, pleasantly warm, never became so hot as to discourage the bird songs. As hoped, the California Thrashers greeted the group (twenty-seven) from the willow thickets of the McCoy Ranch creek. There, the Coudens made a real find when they came upon parents and an offspring Thrasher. That little Plover, the Killdeer, flew over with plaintive cry, while the Black Phoebe, nesting in the cowbarn, expressed extreme annoyance at the invasion. Little Joe Bruce found the barnyard flock of chickens entrancing.

Mount Diablo Society is grateful to Mrs. McCoy for permission to bird her stream, banks and fields. The hour was a bit early for a call and the schedule a bit tight, so we did not go to the house.

But, tho we stood on the bridge (at the foot of the Wilson Grade) before midday, no Phainopepla! Nor did the Beitzels find even one a week earlier. The Lazuli Bunting which Elizabeth had counted on at Mulfontes failed to show. However the Western Tanagers truly put on a show, while the Lark Sparrows sang all about. In addition to birds, a few squirrels, a few reptiles and one sleek young buck bearing forked horns in the velvet seen leaving Mulfontes hurriedly, were the wildlife score. Katie Hassler snared some butterflies but not the four-foot Lined or Striped Racer which she and Norma Warner saw while watching Tanager antics. John Fitzpatrick, from Berkeley, and Joe Crosby strolled to the high point of Mulfontes - 2400' elevation top of Ben Oats whence they could view Livermore and San Joaquin Valleys, Mount Diablo and points between. Later, at the kitchen sink they scrubbed well with Fels Naptha - precaution against Poison Oak.

Bird score - 61 species and one unidentified owl, seen, in passing, by John Bruce. Herons, Great Blue, Green; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Red-tailed, Sparrow; California Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Hummingbirds, Anna's, Allen's; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Lewis, Downy; Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western, Western Wood Peewee; Swallows, Violet-green, Cliff; Jays, Scrub, Steller's; Yellow-billed Magpie; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted

Nuthatch; Wren-tit; Wrens, House, Bewick's; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Blackbirds, Red-winged, Brewer's; Western Meadowlark; Bullock's Oriole; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Finches, House, Purple, American, Lesser; Towhees, Brown, Rufous-sided; Sparrows, Savannah, Lark, Song; Oregon Junco; Warblers, Yellow, Wilson's, Orange-crowned; Loggerhead Shrike.

The Golden-crowned Sparrow was but recently deceased, but is not counted. Interesting that it had remained so late on the lower Mocho. Norma brought it home for Robert Cornelius who is making a good collection of bird feathers.

Note - We still call the Sparrow Hawk by that name. It appears that the American Ornithological Union has not accepted "Kestrel".

In the last issue of "The Observer" of the Sacramento Society are several pages of revised avian nomenclature taken from the 1957 edition of the A. O. U. Fifth Edition, which can be had at the National office, 2460 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, price \$7.50, we think. Those pages in The Observer represent a lot of work done by Earl Albertson, who is also a Mount Diablo member.

Just a few quotations: The Short-billed Gull is now the Mew Gull; the Flammulated Screech Owl has had the "screech" dropped; and be sure the Pygmy Owl and the Pigmy Nuthatch do not have their first names spelled alike.

We were asked the meaning of "Mocho", on the maps, "Arroyo Mocho". Arroyo is 'stream', and a free translation of Mocho is 'sunken'— hence, the 'sunken' or 'sinking stream', from its habit of carrying water but a short time.

Arroyo del Valle is 'stream of the valley'. Precious little valley until it comes out in the open at Cresta Blanca.

The Adamsons have returned from Mexico and points south, with one hundred or more new birds added to Harry's Life List which is now six hundred, give or take a few.....probably give.

Birds do employ the air-drop method of feeding. Tree Swallows feed beak to beak their nestlings, but air-drop for the fledglings. Some Hawks drop food into the upstretched talons of their young.

Next Screen Tour next fall. The trustees of Contra Costa Junior College have decided to work again with the National Audubon, according to the announcement made by Ferd S. Ruth, Program Chairman, when he introduced Albert Wool of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, who, pinch hitting for Dr. Telford Work, has a high batting average.

"Al", fresh from baling hay, came with his wife to show the beauties of the Santa Clara Valley and adjoining hills of the Mount Hamilton Range. Large farming operations, cattle drives, lovely landscapes, birds and wild animals, four children with pockets full of snakes quite reconciled the audience to the cancellation of "Monsoon Mosaic." The uninitiate is awed when contemplating the infinite care that must go into the making

June Quail - 4

of such pictures as those of the cannibalistic snakes, but most particularly the nestling Turkey Vultures.

Valedictory from the President's desk:

"There are so many enjoyable facets of being the President of this organization it is awfully hard to know where to start; and once having started, to know quite how to stop. With such wonderful groups to work with as, (1) an eager group of officers -- energetic, new blood, (2) experienced committee chairmen -- the capable, seasoned veterans, (3) an enthusiastic membership -- with high-ratio participation quotients, and (4) such a helpful wife -- only terrific -- then, obviously, most of the Presidential duties have been hardly more than the enjoyable pleasantries of the office. To John Bruce I heartily recommend being President. And since I have always been a proponent of quality rather than quantity in our organizational and program structures, and we have gained and are gaining in these respects, then also the satisfaction from the soon-to-be title of Past-President. For myself, I am heartily anticipating this.

As a matter of fact, -what more could I possibly thank all of you for?
Thanks.....everybody! "

- - Harry Couden

Our appreciation to the old and greetings to the new officers who assume responsibility July 1st.

President - John Bruce

Vice-President - Glen Shanks

Secretary - Mrs. Harry N. Couden

Treasurer - George E. Schad.



The Quail

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

July, 1958
Vol. 5, No. 1

The Mount Diablo Audubon Society will NOT meet in July, according to word from newly installed president, John V. Bruce.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 7th, 6 p.m., at the home of Mrs. John Taylor and her daughter, Janet Willoughby, 3273 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. The occasion will be a potluck picnic supper, following the pattern of last year when there was good food and good fellowship aplenty in that spot in the "deep tangled wildwood". After supper the adventure-minded younger generation roamed the glen side and found Barn Owls. Others enjoyed table tennis in the tree-encircled clearing, the strong-armed contingent pitched horse shoes down in the bed of Las Trampas Creek, while others just talked. Reservations may be made with Janet from the middle of the month until August 4th - phone AT 3-3761. Additional details will be in the August Quail.

Wright's Lake Field Trip, Saturday-Sunday, July the 12th and 13th, John C. Fitzpatrick, 2449 Dwight Way, Berkeley, and Earl Albertson, P.O. Box 689, Sacramento-3, are the co-leaders. John gave us this information by telephone - "Take Highway 50 thru' Placerville from Sacramento, to 5 miles beyond Kyburz. A graded road leads off the last for 8 to 9 miles to Wright's Lake and Forest Service Campgrounds. The first field trip will start at 9 a.m., from the Campgrounds, and a second one at 2 p.m. from the same place - both on Saturday. The Sunday trip starts at 8 a.m. Those who intend to remain overnight should prepare for a cold night". We should see: Williamson's Sapsucker, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, and Rosy Finches - for those who hike up hill 4 miles to Twin Lakes, "keeping their fingers crossed all the while". According to John, sometimes he sees them, sometimes not.

Legislative - Wilderness Areas and Billboard bans are two important matters on which we have been asked to write our Congressmen. The movement is not to create new Wilderness areas, but to preserve and conserve those we have - so that the United States of America will forever own some virgin territory. And, the billboards are those that might be erected on Federal Highways, with particular emphasis on the Inter-state road now in the making. However, the proposals are not to eliminate all advertising. Service facilities, "by-passed communities", and such, may all be advertised on signs of a size easily read by those who drive, but not so placed as to destroy the value of scenic spots.

New members - we are happy to welcome Mrs. Winnifred Newport, 3551 Brook Street, Lafayette, mother of Dorothy Couden; and Mrs. Harriet Tholen, 920 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette.

Travelers - Frances Blake is about to return from a trip with the Alpine Club, camping as far as Utah, going by bus caravan. The Shanks are spending a fortnight seeing Bryce and Zion, and the Grand Canyon. Katie Hassler will get as far from home as Brussels, where she and her companion, Mildred Delaneux, will spend some time at the Exposition; Mrs. Delaneux having some official connection with it.

The Coudens made a quick trip down the coast as far as Morro Bay, leaving a few days after the party at the Perlman's. A few weeks earlier they bedded down for the night in the Yosemite, waking the next morning to find a large segment of the world had moved in, including Dick and Violet Beitzel.

We are glad to learn that Betty Adamson is recovering, albeit slowly, from the hepatitis she brought back by way of a most unpleasant souvenir of their trip "south of the border". Marye Smith, after surgery, is home again, where she must lead a quiet life for awhile, but can have callers (we understand). David is at National Guard Camp.

July 1st, Doris Crosby and son Joe, leave San Francisco by boat bound for London and other places via The Canal, the Madeira Islands, and Madrid. Anyone else going anywhere? The Quail would like to know.

The Committee on Drama, Lectures and Music, Berkeley Campus, sends word of three Audubon Screen Tours this summer: August 7th, Laurel Reynolds will take her audience on Western Discovery--wild life and wilderness areas of the Pacific Coast. August 14th--Bert Harwell will tour Forgotten Country, that region of marvels lying between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada range. August 21st, Albert J. Wool will show the valley and hill country of the Mount Hamilton range region. All lectures in Wheeler Hall, 8 p.m., reserved seats 85 cents for each performance, ticket office, 2296 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley-4, or telephone THornwall 1-1170. We have it on the best authority that Mrs. Reynolds' pictures are just the finest, and can personally recommend those of the two men, having had the benefit of the Tours at our Junior College.

The potluck fund-raising at the Perlman's, on the 14th of June, was indeed successful - the treasury was enriched by a substantial sum (report not at hand), the weather was ideal for swimming, the participants numbered about 60, the food was plentiful and the best. Ferd Ruth's illustrated Death Valley Days, which were Easter Week last spring, were beautiful and fascinating. The evening was so balmy that the pictures and "little" lecture were outdoors. The scenes on the screen, the rugged outlines of the hills rising above and beyond the Perlman's, dimly discerned, and the hoot of an Owl gave the illusion of isolation. The generous hospitality of the Perlman family is truly appreciated by the Society, individually and collectively, also the efficiency of the committee on arrangements.

Mount Diablo Field Trip, June 7-8, Myla Austin and Bev Wilder, co-leaders. "The sky was dark, but the spirits of the few, but eager birders were light. In the morning Bev Wilder, accompanied by Elizabeth O'Meara and Rosalyn Phillips, spent a rewarding morning hiking up the Canyon back of Castle Rock Park. The White-throated Swifts, the Violet-green Swallows, and the Rough-wings alternated in skimming over the pond, as if by pre-arranged plan. In the afternoon, Bev, the Sathers, and the Austins met at Pioneer Camp, whence they headed for the summit. From the observation building the always breathtaking view of the surrounding area was enjoyed, with the members of the group pointing out various familiar spots to each other. (There, Alan Austin met an Australian from a town but 60 miles from his native heath. McG) In the evening the Sathers departed leaving Bev and the Austins to spend the night. Never-to-be-forgotten was the panorama of San Francisco and the Bay area as seen that night. Sunday morning, in order to escape the fog on the mountain, the group, now joined by the Farrars, returned to Castle Rock

Park. The weather was cool and pleasant for walking. A Sparrow-Hawk was sighted on her nest on the face of the cliff, and the Farrar's small son was especially charmed with the lovely wildflowers. Myla Austin"
Bird count for the trip was as follows:

Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Red-tailed, Sparrow; California Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Great-Horned Owl; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Yellow-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Hairy, Downy, Nuttall's; Flycatchers, Ash-throated; Black Phoebe; Say's Phoebe; Western Wood Pewee; Swallows, Violet-green, Rough-winged; Jays, Steller's, Scrub; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; Wrens, Winter, Bewick's, Rock; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Loggerhead Shrike; Warblers, Orange-crowned, Wilson's; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Red-winged, Brewer's; Bullock's Oriole; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; Finches, Purple, House; American Goldfinch, Greenback Goldfinch; Towhees, Rufous-sided, Brown; Oregon Junco; Sparrows, Lark, Song.

The Quail is now turning over a new leaf and starting Volume 5. The committee will be announced next month, but now is the time to make acknowledgement of all the work Dorothy Couden did in getting it out the past year. She addressed most of the envelopes, cut most of the stencils, did some of the mimeographing, and provided transportation most of the time, - all of which was a lot of work.

We find thru' the medium of the exchanges that the Mount Diablo Society is by no means the only one having Publication troubles.

Attached for your information is the current membership list of the Society. If your name, address, or telephone number is incorrect, please notify Bev Wilder, Yellowstone 4-6353.



The Quail

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

August, 1958
Vol. 5, No. 2

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be on the regular day - the first Thursday of the month - August 7th, but at 6 P.M. at the home of Mrs. John H. Taylor, and her daughter Janet Willoughby, who is a member of the society. The address is 3273 Glenside Drive, Lafayette.

The occasion will be a potluck supper for which hot dishes, salads, and desserts, etc., are needed as usual. Members are asked to call either hostess (at AT 3-3761) not later than the 4th, in order to give the number planning to attend and to discuss their contribution to the supper. Although the gathering is informal, this advance planning will be a great convenience to Mrs. Taylor and Janet. Even such an alfresco affair does involve work for the hostesses.

Janet reports that the flood-damaged picnic tables have been repaired, but she says they would be grateful if a few folding tables and chairs could be brought, if convenient - they might be needed. To avoid complications, she also requests that pets (other than children and husbands) be left home. All this follows the pattern of the truly successful party of last year - and we all brought our own plates, cups, and "silverware".

Field Trip Schedule, 1958-1959. "Our Field Trip Committee, composed of John Bruce, Harry Adamson, Bev Wilder, Lynn Farrar, Harry and Dorothy Couden, met Tuesday, June 24th, at the Couden's to decide upon trips for next year. The trip schedule appears as a separate attachment to this month's Quail. Harry Couden accepted appointment as chairman. H.N. "

President John V. Bruce writes that instead of a single Program Chairman, a member a month has been assigned the responsibility with suggested topics. The complete list of projected assignments will be out next month. Glenn Shanks is expected to do the program on September 11th.

The Moss Beach Field Trip, planned for August 10th, has been officially called off. However, it is an interesting place, not far distant, so perhaps some of the members may plan an expedition, although without a competent marine biologist to lead and answer questions. If you do plan this trip, check for the low tide time so you can get the best tide-pool fishing.

The co-leaders of the cancelled trip are unable to make the trip. As a result of his serious accident last year, Rufus Johnson no longer dares to scramble about on slippery rocks. James Garvey has a summer job that involves five early morning hours, seven days each week.

Bev Wilder, who generously ran off a supply of the revised membership list, said that he would have gladly assumed the Moss Beach responsibility, if he and his wife Virginia had not been very much obligated in the Folk Dance Camp, an annual event on the campus of the College of Pacific, at Stockton. Mrs. Wilder reports this reunion as a delightful time, "almost like going to college again, but without the responsibility". The participants are from all over the United States and even from overseas as far as the Middle East. David Smith will spend the first week of the encampment there.

New member. We welcome Mrs. Ruth Barcelon, 1216 Redwood Lane, Lafayette, and hope that she and her husband Ted may join in the gathering on August 7th.

Apropos of new members: ever since The Quail has been published, sample copies have been sent prospective members when requested by a member or members. Because The Quail does cost money, a few years ago a limit of three was set as the number that could be sent gratis. The past year the Editor has sent a note with the third copy expressing the hope that the recipient might have become sufficiently interested to join the Society, and explaining that the dues are but \$1.50 annually. At least four new members have responded with checks.

Another response with checks is much desired - the prompt payment of dues. Notices are sent by the Treasurer when dues are due, but according to the By-Laws three times is the limit. One need not attend meetings to pay dues. Mr. George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord, is the Treasurer, his phone is MU 5-7897.

Legislative. We have received the latest State Hunting Code with several slips to be pasted in the Angling Code sent out last Spring. These additions and revisions were passed at the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, effective July 23, 1958. Sniperscopes are now prohibited; they must be neither bought nor sold, received, concealed, disposed of, nor in possession knowingly for hunting or angling.

"Ed" Pickett, of the Sacramento Society, who did yeoman service in securing passage of the Hawks and Owls Bill last year, has been asked to assume the responsibility of watching legislation and alerting the Audubon membership throughout the State.

That valuable digest of revised bird nomenclature, which was printed in The Observer of the Sacramento Society, is to be printed for general distribution at a nominal sum, we learn from Mrs. Bernice Baker, Editor. Should go like the proverbial hot-cakes.

Sorry so few observations have come in this summer. In a recent exchange - Wrentit, we think - the appearance of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Georgia was reported. There have been numerous false reports since the last authentic one in 1952, but no loss a person than Alexander Sprunt, Jr., authenticates it this time.

From Harry Couden this item came last month. "An early-June trip to Biloxi, Miss. gave me opportunity to observe a few birds, though most observations were made from highways or an airplane flight over marshes and shallow shrimp-fishing shores. Still, I expected to see more species than I can report, although I know there were several species of Gulls, a Woodpecker, Hummingbird, and some other waterfowl I missed.

The airplane trip revealed masses of White Pelicans, and Egrets, including two Egret rookeries very near each other, also great numbers of Great Blue Herons. My Man-Of-War (magnificent Frigate Birds) are good presumptives.

Those identified were: Black Vulture, Killdeer, Common Tern, (several gulf-shore flocks nesting), Royal Tern, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Black Swift, Chimney Swift, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Southern Jay, Raven, Crow, Mockingbird, Red-wing Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Cardinal.

The Whooping Cranes at Audubon Park, New Orleans cannot be seen at the moment since

they are incubating another egg. However, I was given a special view of their 15 month offspring and their more recent 4 month baby - isolated for special care - who was still pretty wobbly on its high-stilted legs".

Janet, recently back from Yellowstone, reports her pleasure in having good views of Trumpeter Swans, and an Osprey - which more than one tourist was sure was a Bald Eagle.

The Lavens, of Walnut Creek, have a pet crow (female, they think), which has been raised since it was orphaned by a fallen nest. It now flies away from the house but returns to its cage for food. Got a male (?) anyone? *R. W.*

A Barn Owl for Hawaii. A few months ago Mrs. Eldo Ewert telephoned to tell of the plight of an owl confined in a small cage in a pet shop, and offered for sale at \$10.00. She wondered what might be done to relieve the situation, officially that is. We expressed the opinion that the whole thing was illegal, but that the provisions of the Hawks and Owls Bill were probably not known by the boy who caught the bird, nor the owners of the shop. We got in touch with Captain Ross Waggoner, of Fish and Game. He investigated, the captive was removed from the market, and at last report was being held for shipment to the Hawaiian Islands where an effort is being made, or about to be made, to introduce our Owls.

The Quail - both the editor, and nature's originals - find a brush pile on the hill an interesting spot. Having no underbrush on the place (other than shrubbery planted near the house), we have been piling large prunings and rosebush cuttings up the hill for some years, hoping another Thrasher might some day give us a song, and that Quail might find a pleasing covert. From that vantage point they now make daily forays, morning and evening, down through the garden, and to the water dish on the edge of a greasewood thicket, formerly the chickenyard.

"North American Birds of Prey", by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., is hailed as the "first comprehensive book about these birds ever to be issued"... quoting the Utah Audubon News. It is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, and may be had at their offices, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

The report of the Wright's Lake Field Trip will probably be appended (It is!). Trip leaders frequently do considerably advance work - always some - so do merit an expression of appreciation from the Society.

We read..."He spends the winter in the South, the summer in the North. Yet we call him a goose".

Your Quail Editor, Mrs. J.C. McGeehon, may be reached by dialing YE 4-2752.

Wright's Lake Field Trip. "They went that-a-way" - the Mt. Diablo Members must have - only two members, plus co-leader Earl Albertson attended. These people along with Francis Walcott of Golden Gate comprised the trip. For the Record: Earl Albertson, Ingra Lusebrink, Bev Wilder, and Francis Walcott made the trip and had an excellent time, good weather, good camping, and good birding. Following up a loud rapping we saw a woodpecker on a dead tree top. "A Williamson perhaps?". No white wing patches, a solid black back, and barred sides - a female Arctic Three-Toed Woodpecker sitting in good sunlight for five minutes while we checked Peterson, (and the woodpecker with the B & L scope). Scads of Violet-Green Swallows sitting on the tree-tops - watched Williamson's Sapsuckers feeding their young at their nest-holes - watched a Nighthawk dive and "boom" - slapped at mosquitoes at the swampy end of the lake - identified 3 warblers at one time in one small group of trees - climbed up to Twin Lakes, but ended up at Grouse Lake due to high water conditions; magnificent setting and good birding - 5, or was it 6, Brown Creepers on all sides of us - hurray for 6-12 lotion! Anyway it was a swell trip, and those that went were glad they did. By the way here is the bird-list: Red-tailed Hawk; Common Nighthawk; Spotted Sandpiper; Caliope Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied, and Williamson's Sapsuckers; Downy, White-headed, and Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers; Western Wood Peewee; Violet-green

August Quail - 4

Swallow; Steller's Jay; Mountain Chickadee; Re-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Robin; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Calaveras, Audubon, Hermit and Wilson's Warblers; Brewer's Blackbird; Western Tanager; Cassin's Finch; Pine Grosbeak; Green-tailed Towhee; Oregon Junco; Chipping, White-crowned, and Fox Sparrows. 32 species.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE - 1958-59

<u>1958</u>	<u>Trip Area</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	(Harry Couden, Chairman, YE 4-8873)
Sept. 14	Bay Farm Island	Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185 6227 Buena Ventura Ave., Oakland	
Oct. 5	Strawberry Canyon & Aquatic Park	Glen Shanks, MU 5-6134 3849 Maplewood Court, Concord Mrs. Pauline and Paul Opler, YE 5-5645 415 Beatrice Road, Pleasant Hill	
Nov. 9	Crystal Springs Reservoir	Lynn Farrar, At 3-3938 955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette Miss Emily Smith, 19651 Glen Una Dr., Saratoga	
Dec. 7	Conn Lake	Carlyle Sather, 7880 Mission St., Colma Judy and Isadore Perlman, AT 3-3021 1158 Glen Road, Lafayette	
Dec. 21	Christmas Court		
<u>1959</u>			
Jan. 11	Tomaes Point	Dick and Vi Beitzel, MU 2-9588 1713 South Fifth St., Concord Pete Veitch, CL 4-2419 154 Camino Sobrante, Crinda	
Feb. 8	Terminus Island-Thornton Area	Bev Wilder, YE 4-6353 1304 Alma Ave., Walnut Creek Miss Barbara Bonnickson, ME 4-4152 P.O. Box 295, Brentwood	
March 8	Newark Salt Flat & Half Moon Bay	Miss Norma Warner, YE 4-4604 3163 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek Lynn Farrar, AT 3-3938, 955 Diablo Dr. Lafayette	
April 18/19	Pinnacles National Monument	Harry Adamson, At 3-2164 995 Darol Lane, Lafayette Mrs. Myla Austin, MU 5-8137 2970 Consuela Road, Concord	
May 10	Livermore Hills	Mrs. J. C. McCeehon, YE 4-2752 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek Mrs. W. L. Crosby, YE 4-2083 2301 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek	
June 7	Pine Canyon - Castle Rock Park Area	Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, YE 4-4720 2131 Diablo Drive, Walnut Creek Mrs. Rosalyn Phillips, YE 4-7251	
July 11/12	Echo Lake	John Fitzpatrick, AS 3-5716 2449 Dwight Way, Berkeley Betty Adamson, AT 3-2164 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette	
Aug. 8/9	Tide Pool Trip	To be announced by John Bruce, but pending proper tide information.	



The Quail

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

September 1958
Vol. 4., No. 3

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, September 11, at 8 p.m. Note change in date. John V. Bruce, Society president explained that the change had been made because of the long weekend and opening of schools.

Glenn H. Shanks, Vice-chairman, will give first program of the year. "Pictures and Explanations of Geological Formations Along the Colorado River." This will be the story of the trip he and his wife, Margaret, took this summer to Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Cedar Breaks, and Dinosaur. Saw all this with their new 35 mm Camera in hand. Glenn writes, "You will not have to look at them all. Will edit so to have only the ones bearing on the subject." We have looked and listened to his programs and recommend them without reservation.

Next Field Trip will be Sunday the 14th., Richard Stallcup, leader. Rich telephoned The Quail that he had checked tides and that 1:30 p.m. is the time, Lincoln Park, High Street and Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, the meeting place. Various shore birds should be busily feeding as the tide recedes. He reminded us that Lincoln Park is a pleasant picnic spot should any members be in the mood to "eat out".

Screen Tours - the first of the new series of five will be Thursday, 8 p.m., November 6th at Diablo Valley College, the new official name of East Contra Costa Junior College. Next month will bring details of the entire course.

Legislation - Billboard Advertising Control on interstate and defense roads built under Federal Highway Act of 1956 became law on April 16, 1958, the National Roadside Committee has reported. But, State enabling acts are required to control advertising along their mileage of these highways. Outdoor advertising, to be sure.

"The Federal Law, the committee explained, establishes a basic National policy that billboard control is essential to promote safety, convenience, and enjoyment of travel on these highways and to protect the vast public investment in this system."

We quote the Living Wilderness.

Nutria Law - Stringent State laws have been passed to control escape of Nutrias - the large fur-bearing rodent that consumes much vegetation in competition with migratory water-fowl, and damages levees by burrowing. Formerly included in the Fish and Game Code, these regulations are now in the State Agricultural Code, but non-the-less stringent.

Observations - We have just uncovered some misplaced notes and note that some weeks ago Ferd Ruth discerned two Rough-legged Hawks sailing over his home area in the Linda Vista section of Walnut Creek. And, the Beitzels watching from their trailer window on Bodega Bay observed an Osprey fishing, harassed by Gulls all the while. One fish was so large the persistent fisher had great difficulty landing it.

Rich Stallcup who has recently returned from Dimond-O Scout Camp on the Big Oak Flat Road reports a back-packing trip of eighteen miles in two days and of seeing a Pileated Woodpecker, a Nashville Warbler as well as the "usual mountain birds".

Elizabeth O'Meara enjoys watching Scrub Jays burying almonds which they exhume in the spring. The nuts have softened and sprouted, or are about to do so after so many months. Once she watched two working simultaneously burying a nut apiece on opposite sides of a shrub.

When early in August Harry Adamson was up the Mocho gathering more rocks, he saw a male Phainopepla and a Roadrunner. The Phainopepla might be planning to winter there, he said. Belted Kingfishers calling from Las Trampas Creek back of their place, Lesser Goldfinches swarming over the huge thistle which Harry has nurtured in a corner of the backyard, and Western Tanager in their yard and that of the Lynn Farrar's completed his story.

Also of interest is the newspaper clipping recently received by his wife from her aunt of Pacific Grove where a partial albino Black Brant had been seen - peculiar plumage and odd season for Brant.

More Quail - Frances Blake on Walnut Boulevard, Walnut Heights, Walnut Creek, reports several flocks in her garden daily. For some weeks she had observed the pair she called "the childless couple". Then, for sometime the male came alone so many times that Miss Blake feared foul play, but July 27th. the pair came down with ten little balls of brown fluff trundling along behind.

The McGeehon brush pile gave up a brood even more recently than that. A second brood is not unusual, the first having met disaster, or having been hatched unusually early, but so many late broods have been reported this year we wonder if the protracted wetness of spring discouraged nesting.

The bee man who came to remove the swarm poised on a tree limb over The Editor's driveway said that was the reason for so many bees and so many swarms. Unable to get out and get to work or because of the consequently delayed flowering the bees stayed around home and the Queen produced more queen eggs.

One more Quail tale - last year a pair nested on a tiled roof under the lace vine on one wall of the patio at the rear of the home of Mrs. H.L. Drury, Live Oak Way, on the east bank of Walnut Creek. Members of the family sitting out there and hearing agitated sounds decided their presence was unwelcome, so retired to watch through a window. When the last newly hatched chick hit the lawn, the mother led them right down to scratch among the ashes in the large fireplace.

The presence of so many sweet-voiced Lesser Goldfinches is a reminder that the winter birds will soon arrive. A few weeks hence the song of the White-crowned Sparrow will be heard in the land.

New member - Mount Diablo Society welcomes Norman Betaque, D.D.S., 130 Petticoat Lane, Walnut Creek. We are told that in season Dr. Betaque has Woodducks swimming in Walnut Creek just below his window.

The picnic supper at the home of Mrs. John H. Taylor and her daughter Janet Willoughby, was much enjoyed by the twenty-seven members able to get there. Janet announced that she is to take part in the play arranged annually in memory of Joaquin Miller by his daughter Juanita, in Woodminster Bowl.

The novice marine biologists did not make their tentatively planned trip to Moss Beach. Norma Warner was obliged to be with her mother who was bedfast with a most painful eye trouble. The McGeehon who wanted to go was involved with a swimming meet, whereⁱⁿ her daughter Barbara rated a Second, but Penny Couden got three^{more} of them, which added materially to the score of their pool.

While on their way to the picnic at Janet's, the Cooperriders were struck by a Grayhound bus so seriously that Mrs. Cooperrider had to be taken to a hospital where it was found she had a broken knee. She is now home and able to be in a wheeled chair, although her knee will be rigid in a cast for some time. Neither Mr. Cooperrider, nor Mrs. Dora McConnell, who was riding in the back seat, were injured.

While Marye Smith's many friends are sorry to have her leave this part of the State, they do rejoice that she will be happily associated in business with her brother, and that she was able to sell her land here satisfactorily just as she had about given up hope. Son, David, will stop in Walnut Creek for a few days on his way to Humbolt State at Arcata. Marye, her husband, Cecil, and David, were charter members.

September Quail - 4

Last word from the Beitzels, Dick was closeted in the dark room with some of the thirty-one rolls of film he used on their trip which included Yellowstone, Tetons, and Canadian Rockies.

Also returned from Yellowstone are Ferd Ruth and Company. They caught tremendous trout, so many that Steve's twelve year old appetite was surfeited.

Elizabeth O'Meara spent part of her vacation visiting a former neighbor in Oregon, at Amity near Salem, and driving about that region in the Willamette Valley.

Telephone of president is VE-7-2704



The Quail

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

October, 1958
Vol. 5, No. 4

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be a regular meeting, on the regular day, October 2nd., Thursday, 8 P.M., Room 201, Las Lomas High School. Mrs. Alan L. "Myla" Austin will tell of her stay at Audubon Summer Camp this summer with emphasis ~~of~~ the appeal made to a teacher in an elementary school.

John V. Bruce, President, announced his plans to devote the first thirty minutes to business, with the program to begin at 8:30 sharp. If that plan is followed he feels that those who need to come late will miss none of the program. Some of the commuting members do not reach home before seven o'clock, which means there may be occasions when they find being on time difficult.

We offer an important matter of business for this meeting. The first two Screen Tours fall on November 6th, and December 4th - both are first Thursdays (our regular meeting days.). That is the only definite word we have been able to get concerning these lectures, although we have telephoned to Diablo Valley College twice. Neither the college, Ferd Ruth, Chairman of program, or The Quail have received the usual brochure. However, we have read that Prof. Hermes is the first lecturer and that "Ranch of the Purple Flower" is the lecture title. Two years ago he spoke on "Between the Tides", an unforgettable story.

The next Field Trip will be Sunday, October 5th, meeting place Sather Gate, in Berkeley, 9 A.M., thence up Strawberry Canyon, and about the Botanic Gardens east of the campus, under the leadership of Paul Opler and his mother, Mrs. Pauline Opler. Binoculars, lunch, and friends are the customary equipment. Paul says the time involved should be about three hours. We recall that was the case two years ago, when most of us lunched about the hillside overlooking the Bay.

Glenn Shanks, because of his bread-winning, is not free that day, and is unable to accept co-leadership. He suggests we locate Strawberry Canyon, which runs the length of the campus, rising back in the hills, and joining the much culverted Co-ed Canyon near the Oxford Street entrance, where the two streams appear to be culverted out of town. By-the-way -- Sather Gate is the main entrance to the campus on the south side, at the end of Telegraph Avenue.

The Bay Farm Island Trip Report will be in next month, but it was so recent and school activities are so pressing that Rich Stallcup has not had the time, and The Quail has to have a deadline; we have never set a definite date as a deadline, but the mailing day for years has been the Friday before the meeting, which means that the processed bulletin must be in the hands of the Editor for folding and stuffing the night before that, which means the copy must leave her hands for the first time at least a week before, approximately two weeks before the meeting.

This year, Mrs. J. S. "Sally" Steller is addressing the envelopes for the members.

Bev Wilder is running the copy, when finally typed, through a photographic process, "for free", insofar as the Society is concerned. This process is the Xerox process.

The Editor continues to address the exchanges, and any extras that may be eleventh hour additions. Complimentary or sample copies to prospective, or even potential members are always available, upon request, as long as the supply lasts.

New members: Frank Vassallo, 291 La Questa, Danville - a member of San Ramon Valley Union High School faculty, known to many of us through his years of association with Sunset Nursery, and Helen Bruce, the wife of John V., are the new members we welcome this month.

Legislation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared its intention to give additional protection to California's Bristlecone Pines, believed to be the oldest living things. At least 100 are rated 4,000 years old. Many more range between 3 and 4 thousand. The Department of the Interior acceding to the proposal of the U.S.D.A. has requested withdrawal of about 26,700 acres in Inyo and Mono Counties, as a botanical area, to be closed to any form of exploitation that would endanger the lives of these trees.

Among the many fine pictures shown by Glenn and Margaret Shanks at the September meeting was one of a Bristlecone Pine. Space forbids adequate comment on that program, which was geology in many forms, the entire history of it exemplified in the Colorado River region; Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Cedar Breaks, and Dinosaur. The pictures are beautiful, many of cathedral-like formations. The commentary was lucid, entertaining, and poetic. Next time they make that trip it will be for the birds, according to Glenn. This time, but a passing look, was all for the birds - - -

Mrs. John Irving, returned from a fortnight at Audubon Camp, has rolled up her political sleeves and gone to work with the November election receiving top priority.

Opler (Paul, that is) spent part of the summer in New York, but the last month in Arizona doing entomology at the Museum Field Station. By way of night life he told his mother he mounted bugs.

August 23rd, when Harry Adamson and Lynn Farrar were up the Mocho, they had the pleasure of seeing a flock of Lewis Woodpeckers in leisurely migration, living off the country as they went. At least 27 were in sight at one time. September 8th, Harry observed the first White-crowned Sparrow of the season in their yard.

August 22nd, the Editor observed a good number of ducks flying high, headed south-westerly - might have been Pintails going to Lake Merritt. September 18th, she had a truly close-up of two Song Sparrows having a fine time where the water had been forgotten and run out of bounds in the thicket where 30 quail had been active earlier.

Tom Steller, who might be termed a "charter member" of the local Junior Museum, again brought home a top prize at the end of the season - two mallards that he hopes will soon reach the insect eating stage.

We read of a nesting Canada Goose 70 feet up a Ponderosa pine. When the last newly-hatched gosling had fluttered to the ground, braking with its downy wings, the goose already afloat, called her family in for its first swimming lesson.

Peterson, Mountford, and Hollem have out "Field Guide To Birds Of Britain And Europe". In the Maricopa Audubon Society bulleting we found the classic dedication, taken from Shakespeare by the trio as they honored their wives, "She laments, sir... her husband goes this morning a-birding" (Merry Wives of Windsor). We suspect the "birding" was falconry.

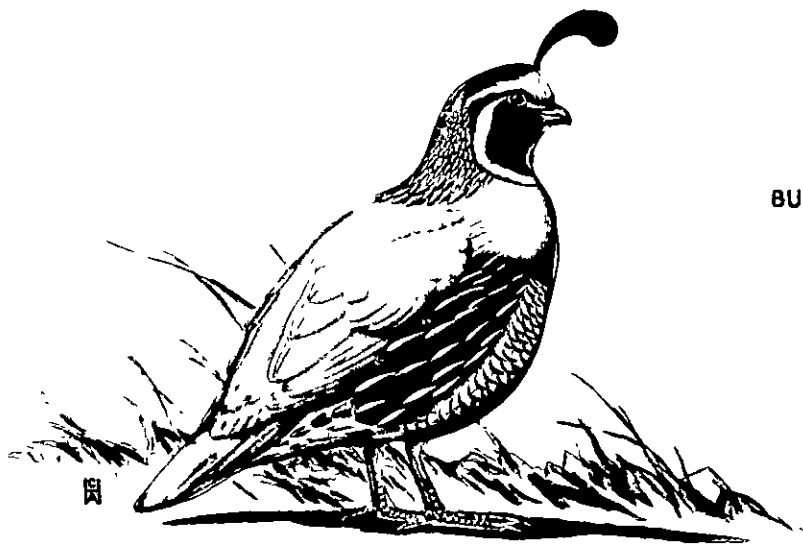
As time permits (your printer is late getting this done) we will get out an additional page on Harry Coudens travels. See if another page is attached.

Harry Couden, our much-travelled Past President, has sent us an account of one of his recent summer trips, from which we quote:

"My recent travels from July 28 to Sept. 5, were equally divided between mid-Atlantic States, N.Y., Penna., N.J., Del., Md., and Va., and mid-Western States, Ill., Mich., Minn., Iowa, Nebr., Ark., and Texas. (Comment--almost as bad as a bird list.) Many of the birds I saw were from the roadside only, although I got an occasional peek into the underbrush, and once along an Iowan lakeside. Most species are familiar, though some are not; it may be more interesting to separate those seen in the two different areas."

"in the Eastern list are 42 species: Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Herring Gull, Bob White, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hooded Warbler, Redwing, Meadowlark, Boat-tailed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Song Sparrow".

In the mid-west Harry identified 42 species: We list those not seen in the East: "Horned Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, Hooded Merganser (a flock), Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Nighthawk, Tree Swallow, Raven, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Bohemian Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Lincoln's Sparrow."



The Quail

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

November 1958
Vol. 5, No. 5

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201 Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday, November 13. Note the changed date. Owing to conflict with the dates of the first two Screen Tours, the November and December meetings will be held a week later than customary. Apologies to Golden Gate Society.

Rufus W. Johnson, a biologist on the faculty of Mount Diablo High School, is planning a trip to the Back Country of the Yosemite. His daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Smith, will show pictures of this rugged and beautiful region which so far has escaped the exploitation of the Valley.

Because this meeting date may be termed "irregular" though decreed by vote of the Society, President John V. Bruce hopes the members will make an effort to have a full house.

Field Trip, Sunday, November 9th. Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Lynn Farrar, 955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette, AT 3-3938, and Miss Emily D. Smith, 19651 Glen Una Drive, Saratoga, co-leaders. Proceed via Bayshore Freeway or San Mateo Bridge to San Mateo, where you take 3rd. Ave., which is a continuation of San Mateo Bridge Road, west across railroad tracks and El Camino Real to the Stop sign at Crystal Springs Road. Turn left and proceed west about 4 miles to Skyline Blvd. (State Highway 5) Turn left at the Boulevard. The parking area and rendezvous is but 100 or 200 yards. To get there by 9 a.m., plan on driving 41 or 42 miles if the Crow Canyon, San Mateo Bridge route is followed from Walnut Creek. Mr. Farrar writes that more and more water birds are coming in, that a nice variety of land birds is always on hand, bring usual equipment; lunch and water optional.

First Screen Tour 8 p.m., Thursday, November 6th, in the "gym" Diablo Valley College. Ferd S. Ruth, program chairman, reports some changes have been made which may be improvements in that hall, and that there is a chance subsequent lectures may be given in the Student Activities Building, where the acoustics are excellent.

2- November Quail

Robert C. Hermes will tell the story of the Ranch of the Purple Flowers - El Hato de Flores Morades - a tremendous cattle spread in the Orinoco River basin, Venezuela. Tropical birds, flowers, beasts, people, and life are all depicted, and were encountered by Mr. Hermes while making a natural history picture for the Creole Petroleum Commission. What are the Purple Flowers? Orchids? Pleroma? What?

These lectures are given under the joint auspices of the College and National Audubon Society, so come to this area free of charge, but for a share of the school tax. The crowds that attend attest to the interest in subjects of the Tours from the small child to the octogenarian.

From Richard Stallcup: "A group of 15 members and friends met at Lincoln Park, Alameda, Sunday, September 13, at 1:30 p.m. The loafing grounds were explored first, and large concentration of birds were found.

Later as the tide receded and uncovered the mud flats the group visited the beach area at the foot of Park Street. Here, more swimmers than birds were seen. After a short stay in this area the group moved on to Bay Farm Island. Several members of the party were rewarded with their first view, others with their best views of Clapper Rails, several of which were commuting by air and by foot between a small island and the pickleweed marsh. The following 37 birds were noted."

Grebe, Pied-billed; Heron, Common Egret; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler; Hawk, Sparrow; Rail, Clapper; Coot; Plovers, Semipalmated, Killdeer, Black-bellied; Turnstone, Black; Curlew, Long-billed. Whimbrel; Willet; Yellow-legs, Greater; Sandpipers, Least, Western; Dowitcher, Long-billed; Godwit, Marbled; Sanderling; Avocet, American; Phalarope, Northern; Gulls, Glaucus-winged, Western, California, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's; Terns, Forsters, Common; Dove, Mourning; Jay, Scrub; Sparrow, House; Blackbird, Brewers; Finch, House; Sparrows, Savannah, Song.

The House Sparrow formerly called "English" is not listed with other Sparrows on the checklist because it is not one of them, but a variety of Finch.

Twice of late we have read of a "Pileolated Woodpecker". To our knowledge there is no such bird. There is the "Pileated", large and handsome with its high crest whence comes the adjective pileated.

Legislation: Many changes, and new areas have been designated as parks, reservations, and game refuges this year. In California, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have undergone some boundary modifications. About 10 acres has been excluded from Sequoia and made part of the Game Refuge. In the Summit Meadow area of Kings Canyon 160 acres has been excluded to straighten boundaries and to omit some private holdings. Also 220 acres in the Sequoia National Forest in the General Grant Grove section have been added to the park.

Newton B. Drury who fathered the Save the Redwood League in 1918 will retire next April as chief of the State Division of Beaches and Parks, a position he has held the past 7 years. He has been active in conservation promotion for upwards of 40 years.

3- November Quail

New Members we are happy to announce: Frances Wolcott, 869 Golden Gate, San Francisco, also of Golden Gate Society, and Barry Eschen, P.O. Box 262, Diablo, student at San Ramon Valley U.H.S. Barry took part in Hobby Night last spring. He began observing seriously while housebound for weeks with a broken leg, bedroom windows his observation posts.

Most reports of Sparrow arrivals have given the second to third weeks in September. However, E.A. Pickett reports in his column in the Sacramento Society bulletin, The Observer, one observed 9/9, a day later than Harry Adamson's first White-crowned. Elizabeth O'Meara had her first Red-shafted Flicker on 9/21, and a bit later her Ruby-crowned Kinglet arrived for the winter. Although the familiar "keer" was heard a few days earlier it was just at daylight the morning of 9/21 that Ye Ed. jumped from bed to shoo a handsome mail from drilling the side of her home.

Flycatchers are truly rare birds in the Oakvale Road area of Walnut Creek. However one, probably Says Phoebe, appeared on the wires one forenoon. After flitting from wire to wire to trees and back again, nervous all the while, it left. A few days earlier while walking along one of the city's new streets we looked over the edge down to the creek where amid rocks rolled down by the earth movers was one lone bird - a Black Phoebe.

In sharp contrast to the nervous Flycatcher was the cheerful, busy Fox Sparrow first seen 10/16 in the McGeehon garden.

At last I.McG. has had the pleasure of seeing a Sparrow Hawk in hand and actually stroking its beautiful plumage. Apparently it came down the chimney into the dining room at Mulfontes. Was easily caught and after being much admired was released to fly away, so strongly that its captivity could not have been long.

The Steller family recently camped a weekend in San Mateo Park where Sally saw her first Golden-crowned Kinglet, and, among other birds a Townsend Warbler, and Brown Creeper. The Creeper was spotted and identified by Tom, the 9 year old son.

Early in October the Farrars went "abirding" in the Carmel area including side trips to Elkhorn Slough at Moss Landing, and Heifer State Park at Big Sur. "We compiled a list of 70 with no trouble at all, and this did not include Robin, Mockingbird, Thrush, or Dove. The nicest birds for us were Blacknecked Stilt, Golden Eagle, California Thrasher (singing on top of a telephone pole) Lincoln Sparrow, and Townsend Warblers. On the trip to Big Sur we saw at least 20 Hawks, plus the Eagle, so all in all we had a wonderful time."

"At our home here in Lafayette this autumn has been a busy one. The Black-throated Gray Warblers were a week ahead of the last two years, while the Golden-crowns arrived on time, the White-crowns were early and more plentiful, and our Flicker finally made it. This morning a pair of Fox Sparrows were just outside my window. We seem to have acquired a Bewick Wren, and the Rufous-sided Towhee remained with us all summer. A flock of over 20 Robins gave our berry bushes a try early in September, but gave up the job. One Warbling Vireo in September was a nice 'Lifer' ". 39

4- November Quail

The Quail is happy to receive such reports and will always use them as space permits.

The president reminds the society that it's none to early to sign-up for the State Convention at Asilomar, April 1959, Easter week, we understand. Roger Tory Petersen is the "big name" speaker.

Also wanted are volunteers to attend the Northern California Conference at Mills College, in January. The date given The Quail is the 11th, that is a Sunday according to the calendar at hand. Must be an error, somewhere.

Officers -

President, John V. Bruce, 348 Verona Ave., Danville, VE 7-2704
Vice-president, Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Ct., Concord, MU 5-6134
Secretary, Mrs. Harry N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. YE 4-8873
Treasurer, George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., MU 5-7897

Chairmen -

Field Trips, Harry N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. YE 4-8873
Publicity, Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2132 Overlook Dr., W.C. YE 4-4720
Conservation, Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, W.C. YE 4-8803
The Quail, Mrs. J.C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Rd., W.C. YE 4-2752

Membership chairman is missing. No program chairman, instead a committee with each member responsible for one month.



The Quail

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

December, 1958
Vol. 5, No. 6.

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, December 11, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School, again a second Thursday. President John V. Bruce reports that Harry Adamson will repeat his talk on "Birds of Southeastern Arizona", given before the Golden Gate Society in November. To be found in this birdful area are some of the birds of Mexico that slip across the border, some pretty much localized, and others that will go North for the summer.

* Next Field Trip, Sunday, December 7th. Conn Lake, Napa County. Meet at 9:00 a.m.

* On the schedule of trips distributed early in the year, Dr. Isadore Perlman and daughter, Judith, are listed as co-leaders with Carlyle Sather of Colma. Dr. Perlman reports they cannot make the trip. Harry Couden will do it himself. He is chairman of Field Trips. Mr. Sather will more than assist. He always makes that trip equipped with his 'scope, which he generously shares.

The Conn Lake trip has become an annual, as it well should be, so fruitful is that region with birds as various as the habitats, eye-filling scenery, and interesting spots along the way. Because the weather may be seasonal or unseasonal, the bird population varies somewhat from year to year. Some years Starlings, perhaps many Mergansers, a Common Loon, or the Belted Kingfisher of the untidy topknot, sitting on a twig by the water. What will be the bird or birds of the trip is guesswork, but the total score is usually close to 60.

Meet at the bridge about 1 mile north of Napa on the Silverado Trail. Turn off for the lake about 16 miles farther north. Bring lunch, stout shoes, warm clothing, lunch, binoculars and friends. This hillgirt man-made lake fills what was once Conn Valley, just as Lake Berryessa has taken over another valley in Napa County. According to The Observer, of the Sacramento Society, this new lake is becoming a birding area.

Next Screen Tour - Thursday, December 4th., Diablo Valley College, 8 p.m. Ferd Ruth, program chairman, hopes for a change of campus locale. Wm. H. Wagoner Jr., will tour Southern Florida, that watery region where jungle and swamp mingle to form a unique wildlife region of dark tunnels, open sparkling seawater, towering trees, soaring Eagles, wading Spoonbills, and wriggling alligators.

Visual evidence of the growing interest in these Screen Tours was amply demonstrated as the people came and came, until the gymnasium was filled to tour the "Ranch of the Purple Flowers", with Robert C. Hermes. Superlatives are needed to do justice to that tour. With his years of experience, Mr. Hermes has become master of his art. The purple flower is the Jacaranda, which is over-tender for this part of California, but "down south" flourishes, we are told.

* Additional information is appended at end of page 3.

The Wilderness Bill, which did not quite pass last spring, is to come up again, doubtless in modified form. John Bruce hopes all members of Mt. D.A.S are sufficiently interested in the preservation of some portions of virgin wilderness to write their representatives in Congress in favor of the bill. Dorothy Couden, as Secretary, was instructed to write on behalf of this society. Ferd Ruth, who has followed every phase of this effort, reports that a major point of controversy is the administration of these areas, once the bill becomes law. Shall the authority be vested in an appointed committee, or in Congress? A committee could well be "packed" and can act more quickly than the Congress, which is answerable to the people. The people could soon be alerted and would then have the time and opportunity to write more letters.

Our biologists are becoming increasingly apprehensive over the wasteful ways of marine biology students who crowd the readily accessible spots on the California coast. When, on the same weekend, but to different places, John and Ferd led each a group, they found the areas so crowded that SRO signs would have been appropriate. The approved method of study is to lift a bucketful, study its contents, pour it all back into the pool whence it came, and repeat the process. However, many barrellfuls are taken home only to die; professional collectors are becoming more numerous, so that a real threat exists. Although not sanguine that anything can or will be done soon, Ferd has written to Sacramento calling attention to the need. Time was when the abalone was regarded as inexhaustible, and canneries flourished on the Monterey coast. Now, nothing but stringent laws conserve that fish.

Glenn Shanks brought to meeting a clipping reporting Game Warden Albert M. Dorco as having cited the captain of an oil tanker for permitting crude oil to be spilled into the bay while loading at the Avon wharf of Tidewater Associated. The Skipper pleaded guilty and was fined \$500. In addition to damaging the finish of small boats berthed as far downstream as Crockett, this oil is a definite menace to "wild-life"; fish and birds. Waterfowl become so befouled that they die. A few years ago Naturalist Farrow, at Lake Merritt, pointed out several ducks that might or might not survive such oiling.

By way of saving the wine grape crop in the Mainz region of Germany, U.S. helicopters have been buzzing the starlings in migration. Operation Starling Chase was upon request to the Army.

Changed names - The California Audubon Society has under consideration a new name, because its' present name might give the impression that it is the Audubon Society of the State. The Tucson Newsletter is now The Vermillion Flycatcher. If only the masthead might be in color!

The Coudens, who have recently made the acquaintance of 2 Great Horned Owls in their yard on Sunset Loop, are in Los Angeles and environs, as The Quail goes to press.

More birds. In The Gull, Mr. & Mrs. Sather expressed their pleasure in having the company of a Poorwill when they spent the night on Mt. Diablo. Ye Ed. has never spent the night up there, but has always encountered those birds flying and flopping in the road just ahead of the car, whenever the descent has been at dusk or later.

Those birds are about during summer and fall at Mulfontes in the Livermore Hills, their call frequently heard at night, and almost always encountered on the road after dark. Their moth-like flight and sudden appearance startle the uninitiate. Cannot be car lights that induce the activity. That habit antedates the automobile.

The White-throated Sparrow was back in the Adamson's garden 10/29, 2 Golden Eagles observed on 10/30, 1 adult Lazuli Bunting 11/1. "A very exceptionally late date for this species, which normally migrates in August and the first 3 weeks in September" H.C.A.

Elizabeth O'Meara reports that the Mockingbird has a penchant for pursuing the Varied Thrush, which may account for the force with which one crashed to its death against a McGeehon window 11/15. The recoil was at least 5 feet from where blood and feathers were left at point of contact; a beautiful specimen in perfect plumage.

According to reports, water birds have been slow to migrate this season. The mid-November drop in temperature should have speeded up the fall movement. One morning 3 White Pelicans were seen winging their way over the McGeehon place, headed south-esterly by east. Perhaps for the Dumbarton Bridge area where they congregate in the hundreds.

Thanks are owing Rufus Johnson for having prevailed upon the Wm. E. Smiths to show their superb pictures of the Yosemite back country, a region they mostly covered on foot with their two small children. Mrs. Smith is Barbara, daughter of the Johnsons.

Accompanied by seventeen students, Ferd Ruth has been making weekly trips to Berkeley to attend the third lecture series at the University on Land and Life of California.

In The Avocet, of the Santa Clara Valley Society, we read that Albert Wool is to show his Rand and Range and tell its story at the National Audubon convention next spring. The California famer does get around, for his a real farmer.

Miss Rozalyn Phillips, 2132 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek, YE 4-7251, is now Member-ship Chairman.

Ingra Lusebrink, after an absence from town for three months, returned in time to go on the first screen tour, the trip to Crystal Springs Reservoir, and to come to the last meeting. Also able to attend that meeting were Mr. & Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Minnie Pollock, whom we have not had the pleasure of greeting this long while.

Welcome to new member - Edward T. Mizo, Mount Diablo Street, Concord.

The November Quail hatching was delayed owing to a combination of unexpected circumstances. We are sorry (honest - I'm sorry - Ye Publisher). Because of the Thanksgiving Holidays, the flight will be earlier this month.

Apropos of Thanksgiving, Fred Evenden in his President's Prologue in The Observer suggests that while emphasizing the "thanks" it would be well to stress the "giving"; giving of oneself particularly.

Merry Christmas!

Telephone of President John V. Bruce is VE 7-2704

Send material for The Quail to Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek, California.

LATEST SCOOP! Harry Couden reports that Mr. Sather will not be able to go on Conn Lake field trip. Harry will lead trip - he requests that anyone having a 'scope please bring it.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS. To be held by this society on December 21st, meeting at 7:00 a.m., rain, shine, or fog, at the Monument on the Concord-Walnut Creek H&way. We need as many as possible, and the various trips will take until mid-afternoon. Sharp eyes, sharp pencils, and binoculars are desirable, also lunch, warm clothing, and an eager desire to help. Leader: Bev Wilder, YE 4-6353. If you plan to attend the evening recap, and pot-luck please contact Ginny Wilder, same phone number. You don't have to be an expert birder to have a good time or to help in the count.

MOUNT DIABLO
AUDUBON SOCIETY

December 1958

Annual Report Conservation Chairman

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

1. The U. S. Army wishes to install a missile launching site in Mt. Diablo State Park.

Write your protests to Congressman Baldwin, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

2. Briones Park between Lafayette and Orinda is being purchased over a ten-year period.

1. 1425 acres total
2. 572 acres have been purchased
3. 853 more to go over six more years.

As yet, the areas purchased have not been planned for use. It seems to me that this area should be made available to residents now on a picnic basis. Why not? Access is from Bear Creek Road. Write planning commission requesting information.

We need studies on how to use this land. When-How, etc.

3. We need to plan new parks in County. Land costs are rising annually. Land should have been purchased before now. "A tax rate of 5¢ per \$100 should be set up to accomplish this as was done for East Bay Regional Parks. East Bay Regional Parks has secured 10,000 acres this way since 1927". (FSR)
4. An overall County Park Plan should be published. Each of our communities should cooperate in this planning. A Park Superintendent should be hired to aid planning.
5. The John Muir Home Association hopes to raise \$100,000 acquisition and restoration of the old home and adjacent Adobe. The C.C.C. Historical Society is cooperating in this venture.
6. We should go on record against and actively participate in opposition to billboards along freeways.

Write your Representative in the California Legislature. The Federal Gov't refunds more gas tax money to States actively working to control beauty of freeways by restricting billboards. It is worth money as well as beauty to keep our highways uncluttered.