

The Quail

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



January 1959
Vol. 5, No. 7

Happy New Year.

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday the 8th of January. The first day of the New Year is the First Thursday and the regular meeting day. However in February by way of variety the regular meeting will be on the regular day.

Russell K. Grater, Regional Naturalist for the National Park Service for Region 4, will discuss the future of the National Parks, aspects of park management, and conservation. Mr. Grater will illustrate his talk with pictures he has taken during his twenty-five years in that service. A question and answer period will complete the evening.

Now, a resident of the Walnut Creek area, Mr. Grater has served as ranger-naturalist at Lake Mead, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountains, Zion, Bryce, Yosemite, and Mount Ranier. California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii are Region 4.

Next Screen Tour - February 16th. Waterway Wildlife - Leonard Hall. More later.

Next Field Trip, Sunday, January 11th, Tomales Point.

"Once again this most popular field trip to Tomales Point will be led by Dick and Violet Beitzel, who have headed our group to the Point for the past 3 years. Usual arrangements are in the making with the McClure Ranch for permission to "invade their privacy", and the usual starting point and time will be the same as in previous years.

For those who are not familiar with these arrangements we will meet in the parking lot next to the store in Inverness at 9:30 a.m. and travel from there to the McClure Ranch on Tomales Point, From their second ranch there is about a two mile hike over a not difficult route to the very tip of the point where we watch all nature spread out before us. Pack your lunch and water, but don't make it a burden or you might wish you had not taken all that stuff before you get back to your car.

Dress comfortable and warm - it might be cold. This is January and any weather can be counted on; from a warm sunny day to a cold

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"stink'en miserable" one. If there has been rain just previous to our trip the dirt roads through Mr. McClure's ranch might not be passable, and therefore last minute changes might have to be made to some other close-by location. The best way to get to our starting point is over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and down the Sir Frances Drake Highway via Fairfax, Lagunitas, Olema, and to Point Reyes Station. Turn left at that point to Inverness. Bird count starts at Point Reyes Station as many interesting birds are to be found in the marshland and wooded areas along the route. The Beitzels' telephone is MU 5-9588, Concord. R.B."

Lynn Farrar fell victim to the prevailing "cold" ill wind which delayed his report on the trip to Crystal Springs Reservoir. This is it.

"About 12 members braved the forbidding skies which produced a slight drizzle, but in the main the birding was dry and satisfactory. A surprise was encountering members of the Golden Gate Society led by Howard Cogswell on the same trip.

Mr. Cogswell's friendliness and sharing of knowledge was appreciated by the Mount Diablo group. His vast knowledge made identification of several birds possible that undoubtedly would have had to be by-passed by less experienced birders. A total of 64 species was logged.

Common Loon; Red-billed and Eared Grebes; Canvas-back, Shoveler, Pintail, Baldpate, Gadwall, Ring-necked, Redhead, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy, Lesser Scaup, Ducks; Coot; Double-crested Cormorant; Green and Great Blue Herons; Canada Goose; Ring-bill and Bonaparte's Gulls; House, Song, Fox, Golden-crowned, White-crowned Sparrows; Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers; Bushtit; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Scrub and Steller's Jays; Bewicks and Marsh Wrens; Wrentit; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks; Killdeer; Red-shafted Flicker; Water Pipit; Wilson Snipe; Robin; Varied, and Hermit Thrushes; Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds; Turkey Vulture; Valley Quail; Oregon Junco; Brown and Rufous-sided Towhees; Black and Says Phoebes; Mourning Dove; Hutton's Vireo; Meadowlark; Loggerhead Shrike; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Lesser Goldfinch, House Finch, and Pine Siskin."

N.B. Our historian omitted identification of the Shrike, but probably a Loggerhead. Any other variety is "rara avis" in the area. McG.

Important dates - Saturday, January 10th, Regional Conference at Mills College. Secretary Dorothy Couden is taking reservations. This annual event is well worth participating in by the Society. It opens an hour earlier than the program at 10 a.m. with a sociable coffee hour offering an opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones. Brief talks, discussions, instructions and workshops all designed to cover many facets of Audubon activities make a full day until 3 p.m.

And the Convention at Asilomar March 21-24, Registration opens at 3 p.m. The meet closes with noon meal on the 24th. In addition to the salon-style black and white photographic studies, a Nature Photography Clinic is scheduled. Dick Beitzel is planning to submit some of his prints. Anyone desiring additional information can secure it from the National office, 2624 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The Mount Diablo president, John V. Bruce, has the program and other pertinent information. Also the Coudens, and The Quail.

Legislation - We quote Ogden Nash on the billboard controversy.

"I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboard fall
I never shall see a tree at all."

The wilderness Bill which was introduced by Congressman John Baldwin of the Sixth District will come up again shortly after Congress reconvenes in this month. All those who feel that the administration of wilderness areas should be in the hands of Congress as originally planned, are urged to write to their Congressman, to Senator Thomas Kuchel, Senior senator from California who is a member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to Senate Chairman of this committee, James E. Murray of Montana and to Senator-elect Clair Engle who until the reorganization of Congress is House chairman of the committee. Office Building, Washington 26, D.C.

The State of California is adding to Stinson Beach Park through the purchase of the property of the late Mrs. Camille M. Banks. Price \$125,000.

The Coudens when on their November trip to Los Angeles and environs made a trip to Los Padres National Forest hoping to see the California Condors. No luck. However, in the Morro Bay area "birding was great" including 2 huge incoming flocks of Avocets, 26 Great Blue Herons scattered about a single area. "The best birding was 10 species outside our cabin door on Shelter Island in San Diego Bay. Small flocks of Horned Grebes, Farallon Cormorants; Brown Pelicans; Black-bellied Plovers; California, Ring-necked, and Bonaparté's Gulls; and Red-winged Blackbirds. We logged 50 species for the trip."

Have lot, will camp, is the Glenn Shanks story. The lot is in Volcano, and the Shanks are clearing a special camping site thereon, blackoak, cedar, and manzanita add interest to the scenery and the work. On a recent trip near Sutter's Springs they saw a Phainopepla.

The Altacal Newsletter from Chico reported in a recent issue a Phainopepla observation. Birds do stray off their accustomed reservation. The White-throated Sparrows that have appeared in the Adamsons' and Beitzels' yards - one each - a case in point.

Golden-crowned Kinglets seem to be increasing in number in this area as reports from the Farrar and Glotfelty gardens indicate. The Ruby-crowned variety comes every winter. Elizabeth O'Meara refers to the one in her trees as a taken-for-granted arrival.

Katie Hassler brought a lovely little Audubon's Warbler to the last meeting, victim of a violent death. Later a live one appeared on the screen as Harry and Betty Adamson showed some Arizona birds.

The Quail acknowledges interesting communications from Violet Beitzel and Rich Stallcup. Vi sent field notes or more properly yard notes. Rich had been with his father and 2 friends to the Tomales Point region, where they were rewarded with the sight of numerous water birds. Sorry space forbids for this issue.

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From Harry Couden this on the Conn Lake trip where among the Sacramento Society members was Earl A. Albertson, also a faithful though absentee member of Mount Diablo.

"Conn Lake Field Trip, December 7, 1958.

Weather beautiful, group (about 14 of us in 5 cars) just the right size, fall and winter scenes at their best and the trip leisurely - we could not have specified it more ideal. Birds were less abundant than the previous week when Bev. Wilder and I scouted out the same territory with the Golden Gate group. But, among the waterfowl we missed only the Wood Ducks, although the whole flock of 16 swans was missing. Mr. Arthur Wilcox joined us at his ranch on the Northern side of the Lake and we met the Sacramento group twice, once on each side. And, with 2 'scopes (thanks Bev) everybody shared in a high percentage of our 68 species total among his own observations.

Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Farallon Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Whistling Swan; Green Heron; Canada Goose; Mallard, Gadwall; American Widgeon, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy, American Merganser Ducks; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks; California Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Wilson's Snipe; Greater Yellow Legs; California and Ring-billed Gulls.

Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers; Black and Saps Phobes; Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Rock Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; Purple, House, and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; Savannah, Lark, White-crowned, Golden Crowned, and Song Sparrows."

N.B. Where the old checklist varies from the most recent the names have been changed to the newer listing. McG.

Marye Smith writes that she is enjoying meeting with the San Diego Society, but would like to have been here for the Christmas Count. She was anticipating David's arrival from Arcata for Christmas.

Rosalyn Phillips, membership chairman, and Elizabeth O'Meara, publicity chairman, now live on Overlook Drive. They have not moved but their street has been re-named.

To reach the President, dial VE 7-2704
Treasurer, dial MU 5-7897
Secretary, dial YE 4-8873
Publicity Chairman, dial YE 4-4720
Membership Chairman, dial YE 4-7251
Field Trips Chairman, dial YE 4-8873
Conservation Chairman, dial YE 4-8803
The Quail, dial YE 4-2752

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

1958 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Horned Grebe - - - - -	1	Mourning Dove - - - - -	207	Tricolored Blackbird -	2150
Eared Grebe - - - - -	10	Barn Owl - - - - -	1	Brewer's Blackbird - -	8163
Pied-billed Grebe - - - -	50	Great Horned Owl - - - -	1	Brown-headed Cowbird -	54
Double-crested Cormorant -	1	Burrowing Owl - - - - -	3	House Finch - - - - -	252
Great Blue Heron - - - - -	3	Anna's Hummingbird - - - -	3	Pine Siskin - - - - -	6
Common Egret - - - - -	13	Belted Kingfisher - - - - -	4	American Goldfinch - -	79
Snowy Egret - - - - -	27	Red-shafted Flicker - - - -	146	Lesser Goldfinch - - -	1946
Green Heron - - - - -	3	Acorn Woodpecker - - - - -	27	Rufous-sided Towhee -	60
Black-crowned Night Heron-	11	Lewis' Woodpecker - - - - -	8	Brown Towhee - - - - -	113
Canada Goose - - - - -	100	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker -	4	Savannah Sparrow - - -	455
Mallard Duck - - - - -	157	Downy Woodpecker - - - - -	3	Lark Sparrow - - - - -	68
Gadwall Duck - - - - -	14	Nuttall's Woodpecker - - - -	1	Rufous-sided Sparrow -	1
Pintail Duck - - - - -	2060	Black Phoebe - - - - -	13	Oregon Junco - - - - -	364
Green-winged Teal - - - - -	26	Say's Phoebe - - - - -	8	White-crowned Sparrow-	2177
Shoveler - - - - -	764	Horned Lark - - - - -	47	Golden-crowned Sparrow	228
American Widgeon - - - - -	1514	Steller's Jay - - - - -	16	White-throated Sparrow	1
Ring-necked Duck - - - - -	1	Scrub Jay - - - - -	124	Fox Sparrow - - - - -	176
Canvasback Duck - - - - -	3	Chestnut-backed Chickadee -	9	Lincoln's Sparrow - - -	3
Common Goldeneye - - - - -	1	Plain Titmouse - - - - -	31	Song Sparrow - - - - -	238
Ruddy Duck - - - - -	92	Common Bushtit - - - - -	99	Total Identified - -	26,812
White-tailed Kite - - - - -	6	White-breasted Nuthatch - -	7	Total Species - - -	109
Red-tailed Hawk - - - - -	16	Wrentit - - - - -	4	Unidentified Observations:	
Marsh Hawk - - - - -	8	House Wren - - - - -	1	Gulls unspecified --	625
Pigeon Hawk (Merlin) - - -	1	Bewick's Wren - - - - -	5	Ducks unspecified --	300
Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel) - -	65	Long-billed Marsh Wren - - -	18	Wrens unspecified --	3
California Quail - - - - -	199	Rock Wren - - - - -	1	Blackbirds unspec. --	2000
Ring-necked Pheasant - - -	4	Mockingbird - - - - -	39	Total unspecified --	2928
Virginia Rail - - - - -	3*	California Thrasher - - - - -	5	*Observed Saturday, 12/20	
Sora - - - - -	1	Robin - - - - -	34		
Common Gallinule - - - - -	1	Varied Thrush - - - - -	9		
American Coot - - - - -	268	Western Bluebird - - - - -	77		
Killdeer - - - - -	107	Golden-crowned Kinglet - - -	22		
Black-bellied Plover - - -	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet - - -	73		
Common Snipe - - - - -	20	Water Pipit - - - - -	272		
Greater Yellowlegs - - - -	23	Cedar Waxwing - - - - -	174		
Least Sandpiper - - - - -	23	Loggerhead Shrike - - - - -	50		
Dunlin (Red-backed Sdppr)-	86	Starling - - - - -	150		
Long-billed Dowitcher - - -	3	Hutton's Vireo - - - - -	1		
American Avocet - - - - -	21	Myrtle Warbler - - - - -	1		
Glaucous-winged Gull - - -	5	Audubon Warbler - - - - -	204		
California Gull - - - - -	7	Yellowthroat - - - - -	8		
Ring-billed Gull - - - - -	147	House Sparrow - - - - -	274		
Mew (Short-billed) Gull - -	1	Western Meadowlark - - - -	351		
Bonaparte's Gull - - - - -	4	Redwinged Blackbird - - - -	1859		

Leader's Comments (Bev Wilder): Thanks to those brave souls who dedicated themselves to the count on a miserable, wet, cold, overcast, low visibility day. Their efforts were well rewarded by the Society's second largest species count - 109 against last year's 112. Paul reports the same number of Horned Larks were found for the 3rd straight year in the same 100 yard area. This year we have a White-throated Sparrow counted at Vi's feeder. A good "get" in the Pigeon Hawk from the Pine Canyon group, another was the Sora found by the bay-side party. Ginny thanks you all for your cooperation at the Summary Meeting at the Wilder's, a good time, pleasantly social, and swell eats, and a minimum of business. We would get the first day of rain in 36 consecutive days! Oh well, the farmers rejoiced. See you next year!!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year - Bev



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February 1959
Vol. 5, No. 8

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, February 5th, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School, with Mrs. W.E. Hassler program chairman, as announced by John V. Bruce, president.

"Katie" has secured Dale Sutherland to tell of the work being done by the River Basin Studies in the Sacramento River area. These studies Mr. Sutherland explained are to determine the affect on fish and wildlife of such projects as a salt water barrier also, the feasibility of reclaiming marginal lands for industrial use.

He has been in this area for three months coming from Nevada where he worked on the Fallon Wildlife Refuge. He is chief biologist on this study project of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Department.

Next Field Trip -- Sunday, February 8th, Terminous Island --

Leaders, B.B. Wilder, YE4-6353 and Barbara Bonnicksen, ME4-4152. Barbara lives in Brentwood, hence the different prefix. It is not a typographical error.

The meeting place will be as usual at the little cafe in Thornton. Turn right at Walnut Grove and drive down that road. Bev. will scout the area in an endeavor to locate the Sandhill Cranes' feeding grounds. Meet at 9:15 a.m. Bring lunch, glasses, warm clothes, warm friends.

Although a good and varied bird count is the usual thing, it is the Sand Hill Cranes that are the chief lure. These majestic birds were alarmingly reduced in numbers not many years ago, but seem to have adjusted themselves. Those who have seen them on the screen will recall the grace of their mating dance.

Next Screen Tour, Monday, February 16th, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Leonard Hall, lecturer presented by Ferd S. Ruth on behalf of the College and the National Audubon Society. The complete dependence of man and wildlife on a supply of good fresh water is the theme of Waterway Wildlife.

On his Possum Trot farm in the rugged and beautiful Ozark country. Mr. Hall has opportunity for constant outdoor observations. Rated an outstanding naturalist, he has been honored by his home State of Missouri, a Master Conservationist, awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws and is regularly followed by the four-hundred thousand readers of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which publishes his column.

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His story follows the waterway from its inception as a mere spring until its destination in lake or ocean. Along the way plants unfold, while an overture is provided by such waterway dwellers as tree frogs, Woodducks, Canada Geese.

Legislative matters. Daily, newspapers carry stories of suggested park developments. Doubtless in time there will be more parks and in time the need will be felt more keenly than now. It may be later than we think. Money, or the lack of it, holds up purchase and development.

McG.

In Santa Clara where a \$10 million bond issue will come before the voters in March a 17-mile long parkway along Coyote Creek has been proposed.

In Alameda County two sites are being urged by the County as State projects. One of these is in the Hayward area, the second on the Arroyo del Valle. In the latter area a flood control and water conservation project is already on the books. Some survey work has been done and a new item added to the tax bill of that district. The dam to hold back run off in times of heavy weather will be constructed on the Patterson Ranch approximately 5 miles south of Livermore. Perhaps a joint program will be carried out by water district and State.

The park situation in Contra Costa County is reported by the Mt. D.A.S. conservation chairman in his annual report which will be published by a firm of National and Inter-national rating, in the near future.

One of the big mysteries which has been plaguing zoologists is the "why" of bird migration. Dr. L. Richard "Dick" Mewaldt assistant professor of zoology at San Jose State is the college's chief bird watcher. His research in that field will be aided by a recent grant of \$20,000.

Dr. Mewaldt is a past president of the Santa Clara Audubon Society, and a former editor of The Avocet. He led a superior workshop on Audubon bulletins two years ago.

Among the many courses starting at Diablo Valley College February 2nd, is Biological Science 226, instructor Ferd S. Ruth. In addition to the Monday evening classes there will be seven Saturday field trips designed to study Contra Costa natural history.

Russel K. Grater posed a problem at the January meeting when he spoke, with illustrations, on what is happening to our National Parks through abuse and much use. For abuse there seems no excuse, but what of use? Who is to be excluded? Who owns the parks? Who foots the bills? What is the answer?

Personals - Norman H. Betaque, Jr. son of Dr. & Mrs. Betaque has received Congressional appointment to West Point. Dr. Betaque is the Quail subscriber who frequently sees Woodducks in the creek just below his office window.

Penny Couden was recently winner of a senior award from the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Her second in that class. Nancy Betaque won top rating in the junior class.

Judith Perlman is about to enroll in an Arizona College where a good course in archeology is offered.

It was good to see Mr. & Mrs. Cooperrider able to be out again. Mrs. Cooperrider suffered a broken knee cap when a bus crashed into

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their car last August. Just before Christmas a ladder which he was carrying collapsed throwing him off balance so that he fell on it cutting his face so badly that nearly two hours were consumed in the repair work.

Owing to the recurrent ill health of her sister Ingra Lusebrink has had to return to Los Angeles for an indefinite time.

Birds: After two weeks housebound Frances Blake is again able to be out and back at her desk where she does volunteer clerical work for the Red Cross. But, all was not lost. Her pet Titmice returned to receive daily handouts at a window, and a hawk - probably a Cooper's - almost crashed the window. If Miss Blake had not stepped forward so that he made a last second turn there would have been another casualty if not fatality.

Elizabeth O'Meara has had three Varied Thrushes much at home in her garden, and Margaret Shanks identified an Eastern Kingbird in the schoolyard. Although not often observed in this region stragglers do arrive. This winter several have been seen in Concord.

Christmas Count aftermath: Paul Opler who was an active participant has called attention to an omission and inadvertant error - Wood duck not listed, and the Sparrow was Rufous-crowned not "sided".

The publicity given the project by Elizabeth interested the Walnut Creek Sun to such an extent that a photographer came out Sunday evening. Also, the Walnut Kernel asked her to write a bit on the poor starving birds of this area. She rebutted. Count chairman requested The Quail to express appreciation of the high quality publicity.

As befits a chairman at whose house the tally and supper were held, Bev. was modest in his report. He, and wife Ginny, and son Doug, were indeed hospitable, the modified potluck meal was delicious and bountiful. This gathering is always informal, the food spiced with banter that becomes almost hilarious - within well bred limits, of course - McG.

Rosalyn Phillips and the Coudens represented Mount Diablo at the Conference at Mills College. They reported good workshops and the pleasure of hearing Bruce Murray of the National Audubon Lecture Department - Screen Tours to us.

Richard Stallcup, his father, and two friends made a late fall trip to Tomales Point: total count 125 species. Highlights: 7 Old Squaw - one particularly beautiful female, 6 Harlequin Ducks; 3 Ferruginous, Rough-legged, 1 American Rough-legged, 1 Osprey, 1 Prairie Falcon for Hawks; 30 Rhinoceros Auklets; 3 Spotted Owls; 10 Townsend warblers; 3 Hutton's Vireos; 3 Winter Wrens.

"The Rough-legged Hawks were picked up about a mile from the first ranch flying with a flock of Buteos. Of the 10 identified 4 were Rough-legs and 6 Red Tails. The first duck seen was a beautiful Old Squaw female swimming about 20 feet away in a fresh canal where Olema Marsh Road intersects the road between Point Reyes Station and Inverness." Rich had a full weekend of birding. Added to the coastal trip he went inland in the Livermore hill region as far as Mount Hamilton. "December 23rd, this morning while netting birds for banding while waiting for some birds to hit a Sparrow Hawk attacked a White-crowned Sparrow already in the net. Later the hawk hit a Lincoln Sparrow landing in the net. (no damage was done except the loss of 2 tails). This seems interesting as Sparrow Hawks usually eat insects and rodents, not birds. R.S."

Violet Beitzel reports Water Pipits on the grounds of the Williams School in Concord. They arrived October 29th. She and Dick were entertained the weekend they spent in Duran Park on Bodega Bay, by a flock of White Pelicans settling for the night on an inland sandbar. The next morning deserted breakfast to catch them in the camera as they flew out to forage. Also, watched two Belted Kingfishers in protracted battle with a hawk. No casualties.

In her home yard in Concord Vi reports the White-throated Sparrow with the White-crowned. In a 15 minute period one morning she watched 8 different species bathing in puddles left by the lawn sprinkler: Brown Towhees; the aforesaid Sparrows; Audubon Warblers; Lesser Goldfinches; House Finches, a House Sparrow, and a Mockingbird that, as is customary, took immediate possession. Suet tied in the apple tree, millet, home grown sunflower seeds, same variety of black walnuts, wild-bird feed and chicken scratch is the menu offered at the Beitzel feeding station.

From Paul - "While in Southern California for the Rose Bowl game, I saw the Aleutian Sandpiper at Playa del Rey. The day before the Los Angeles Audubon Society observed 2 of these Sandpipers, which almost never migrate farther south than Humboldt County. Dudley Ross has just seen his 607th bird in the United States, a Hawk Owl in Massachusetts.

Travelling up Highway #33 from L.A. I got in some excellent birding. I usually go that way because of the superior scenery and birds. Noted were 3 flocks of Mountain Plover between Blackwell's Corner and Firebaugh. A mass migration of over 3000 Audubon Warblers was seen, 30-50 miles north of Mendota. This Movement may have been due to cooling weather. The area where they were seen was virtually devoid of trees.

Los Banos Game Refuge yielded of the usually valley marsh birds and waterfowl including Sandhill Cranes; Bittern; Ross Geese; Whistling Swans; Cliff and Tree Swallows.

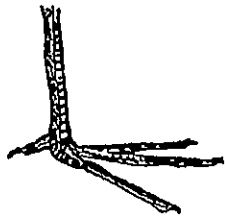
I saw a Kit Fox at night on 33 going down the week before. As of to-day, January 4th., I have seen 150 species of birds since December 1958. I hope to have 180-190 by the end of the Tomales trip."

The Quail thanks all contributors as she explains - hen Quail - that editing simply has to be done owing to lack of space.

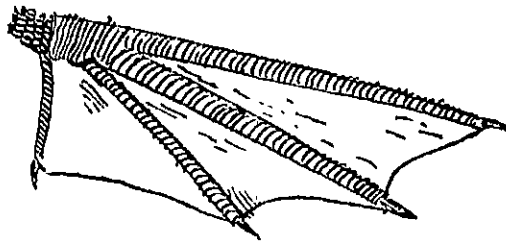
Beware of the Bat!. A woman in Butte County was bitten by one August 30th, She died of rabies November 4th., we read.

President John V. Bruce - 348 Verona Ave., Danville - VE7-2704
Secretary Mrs. Harry N. Couden - 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. - YE4-8873
Quail - Mrs. J.C. McGeehon, - 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C. - YE4-2752

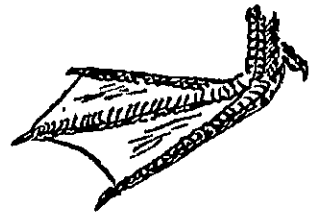
Flash from National office- not too late to register for
Convention at Fallon March 21 to 24. Address
National Audubon Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4.



A. Virginia Rail



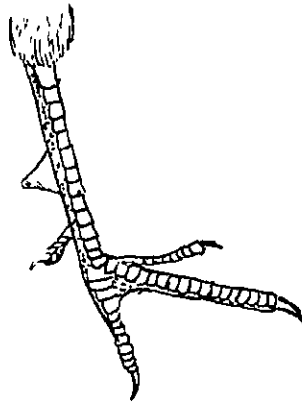
B. Cormorant



C. Mallard



D. Pied-billed Grebe



E. Ring-necked Pheasant



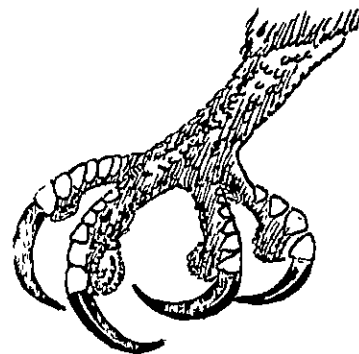
F. Ruffed Grouse



G. Robin



H. Woodpecker



I. Osprey

These "birdlegs" were done by an artist- Paul Bonilla, his authority Introduction to Ornithology by Geo. J. Wallace Ph.D. professor of Zoology Michigan State College. Publisher MacMillan Company 1955. Each foot designed for a way of life, or did the way of life evolve the foot? The fleshy fringes of the Ruffed Grouse foot are snowshoes for winter wear only. "cG.



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March 1959
Vol. 5, No. 9

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, Thursday, March 5th, 8 P.M. John V. Bruce, president, has arranged with Bill Graves of the Richfield Oil Company to show the new film, Let's Keep America Beautiful.

The appointment of a nominating committee is a matter of March business. Members are understandably reluctant to assume that responsibility but it is necessary to the life of the society, and is over within the month. The officers are elected in April, although they do not take office until July.

The next Field Trip, Sunday the 8th. Newark Salt Flats and Half Moon Bay - Norma Warner, YE 4-4604, and Lynn Farrar, AT 3-3938. Meeting place Newark Post Office, 8:30 a.m. Admission to the Salt Flats sanctuary is through locked gate by previous arrangement, which means that being on time is imperative. But a limited number of cars may enter so that some doubling up may be necessary at the gate. Guests are welcome and the usual equipment desirable.

Next Screen Tour, Friday, March 13th, 8 p.m. Gymnasium Diablo Valley College - Great Smoky Skyland, G. Harrison Orians, lecturer: Ferd S. Ruth, program chairman.

Dr. Orians' interest in photography began when he was a boy in Marion, Ohio, also his great interest in natural history. His inherent interest in the field of education has led him along many paths: Ranger Naturalist in Yosemite National Park, traveling the length and breadth of the United States, much in Canada and the British Isles. He has held a professorship at the University of Illinois and the University of Idaho. Presently he is Professor of English and Director of summer sessions at the University of Toledo, Ohio. The Southern Appalachian Highlands in North Carolina are rated as among the most beautiful of wilderness areas. It is this Great Smoky Skyland that Dr. Orians will show in color. Such intriguing names as Linville Falls, Chimney Rock, Grandfather Mountain, Davenport Gap, Mt. Celo, The Balsams, lure the visitor on to see a profusion and variety of flora, colorful birds flashing through the forest or quietly nesting, and the reminders of a rustic primitive civilization where descendants of early settlers still live simple lives and employ archaic English.

March Quail - 2

Interesting comment overheard after Waterway Wildlife by Leonard Hall last month. "That was a good one. Well, they are all good." April, so named because it has been the opening month for ages, will see the publication of Stars Upstream by Mr. Hall. They will be back in St. Louis just in time for the Autographing party, Mrs. Hall said.

Indebted to Wrentit, San Diego, for the second and third installment of a digest of the revised A.O.U. nomenclature. And, to the new editor of The Albatross, Santa Cruz Bird Club for a note of appreciation of the birds' feet in the last Quail.

Janet Willoughby telephoned recently an invitation from her and her mother to the Society to have the annual picnic supper at their place in August or September.

A mockingbird has been singing in the rain day after day perched atop the McGeehon redwood tree. Although the sparrows have been quiet the House finches have not. Their numbers have increased several fold the past two weeks and the red of the males is the reddest. One decidedly orange male was perched on the fence, back-to the other day so that an excellent view of the rump patch was had. For two winters a gray bird with a white rump patch has been observed in this garden, unidentified all the while. Could be a house finch mutation? Not a sparrow that is sure.

Ground squirrels were plentiful when the McGeehons first came to Oakvale Road, and so were Red-tailed Hawks. Now, no squirrels and those hawks are news rather than ubiquitous. However, this past winter one has been seen frequently, almost always being harassed by one or two Sparrow-Hawks. They flew and squealed about as the big bird sat huddled on the main telephone cable which crosses the top of the Oakvale Road hill. One morning it sailed around among the oak trees leaving finally with the little hawks in hot pursuit. Then, a shower of Oregon Juncos flew back to their feeding. Did the Redtail want Junco for breakfast? McG.

Thornton Field Trip - Delta Area - February 8, 1959. Barbara Bonnicksen and Bev Wilder co-leaders. Bev's report is as follows:

"13 trippers met at Thornton on schedule, including 2 from Marin who got on our field trip by mistake. The day was cold, and varied from clear to cloudy, with the temperature mostly in the 40s. Whatever wind there was came from the North, and was very noticeably cold up on the levees. Absolutely the best trip to this area in 4 years. Magnificent birding - we saw everything we came to see, in large quantities, at only moderate distances. The cranes were on all sides on the first road down to the levee - with literally hundreds wheeling about waiting their turns to land. Further South, on the Terminous Road, two large areas had been flooded and these areas were jammed with waterfowl. Thousands of Pintails in the foreground, with an occasional Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Widgeon; beyond these more thousands of White-fronted Geese; then in the distant background, a solid band of Whistling Swans across the horizon, with a few Swans up closer among the Geese. While we watched more birds came in, of all types; but particularly interesting were the ten swans which circled around for about five minutes before landing. From here most of us took the Terminous Ferry over to Staten Island - watching several varieties

of geese fly overhead. And by the way - what were the dark geese in the flight V's of Snow Geese? Could they be Blues? On the island the corn stubble was being plowed under and it was interesting to watch the tractors move down the rows and the myriads of White-Fronted Geese, and Snow Geese, take to the air just to let the tractors pass and then reform the solid mass of fowl on the ground. As we ate lunch here a low flying airplane circled directly over the field and all the birds took to the air - a solid black cloud of geese, with a few ducks and two swans. As soon as the plane departed they were back on the ground again. Then further along the island the high-tension wires were absolutely covered with goldfinches for six pole spans! Almost all were our friends the Lesser, but here and there an American would stand out. At this point the party broke up, some to go back to Thornton, some to go on to Isleton, and a few of us to return via the last ferry to Terminous (last ferry 2:30 P.M.). At Isleton we sojourned down the Jackson Slough Levee road about a mile to see the flooded fields which were filled with Pintails. A Chesapeake Retriever was running through the paddies just to see the birds take to the air and just stay out of his reach. As soon as he moved along they settled back where they had been. Altogether it was one of the high-lights of my Audubon field trips with the Diablo Society - second perhaps only to Tomales a year ago. Really a totally satisfying trip. I only wish that we had had a couple of top notch experts along - I'm sure that some of the hawks, counted as Red Tails would have been otherwise, and some of the ducks and gulls would have been identified as additional species. The count of 65 species seen in the delta area follows: 2 additional were questionable (Merganser, and Vesper Sparrow). Pied-billed Grebe; Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret; Whistling Swan; Geese, Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Ducks, Pintail, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Ruddy, Hooded Merganser (?); Turkey Vulture; Hawks, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed, Marsh, Sparrow; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Gulls, Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Anna's Hummingbird; Woodpeckers, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Acorn, Flycatchers, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe; Violet-green Swallow. Scrub Jay; Common Raven; Common Crow; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Mockingbird; Robin; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Warblers, Myrtle, Audubon; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Black-birds, Redwinged, Brewer's; Brown-headed Cowbird; Finches, House, American Goldfinch; Towhees, Rufous-sided, Brown; Sparrows, Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned; Fox, Song, Vesper (?).

N.B. The newer Audubon Daily Field Card lists the American Kestrel as Sparrow Hawk, which is a return to the former listing. The Kestrel, an English bird is like the Sparrow Hawk but different.

The clever Christmas card from the Olin Sewell Pettingills shows Iceland with two Puffins rampant. Perhaps that implies an Icelandic saga in the making.

This is a short month. The Quail must go to bed earlier so that other and longer matters awaiting publication will have to be postponed.

But, just a word on the Wilderness Bill. The aim is not to create new reserves, but is to conserve and preserve a portion of what is already reserved so that posterity may have a bit of the forest primeval.

To quote the enthusiastic congressman of an earlier day a place "where the hand of man has not trod". Important aspect of the situation is the proposal to have Congress in control of such Wilderness area, not a committee nor bureau, thus more responsible to the people.

Some of those opposed claim the selfish conservation people want the wilderness reservations so that the limited number of back-packers may enjoy it all by themselves. Nonsense! There are many persons strongly in favor of the Bill who have no expectation nor hope of ever visiting the regions. McG.

President, John V. Bruce, 348 Verona Ave., Danville, VE 7-2704
Secretary, Mrs. Harry N. Couden, Walnut Creek, YE 4-8873
Membership Chairman, Miss Rosalyn Phillips, 2132 Overlook Drive,
Walnut Creek, YE 4-7251.



The Quail

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

April 1959
Vol. 5, No. 10

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, the 2nd, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School, with Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Beitzel doing the program. Dick and Vi will show and tell the story of their trip last summer which they took through the Rockies north into Canada seeing much country, having a very fine time accompanied by their house trailer.

President John V. Bruce will have sufficiently recovered from a sprained back, we trust, to conduct the business meeting from 8 to 8:30. The nominating committee will report its recommendations. Although elected at that time the new officers will not assume responsibility until July 1st. On the committee are Harry N. Couden, Katie Hassler, and Bev. Wilder.

Next Screen Tour: last of this series, Friday the 17th, 8 p.m. gymnasium of Diablo Valley College. Arthur A. Allen, speaker, Ferd S. Ruth, program chairman.

"East and West from Hudson Bay" is the intriguing title, Hunting with camera and microphone Dr. Allen penetrated many seldom visited areas. This film highlights the solving of the mystery of the nesting locale of the Bristle-thighed Curlew, which winters in Tahiti but nests north of the Yukon.

Dr. Allen has many "firsts" to his credit, he was the first professor of ornithology in America, first to succeed in raising Ruffed Grouse, discovered the first nest of the Coppery-tailed Trogon in the United States, and with Dr. Paul Kellogg pioneered in recording bird songs, in addition to solving the Curlew mystery.

Legislation - The Billboard controversy continues. The proposed regulatory bill provides that there shall be a limit of 150 square feet. To the uninitiate that seems like a large sign, but we read of a new thing, prefabricated aluminum, 80 X 100 feet.

Lynn Farrar has sent the story of the Field Trip to the Newark Salt Flats, Half Moon Bay, Pescadero, and environs. Co-leader Norma Warner.

Owing to the difficulty of securing a key to the Sanctuary gate near Newark that part of the trip had to be abandoned, but fair weather,

good birding, and congenial albeit small group made a good day. New members Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Reynolds participated. The Carlyle Sathers came from Colma, armed with their telescope, with which they are always generous.

"Our visit to the Salt Flats proved rewarding. We saw white-winged and Surf Scoters here, plus a fine assortment of ducks and shore birds. The stilts were seen by the Sathers on their way to Newark but as a group we missed them heading toward Half Moon Bay. We saw many Avocets and a flight of Marbled Godwits looking like needled-nosed jets in flight. Good comparison was had for the Least and Western Sandpipers plus the Red-backed.

"Lunch time found the group on the beach at Pescadero, where a Common Murre about 30 feet below sitting on a rock afforded a fine view. With his telescope Mr. Sather picked out an Arctic Loon and Brandt's Cormorant from the sea, and a Pelagic Cormorant on the rocks. Near the mouth of Pescadero Creek Cinnamon Teal were abundant. The party broke up shortly after lunch going separate ways home."

Lynn and Harry Couden, and a guest of Lynn went on to Lake Lucerne where they found several Black Brant and a pair of Goldeneye. Later Lynn and guest continued to La Honda in the mountains. Here, ten birds were added to the list, although not the Sora he had hoped.

The list - California Quail, Arctic Loon; Bared, Western and Horned Grebes; Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants; Great Blue Heron; Common and Snowy Egrets; Black Brant; Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, Lesser, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, White-winged and Surf Scoters, and Ruddy Ducks; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Least, Western and Red-backed (Dunlin) Sandpipers; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling. Avocet; Glaucus-winged, Western, California, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forsters Tern; Red-shafted Flicker; Belted Kingfisher; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Common Murre; Acorn Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Tree, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Common Bushtit; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrushes; Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Water Pipit; Audubon's Warbler; Yellow-throat; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Savannah, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, and Song Sparrow.

And on the way going and coming, were the Black-necked Stilts; Yellow-billed Magpie (Warner); Cedar Waxwing; House Sparrow; Great Horned Owl (Farrar) "I knew where the Owl was likely to be and sure enough he was there. A grand total of 83 species, proving that the Bay Area has the best birding for many miles around."

Janet Willoughby and her friend and former teacher Mrs. Enid Austin went abirding on Janet's home place recently finding twenty-one species for the day. California Quail; Mourning Dove; Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Scrub and Steller's Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Titmouse; Varied Thrush; Cedar Waxwing; Audubon's Warbler; Orange-crowned Warbler; Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American and Lesser Goldfinches; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden and Crowned Sparrows.

Janet has relayed an invitation from Mrs. Lester Hink to the Society to "bird" the Hink 65 acres any time, first getting in touch with her, 3451 Springhill Road, Lafayette, AT 3-3025.

New members we welcome this month -

Mrs. Mildred Carlock, 528 Clipper Hill Road, Danville, VE 7-4528.

Mrs. Frank Nemetz, 2822 San Antonio Drive, Walnut Creek, YE 4-3295.

Thos. & Richard Grimes, 2776 San Antonio Drive, Walnut Creek, YE 5-6261.

Mrs. Minnie C. Blythe, 1320 DeLacy Ave, Martinez, 2134-W.

Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Reynolds, 555 La Vista Drive, W.C. YE 5-1813.

Mrs. Flora L. Hook, 2461 Warren Road, Walnut Creek, YE 4-3577

George E. Schad, treasurer, reports number of dues in arrears. The Society By-Laws provide a period of three months before delinquents are dropped for non-payment. The \$1.50 annual dues would not cover the cost of The Quail were it not for free labor, such as that given by Bev. Wilder with the Zeroc processing. Sending out statements repeated statements of dues adds to the cost. Postage every time. The inclusion of those little slips raises the rate from second to first class.

Because of the increased cost of paper, and postage many Societies have increased dues by 50¢.

Reports that the pollution of Paper Mill Creek also known as Lagunitas Creek, in Marin County, has been corrected is good news to the anglers. Salmon fingerlings are now being planted there, in the hope that the comeback of silver Salmon fishruns may be accelerated.

We hope to be able to get out copies of the instalments of the digest of the revised A.O.U. nomenclature sent us by the Wrentit, Pasadena. The newer and/or revised are given in contrast to the designations "in vogue" when Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds was published. A revised edition is in the making. For instance the Sapsuckers are "Yellow-bellied", although the belly rarely shows as those birds peck away at tree trunks. However, it is obviously a Sapsucker, so one need not worry as to whether or not it is Red-naped or Red-breasted.

Notice should be taken of the most recent "exchange" to come to our desk - The Redwood Log - from the Marin Audubon Society, Otis H. Smith, Larkspur, president; Loreta Pacheco, San Rafael, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Guy M. Milner, San Rafael, editor. The clump of redwoods in the upper left corner, and the grebe among the cattails, lower right make an attractive first page. Miss Pacheco is a native of San Rafael or thereabouts.

The white-tailed Kite which now flies at the masthead of the Altacal Newsletter is a handsome bird done by artist Dr. Tom Rodgers who knows whereof he paints.

Lynn Farrar writes enthusiastically of their new feeder 20 feet from the breakfast room window. He has been particularly pleased to have Mourning Doves feeding there. Those usually shy birds have been feeding in the McGeehon yard of late, moving down from the hill back

April Quail - 4

of the house where they can be heard most of the year.

A soaring Golden Eagle Feb. 23, so excited him that they called Harry Adamson who calmly observed that that was his sixth seen from his yard. On three occasions during the last of February and early March Canada Geese honked over the northerly route which crosses Lafayette and Walnut Creek. Once the clouds hung so low that the birds were not seen but were heard, sounding somewhat confused.

Of the three Red-tails sailing over Oakvale Road, W.C. recently one had an unkempt looking wing, that gave the appearance of a few missing pinions.

Some time ago Paul Opler sent in this list of birds seen in the Tomales Point area, the latter part of January.

Loons, Common, Artic, Red-throated; Grebes, Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western, Pied-billed; Pelicans, White, Brown; Herons, Great Blue, Black-crowned Night; Cormorants, Double-crested, Brandt's, Pelagic; Egrets, Snowy, Common; Geese, Canada; Black Brant; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon, Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Canvasback; Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Old Squaw, Harlequin, Ruddy. Scoters, White-winged, Surf, Common; Mergansers, Red-breasted; Vulture, Turkey; Hawks, Cooper, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Ferruginous Rough-legged, Marsh; Falcons, Peregrine, Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Coot; Black Oyster Catcher; Plover, Snowy, Semi-palmated, Black-bellied; Black Turnstone; Surf-bird; Common Snipe; Wandering Tattler; Willet; Sandpipers, Western, Least, Red-backed; Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Avocet; Sanderling; Gulls, Glaucus-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Bonaparte's Heermans; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Murrelet, Ancient, Marbled; Rhinoceros Auklet; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird.

Owls, Barn, Screech, Great Horned, Spotted, Short-eared, Saw Whet; Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Woodpecker, Hairy, Downy, Acorn; Phoebe, Black, Says Phoebe; Jay, Steller's, Scrub; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Nuthatches, Pygmy, White-breasted; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Wrens, Winter, Bewick's, Long-billed Marsh; Robin; Thrushes, Varied, Hermit; Western Bluebird.

Kinglets, Ruby-crowned, Golden-crowned; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Legerhead Shrike; Starling, Hutton's Vireo; Warblers, Orange-crowned, Myrtle, Audubon's, Townsend's; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Red-winged, tricolored, Brewer's; Brown-headed Cowbird; Finches, House, Purple; Pine Siskin; Goldfinches, Lesser, American; Towhees, Rufous-sided, Brown; Sparrows, Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox, Lincoln's, Song; Oregon Junco. 145 species. Tomales Bay trip, Jan. 10 and 11, 1959. Guy McCaskies, Rich Stallcup and Yours truly, Paul Opler."

Paul added that in California between December 21, 1958 and January 11, 1959, he saw 186 species, his best list for such a short period.

President - John V. Bruce, 348 Verona Ave, Danville - VE 7-2704
Secretary - Mrs. Harry N. Couden, 1491 Sunset Loop, W.C. - YE 4-8873
Treasurer - George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord, MU 5-7897
Membership Chairman - Miss Rosalyn Phillips, 2132 Overlook Drive, W.C. - YE 4-7251
The Quail - Mrs. J.C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C. YE 4-2752

Installment No. 2 -- Changes In Names Of Western Birds

Peterson

A. O. U. 1957

New Mexican Duck	- - - - -	Mexican Duck
Baldpate	- - - - -	American Widgeon
Shoveller	- - - - -	Shoveler
Canvas-back	- - - - -	Canvasback
Greater Scaup Duck	- - - - -	Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup Duck	- - - - -	Lesser Scaup
American Golden-eye	- - - - -	Common Goldeneye
Buffle-head	- - - - -	Bufflehead
Old-squaw	- - - - -	Oldsquaw
American Scoter	- - - - -	Common Scoter
American Merganser	- - - - -	Common Merganser
Red-bellied Hawk	- - - - -	Red-shouldered Hawk
Sennett's White-tailed Hawk	- - -	White-tailed Hawk
American Rough-legged Hawk	- - -	Rough-legged Hawk
Ferruginous Rough-leg	- - - - -	Ferruginous Hawk
Harris's Hawk	- - - - -	Harris' Hawk
Mexican Goshawk	- - - - -	Gray Hawk
Mexican Black Hawk	- - - - -	Black Hawk
Audubon's Caracara	- - - - -	Caracara
Duck Hawk	- - - - -	Peregrine Falcon
Dusky Grouse)	- - - - -	Blue Grouse (D. obscurus)
Sooty Grouse		
Franklin's Grouse	- - - - -	Spruce Grouse
Sage Hen	- - - - -	Sage Grouse
Bob-white	- - - - -	Bobwhite
Mearns's Quail	- - - - -	Harlequin Quail
European Partridge	- - - - -	Gray Partridge
Merriam's Turkey	- - - - -	Turkey

Installement No. 3 -- Changes In Names Of Western Birds

California Clapper Rail	- - - - -	Clapper Rail
California Black Rail	- - - - -	Black Rail
Florida Gallinule	- - - - -	Common Gallinule
Coot	- - - - -	American Coot
Mexican Jacana*	- - - - -	Jacana*
Frazer's Oyster-catcher	- - - - -	American Oystercatcher
Black Oyster-catcher	- - - - -	Black Oystercatcher
Belding's Plover	- - - - -	Wilson's Plover
Golden Plover	- - - - -	American Golden Plover
Surf-bird	- - - - -	Surfbird
Wilson's Snipe	- - - - -	Common Snipe
Hudsonian Curlew	- - - - -	Whimbrel
Greater Yellow-legs	- - - - -	Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellow-legs	- - - - -	Lesser Yellowlegs
Aleutian Sandpiper	- - - - -	Rock Sandpiper
Red-backed Sandpiper	- - - - -	Dunlin
Dowitcher**	- - - - -	Short-billed Dowitcher** (L. griseus)
Dowitcher**	- - - - -	Long-billed Dowitcher** (L. scolopaceus)
Avocet	- - - - -	American Avocet
Short-billed Gull	- - - - -	Mew Gull
Pacific Kittiwake	- - - - -	Black-legged Kittiwake
California Murre	- - - - -	Common Murre

* This word is Portugese and originally had a cedilla under the c to indicate the sound of s. Peterson does not use the sign. A.O.U. '57 uses the cedilla in the common name but omits it from the generic name. Americans will probably continue to spell and pronounce it as before.

**The two races of Dowitcher have been separated into two species.

PINNACLES OVERNIGHT TRIP

On the weekend of April 18-19, the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will visit the Pinnacles National Monument, south of Hollister.

In this area of ancient volcanic activity, there are wooded canyons to camp in, many fine trails leading to breath-taking views, and wild-flowers and birds in abundance.

An excellent place to get acquainted with such birds as, Canyon Wren, Poorwill, Western Gnatcatcher, and, on occasion, the uncommon Peregrine Falcon, which nests on ledges in the picturesque Cliff Formations.

We will meet there on Saturday, around noon (check with the Ranger to find where we are camping). If possible, we will camp in the old CCC camp in the Old Pinnacles Canyon. As the Pinnacles are very popular with people of Hollister and Gilroy, it is a good idea to get there early - Friday night would be the ideal time to drive down. Driving time is about 3-1/2 hours. Drive south through San Jose to Gilroy, just south of that town you turn left to Hollister, then 33 miles south to the Monument.

Between Hollister and the Pinnacles watch out for Kingbirds, Orioles, Magpies, and Phainopeplas.

Bring food for all meals - you cannot buy food or lodging at the Monument. The closest hotels are at Hollister or King City, so sleeping bags should be brought. Elevation roughly 1,500 feet (camping) to 3,300 feet (highest peak). Evenings can be cool and days warm, so a canteen is a very good idea - same goes for comfortable walking shoes.

Leaders: Harry Adamson - - Atlantic 3-2164
Myla Austin - - - Mulberry 5-8137



The Quail

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

May 1959
Vol. 5, No. 11

The next regular meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7th. President John V. Bruce has announced plans for the annual Hobby Project night, which will include some of his students from San Ramon Valley Union High School, and several of the Junior Audubon Club members from the Concord Elementary School. This group is led by Margaret and Glen Shanks.

John is expecting to have a few pertinent films to show, and is emphasizing an invitation to all members to tell of, or show their hobbies. There is ample display space should the hobbieist prefer to remain silent, he said.

Changed Field Trip Date is Sunday, May 3rd. Livermore Hills. Leaders Doris Crosby and Isabella McGeehon will be at the bridge over Las Trampas Creek, South Main Street, Walnut Creek by 8 a.m. They propose to go via Pleasanton to Mulfontes in the canyon of Arroyo del Valle, where trees are already being slaughtered to make way for the water conservation and flood control program. That project will convert much of that canyon into a lake, which presumably will be available for recreation purposes while offering inducement to some water birds.

The proposed route to the hills is down the San Ramon Valley, into Amador Valley, turning left on the freeway at Dublin, and right at the sign Hopyard Road, Thence, to Pleasanton across the main street, left two blocks, right across the railroad tracks, and straight ahead out Vineyard Avenue.

After crossing the Vallecitos Bridge over the Arroyo del Valle take first turn right, that will lead around a curve to Wetmore Road, then right onto Arroyo Road and straight ahead until the right turn which leads up to the hill to Mulfontes. A conspicuous white cloth will indicate that turn.

A more direct route is through Livermore and thence straight south on L Street, but more varied scenery and more birds should be seen traveling the other route.

Sparrow Hawks, Yellow-billed Magpies, and Mourning Doves are usually numerous in the fields and pastures along the creek. The scyammers bear those bunches of sticks that proclaim nesting sites of hawks and magpies. In this area it is possible and permissible to park and "beat the bushes" in the stream bed as may be done after crossing the cattle guard deeper into the canyon.

Daylight Saving will be in force so the eight o'clock hour will be

2-May Quail

earlier by the sun and for the birds. By the same token darkness will not come until eight or later in the evening. Those who would like to stroll out again after a siesta hour and remain for supper will be welcomed by the leaders with a fresh pot of coffee and a pitcher of punch. For further details call YE 4-2083 or YE 4-2752.

Changing the meeting day of the Society is again being discussed, and may be expected on the agenda before long. As the By-Laws now read: "Article 11 - Unless otherwise ordered by the Society the regular meetings shall be on the 1st. Thursday of each month, time and place to be set annually by the Board."

Originally the 2nd. Thursday was the day, changed after a few months because some members also belonged to the Golden Gate Society. At least 4 members miss most of the meetings because of school obligations that conflict. When this matter does come up there should be a free expression of opinion by the membership. McG.

The State Park Commission is again the object of proposed legislation. Bill 720, authored by Assemblywoman Pauline Davis would virtually strip the commission of authority to determine policy, but the Dilworth Bill would retain policy while vesting administration in the Department of Natural Resources.

The creation of such a department in Contra Costa County is under consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Raymond Van Tassel of Danville is urging the matter.

We read that the bond issue passed in Santa Clara, which means that the projected parking of 17 miles along Coyote Creek will become a reality some day.

Also, we read of the proposal to have Contra Costa cede some acreage to Alameda County so that the development in the making will be entirely in the one county. When Alameda County was created by legislative enactment 1853 (?) land was taken from Santa Clara and C.C. Co. And now "They" want some more!

Beware of bats. That heretofore harmless little beast may be rabid. And deer are carriers of anaplasmosis, a disease fatal to cattle, although not to deer, as a rule. Woodticks and horseflies have been found to be the transmitting agents, but to date no immunizing treatment has been found.

Also from the California Farmer: Although the 1958 fire toll was heavy and there were more fires than reported the year before the cost was 15% less because of the use of aircraft. Tree planting for the year ending June 1958 reached 1½ million, nearly all in forest planting, and 86% on privately held lands.

To the Whittier Observer thanks for a copy of the digest of A.O.U. revised nomenclature prepared by J.H. Comby of the Whittier Audubon Society. We, now have the complete work which must have involved a great deal of painstaking time. To Russell R. Johnson thanks for sending us a copy, and to B.B. Wilder thanks for doing enough for every member of Mt. D.A.S. to have a copy. We plan to impose still further on his time when he has time to complete the "Zerowing."

Dead is the little Hawk Owl that came from the Arctic region to winter near Concord, Massachusetts. Why it came south has been a matter of conjecture. Perhaps the lemming crop was poor, the periodic suicidal

3-May Quail

migration having been more far reaching than customary. Many birders traveled far to add the friendly little bird to their Life Lists. Death came from eating a mouse infected with Aspergillosis, which induced pneumonia. This infectious disease found in the ground is a common cause of bird death, we read in the Massachusetts Audubon Bulletin.

Elizabeth O'Meara reported her pleasure in watching two Mockingbirds dancing, almost like a minuet. This sight, well worth watching, is mentioned in the last issue of the Roadrunner from the Maricopa Audubon Society.

The Steller family spent Easter Week in Arizona. Sally reports the cacti in such glorious bloom that "desert" seemed a misnomer. She met her first Arizona Cardinal, Cactus Wren, and Gila Woodpecker.

The Beitzels did Death Valley with many a thrill, according to Violet. The Ruths went family and trailer to the Monterey Peninsula.

The Adamsons are preparing to go again to the Chiricahuas, and the Manns to New England this spring. Sorry they cannot meet the Hawk Owl.

Thank God for Little Birds, or the Flies Have It - Evelyen Mann sends in this entomological note: "One pair of flies, beginning operations in April could produce 191 septillion flies by August if all lived. That's 191,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000." Evelyen writes "I say thank goodness for flycatchers and other birds."

The Editor has finally had suspicion confirmed - the Sparrow Hawks are definitely going in and out that hole in the top of a telephone pole atop an Oakvale Road hill.

Also, she thinks she saw a Pigeon Hawk flying over one evening. Rich Stallcup made definite identification of one on Mount Diablo during the Christmas Count. The bird winging over the McGeehon homestead was larger, than a Sparrow Hawk, and different in plumage as seen from ground level, and was using much more wing motion, but, it did have the scimitar-shaped wings.

New officers elected last month to assume office July 1st. are:
President, Ferd S. Ruth

Vice-President, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara

Secretary, Mrs. Glenn Shanks (Margaret)

Treasurer, George E. Schad

Director, Harry N. Couden

The By-laws provide that the president names the chairmen of committees.

Retiring president John V. Bruce is the recipient of a scholarship to the Lake Ataska summer school of the University of Minnesota. The Bruces will camp.

In the meantime he may be reached by dialing VE 7-2704 - at 348 Verona Avenue, Danville.

N.B.P.S. Important - Plans are in the making for another fund-raising potluck picnic supper, after swimming and before a program. Mr. and Mrs. C. Eugene Johnson have written John Bruce that the Society may have their place on Macomber Road, above Danville, for the occasion. Many of the members will recall the evening Mr. Johnson showed the fascinating pictures of his own bird refuge as well as the Federal Refuge in Utah. Since then they have traveled far and wide; in the 50th State which last heard from by J.V.B. Details will be in the June Quail. In the meantime keep the project in mind for a day in June. McG.



The Quail

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

June 1959
Vol. 5, No. 12.

Sunday, June 7th afternoon and evening is the Big Day for Mount Diablo Audubon Society at the C. Eugene Johnson home on Macomber Drive in the Danville foothills. Should anyone fail to receive a card with a map, just turn right going south, at the Shell Station, drive on Montair until Macomber then out that road to the Johnsons, something under a mile.

The pool will be open to swimmers from 3 until 6 p.m. Then the supper. After that pick-up, the brief business meeting when John V. Bruce, retiring and untiring president will present Ferd S. Ruth with the gavel (symbolic), perhaps a few jinks, and a very good program. Mr. Johnson will show and tell the story of their travels Down Under: Australia and environs.

All this for \$1.00 for adults; 50¢ for children. Committee consists of Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, YE 4-4720, and Mrs. Harry N. Couden, YE 4-8873. Reservations should be made no later than Thursday, the 4th. Members bring the food. A rule of thumb is enough for your own crowd and three times again. Bring own dishes and utensils. A few more folding chairs and tables may be needed.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society needs to make money so as to do more than exist. Very pleasant to meet and go on field trips, but if we are an Audubon Society we should do more. One bit of business will be consideration of contributing to the scholarship fund of Golden Gate Society. Although Mount Diablo is not financially able to give a full scholarship it should be able to give part of one. Several members have benefited from Audubon scholarships. Be ready to express an opinion when the question comes up. McG.

Remember guests are welcomed for sociability as well as revenue.

No other meeting in June, nor any field trip. July 11 and 12 are the dates of the trip to Echo Lake. Details in the July Quail.

June Quail - 2

Legislation--The Sea Lions are in trouble. At one time their numbers were so reduced that protective legislation was enacted to prevent extinction. Now, commercial fishermen, who do have their rights, are complaining loudly that the thriving Lions are getting the lion's share of the ocean salmon. So, no protection is what the fishermen want. The horrible suggestion has been made that depth bombing be used.

Perhaps the Sea Lions should be reduced, but surely not "killed off". Stomach analysis has revealed that they consume many fish of no special value to man, including the deadly lamprey. Another argument against is that those seals are good for naught but showing to tourists. Salmon do have a high commercial value, but so do tourists. Salmon also, do have esthetic value. It seems that an impartial survey should be made, but surely nothing approaching extinction attempted.

We are inclined to overdo wild life control. Kill off coyotes, hire men to poison rodents. After awhile we go all out to save a species or variety from extinction.

Conservation we understand is the "Wise" use of our natural resources. "Wise" may include controlled burning, or slaughter. Better to shoot surplus deer than to permit them to starve, or to reproduce a weakened strain owing to malnutrition.

Man has been characterized as the "greatest predator of all." Doubtless true, but Man is also a part of the Creation. McG.

Pinnacles Field Trip, Saturday, April 18th. Myla Austin, historian. Bird tally not at hand as yet.

A group of about 30 members and friends camped together at the Chalone Creek Campground in the Pinnacles National Monument, Saturday. Of this number, ten were under the age of sixteen, and a very pleasant well-behaved addition they were. The day was sunny with a pleasant cool breeze (unusual for the Pinnacles).

At 10:30 in the morning, 18 started for Chalone Peak of which 11 finished the trip.

Saturday evening the group gathered around the campfire to talk over the birding of the day. Harry Couden's new 'scope was called into service to view the moon. Poor-Wills were spotted by some of the members when walking--by others with the aid of auto headlights.

Sunday morning an early (before breakfast) bird walk was taken by a small but enthusiastic group who considered this field trip the most rewarding of the weekend.

At 9:30 that same morning 22 people took High Peaks trail, lunched at the top and arrived back at the starting point at 2:30.

Noteworthy birds seen were Prairie Falcon and Hermit Warbler on the trips and Vaux Swifts in camp.

June Quail - 3

Camping season is just around the corner so to speak. Audubon Summer Camp at Sugar Bowl Lodge opens the first of 5 two-week sessions June 21st. Last session closes August 29th. Full details may be had at the office of National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4. This summer camp school has such academic rating that two semester upper division college credit can be earned.

Livermore Hills Field Trip, Sunday, May 3rd. Doris Crosby, Isabella McGeehon, leaders. B. B. Wilder graciously accepted the responsibility of recorder.

Shortly after 8 a.m., twenty-two members and guests left Walnut Creek. During the day they were joined by fourteen more counting Mari Larson rising two, who recognized "the deer as a Bambi", and the vulture feather in her own hair as a "pow-wow".

Two stops on the way up the canyon of Arroyo del Valle yielded birding and geological specimens for the rock gardeners. After a ramble around the Mulfontes hills, the group gathered for lunch in and about the house. About that time Lynn Farrar and friend Johnny arrived. Later the Adamsons, Coxes, and Sathers.

The day was excellent for seeing birds. The wind coolish, but not higher than 10 m.p.h. By evening it had subsided. After sundown the fire in the dining room fireplace was pleasant.

For various reasons the crowd began breaking up during the afternoon so that seventeen was the number that finished the day at Mulfontes. Bev Wilder drove around and over the divide to the Mocho Canyon intent upon adding a Phainopepla to his life list. He succeeded.

One can always count on an outstanding bird show at Mulfontes during May. One year the Larksparrow gave concert after concert. On the 1958 trip the Western Tanagers "put on the show". This year the same Sunday, by the way, the Violet-green Swallows fascinated with an aerial circus. As they dipped and banked, the sun brought out the iridescence of those violet-green backs. The Lawrence's Goldfinches were about particularly enjoying the horse trough where they drank with House Finches, Black Phoebes, and Western Bluebirds. Carlyle Sather marked up his first of those Goldfinches for the year.

Birds--Green Heron; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Cooper's, Sparrow, Red-tailed; California Quail; Killdeer; Least Sandpiper; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Hummingbirds, Anna's, Allen's; Belted Kingfisher; Woodpeckers, Red-Shafted Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', Downy; Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Ashthroated, Black Phoebe, Western, Western Wood Peewee; Swallows, Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn, Cliff; Jays, Steller's, Scrub; Yellow-billed Magpie; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit.

Wrens, House, Bewick; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Warbling Vireo; Warblers,

June Quail - 4

Orange-crowned, Yellow, Townsend's, Wilson's; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Redwinged, Brewer's; Bullock's Oriole; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Finches, House, American Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch; Towhees, Rufous-sided, Brown; Lark Sparrow; Oregon Junco; Sparrows, Chipping, White-crowned, Fox, Song. Some of those B.B.W. may have found on the Mocho, although with the exception of the Phainopepla all the others might have been in the Arroyo del Valle Canyon--upwards of 70, in any event.

Recommended reading, recommended by biologist J.V.B., the article on Page 64, June Reader's Digest. Backfire in the War Against Insects.

A White Gyrfalcon (Jur) from the brush of Harry Adamson is being hung in the Walnut Creek Pageant of Art. This Alaskan bird rarely comes as far south as northern California. It is related to the European Gyrfalcon that darts across the pageants of romances of the days of chivalry.

Bits of charcoal soaked in synthetic skunk juice are reported just the thing to repel rattlesnakes. Laboratory name "Mercaitan". The Richfield Oil Company is continuing research on the effectiveness of the chemical. Electrocardiograms have been made of rattlers. The heartbeat accelerated when skunk and/or kingsnake odors were wafted into the cage..

Lynn Farrar reports Lawrence's Goldfinches in his yard. Elizabeth O'Meara has been chummy with a Mourning Dove as they worked in her garden a scarce ten feet apart. A Ringnecked Pheasant in glorious plumage crows daily on the north slope hill of Oakvale Road. He is seen almost as often; and some of the neighbors report a hen. Frances Blake was surprised to see a brood of Quail in her yard May 4th, about two days old she thought. A Bullock's Oriole was seen bathing in the McGeehon pool.

Bandtailed Pigeons have made the news as damaging apricots and cherries in Santa Clara. E.O'M. is now convinced that she did see a pigeon at Mulfontes. As the pigeon flies there are not many miles over the hills between the two places.

Harry Couden sent in this account of his early April jaunt about the South. With apologies for condensing--

April was his month. In addition to the Pinnacles, he "birded" on beautiful Turtle Creek in Dallas. Was also Audubon Society guest of Warden John Larson at the Green Island Refuge on the Gulf at the southern tip of Texas. This is a wild 35-acre, semi-tropical, crowded, nesting, island area. Close together were Herons, Black-crowned Night, Louisiana, Great and Little Blues; Egrets, American, Snowy, and Reddish; White Ibis; Boat-tailed Grackle; eleven Roseate Spoonbills (first official count), and a pair of vulture."

The 35 minute boat trip out yielded, in addition, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Clauous-winged Gull; Marsh Hawk; Crow; Least Sandpiper; Royal Tern; Laughing Gull; Willet; Meadowlark; White Pelican; Heerman's

June Quail - 5

Gull; Chimney Swifts; Mexican Cormorant; Least Tern. Later on the island he added Yellow-throat; Hooded Warbler; Yellow-bellied Fly-catcher; Orchard Oriole; Blackburnian Warbler; Gull-billed Tern.

This is the final Quail of Volume 5. The Editor thanks all who have assisted her; while she regrets her inability to make use of everything set her. Cost sheets have to be considered. To Bev Wilder the Society owes much for his service as publisher; and to Sally Steller who has addressed most of the envelopes all year in spite of three active sons.

Examination question--"In the Fall why do the geese fly south?"
Schoolboy's reply--"Because it is too far to walk."
One mystery of nature solved! Attention Dr. L. R. Mewaldt.

Mrs. J. C. McGeehon
2165 Oakvale Road
Walnut Creek, Calif.
YE 4-2752

P.S. Dick and Violet Beitzel have thought of a way to separate us from our small change, Sunday the 7th. Be prepared. It's painless.



The Quail

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

July, 1959.
Vol. 6, No. 1.

The regular monthly meetings of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will not be held in July or August. The next meeting will be an alfresco potluck supper in the picnic area of the property of Mrs. John Taylor and her daughter, Janet Willoughby. Details will be given in the August Quail.

The Field Trip scheduled for the weekend of July 11 and 12, is in the capable hands of Mrs. Betty Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, AT 3-2164, and Mr. John Fitzpatrick, 2449 Dwight Way, Berkeley, AS 3-5716. The destination is "Echo Lake". With labor disturbances threatening the "publishing plant" of publisher B. B. Wilder, it was necessary to print the Quail in advance of its normal schedule, in order to insure no hitch in its delivery. Additional information will be enclosed when the Quail is mailed, or you may contact the co-leaders at their home phones.

The birds on the Pinnacles Trip came in too late for either the May or June issues of the Quail, but here they are at last:

Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Osprey, Sparrow; California Quail; Mourning Dove; Owl, Barn, Horned; Poor-Will; Swifts, Vauxs, White-throated; Hummingbird, Anna's, Rufous, Allen's; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpecker, Acorn, Downy, Lewis, Nuttall's; Western Kingbird; Flycatchers, Ash-throated, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Western; Violet-green Swallow; Jays, Steller's, Scrub; Yellow-billed Magpie; American Raven; Crow; Plain Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Mockingbird; Bushtit; Wren, Canyon, Bewicks, House, Rock; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird; Western Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Phainopepla; California Shrike; Vireo, Hutton's, Solitary, Warbling; Warbler, Audubon's, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Hermit; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Bullock's Oriole; Blackbird, Red-winged, Brewer's; Black-headed Grosbeak; Finch, House, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Common Goldfinch; Towhee, Brown, Rufous-sided; Oregon Junco; Sparrow, Lark, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Fox, Song.

Legislation. The Migratory Bird Conservations Commission has approved the establishment of two new migratory bird refuges, according to information from the Department of the Interior, as published in the Outdoor California. One of these is in the North Carolina-Virginia region, the other Modoc County, California.

The Desert Protective Council, Inc., proposes the establishment of a sanctuary for wildlife in the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains. Although the avowed purpose is to protect all wildlife of the area, saving the Desert Bighorn Sheep is the primary object, and one of greatest concern. An impressive list of names appears on the roster of the Board of Directors and Advisory Panel, representing western states; locally known is William Drake. Also, it was interesting to read the endorsement of J. R. "Bill" Pemberton, sportsman, naturalist, one-time outstanding athlete, petroleum-geologist and president of the Cooper Club. A half century ago, as an under-graduate and later as a graduate student in the Stanford College of Mines Summer School he

birded the Livermore Hills, including Mulfontes.

Elizabeth O'Meara was intrigued to find a Barn Owl dozing on an oak limb in her garden in broad daylight. Also, she watched a Brewer's Blackbird walking an overhead wire - walking, not hopping, she avers. Above her front door, House Finches have been having Mockingbird trouble. Now, the Mockers have completed their assignment, the finches have settled down to tranquil domesticity.

By the first week in June Frances Blake had seen four different broods of young quail in her garden. About that time the mosquito abatement men came to check the McGeehon Mosquitos. In the thicket near the water supply they observed moving among the leaves which they took to be lizards - new quail!

Bev Wilder notes that while he was watering garden plants, an Anna Hummingbird lit on the plant being watered and doused himself in the stream of water, not over 18" from Bev's hand. This is really the way to do birding!!

A Great Horned Owl confused the high-tension bus-work for branches in Pittsburg this week, as a result a good portion of the town was without power, including part of the steel mill. Also as a result, the P.G.& E. had an electrocuted owl to add to its sizable animal collection.

Steve Ruth reports a brood of eighteen quail near the family home, 43 Guesta Way, Walnut Creek. Also, in that area a Ring-necked Pheasant family.

The Ruth family plans to travel as far afield as Canada in August, after summer school. The Coudens have left for a four weeks "big circle" trip, which will include northern California, a part of Idaho, and most of Oregon and Washington. The Manns are home after a transcontinental month, as far east as New England. In Michigan they were so fortunate as to see the famed Courtland Warbler, and in Utah the Bear River Wildfowl Refuge.

The swim-pot luck supper, picture showing, fun-having, fund-raising and all-around good time party at the Johnson Home, Sunday, June 7th, was successful in all categories. As darkness came on so that the pictures could be seen in the patio, a cool little June wind came up as June winds do. However through the "pull" of the Eschen family, the Society was able to drive down the hill to the multi-purpose room of St. Isadore's school and there enjoy the really thrilling pictorial tour of Down Under, guided by Mr. Johnson. This long voyage was made aboard the luxury-liner *Mariposa*, by the Johnsons but a few years ago, visiting the Hawaiian Islands, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, Fiji. Although Mr. Johnson seemingly considered most of the native customs, and the enchanting scenery worthy of preservation, he was definite that food once buried should remain interred, and not exhumed, particularly for dining. His audience ran out of adjectives when, as a finale, he ran a short reel of New England in Autumn. The pinks, reds, yellows of the spring buds were more lavish after the summer growth. Hidden by the chlorophyll supplied by the sap of the good old summer time, the original hues had once again appeared, but with the size and brilliancy of maturity.

The Society is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson for their hospitality, which meant an afternoon and evening of good fellowship, and an opportunity to build up the treasury by \$25.00 - which could be sent the Golden Gate Society for its scholarship fund. Thanks are also due to all those who attended so well to the preliminaries, especially retiring president, John V. Bruce; retiring secretary Mrs. Harry Couden; and vice-president-elect, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara.

Three days later, John left with his wife and three sons for summer school at Lake Ataska, where they will camp until the close of the session. As he presented incoming president, Ferdinand S. Ruth with the portfolio, he explained that the carton given him by Harry Couden had fallen apart, and that in repacking the new one he had found Harry's watch, missing all year.

The complete list of new officers and chairmen will be printed next month.

Editor: Mrs. J. C. McGeehon



The Quail

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

August 1959
Vol. 6, No. 2

No meeting in August. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd, 6 p.m. in the picnic area of the home of Mrs. John Taylor and her daughter, Janet Willoughby, 3273 Glenside Drive, Lafayette, ATLantic 3-3761.

Reservations should be made not later than August 31st. Those making reservations can discuss with the hostesses contributions to the pot-luck picnic supper, and the need for additional folding tables.

Owing to injuries received some weeks ago Mrs. Lester Hink will be unable to show some of the animals in her private menagerie, as planned with Janet. However, Mrs. Jos. W. Corse who is well versed in herpetology will show some of her specimens and the Alexander Lindsays will bring some of the Junior Museum animals. Members may look forward to an evening of scientific as well as social interest.

The field trip planned for this month has had to be postponed: a case of time and tides. No qualified leader for a Marine trip has been found at a time that the tides are right.

The next trip will be in September, probably on Sunday the 6th. Customarily field trips are the weekend following the regular meeting.

The official report of the Wright's Lake trip has not yet come in, but unofficially we learn that thirteen or fourteen was the total count of members making the journey. Some members did not go up until Sunday--the three Wilders, and some who went on Saturday arrived early that day but left for home early Sunday--the two Crosbys, who wanted to return by way of Sonora Pass.

Nature photography will be the subject of an outstanding color slide show to be presented two evenings this month. The Merced International Nature Exhibition will hold the show Tuesday evening the 25th, Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way and Grove, and Wednesday evening in San Francisco, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, 8 p.m. both evenings. Admission free. Showing time about an hour.

"Included will be slides of birds, insects, wildflowers, plants, mammals, reptiles, and general scenes representing the best color work of over 200 photographic exhibitors throughout the world."

August Quail - 2

This is the fourth successive year the Merced Camera Club has held this salon to which a general cordial invitation is given. Better go early to be sure of a seat.

We are indebted to Miss Betty Randall for the invitation to the Society.

The final figure on the fund-raising party at the Johnson home was not available until after the Quail went to press last month. George E. Schad reports \$66.00 total, of which about \$10.00 was realized from the sale of the two cameras given by Dick and Violet Beitzel. Again "thank you" to all concerned.

The membership list is about to be revised. Will all members who have had a change of address within the year please send or give that change to the Editor--2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek or YELLOWSTONE 4-2752.

Chairmen named to date:

Program--Mrs. W. E. "Katie" Hassler, 18 Cuesta Way, W. C., YE 4-3151.
Membership--Miss Rosalyn Phillips, 2132 Overlook Dr., W. C., YE 4-7251.
Publicity--Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2131 Overlook Dr., W. C., YE 4-4720.
Quail--Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W. C., YE 4-2752.
Field trips to be named.

Mrs. J. S. "Sally" Steller, who addressed most of the envelopes last year has volunteered to do so again, and B. B. "Bev" Wilder, as strike conditions permit will again act as publisher. Having access to a Zerox "machine" has indeed been a boon to the Society.

Elizabeth O'Meara reports serious cat trouble in her birdland. A most persistent one recently destroyed, close to the house, a Brown Towhee's nest in which were four nestlings. This cat roams the neighborhood and is always so sleek and well fed appearing that its diet probably includes other birds. The solution is more easily said than done.

"Bird watching" is a many faceted thing. We are happy to receive reports of "bird antics" in addition to regulation observations.

Janet Willoughby and family have returned from some weeks spent at Buck's Lake and Lassen.

The Wilders are spending their annual fortnight on the campus of the College of the Pacific where folk dancers from far and near convene for fun and instruction. At the close of the session they are going to spend a week at Santa Cruz.

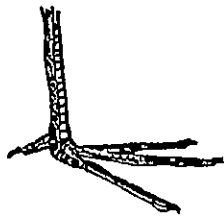
The Ruth family is planning August on the Olympic Peninsula and on into Canada.

The State is to have a new park in Monterey County, about 90 acres that will afford both river and ocean waterfronts; near Moss Landing about 2 miles from the mouth of the Salinas River.

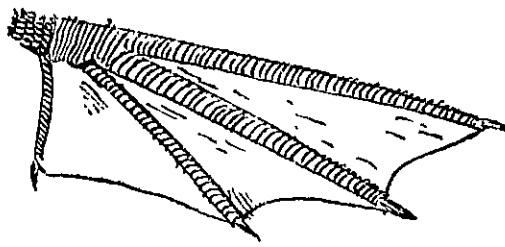
President--Ferd. S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YELLOWSTONE 4-8803.

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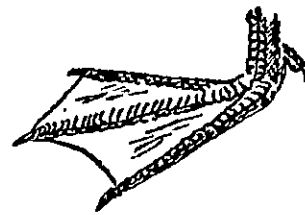
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A. Virginia Rail



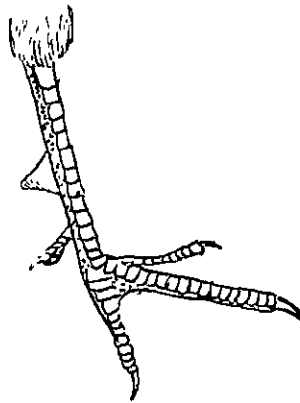
B. Cormorant



C. Mallard



D. Pied-billed Grebe



E. Ring-necked Pheasant



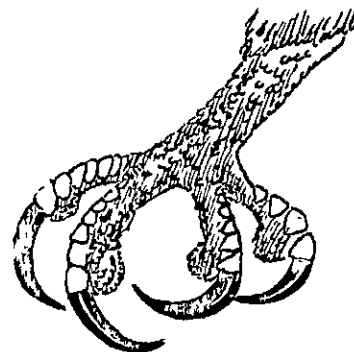
F. Ruffed Grouse



G. Robin



H. Woodpecker



I. Osprey

These "birdlegs" were done by an artist- Paul Bonilla, his authority Introduction to Ornithology by Geo. J. Wallace Ph.D. professor of Zoology Michigan State College. Publisher MacMillan Company 1955. Each foot designed for a way of life, or did the way of life evolve the foot? The fleshy fringes of the Ruffed Grouse foot are snowshoes for winter wear only. "cG.



The Quail

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

September 1959
Vol. 6 No. 3

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society which will be the first of the new year will be, also, the annual potluck picnic supper at the home of Mrs. John Taylor and her daughter Janet Willoughby, 3273 Glenside, Lafayette, AT 3-3761, Thursday, September 3, 6 p.m. The hostesses would like reservations made no later than August 31, so that the menu and seating may be planned.

President Ferd S. Ruth will call a brief business session before the short program gets underway. Mrs. Jos. W. Corse will display a few of her well-caged reptiles as she talks on herpetology, and the Alexander Lindsays will bring some of the animals that served the Junior Museum this past summer.

The next Field Trip will be the yearly check on the water birds at Bay Farm Island according to the decision made at the recent meeting of the Fields Trip committee called by the chairman, Harry N. Couden, at the Coudens.

Continuing the plan of other years, members will gather at Lincoln Park in Alameda prepared to start at 1 p.m. Those who are in picnicking mood should plan allowing time for eating. The park is a good spot for a picnic lunch and is best reached via High Street bridge.

From Betty Adamson the Wright's Lake trip in July:

"After several warm days in the Bay Area it was a relief to leave on Friday night for the Sierra. We weren't alone as the traffic was heavy and when we arrived at Wright's Lake about midnight all designated camp sites had been taken an hour ago, but that didn't bother most of us. One good thing was that the majority of our group were able to camp close together. It was good to see Katie and Bill Hassler again, besides old and new friends as the Farrars, the Crosbys, the Reynolds, the Coxes, Jane Menetz and her son, Frank.

The Berkeley Hiking Club also had scheduled a trip to the same spot. Some of us joined the group on Saturday morning for an all day hike to Smith Lake and the higher ridges beyond to about 10,000 feet from which we looked directly into Desolation Valley. We returned down around Twin Lakes. There wasn't much time for birding, but we did hear several Hermit Thrushes singing, at one time, and saw Rosy Finches eating bugs (?) off the snow. Meanwhile Harry took over the leadership of the afternoon birding trip to Dark Lake and nearby spots, having good views of a male Grosbeak, Williamson's Sapsucker, and Cassin Finches. (Harry does a much better job, anyway.)

Saturday night the Berkeley Hiking Club joined us at our Camp Fire and Thelma Carder sang some folk songs and played her guitar.

September Quail - 2

Sunday morning we discovered what the commotion was during the night. It seemed a deer came into camp and our dog Clancy scared it, so the deer jumped over a log behind which the Coxes were sleeping. The deer landed on "Cooky's" legs, scaring him half to death, but fortunately did no further damage.

After breakfast Sunday morning most of the group hiked to Twin Lakes birding along the way and had good views of the Greentailed Towhee, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Nighthawk, Clark's Nutcracker, and Dipper feeding young. A marmot also, was obliging and sat on a rock so we could have a good view. The flowers this year were outstanding particularly Pride of the Mountain against the granite. Bev Wilder and his son joined us at Twin Lakes at noon having driven from Murphys that morning.

Both afternoons many of the group were found swimming in Wright's Lake, which is shallow enough to make the water quite warm.

The following 40 species were seen:

Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, California Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dipper, House Wren, Rock Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Brewer's Blackbird, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Warbling Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow."

An invitation from the Golden Gate Society:

To participate in a salute to Mr. John Baker, past president of National Audubon Society, who will be principal speaker at a catered supper (barbecued chicken) to be held Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m. at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont. The price of the supper is \$3.50 per person. No deadline for reservations is given, but Mrs. Louise Muhler is chairman, 5774 Scarborough Drive, Oakland - KE 2-7619.

Legislation--One of the 75 bills affecting wildlife which the Governor signed extends the boundaries of the California Sea Otter Game Refuge, designed to give further protection to these furbearers. Although they are increasing in number, the time for open season is not yet.

In July a section of the Sierra Club held a litter collecting workout, and a workout it proved to be for 2½ tons were collected. We often wonder why an empty beer can takes more space in a car than a full one, or why an empty candy bar wrapper is worse in the car than the full one, or why a used Kleenex looks better in a friend's yard than on the floor of the car.

The Coudens returned after their big swing around the circle, Dorothy with a broken ankle, the result of a "freak" accident, and that the result of a misstep as she walked on a beach. A good sized stone happened to be where her left ankle came down hard enough to break two bones. She is wonderfully dextrous on crutches.

The Steller family are home after a week in Southern California, and the Irvings have left for a trip of a few weeks in Canada.

The lecturer will be Mrs. Eric "Laurel" Reynolds who is receiving increasing National acclaim for her work. She will show her film and tell the story of The New World Rediscovered. Members of Golden Gate Society, Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds open their grounds and home when that group has special "affairs".

This is the only tour scheduled for fall. The next will be January 18, lecturer Howard L. Orians, who has been with us before; Wednesday, February 24, Cleveland P. Grant, another who has been here; Friday, March 25, C. Clifford Carl; and Tuesday, May 3, Bristol Foster. Details later.

The Bay Farm Island trip was held a week later than the usual weekend owing to Labor Day involvement, a good turnout withal. Rich Stallcup, a capable leader, did not have time to get his report in before The Quail had to be processed. Those riding in Ingra Lusebrink's car report seeing three unidentified Hawks as they drove along.

Field Trip Chairman Harry N. Couden and committee members have planned a schedule of trips through July 1960. Third on the list is the weekend of November 7-8, Willows-Gridley; then December 6, Conn Lake; December 21, Christmas Count; January 10, Tomales Bay; February 7, Terminous Island area; March 6, Calaveras Dam, Water Temple; April 9-10, Columbia; April 23-24, Pinnacles; May 14-15, Livermore Hills; May 21-22, Russian River; June 5, Pine Canyon, Castle Rock; July 9-10, Wright's Lake.

List of leaders: Richard Stallcup, B. B. Wilder, Carlyle Sather, the Beitzels, the Farrars, the Coudens, the Glotfeltys, Barbara Bonnickson, Mrs. Audrey Goren, the Austins, Betty Adamson, Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, the Perlman, Elizabeth C. O'Meara, Rosalyn Phillips, the Reynolds, and Mrs. Wm. L. Crosby.

Although minor changes may have to be made through the year the trip program will be substantially as outlined by the committee consisting of the chairman, Lynn Farrar, B. B. Wilder, Harry Adamson and The Quail. Away frequently on business trips, Harry C. has his wife, Dorothy, well trained as his secretary. This from him, "All except the Perlman's place on the Russian River are familiar. This is because they have proved themselves for good birding during the months selected. Some, like Conn Lake and Tomales, have repeated regularly since our field trips started. And because April and May are the best months for birding overnight, this year we have included two such trips for each of these months. We hope that in this way everybody will participate."

This is a good time to state some rules of the birding trail. By our observing them we give the greatest pleasure to all the group, as well as to ourselves, for they all come under the head of common sense and good manners. Foremost, is the fact that the leader is in charge. He sets the pace for everybody. He, not just anybody, must be in the forward car or group.

Such things as sudden motions, running, throwing objects, and slamming car doors can definitely make fewer birds counted; while constant talking and visiting along the trail can become annoying, even disruptive, with similar results."

A birding expedition and a Nature Walk are very different. When birding seeing, identifying, and enumerating the birds of the visited area is the important thing; while on a nature walk birds are incidental. In the Utah Audubon News recently given was an account of a Creep, which included everything along the way. McG.

Mrs. Robert Hozier, 948 Hawthorne Drive, Lafayette, a new member is Good Samaritan to disabled birds. Most recent bird reported is Purple Finch. From being barely able to flutter it can now fly to the valance over a kitchen window.

One does not associate hawks with the heart of a city, but two Peregrines are perfectly at home atop a building which Harry C. observes daily from his desk in the Adams Grant building in San Francisco.

Apologies from the Editor for an inadvertant error made in the July issue. The warbler which is found only in the jackpine region of the Michigan Peninsula is "Kirtland's" not "Courtland's".

Elizabeth O'Meara was surprised to look overhead just in time to see a Kockingbird peck a Loggerhead Shrike in the back as it perched on a wire.

We read-in spite of the heavy toll taken of water fowl in Lower Klamath and Tulalake refuges owing to the spreading of insecticides, and pesticides because of the mouse scourge, the number of ducks is reaching the half million mark. Geese are also increasing the population.

Low water, owing to the dry winter, increased the botulism content of the water so that many birds died of that natural poison.

Leached from the soil into salmon bearing rivers are pollutants from abandoned and operating mines to such an extent that, "something has to be done about it."

In the July number of Outdoor California is a list of persons whose hunting licenses have been revoked permanently, because involved in the killing or wounding of another person. Three were listed as under a five-year ban. Too many hunters killing too many persons.

A Bittern was reported picked up in the midst of heavy traffic in Brooklyn, New York. The rescuing patrolman suggested it might be a cross between a stork and a vulture.

A new preventive for poison oak and poison ivy trouble sold under the name of Aqua Ivy Tablets, 100 for \$4.65 in drug stores, manufactured by Syntex Chemical Company, Dept. 2, 10 East 40th Street, New York 17, from whom a free booklet on these poisonous shrubs may be had.

President Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Questa Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-8803.

Publicity Chairman--Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive,
Walnut Creek, YE 4-4720.

The Quail. 2165 Oakvale Road. Walnut Creek, YE 4-2752.



The Quail

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

October 1959
Vol. 6, No. 4

We had hoped to see all of you at Janet Willoughby's garden party to greet the new Audubon year. We had a most pleasant first fall meeting and are now looking forward to seeing all our active members at Las Lomas High School, Room 201, Thursday, October 1, 8 p.m. F.S.R.

Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler as program chairman, announces an evening with the Papago Indians of the Southwest with Glen Shanks leading the way along the trail he took with his camera last spring.

The October field trip is scheduled for Sunday, the 4th, with B. B. Wilder leader to the Sewer Farm and environs. Meet him at 9 a.m. at the entrance where there is ample parking space. Bev says he has found walking the levee between the ponds, then left along the stream bank returning eastward by the slough is the most birdful route.

Among the trees Hawks are frequently seen, even a Kite, and in the slough such birds as Yellowlegs, Avocets, Snipe, and more than once a Green Heron. Grebes and Ducks are on the ponds.

This is a half day trip unless the participants desire to carry lunch and go on to the Avon area as has been suggested. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reynolds may serve as co-leaders, their first experience in leading the Society. At the time of going to press The Quail had not received definite word.

The first Screen Tour of the 1959-60 series will be Monday, October 5, 8:00 p.m., in the Gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, Golf Links Road. The road is well marked, the lights of the campus clearly visible to the west of the highway to Martinez.



The Quail

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

November 1959
Vol. 6 No. 5

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be 8 p.m., Thursday, November 5, Room 201, Las Lomas High School. Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler, program chairman, has induced John V. Bruce, immediate past president of the Society to tell of his summer at Lake Atasca in Minnesota.

John camped there with his family during the summer school session to which he had a scholarship. Lake Atasca, site of the University of Minnesota Biology Station, is the headwaters of the Mississippi River. There he took some pictures while doing Field Biology and studying the Ecology of the region. Guests are always welcomed at Audubon meetings.

Carlyle Sather (not Carl) sends word on the Field Trip to the Refuges in the Willows--Gridley areas, Saturday and Sunday, November 7th and 8th, either or both.

He writes "On Saturday we meet at 10 a.m. at Gray Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge, southwest of Gridley. From Gridley drive west on Colusa Road about 4 miles, turn south on Pennington Road to sign directing visitors to the Refuge. It can be reached by turning west at Liveoak. Inquire at service station.

Sunday 9:30 a.m., meet at Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge about 7 miles south of Willows on Highway 99W.

Members wishing to make overnight reservations should write at once to a motel near Willows, as the hunting season will be on and accommodations will be very limited. A.A.A. recommended motels near Willows are Blue Gum Motel, Willows Motel, Western Motel, and Casa Linda Motel." To get in touch with Mr. Sather call PL 6-0581, Colma, California.

We understand that any accommodations in the neighborhood of Marysville will serve.

Rich Stallcup, the bird-bander who puts the birds awaiting attention in paper bags and lets them hop about the kitchen floor, sends us this--

"About 15 members met in Lincoln Park on High Street, Alameda, September 13th for a day of birding at Bay Farm Island. First, the group visited the loafing grounds on Frontage Road where they saw quite a number of shore birds. We birded

this area rather quickly in order (we thought) to hit Bay Farm Island at a perfect tide. When the group arrived the tide was high, just as was expected. After waiting a long time for the tide to recede most of the group became discouraged and left. The few who did remain were very well rewarded. Thousands and thousands of shorebirds began to flock in as fast as the mud was uncovered and the Clapper Rails got out of their salicornia and pickleweed haunts to walk around a bit.

The unpredictable tide is probably due to the dredging and filling of the waters at Bay Farm. The most interesting birds were Wandering Tattler, Clapper Rails, and many Greater Yellowlegs.

Bay Farm Island is a wonderful place for observing all types of shorebirds in fall and spring at close range. Visit while you still can."

From B. B. Wilder--"The Sewer Farm was a success only insofar as weather and size of group was concerned. The birding conditions were very poor. Only two ponds had water in them and the duck hunters were practicing at the duck club next to the AT & SF tracks. Adamson and his early bird group had already covered Mallard Lake (fortunately for us) and got some birds we would have missed otherwise. As it was, we got excellent views at the Sewer Farm of three White-tailed Kites, a Marsh Hawk and some Eared Grebes. Saw absolutely no shorebirds along the canal, which was nearly dry. After returning to the entrance the early birds (Adamson, Coudens, Farrars) left for other dates, and the rest of us with Carlyle Sather, went over to Avon, thence to Mallard Reservoir, Galindo Reservoir (good view Yellowlegs, Dowitcher) and finally the lake right in Concord. This is a new spot to some and worth knowing. There we parted with some looking for the Lewis Woodpecker on Mayhew and Hookston Roads (none about), and thence to Marchbanks pond and home. The sum total of our observations is listed below (only 44 species).

Grebe, Eared, Pied-billed; Heron, Great Blue, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Green; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, Ruddy; Hawks, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed, Marsh, Sparrow; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Lesser Yellowlegs; Long-billed Dowitcher; American Avocet; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Ring-billed Gull; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Barn Swallow; Wren, Bewick's, Long-billed Marsh; Loggerhead Shrike; Warbler, Audubon's, Yellow-throat; Western Meadowlark; Blackbird, Brewer's, Red-winged; Finch, House, American Goldfinch; Towhee, Rufous-sided, Brown; Sparrow, White-crowned, Savannah."

Legislation: Indeed distressing to know that the fascinating Yellow-billed Magpie has been removed from the protected list, in spite of our letters. That bird is confined to California and within the State to but a few areas. Also, as in the case of any other bird they have always been fair game when caught really damaging property or robbing the dovecote.

Steps are being taken to halt the erosion that has already claimed 25 of Bull Flats finest redwoods. This involves the acquisition of about 1800 acres of land by the State. Chas. A. DeTurk, chief of the State Division of Parks and Beaches, reports \$230,000 now available for that purchase but that more will be needed. Some will have to come from private contributions, such as save the Redwoods, we assume.

November Quail - 3

Observations: Harry Adamson reported a Lincoln Sparrow in their yard 10/4. In September Elizabeth O'Meara heard the Red-shafted Flicker returned to her trees, but it was two weeks later before they flickered among the McGeehon oaks just over the hill. Elizabeth, also reports Audubon Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which now that she is "retired" she has the time to enjoy.

After a quiet period the Sparrow Hawk is again annoying the Red-tailed Hawk in the Oakvale Road area of Walnut Creek to the great excitement of two little girls, almost-three Mari Larsen, and just-past two Susan Schroeder, who stood pointing skyward as they called the Editor to see.

While Mrs. Vincent E. Young was holding telephone communication with said Editor she suddenly exclaimed that a hawk had just flown by with a good sized snake dangling from its talons.

Next Screen Tour not until the 18th of January. New World Rediscovered by Mrs. Eric "Laurel" Reynolds set a high mark for the season as the all-but-capacity audience was led along the trail of the first discoverers and explorers from the West Indies to the icy inlet in Alaska. Space does not permit further recounting the excitements of that trip, but added to "educational" interest is surpassing beauty.

Hospitalized: After emergency hospitalization in Salt Lake City and again in Walnut Creek, Helen Bruce is now recuperating at home. Janet Willoughby telephoned to say that she expects to go into the Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Walnut Creek, November 16, for a bit of eye surgery, but that after the first day she will be able to have visitors.

B. B. Wilder, publisher of the Quail, after his turn in Kaiser where he came through without surgery is now home, and sends us this birding report from his bed.

"Heron, Green; Hawk, Red-tailed; Quail, California; Killdeer; Gull, Ring-billed; Dove, Mourning; Flicker, Red-shafted; Woodpecker, Acorn, Downy, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Titmouse, Plain; Mockingbird; Shrike, Loggerhead; Warbler, Audubons; Sparrow, House; Meadowlark, Western; Blackbird, Brewer's; Goldfinch, Lesser; Towhee, Rufous-sided, Brown; Sparrow, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox. So far 24 species. I am aiming for 30."

Treasurer George E. Schad has sent us an interesting account of their month long trip with the house trailer in the high Sierra region. The Quail asked for it, but with apologies will have to postpone publication for a month.

Personnel: Membership Chairman, Miss Rosalyn Phillips after four months in Europe is again home at 2132 Overlook Drive, W.C., YE 4-7251. Peter Veitch has rejoined the Society after an absence of a year and more. A welcome to this valuable member.

Ferd S. Ruth, president, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YELLOWSTONE 4-8803
1st Vice and Publicity chairman, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive,
Walnut Creek, YELLOWSTONE 4-4720



The Quail

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

December, 1959
Volume 6, No. 6

The December meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be at 8 p.m., Thursday, the 3rd. Room 201, Las Lomas High School, with Ferd S. Ruth, the President presiding. Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler, program chairman has asked Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Beitzel to share their pictorial story of Death Valley with the membership. Violet sends us this by way of pre-view:

"Death Valley is one of those remote places that one should only penetrate in the coolest time of the year, and that time to most of us is during Easter Vacation. In fact, the Furnace Creek area is actually turned into a small city for a week. It is interesting to note that during this week there are more visitors here at one time than any other time during the year. Teachers make up the greater part of this influx, as well as students. Another interesting thing that is noted are the hundreds of vacation trailers brought into the valley, and ours was one of the horde. When the wind blew, tenters had to fight sand and wind, but the trailerists were smug in their little homes on wheels.

Come with us and see how the Valley appeared last March, 1959.

Death Valley showed many of her moods to us; the wild winds, the pale beauty of the landscape during a full moon, viewed from ancient mud hills surrounding the quiet camp. The fury of opposing winds from the mountains stirring the huge sand dunes into clouds of sand hundreds of feet into the air, and the unexpected falling of rain repaid us with some scenes of real beauty on film. The exciting trip through the famed Titus Canyon, a 27 miles trip on a one-way road, where Dick locked his and my keys in the Oldsmobile! So won't you come and let's visit this wonderful valley with Dick and Violet Beitzel.

By the way, did you think there were no birds in the valley? Furnace Creek Ranch is 178 feet below sea level and in the lagoon area behind the ranch, near the airport, we say: Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Coots, Long-billed Dowitchers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Black Phoebe, Ravens and House Sparrows. We also say Monarch Butterflies at the Monument Headquarters. Other birds we say in the Monument were: Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Audubon Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Gambel's Quail, Chukar Partridge, Roadrunner, Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and a Desert Sparrow at Rhyolite. A total list of 21 species."

And from Dick, a few words on the field trip to the Conn Lake region, Sunday the 6th. "Lake Hennessey and Conn Dam Area; meet as usual on the Silverado Trail at the bridge just above Napa, 9 a.m., Bring lunch and something to quench your thirst. Don't forget your spy-glasses and watch out that you don't start a fire, as everything is tinder dry. Those of you who wish to go up to the ranch on the other side of the Lake may do so on your own, as Dick and Violet won't be able to take in that part of the trip. After lunch, may we suggest a very pleasant return home by taking the right hand road at the east end of the Lake and coming home through beautiful Napa County back-country 41

basin during the 10 days they spent at Mammoth Lakes. The squirrels and chipmunks robbed the birds of the nutmeats so George went in to the town dump where he found the top of a washing machine, which he converted into a feeding platform about 6 feet from the trailer door, and foiled the wee beasts. Although the month was August, they found many birds no more than fledglings, notably Tanagers. Six young ones apparently not ready for sustained flight remained around camp after the rest of the flock left. There they fed Western Tanagers, Green-tailed Towhees, Brewer's Blackbirds, Robins, White-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Chickadees, Juncos, Gnatcatchers, Fox Sparrows, a pair of Willow Thrushes, which they were told should not have been there, and a Rosy Finch. The elevation is 8,000 feet, and the camp Shady Rest is Federal. The meadows of the ranch where they stayed at Grass Valley were teeming with Western Meadowlarks.

At Milfontes recently we observed that the Turkey Vultures were not in evidence. Perhaps too cold. They usually move for a few months. The drought has reduced the bird forage so that the Jays and Oregon Juncos were the only birds really active. Of course always at least one Black Phoebe, and we did not have time to investigate the thickets.

In mid-October the Editor saw geese flying high, but northeast and in ragged formation.

The Wilders made a November trip to Mendocino City where Bev was among the 20 decendants of his great-grandfather, lumberman J.B. Ford, at the Centennial of the Mendocino Presbyterian Church. Ford was one of the Founders. They visited in the house which was Bev's grandmother's home as a girl. Ginny enjoyed the sun and scenery, reclining, and he went forth on bird walks. Bev's results, (by Bev) as follows: "Saw most of the usual coastal thicket birds, not too many actually in the water off-shore. Lots of gulls wheeling about. Watched Heerman Gulls and Black Oystercatchers taking small mussels out of tide pools - very interesting operation. I also was fascinated by a Great Blue Heron fishing from the Kelp beds - the first such I've seen. Wish I could have identified the small, short necked, diving birds swimming among the gulls about 1/4 mile offshore. The gulls looked like mother hens with the divers as chicks. I was dying for a scope at this time. Lots of Ravens and Turkey Vultures, very few hawks other than Sparrow. Saw one pair of what appeared to be Pigeon Hawks, but I could have been wrong, too big in the body and wrong color for Sparrow Hawks."

Membership Chairman, Miss Rosalyn Phillips returned in late October from a real tour of Europe.

President-----Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Guesta Way., W.C. YE4-8803
 Vice-President-----Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2331 Overlook Drive, W.C. YE4-4720
 Secretary-----Mrs. Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Ct., Concord. MU5-6134
 Treasurer-----George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord. MU5-8797
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 Publicity Chairman-----Mrs. O'Meara
 Membership Chairman-----Miss Rosalyn Phillips, 2132 Overlook Dr., W.C. YE4-7251
 Field Trip Chairman-----Harry N. Couden
 The Quail-----Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road., W.C. YE4-2752
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