



# The Quail

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

January 1960  
Vol. 6 No. 7

Happy New Year from the Quail

First on the agenda is the Christmas Count to be on the 3rd this time. First year this Society has counted after the 1st. How it will compare with other years will be interesting. Lynn Farrar in charge.

Then, the first regular meeting will be Thursday the 7th, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School. Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler, program chairman, has asked Mr. and Mrs. Harry N. Couden to plan the evening. In anticipation of the trip to the Tomales Bay region, Sunday the 10th, they plan to borrow slides from the National Audubon office in Berkeley, that picture the birds usually seen in the section at this season; Harry Adamson, commentator.

From H.N.C., "Meet in the parking space next to the store in Inverness 9:30 a.m. From there we travel caravan style to the McClure Beach parking area. We shall time the beach trip so that lunch and completing of our birding leaves us in the beautiful surroundings of Tomales Bay State Park for however long we may wish to stay thereafter. (When we were there in October, there was a 50¢ picnicking charge, tho' last January there was none.)"

Inverness is 60 miles, 1½ hours driving time from Walnut Creek via Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and then down Sir Francis Drake Highway via Fairfax, Lagunitas, and Point Olema to Point Reyes Station; then left to Inverness. Bring lunch, extra wrap in event of cold, binnoculars, and 'scope. Leaders R. R. Glotfelty, AT 4-4014; Couden, YE 4-8873.

By the way, we hear that the Reynolds have a 'scope.

As can be readily read, the January field trip and program dovetail and by design, and by design of the Coudens. Harry Adamson is an ~~avid~~ authority so a real opportunity is offered even for those not able to make the trip. Last month he brought to meeting his White Gyr-falcon, a beautiful untamed bird amid untamed scenery, from the Adamson brush. Not so wild, but equally realistic is his painting of "Mallards Pitching" reproduced last summer on the front page of Ducks Unlimited.

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Although The Editor is not familiar with the Carson Sink where those birds are "pitching" with the dawn she has been along the Carson enough to recognize the setting, and can feel that atmosphere.

#### GRIDLEY-WILLOWS FIELD TRIP

The joint field trip of the Mt. Diablo and Golden Gate Audubon Societies to the Federal and State Waterfowl refuges in the Sacramento Valley on the weekend of November 7 and 8 turned out very well.

The weather was beautiful, and the birds, which had been slow in coming south due to the lack of storms, had arrived in sufficient numbers so everyone felt they were seeing enough waterfowl.

About 40 persons turned out each day, but not many were from the Diablo group. The Glotfelty's came for the weekend and on Sunday the Couden family with Ingra Lusebrink joined the group. Peter Veitch took advantage of a business trip to Eureka to join us for a few hours on the Sacramento Refuge.

The Sandhill Cranes were unusually cooperative on the Gray Lodge Refuge, some 300 milling about in the air and sounding their rolling cry as we ate lunch on a levee. Earlier, as we took a short walk, we had more than a hundred standing and feeding in a field where they could be seen very well with the telescopes. Whenever we looked over a resting flock of Snow Geese we could pick out from two to a half dozen Ross Geese, the 'scopes bringing out the differences in the shape of the bill and head.

Twenty-four people had dinner together at the Blue Gum Inn, north of Willows Saturday night, before going to their various motels and sleeping bags.

Dawn found quite a number of the group out on the Sacramento Federal Wildlife Refuge. At this hour when the sky is all pinkish-orange and mauve the skeins of geese and ducks come back to the Refuge from distant fields where they have been feeding all night. Many come in high up and then when they know they are over the area where no hunters are hiding, they "wiffle" (slideslipping to lose altitude quickly) down to the fields and ponds to rest until the next evening flight.

At 9:30 on Sunday, Mr. Eugene Kridler, Refuge Biologist, gave us a talk dealing with the different plant foods which are farmed just for the waterfowl to eat, so they will not commit deprecations on commercial farms in the area. He also gave statistics on numbers of certain species at given times of the year, etc. Following this, Mr. Kridler very kindly gave us a tour of the more interesting parts of the Refuge during which time we jumped thousands of Snow and White-fronted Geese and several species of ducks from right alongside the cars as we drove along. Two Golden Eagles, both adults, were seen, as well as one European Widgeon, a few Whistling Swans (we had about 150 of these in Butte Sink) and a large flock of White Pelicans.

All told, it was a very satisfactory trip, but it hardly seems worthwhile to schedule this trip for the Mt. Diablo Society alone because of the few people who attend.

The following 95 species were seen in the Willows-Gridley area:

Hared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-cr.

Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, European Widgeon, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Sparrowhawk, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, American Avocet, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Common Bushtit, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Hutton's Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Harry Adamson, Leader

The Land the Glaciers Forgot, Monday, January 18, Howard L. Orians is the next Screen Tour, in the gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, 8 p.m., Ferd S. Ruth, Mount Diablo Society President, program chairman. "The setting-- Wisconsin combines fascinating geology with bird and animal life in their native habitat." Beaver, bear opossum, porcupine, and otter while warblers and scarlet tanagers compete in a "Bird Bathing Beauty Contest". Howard Orians led the tour through the Great Smokies last spring.

When planning tours for the coming summer, those who decide in favor of the Audubon Summer Camp sessions at Sugar Bowl will be well rewarded: satisfaction for all participants with the addition of credential credits for teachers. Each two-week session covers the widest possible terrain, forest, desert, water, snowy peaks. Full information can be had of the National Audubon Society office, 2624 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

"Scandal at Tulelake" was a recent headline, and merits immediate investigation we read. When the Tulelake Irrigation District took over the \$10.5 million Federal Project for \$3.5 million agreement was made that appears to have been ignored and flouted. If the present drying-up process continues the Pacific Flyway will be but a remnant--a pitiful remnant of one of the finest. Write letters, we are urged.

From the Beitzels, "A small but congenial crowd of fourteen members led by Violet and Dick Beitzel met for the Conn Dam-Lake Hennessy Field Trip on December 6th, with December weather still holding for a bright sunny and warm day. A stop made this year, not made in previous years, was at the Napa County picnic ground just below the dam with a short walk to the top of the dam. A very rewarding sight was the Green Heron flushed from the creek at the picnic ground to the high brush on the opposite side where he proceeded to preen himself within close range view. Another wonderful close-up study was of a little Wren-Tit hoppin' from bush to bush. From the other side of the lake at the Wilcox Ranch, Lynn Farrar got another first for his life list in the wonderful soaring of an Osprey. Count list of the seventy-one species observed were:"

Grebes, Horned, Western, Pied-billed; Double-crested cormorant; Green Heron; Whistling Swan; Geese, Canada, Snow; Ducks, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Teal, American Widgeon, Wood, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Marsh, Osprey, Sparrow; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Barn Owl (dead); Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Nuttall's; Flycatchers, Says Phoebe, Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Common Crow.

Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Nuthatch, Pigmy, White-breasted, Brown Creeper; Wren-tit; Wrens, Bewick, Rock; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; Finches, Purple, House, American Goldfinch, Lesser; Towhees, Rufous-sided, Brown; Sparrows, Savannah, Lark; Oregon Junco; Sparrows, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Song.

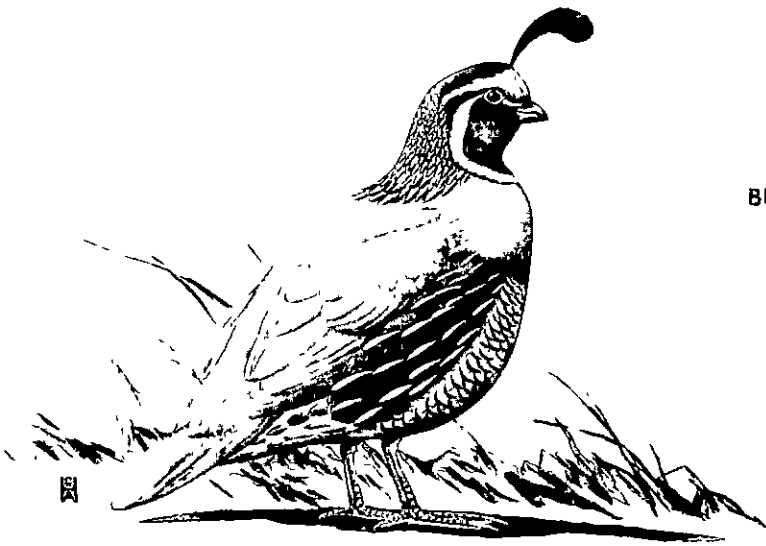
Frances Blake reports a Bewick Wren about her yard for the first time to her knowledge since she has been living there. Also the Flicker continues reaming out the entrance to her bird house. Violet B. reports the White-throated Sparrow a four month visitant in her yard. Harry A. was daily observing the Lincoln Sparrow at the feeder in their yard, and Elizabeth O'Meara two Song Sparrows.

A mid-December trip to Mulfontes found many Oregon Juncos, two varieties of Jays, Towhees, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Sparrows, but most interesting a number of Western Bluebirds. Lark Sparrows abundant through the Tassajara region.

New members we welcome: Miss Marie Mans, 2723-B Stuart St., Berkeley.  
Miss Marian Cunningham, 1263 Las Juntas Way, W. C.

Mrs. Eleanor Pugh, Mount Diablo State Park, P. O. Box 258, Diablo.

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



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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

February 1960

Vol. 6. No. 8

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held Wednesday, the 4th, 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School. Program chairman, Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler has asked Mrs. Mildred Carlock, head librarian of the Walnut Creek Branch of the County Library to plan the evening. Fred W. Kewline will show pictures and tell of the Bristle Cone pines, which are still flourishing in the Dr. Schulman Bristle Cone Pine Forest not far from Bishop in the Inyo National Forest.

Next Field Trip to one of the favorite birding areas Terminous Island and vicinity with B.B. Wilder Leading. Bev has been many times so knows where the birds should be found. Sandhill Cranes, Whistling Swans, many ducks, geese, sometimes gallinules, other water and shore birds and numerous land birds.

If one goes by the levee road, turn right at Walnut Grove to Thornton, meeting place, at 9:15 a.m., the little cafe at Thornton. This is right on the road so cannot be missed, "Bring lunch, glasses, warm clothes, warm friends", writes Field Trips Chairman, Harry N. Couden. Harry is scheduled to be in Canada on the 7th, so will not be with the group that day.

Next Screen Tour, Wednesday, the 24th. As usual in the gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, 8 p.m. Ferd Ruth, program chairman, will introduce Cleveland Grant who took his audience up the Alaskan Highway on a Yukon summer jaunt on his last visit.

This time he will show more of the 49th state as he tells of Land of Early Autumn. Mr. Grant is a big game hunter with his camera: huge bears, the larger antlered animals of the north, jumping fish, etc.

"Under the Capitol Dome" a Sunday morning panel discussion on the 17th of January was devoted to the Department of Fish and Game. Introduced was Walter Shannon, new director, who has had 24 years of service in the Forest Service. The program was preceded by a beautiful film of a California Condor, a Turkey Vulture, and 2 Eagles. Remarks and explanations concerning the "antlerless deer hunts" were enlightening. The announcement was made that there are a good many films available to organizations for public showing to be had for the asking of the State Fish and Game Department, Sacramento.

Outbreaks of a paratyphoid fever in Ketchikan, Alaska; Massachusetts and in other regions have finally been traced to gulls befouling the water used for domestic purposes.

Coming and going: We welcome Mrs. M. C. Bolender of Highland Drive, Danville as new; while we regret losing Marye Smith one of our charter members who now lives in La Mesa. Her son, David, must be finishing his course in the management of parks and beaches which he has been studying at Sacramento College.

From Phyllis Lindley of the National Audubon office in Berkeley we have received a copy of the Tomales Christmas Count, in which several of our members participated. They were sorely missed by Mount Diablo.

Space forbids a detailed report of the report but were identified 164 species, 53,380 individuals - 39 observers, in a 15-mile diameter circle centering ½ mile NW of Marshalls. The Glaucous Gull was seen during count period, but not on the count day by Guy McCaskie. Next month we shall give more of the highlights of the report for which we thank Phyllis.

From Roy R. Glotfelty this report of the Society trip to the Tomales Bay region on the 10th:

"Owlers left Inverness at 5 a.m. sharp. Fourteen Golden Gate and Mount Diablo members combined forces to scratch up a score of two owls. This is an experience recommended to anyone who can get up early.

Mount Diablo Audubon Society members returned to the parking lot meeting place after picking up a twenty-seven bird count to start the regular field trip with. This group of about eleven took off at 9:30 caravan style for McClure Beach. The sky was overcast but the birds were active. Deer were observed along the way. We combed this beach thoroughly and then headed back for Tomales Bay State Park. The order of the day seemed to be lunching and birding at the same time. Such enthusiasm!

Rumors of a Golden Plover having been seen at Dillon Beach tempted a few of us to try there. However, a squall forced us back to our cars. (Ingra and Rosalyn had played it cool and left a bit earlier)." Golden Gate did find that Plover on their count day. McG.

Count of 61 species for the trip: Arctic Loon; Grebe, Horned, Western, Pied-billed; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Herons, Great Blue, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crested Night; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, Canvasback, Common Golden Eye, Surf Scoter, Ruddy; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed, Marsh, Sparrow; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; American Coot; Killdeer; Willet; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Gulls, Western, California ~~Red~~-billed; Owls, Screech, Saw-whet; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Lewis' Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Jays Steller's, Scrub; Common Raven; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Wrentit; Robin; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; Starling; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged Blackbird; House Finch; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Sparrows, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song.

Under the head of Sparrows, Harry Adamson reports that the Lincoln observed in their garden in October has been augmented by three more. Violet Beitzel has a White-throated in her yard for the second winter; and Elizabeth O'Meara several of the Song variety that sing a little and bath no matter how cold the day.

And, from Lynn D. Farrar the Christmas Bird Count held January 3, 1960:

"With snow on the foothills but altogether a rather pleasant day for birding. Unfortunately our count was held the same day as the Tomales count, and we therefore, did not have the services of some of our regular birders. Four parties were in the field with at least four yard birders. The result was a count of 107 species and 9244 individuals. This was a slight decrease from last year's count. Speaking from my own standpoint, I feel that with more people birding, even with shorter periods of time our society can produce a very respectable count each year, and with greater familiarity with the area which comes from regular attendance on the counts we can expect to get a comprehensive list of birds in our area.

The day was amiably concluded with the usual get-together for tabulating results and enjoying the fine culinary accomplishments of our talented cooks.

Those present for birding and the get-together included Harry and Betty Adamson, Dick and Vi Beitzel, Dorothy and Harry Couden, John Chostner of San Francisco, Isabella McGeehon, Rosalyn Phillips, Eleanor Pugh, Bill Toasperm, Pleasant Hill, Bev Wilder and Lynn Farrar. I received a list of birds seen by Mrs. Jack Irving in her yard, for which many thanks. And, I also want to thank Paul Opler for his many observations while on vacation. While it is about as early as it could possibly be, I would at this time like to remind all members that our society has this Christmas count every year so please remember to save one day next time and join us on the count."

The count: Grebes, Eared 8, Western 2, Pied-billed 25; Double-crested Cormorant 11; Herons, Great Blue 3, Green 2, Common Egret 6, Snowy Egret 16, Black-crowned Night 2; Geese, Canada 39, White-fronted 14; Ducks, Mallard 56, Gadwall 9, Pintail 523, Green-winged Teal 13, American Widgeon 225, Shoveler 184, Ring-necked 10, Canvasback 7, Lesser Scaup 3, Common Golden-eye 1, Ruddy 141, Hooded Merganser 6, Common Merganser 68; Turkey Vulture 1; Hawks, White-tailed Kite 6, Sharp-shinned 1, Cooper's 2, Red-tailed 23; Marsh 15, Sparrow 43; Golden Eagle 1; California Quail 148; American Coot 428; Killdeer 77; Common Snipe 52; Greater Yellowlegs 7; Least Sandpiper 13; Dunlin 20; Long-billed Dowitcher 1; American Avocet 14; Glaucous-winged Gull 3, Ring-billed Gull 513; Mourning Dove 37; Owls, Barn 3, Great Horned 2, Burrowing Owl 3, Short-eared 2; White-throated Swift 10; Anna's Hummingbird 6; Belted Kingfisher 1; Woodpeckers, Red-shafted Flicker 62, Acorn 39, Lewis' 4, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4, Hairy 1, Downy 6, Nuttall's 16; Flycatchers Say's Phoebe 6, Black Phoebe 5; Horned Lark 33; Tree Swallow 13; Jays Steller's 13, Scrub 99; Common Crow 26; Plain Titmouse 52; Common Bushtit 42; White-breasted Nuthatch 11; Wrentit 10; Wrens, Long-billed Marsh 16, Bewick's 6; Mockingbird 43; California Thrasher 2; Robin 149; Thrushes, Varied 12, Hermit 19; Western Bluebird 13; Kinglets, Golden-crowned 2, Ruby-crowned 14; Water Pipit 130; Cedar waxwing 20; Loggerhead Shrike 40; Starling 13; Warblers, Audubon's 108, Yellowthroat 3, House Sparrow 174; Western meadow-lark 331; Blackbirds, Red-winged 662, Brewer's 1763; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Finches, Purple 16, House 161, Pine Siskin 9, American Goldfinch 67, Lesser Goldfinch 529; Towhees, Rufous-sided 22, Brown 62; Sparrows, Savannah 122, Lark 6, Golden-crowned 415, White-crowned 566, White-throated 1, Fox 13, Song 27; Juncos, Oregon 441, Slate-colored 1.

The Society is appreciative of the hospitality of Ruth and Lynn Farrar at whose house the post-count gathering was held. Among the points worthy of future consideration was the advantage of being able to remain in a likely spot for some

time so that the birds keeping quiet in the bushes will have overcome their timidity enough to emerge. That is a bit of counting that could be undertaken by those unable to go far afield, and might well add to the species count, if not many to that of individuals. McG.

Mrs. Frank Nemetz, like the Shanks, is doing much work with Junior Audubon groups in her school. Ferd Ruth is working on a comprehensive listing of vertebrates of Contra Costa County. He is glad to receive information and corrections. The Editor hopes to have more on this project soon.

President, Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-8803.  
Vice-President, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2331 Overlook Dr., W. C., YE 4-4720.  
Secretary, Mrs. Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Ct., Concord, MU 5-6134.  
Treasurer, George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord, MU 5-8797.





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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

March 1960  
Vol.6, No.9

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be 8 p.m., Room 201, Las Lomas High School, Thursday the 3rd. Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler, program chairman, has announced a change; President Ferd S. Ruth will show his pictures and tell the story of their trip through the Northwest United States and a bit of Canada last summer. Wm. N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society will come later.

Next Field Trip led by Engra Lusebrink will be Sunday, the 6th. Meet 8:45 at the Water Temple near Sunol. There is more than one approach but most persons from Walnut Creek-Lafayette and environs prefer following Highway 21--the road to San Jose. The heavy iron gates and arch are unmistakable on the right. Lunch, glasses, suitable clothing, and friends, in short, the customary equipment is recommended.

After birding the area about the temple the plan is to move on toward the Calaveras Dam section, with birding within the reservation still tentative as the Quail goes to press.

Next Screen Tour will be in the gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, March 25th, Friday, Ferd S. Ruth, program chairman, introducing G. Clifford Carl, who tells the Secrets of the Sea, and the life along its shores. This is the age when man is exploring the depths as well as space. Man has gone down to the sea in ships, and/or lived by the sea many centuries, but even so, the mysteries of the sea are largely still unexplored.

Recently we read that the exploration of the Marianas Trough still considered the deepest, even deeper than thought heretofore, is being continued. Also, in the latest issue of Holiday an article on the Royal Marine Museum of Monaco, with comment on the relative importance of ocean and space probing. After what happened to Jack Paar the Editor refrains from verbatim report.

The special Nature Slide Exhibition will be but once in the west bay region--Monday, March 21, in the Chabot School. However, in San Francisco there are two dates: Wednesday, March 16th, in Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, and San Francisco Museum of

of Art, Van Ness and McAllister Streets.

The showing which lasts approximately an hour and a half includes color slides of birds, insects, mammals, fungi, lichens, as well as scenes of nature in general. The top award in the exhibition will be given the slide which best illustrates the relationship of the living object to its environment or habitat, in the opinion of the judges, one of whom is Phyllis Lindley of the National Audubon staff in the Berkeley office.

At the last meeting of the Society a letter from the National office was read acknowledging the anonymous gift of \$100 in the name of the Society. The office wrote that the sum would be used to provide two half-scholarships to the Sugar Bowl summer camp.

Now is not too early to make reservations for at least one of the two-week summer sessions there--June to August--amid hard-to-equal scenery, wild flowers and nesting birds in the lower reaches while snow still mantles the peaks. The course covers almost every facet of nature. Full details are to be had at the National office, 2624 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in or write.

Camp Denali in the shadow of magnificent Mount McKinley will open June 15th. Write Camp Denali, Box 256, College Alaska. Although this camp follows much the pattern of the Audubon summer camps it is not Audubon. Each session has a somewhat different theme. Wilderness Workshop, Tundra Treks, and Shutter Safari give an idea of that. Housekeeping tent-cabins are available until September 10. The Sourdough Vacations until Labor Day. Anyone going to Alaska this summer?

Gordon Orians who is working on his doctorate at the University of California is doing intensive, extensive research on the Tri-colored Blackbird. He has spent much time in the upper Sacramento Valley where he studied one flock of 50,000 and another of 30,000. After the heavy September rains, followed by a "false spring" these birds began breeding, but because of the drought conditions that prevailed the next two months not more than 10% even fledged. The question in our mind is, will they nest again in the normal season?

Gordon accompanied his father, the Rev. Mr. Howard L. Orians to Diablo Valley College the night of the tour of the beautiful Land the Glaciers Forgot. We heard unofficially of the blackbirds that evening.

Legislation--Now is the time to write congressmen and senators in the hope that this year the Wilderness Bill will be passed. Bear in mind that no new areas are asked included, merely restricting the use of land already federally owned so that some of it may be held as virgin.

The Governor's budget for beaches and parks comes to \$21,968,078. We like that close figure of \$8.00. The capital outlay budget is down, but the operating is up. Plans are underway to make a State Park of Squaw Valley, but one other new project is listed; the acquisition of 260 acres of Golden Gate beach land declared surplus by the Military.

Report of Thornton-Delta Area Trip, Sunday, Feb. 7, 1960. Leader: Bev Wilder.

Another successful Mt. Diablo Audubon Trip to the delta area! In the opinion of the leader the best in the past five years! Four carloads of ardent birders (10 individuals) met at Thornton at 9:15 a.m. for the trip. Starting out the game farm road under leaden skies, and occasional drizzle, we saw only a few shore birds at first and very few ducks--then suddenly up onto the levee and there in the field to the west of us were literally hundreds of cranes, just a few hundred yards away. Circling overhead were more cranes and flights of swans. Thence back to the highway, and south to Woodbridge Road and west two miles. Here we saw perhaps 500 additional cranes, three types of geese in the fields and a few swans (still in the distance). Back again to the highway and south to the Terminous Road and west along that road. None of the fields were flooded so birding was pretty poor. We hustled along to make the last ferry before lunch over to Staten Island. The ferryman took us across in a driving rain to the island, where it rained HARD for an hour. In the driving rainstorm birding looked disappointing--then, about in the middle of the island we approached white ground. We stopped!--in the midst of a large flock of swans, perhaps a hundred yards away, with Snow and Ross geese just beyond. We ate lunch in the rain and watched. Then a small plane swooped over and literally tens of thousands of geese took to the air, about 50% being White Fronted Geese which were in the corn croppings and not readily visible. Oddly enough, no swans flew. The birds wheeled around just as in the pictures we see in the great refuges, then they lit again. About ten minutes later a tremendous flock of black birds took to the air, and gave us all a magnificent display of the disappearing cloud effect as they wheeled through the air, breaking up and rejoining, and wheeling more. This certainly was the largest flock of blackbirds that we had ever seen--being perhaps a half mile in length and a couple of hundred yards across, and maybe 100 feet in depth. At this stop we all had a good chance to compare the Whistling Swans, Snow Geese and Ross Geese at reasonably close range, both on the ground and in the air. The Ross looks like a midget Snow Goose, one might even think they were the young of the Snow Geese. From the island we proceeded down the west side river road, stopping for the last time together on the levee across from Walnut Grove, where we could look down from the levee on another white field of 400 plus swans. Although this report emphasizes the larger birds, a total of 66 species were noted, and doubtless several more could have been identified had there been more "experts" and 'scopes along. Altogether it was a most satisfying experience.

These are the birds--Pied-billed Grebe; Herons, Great Blue, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Green; Whistling Swan; Geese, White-fronted, Snow, Ross; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Cinnamon Teal; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Red-tailed, Marsh, Sparrow, White-tailed Kite; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sand Hill Crane; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Greater Yellowlegs; Mourning Dove; Sandpipers, Dunlin, Western (?); Gulls, Claucus-winged, Ring-billed; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black Phoebe; Violet-green Swallow; Scrub Jay; Common Crow; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Plain Titmouse; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Mockingbird; Blackbirds, Tri-colored, Red-winged, Brewer's; Towhees, Brown, Rufous-sided; Finches, House, Purple, American Goldfinch; Sparrows, Savannah, Golden-crowned, White-crowned; Lincoln, Song; Oregon Junco.

The calendar will not admit it for another month but spring is here. The Meadowlark calls, the Rufous-sided Towhee sits atop the Redwood proclaiming

his interest in domestic concerns, a Ring-necked Pheasant family consisting of a resplendant cock and two brown hens has been observed scratching in proper gallinacious manner on the Youngs hill above Oakvale Road, and the Great-horned Owls are noisy in the McGeehon oaks. The Quail would be happy to receive more observations.

President, Ferd S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-8803.  
Membership Chairman, Miss Rosalyn Phillips, 2232 Overlook Drive,  
Walnut Creek, YE 4-7251.

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



# The Quail

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

April 1960  
Vol. 6 No. 10

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, Thursday, April 7, 8 p.m. Program chairman, Mrs. Wm. E. "Katie" Hassler announces a visit from Wm. N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of National Audubon Society. In addition to a few audubon matters he will show a film on Gooney Birds, which Margaret Shanks will be happy to see again although she has seen it more than once.

The Field Trips of the month are two, both over night. However, by making an early start a good one-day trip to Columbia is entirely feasible. Lynn D. Farrar is leader of the Mother Lode Trip, the Irving cottage to be headquarters, and to the Pinnacles in a quite different area. Complete details will be appended.

May 3, Tuesday, is the date of the last Screen Tour of this season. Ferd S. Ruth as program chairman will introduce Bristol Foster, who will take his audience "Roving Three Continents"--Africa, Asia and Australia, where animals from the "ends of the earth" will demonstrate the influence of natural habitat.

We read recently, that the largest antlered animal in the world is the Moose. Those who saw the beauty and wonder of the Cleveland P. Grant pictures can well believe that, and readily accept the theory of natural habitat influence.

That goes for vegetation, also. Witness the contrast between the lush and rapid growth of the Rain Forest with its cathedral-like openings, as shown by President Ruth last month, and the twisted, slow-growing, long-living Bristle Cone Pines of the high arid region shown the month before by Fred Kenline. McG.

Legislation: The considerably altered Wilderness Bill is about to be brought up in the Senate. Important is the provision that such areas will be under direct jurisdiction of Congress not a committee.

Last year was a banner year for the collection of fines for the infringement of game laws, water pollution regulations, and for ignoring private property rights. Three men were fined in Judge Hall's court, Martinez for commercial netting of salmon in the Sacramento Delta. A Reno logger was sentenced to 660 days in jail for polluting the Upper Truckee River in El Dorado County; jail sentence suspended if he cleared the river within 30 days. Operators of a mill about a mile above the mouth of the Navarro River had to pay a fine for polluting the river, and the Stauffer Chemical Company paid \$15,492.13 damages, interest, and court costs for discharging pollutants into San Francisco Bay. And, a LaMesa paint contractor shot the lock off a farmer's gate at a subsequent cost to him of \$250.00.

Enclosed with the latest number of Western Meadowlark from the San Bernardino Valley Society is a reprint of an article in defense of the Coyote, which appeared in the Brewery Gulch Gazette, Bisbee, Arizona. A very good case is made for the little wolf that likes to eat rodents. When the mouse scourge was ruining some farmers and threatening ruin to others in Tule Lake two winters ago, there was lamentation that so many coyotes had been killed off.

According to the front page of the Gazette the sun shines in Brewery Gulch 330 days a year, "but there's moonshine every night". However, the brief for the coyote is not moonshine.

New member welcomed at the March meeting: Mrs. Ava Huffman, 20 West 16th Street, Antioch.

Observations--The stork which had hovered over 43 Cuesta Way for a month, finally landed at Kaiser Foundation Hospital at 6 a.m., Thursday, March 3, leaving a boy of ten pounds and seven ounces to Ferd and Juliet Ruth, thus bringing the family offspring to two boys, two girls. The new boy was most considerate, arriving in time for his father to get to school on time, and to preside at the Society meeting that evening.

A flock of feral Budgies has been reported quite at home in the hill gardens of El Cerrito. R. R. Glotfelty has been entertained by the Bushtits seemingly searching for insects where the siding on his house laps. He wonders why the Farrars near his place have had a White-crowned, a Lincoln, and White-throated Sparrow all at the feeder at the same time while he has never observed one once. But he thinks a pair of Plain Titmice and one of Bushtits may be planning to nest in his garden. Not unlikely.

Elizabeth O'Meara reported her first Bullock's Oriole about the middle of March. Although one or two or more flapping gulls are a frequent sight in all this area this day, 3/22, the editor observed 15 or more flying southward in close and orderly formation.

Travelers--Mrs. Gus "Engra" Lusebrink has been on a ten-day trip to Arizona with the Rev. and Mrs. John W. Winkley. Perhaps she will tell us of the historic ghosts investigated.

Janet Willoughby and her mother leave in June on a two-month tour of Europe. Janet again has invited M.D.A.S. to a potluck picnic supper in September when she will tell of their travels.

From Engra this account of the Water Temple and Calaveras Dam Trip. Eighteen members and friends braved a gray morning and met at the Water Temple for the Calaveras Dam trip. The birding was very damp in the vicinity of the Temple where we saw several species of birds, including Wood Ducks and White-fronted Geese in flight. The white-throated Swifts put on a good show for us, as usual.

After leaving the Temple we had very little wet weather, and an enthusiastic group enjoyed a delightful trip. There were several new members and friends out for their first field trip with Mount Diablo Society. We enjoyed the flocks of Lark Sparrows and Horned Larks, along with many other interesting birds. The following 65 species were seen:

Double-crested Cormorant; White-fronted Goose; Ducks, Mallard, Wood, Ruddy, Bufflehead; Turkey Vulture; Hawks, Red-tailed, Coopers, Sparrow; Golden Eagle; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Killdeer; Ring-billed Gull; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Lewis, Downy, Nuttall's; Western Flycatcher; Phoebes, Black, Says; Horned Larks; Violet-green Swallow; Jays, Scrub, Steller's; Yellow-billed Magpie; Common Raven; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; Wrens, Bewick's, Rock; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton's Vireo; Warblers, Orange-crowned, Audubon's; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Red-winged, Brewer's."

Glen Shanks reports a one-legged Mockingbird in his brother's yard in Sacramento. Glen thinks the interest in this bird bids fair to make another birder.

We hear that a family spending a day at the beach did not leave a <sup>stone</sup> un-turned.

George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord, is treasurer and collector of revenue. The Society By-Laws do grant a grace period of three months to those whose dues are due, but dropping membership through a note of resignation is courteous and helpful.

The Quail is glad to print bits supplied by members and does so as space permits--Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek.

N.B. The nominating committee will report and annual election of officers follow at the meeting on the 7th. L. D. Farrar, chairman.

### COLUMBIA TRIP - April 9 & 10

We are planning two trips in April this year, the first to Columbia near Sonora where we have been offered the hospitality of Jack and Erna Irving's cottage. Columbia is about 120 miles to the east with a variety of sights that should interest everyone. For those who wish to camp there is limited tent space at the Irving's cottage. A trailer court and motel are just outside of Columbia and Sonora is only 4 miles away. We plan a get-together dinner at the Irving's Saturday evening at 6:00 P.M., price \$1.00 adults, 50¢ for children. The Irving cottage is one block west of the IOOF hall in Columbia. Please check in there on arrival either Saturday or Sunday. Our trip will include a Saturday afternoon visit to local spots for sightseeing, birding, or rock hounding. Sunday morning we plan a hike and picnic through the rock quarry property of the United States Lime Company. The Saturday starting time will be 2:00 P.M. and the Sunday time 9:30 A.M., both at the Irving's cottage. This is a wonderful trip full of historical interest as well as birding, hiking, etc. Adequate preparations should be made for weather by those staying overnight as it could be cool (and we won't mention rain!). Our last trip was held in beautifully sunny weather.

### PINNACLES TRIP - April 23 & 24

Our second trip in April will be to Pinnacles National Monument, Approximately 35 miles south of Hollister via State Highway 25 with a large sign at the turn-off to the Monument. Hiking, camping, birding and cave exploring are among the attractions of this trip. There are no motels nearer than Hollister so plan to join us at the camping area where water and toilet facilities are available. It can get cold at night so be prepared. As facilities are on a first come basis, Ruth, Peter and I will try to get down early enough Saturday morning to secure campsites in the Old Pinnacles Campground. I will leave word at the check-in station (nominal charge for camping) of our whereabouts. Look for the white Ford station wagon with the red top.

These trips planned for April offer variety and interest. Birders will be amply rewarded with many species not always easily seen. Invite your friends to join us on either or both trips. We always have lots of fun and these should be among the first chances to get out for a little overnight trip. See you all there.





# The Quail

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

May 1960  
Vol.6.No.11.

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday the 5th, with Mrs. Gus "Engra" Lusebrink telling of her travels the past year, program chairman, Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler announces. In addition to a visit to Hawaii, Engra has been about, her most recent trip being to Arizona and Nevada where she interviewed ghosts in such places as Rhyolite.

Next Screen Tour will be May 3rd, a Tuesday, 8 p.m., in the gymnasium of Diablo Valley College with Bristol Foster, a Canadian leading in Roving Three Continents: Asia, Africa and Australia, where many unusual animals thrive. Among them is the Ornithorhynchus, which should have been extinct long ago but may just waddle into view on a pond bank. If the Foster talk and pictures equal the G. Clifford Carls' of last month, the season will truly end on a high note.

Preceding the lecture there will be some surprise introductions, announcements and presentations, we hear from Ferd Ruth who is Screen Tour program chairman.

We have at hand a copy of the Habitat Check List of Vertebrates of Contra Costa County, California, compiled by Ferd S. Ruth, Instructor of Biological Sciences Diablo Valley College. Of attractive format, this twelve page work was undertaken because he felt the need in his classwork and none was to be had. For 50¢ this check list may be purchased at the Students' Bookstore, Diablo Valley College, Golf Links Road, Concord.

The author and compiler who is completing a year as president of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society has generously given 100 copies to the Society to be sold to paid up members, only, through Treasurer, George F. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord.

The Quail letter paper, rather retarded brainchild of the Editor, has all been sold at a small profit. The original idea was not money-making, merely to have some distinctive letter paper that members might enjoy using, letter paper not note paper.

At the April meeting Lynn D. Farrar, chairman of the nominating committee reported for President, Elizabeth C. O'Meara; Vice-president, Elizabeth Reynolds; Treasurer, George E. Schad; Director, Ferd S. Ruth; all to take office July 1st. No one had been found to serve as Secretary. From the Society By-Laws--"Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Society, conduct and preserve all correspondence relating to the Society, and other such activities as the Board of Directors may require."

William N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Society, was guest speaker last month. He spoke on Audubon matters, epitomized the January Conference in Berkeley, mentioned the Audubon summer camp at Sugar Bowl Lodge in the Sierra and showed a film of the Midway Island Gooney Birds. This film well worth seeing shows the life story of these Albatross, both the Black and White variety. Added to the accuracy of the story were scenic effects, the beauty of those birds on the wing, and the hilariously comical antics of the young ones trying to take to the air for their first flights. How did the Ancient Mariner manage to get about with one of those huge birds about his neck?

By the way, the U.S. Navy has not resolved its difficulties with these birds, although we understand wholesale destruction is not contemplated. As Mr. Goodall pointed out, human life is involved. The islands are literally swarming with the huge fascinating, but seemingly real goons.

All information on the summer camp may be had at the National Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Two weeks at this camp is an enviable experience for anyone and "credential-wise", a valuable one for teachers and/or students who are seeking credits, the instructors being accredited.

New members we welcome: Mrs. C. F. Matlock, 2972 Bonnie Lane, Walnut Creek; Mrs. Frieda Shackelford, 712 Laurel Drive, Walnut Creek; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Swenson, 865 Hawthorne Drive, Walnut Creek; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Toaspern, 1923 Buttner Drive, Pleasant Hill.

Travelers--Frances Blake and her long-time friend and neighbor, Dagmer Vinther, left in March, Antwerp bound in a freighter. There, their paths will diverge for a time, while Miss Blake visits school friends and scenes in England; and Miss Vinther spends time with relatives in Denmark. They expect to be home in August.

The annual meeting will be potluck. \$1.00 for adults, half price for children in the patio of the Shanks home, 3849 Maplewood Court, Concord, Saturday, June 4th, Elizabeth O'Meara and Engra Lusebrink will assist the hosts in making general arrangements. Telephone YE 4-4720 and MU 5-8732 for clearance on food, etc.

Following is an account of our trip to Columbia on April 9 and 10: "On a week end of beautiful weather, 29 members and friends of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society took in the sights of Columbia and the surrounding countryside. The group began to arrive during the afternoon of Saturday, the 9th, and by evening for the get-together dinner at the Irving's, there were 24 adults and children. After a very enjoyable repast the group was treated to some fine slides from the collections of the Irvings and the Beitzels. Early to bed and early to rise. Sunday morning saw the arrival of five more people to bring our group to twenty nine, certainly a fine showing. At 9:30 sharp we

wended our way to the quarry property of the United States Lime Company where we parked the cars and took the very interesting hike to the high cliffs overlooking the confluence of the middle and south forks of the Stanislaus River. Some of the members enjoyed a little rock hounding and some were interested in birding. A few seemed to enjoy the hike and being out in the marvelous air. As on all our trips there was something for everyone to enjoy. The birding was quite slow as far as numbers of birds was concerned, but thanks to the sharp eyes and ears of our group a very nice list of species was obtained (to be listed below). Upon our return to the cars it was decided to visit the wild flowers in the area south of Columbia near where there were many curious lava rocks. After a short tour of the neighborhood the proper road was located and the lava rocks and wild flowers were given the proper inspection. More birding was done at this spot, also.

I would like to thank everyone for making this trip such a pleasurable one. I think a special vote should go to Jack and Erna Irving for letting us use the facilities at their cottage, and to Dorothy Couden and my wife, Ruth, for the swell dinner served to an appreciative group."--Lynn Farrar

Seen in the Columbia area: Great Blue Heron, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Kildeer, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Western Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows, Stellar and Scrub Jays, Plain Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrenit, House, Bewick's and Canon Wrens, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Townsend Solitaire, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned, Nashville and Audubon Warblers, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwing Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Purple and House Finches, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Lark, Chipping, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and song Sparrows, Oregon Junco.

"On April 16th (Saturday), Harry Adamson and I took a trip to the Mocho and on into San Antonio Valley. The weather was especially cold but sunny. It was down to almost 32 in Lafayette at 5:15 when we left. We birded from Livermore on and enjoyed some exceptional finds. In all we had a list of 64 birds. We stayed until 1:00 PM when home labors necessitated our return. Among the outstanding species located were an Osprey at a farm pond in San Antonio Valley and four Western Sandpipers at a mud puddle just down the road. A green heron, Wilson's warbler and Yellow warbler were found at the farm house. It apparently was too early for the Long-tailed Chat. Also found were Ash-throated flycatcher, Phainopepla, Chipping and Rufous-crowned sparrows, McGillivray's warbler, California thrasher, many Bullock's orioles Black-headed Grosbeaks. Three groups of Purple Martins were seen with a pair talking a "purple" streak only 10 feet over our heads! We had originally intended to take along Dr. Michael P. Drazin of Maryland, but I was unable to contact him. I am sure Dr. Drazin would have had a lot to take back to Maryland in the way of birding memories from this trip.

From my yard observations: The White-throated sparrow is still here (18th), the Orange-crowned and Wilson's warblers are here as are the Grosbeaks, Western Flycatcher, Orioles, and Cowbirds. Conspicuous by their absence are the Juncos, perhaps because they were victimized by the Cowbirds last year. The quail and mourning doves have thrashed out territories with the result that two pairs of each are feeding area regulars. At one time I counted 17 doves and 14 quail feeding together (early March)." L.D.F.

Standing, the only tree in a large field near Modesto, is a tall cottonwood with a large stick nest in a crotch near the top. From this a very dark hawk flew. Although the tail did not show red, it and the wings were broad and rounded, so Ye Ed identified it as a Red-Tailed and hoped she was right. Two birds high in the sky over Arroyo del Valle were probably Golden Eagles, the birds about the nests in the sycamores were Yellow-billed, Magpies, and the swarms of darting, skimming swallows about the Veterans Hospital, Livermore, were Swallows, some Violet-green.

May 14th - 15th, Saturday - Sunday, the trip to the Livermore Hills via Arroyo del Valle, Mulfontes overnight. Doris Crosby and Isabella McGeehon, leaders. The Crosby telephone is YE 4-2083, but Mrs. Crosby is in school five days a week. We recommend the McGeehon number, YE 4-2752. Advance knowledge of the number planning to spend the night would be helpful.

No telephone, no electricity, no motels nearer than Livermore and Pleasanton. Although pulling a trailer up the last mile is out of the question, there is a slight possibility that permission to park at the foot for the one night may be forthcoming. Word has not been received as The Quail goes to press. The rule against camping on the Patterson Ranch is rigid and reasonable, and maybe inflexible.

Food--The plan which has proved satisfactory in other years will be followed: each group take what it wishes, then everything put on the tables and passed back and forth. That did very well and was fun comparing notes and exchanging compliments. No need to take dishes, pots and pans, or silverware.

If we leave the parking lot (suggestion from D. C.) of Las Lomas High School by 12:30 there will be ample time to explore the canyon in several areas, have the beds made, dinner eaten, and the dishes washed before dark, with an evening stroll for those inclined. Before breakfast for the valiant souls there could be an "Owl Prowl". Sunday those who wish to spend the day at Mulfontes are welcome. Others may wish to back track to Marina Avenue, thence across to the Mocho and up that canyon. Up the ridge which runs through the farthest reaches of Mulfontes after a few miles one comes to the region of the Coulter Pine and a few birds that seldom come down by the house.

Field Trip, May 21 and 22, Russian River: Perlman Ranch, 14 miles above Santa Rosa, near Russian River, a 20hour drive from Walnut Creek. Arrive Saturday afternoon (a bird hike at 3:00) or Sunday (another again at 9:00 to 9:30 AM) both within the ranch area.

This is our first organized trip to this interesting and varied region made convenient through the kindness of the Perlman's whose ranch is headquarters. They offer the small house on the property for cooking, water, and toilet facilities. Camping in hills away back is more attractive than open area around house, or there are motel facilities on highway. Possibly swimming in river.

Drive 8 miles north on Highway 101 from Santa Rosa; very sharp right onto Pleasant Ave., (after rounding a blind curve, Shell station on left); 1 mile on Pleasant, then left onto Chalk Hill Road approximately 5 miles to headquarters. This is the solitary red house on left, address 13050. Drive in through open gate. The Perlman's and we will be glad to see you.--The Harry Coudens, YE 4-8873.



# The Quail

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

*MU 5-6134*

June 1960.  
Vol.6.No.12

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be the final gathering of the year, the last of the Ferd. S. Ruth administration, and the annual fund-raising pot-luck supper. Date--Saturday, June 4th, note the day and date--charge \$1.00 for adults, half price for children. Supper chairmen are the incoming president, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, YE 4-4720 and Mrs. Engra Lusebrink, MU 5-8732. Please call them early for reservations and to make plans for contributing to the feast.

*eat 6:00 P.M.*

*Willow pass - right ashdale left on Larkspur - Right Elderwood*  
The patio of the Glen Shanks home will be the place: 3849 Maplewood Court, right Concord, Telephone MU 5-6134. Although definite word as to the program planned to close the evening has not been received, one can count on a good one, with Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler and Ferd Ruth making arrangements.

*right village Rd left*

Those who attended the last Screen Tour--last until the new season begins in the fall--were delighted to see Mrs. Frank "Jane" Nemetz, active member of the Society receive an award for outstanding work and interest in Conservation. Mr. and Mrs. John Porterfield presented three copies of the Palmer E. Lawrence Textbook of Natural History, one to Jane. She is also the recipient of a half scholarship to the Audubon Summer Camp near Norden from the Golden Gate Society.

*Silverwood left Maplewood*

Only report on the trip to the Pinnacles National Monument is: "Some rain Saturday, perfect day Sunday, beautiful."

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*✓ 100*

At the May meeting Ferd turned over to treasurer George E. Schad the 50 copies of his recently and carefully compiled Habitat Checklist of the Vertebrates of Contra Costa County to be sold at 50¢ each, clear profit to the Society. For this valuable and generous gift the thanks of M.D.A.S. go to the author in full measure.

Charles D. Turk, Chief of the State Division of Beaches and Parks, is planning a valiant battle to save California's shrinking coast line. He hopes to lease the 17½ mile long beach of Camp Pendleton, Marine Base near Oceanside. He intends to fight the relocation of U.S. Highway 101 along the beach at Pacific Palisades. He opposes federal recommendation that part of Golden Gate Park be sold to the highest private bidder, and he hopes for federal-state cooperation

in a 56,000 acre park at Point Reyes.

Reports from the migratory bird count of the flyways show a decrease of 18% over the Pacific Flyway last season, and 42% over the Central Valley route.

Everyone must be rejoicing that Contra Costa County has received the John Marsh home as a gift with the 7.362 acres surrounding it, from the S. H. Cowell Foundation. This large stone house was built by Dr. John Marsh, the county's first American settler in the early 1850's.

A reminder of the etiquette of the bird trail has come in; when traveling en-caravan maintain a speed and/or distance that will not slow traffic. When birding in a group avoid sudden noise and/or movement, and constant comment. The first two will disturb the birds, the last the other birders, for there are always some anxious to hear as well as see. Do not invade private property especially when fenced, without permission. Membership in an Audubon Society does not include a license to trespass.

Janet Willoughby and her friend and former teacher, Mrs. Enid Austin, made a trip up the Mocho Canyon shortly after Lynn Farrar and Harry Adamson. Janet's report included the same birds except for those that were about the farm pond and the Osprey. If space permits the full list will be included.

The question of changing the meeting day of this Society has been recurrent ever since the change was made from the first to the second Thursday several years ago. A good many members find Thursday nights bad at any time, while others have never had the second Thursday free.

This is the last issue of Vol. 6, so thanks from the Editor are in order. For another year Sally Steller has addressed the envelopes for those on the membership list, and B. B. Wilder has taken the copy over to his place of employment-- Geneva Steel where he has it run through the Zerox machine, one of the offset process "printing" now so popular and satisfactory. He has also arranged for a certain amount of plain paper "for free" so Quail expenses have been kept to a near minimum. Had the Editor and her machine not been so mechanically inept a few more dollars could have been saved.

The trip up the Arroyo del Valle Canyon appears to have been successful, the weather good, the country still green with an abundance of wild flowers, birds nesting and singing everywhere with twenty-one persons making the trip to Mulfontes. Four did not come in until Sunday, Bev Wilder had to go out Saturday afternoon having an important date with his son, Phyllis Lindley of the Berkeley Office, and her friend, Mrs. Miller of Inverness, both of the Marin Society led an autonomous existence in their green and well stocked Jeep, the Beitzels slept in their trailer parked under an oak at the foot of the grade, the Reynolds, and Budziens pitched their tents near the house. Jack and Beth reported an owl duet. Elizabeth O'Meara was the early bird who went out to witness what she termed the "Changing of the guard". When the Poorwill ceased and the Western Bluebird took over. She it was who found a Bushtit nest building. Harry Budzein came upon a nesting Oregon Junco, and a Black Phoebe was occupying the revamped nest on the back porch which has been used by a Phoebe for the past seven years.

The Sunday arrivals were the Shackelfords and Swensons, newest members, and it was C. J. Swenson who rescued a naked House Finch, at least temporarily.

Somehow the wee bird had fallen from the nest and become enmeshed in the straw of it where it hung head down while the distraught mother flew about. Standing on the edge of a chair, steadied by Ye Ed., but even so working overhead with his neck at an uncomfortable angle he performed the delicate operation without crushing the little thing.

The total bird count was definitely 65; 66 if that was a Pigeon Hawk. Neither Herons nor Kingfisher. Two successive dry years may have discouraged, or they may not be happy over the cutting of so much wood in the canyon in anticipation of the dam to be constructed. The count began in the stream bed a little south of the gravel works, cars parked along Vineyard Avenue near the Ruby Hill vineyard. By the time Bev left Mulfontes, 50 of these birds had been identified.

Hawks, Red-tailed, Pigeon Sparrow; California Quail; Killdeer; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Poorwill; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Downy, Lewis; Western Kingbird; Flycatchers, Black Phoebe, Says Phoebe, Western, Western Wood Peewee; Swallows, Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged; Jays, Steller's, Scrub; Yellow-billed Magpie; Common Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrens, House, Bewick's, Canyon; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Loggerhead Shrike; Vireos, Bell's, Solitary; Warblers, Yellow, Black-throated Gray; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Brewer's, Red-winged; Orioles, Bullock's; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; Finches, House, Purple; Goldfinches, Lesser, Lawrence's; Towhees, Rufous, Brown; Sparrows, Savannah, Lark, Song; Oregon Junco. A second Oriole was not positively identified.

These "TV's", quoting Violet, might be called the bird of the year. One year the Tanagers were the show, last year the Swallows were the arresting note, but this time the large flock of the big black birds coming in to roost in the pines on the Eighty lured all hands to the back porch.

Pine Canyon field trip, Sunday, June 5th, 9 a.m. at gate entrance to Castle Rock Park. Trip leaders: Rosalyn Phillips, YE 4-4751 and Elizabeth O'Meara, YE 4-4720. Lynn Farrar, Bird Identifier.

To get there: From Walnut Creek east out Ygnacio Valley Road, right on Walnut Avenue ("Walnut Creek City Limits"), out Walnut Avenue to Junction with Oak Grove and North Gate Roads, a very short distance on North Gate Road, then right on Castle Rock Road; about a mile and a half to gate.

From Concord or Martinez area, turn at Four Corners on to Oak Grove Road, cross Ygnacio Valley Road to Junction.

From Pleasant Hill, east on Geary Road, right on Bancroft Road, left on Ygnacio Valley Road.

Pine Canyon is nice birding, easy walking, and very pretty. Water, two dams, open glades, low shrubbery, tall trees, and high rock cliffs, which makes ideal habitat for a large variety of birds. Other years we have counted over sixty varieties, from the tiny Bushtit to a Golden Eagle.

Mr. Ford is letting us in free and has asked that we all be lined up at the gate at 9 o'clock promptly. We will park back of the recreation area. E.O'M.



# The Quail

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

July 1960.  
Vol.7.No.1

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, September 1st. Details in the August issue. Important business for consideration and a final vote that evening is the regular meeting day. Shall the day be the Third Thursday instead of the First Thursday, as at present? This constitutes due notice to all paid up members at last known mailing address at least ten days prior to the meeting.

This proposal and subsequent motion were made following the fund-raising pot-luck dinner in June, in the Shanks' delightful backyard patio. The dinner was lavish and delicious, the program of pictures shown by several of the members made the gathering almost a family affair in remnescent mood, with good fellowship "all over the place." Thank you, Margaret and Glenn, also Dorothy and Elizabeth who were head of commissary.

**New officers are:**

President--Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Dr., W.C., YE 4-4720  
Vice-president--Mrs. J. R. Reynolds, 555 LaVista Rd., W.C., YE 5-1813  
Secretary--Mrs. Frank Nemetz, 2822 San Antonio Dr., W.C., YE 4-3295  
Treasurer--George E. Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord, MU 5-7897  
Director--Ferd. S. Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, W.C., YE 4-8803

George did such a meticulous job as treasurer that he was asked to continue. He appears to like arithmetic and records.

**ATTENTION--**Two mistaken identifications reported in the account of the May trip up the Arroyo del Valle Canyon. It appears that finding a Black-capped Chickadee so many hundred miles off course is a virtual impossibility, nor is the Bell's Vireo probable. Scratch them.

However, odd things do happen in the bird world. Yellow-shafted Flickers are not supposed to be in the Arroyo del Valle, but Joe Crosby found a dead one in the house at Mulfontes; it had evidently followed the route down the kitchen stovepipe long a favorite with the Red-shafted. The Phainopepla has now been identified in the Chico area. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., gave credence about two years ago to a report of a living Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and just



this year a reliable report of an Eskimo Curlew wintering with other curlews was received.

Three field trips to be reported: The Pinnacles Trip as usual was full of interest and well attended. Some rain the first day and cooler weather which made hiking pleasant. Saturday evening highlight was the campfire for which most of the wood came from the Adamson's garage, and the solo concert by Harry N. Couden. From the high point hill which gave a view of the snow-capped Santa Lucia Range the Prairie Falcon was also visible. The total of 70 included, also, a Calliope Hummingbird; Sage Sparrow; Lawrence Goldfinches; Calaveras and Magillivary Warblers; Carlyle Sather saw a Road-runner on the way in. Those early awakeners--Jane Nemetz and Lynn Farrar head two Poorwills. Fox Sparrows were scratching in the river bed. Thank you L.D.F.

Beth Reynolds sends this on the Santa Rosa trip to the Perlman Ranch not far from the Russian River: "May 21-22, many members missed an excellent birding opportunity at the Perlman Ranch. The 365 acres offer a variety of habitats: open slopes, dense thickets, oaks and bay trees, stream beds, and riverbank areas. Access roads make bird walks easy for the "softest" hiker. Lovely hilltop camping sites are available for those who prefer the outdoor life, while the house could accommodate a few who may wish better shelter from the elements.

Only the Reynolds joined the Perlmans on Saturday doing some bird guessing and enjoying the lovely surroundings until more expert birders; the Codens, L. Farrar, and the Glotfeltys arrived early Sunday morning. The Hasslers arrived later. Many thanks are due our hosts for their gracious hospitality and their time, taken out of a busy schedule, to make the place available to us.

The birds--Plentiful Lazuli Buntings and Western Bluebirds, some courting added interest to the enjoyable outing in brisk, but mostly sunny weather. Including them, 57 species were counted on or near the ranch for the weekend. Great Blue Heron; Mallard, Wood Duck, Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Sparrow, and Sharp-shinned Hawks; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-Shafted Flicker; Acorn, Downy, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Western Kingbird, Ash-throated and Western Fly-catchers, Black Phoebe, Western Wood Peewee; Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Raven; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Swainson's Thrush; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton's and Warbling Vireos; Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; Bullock's Oriole (pair together); Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Purple and House Finches; Lesser Goldfinches; Brown and Rufous-sided Towhees; Lark, Chipping, and Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

Under date of June 7th, we read that Dr. Isadore Perlman, who with Mrs. Perlman, was host to the Mount Diablo Society, is one of the two U.C. men to receive the first annual Atomic Energy Commission Ernest O. Lawrence Awards. Both men are associates of the Ernest O. Lawrence Radiation Laboratory. The awards include a citation, a medal and \$5,000.00.

Dr. Perlman's home is 1158 Glen Road, Lafayette, where the Society had its first fund-raising potluck supper. Daughter Judy one time treasurer of the Society who brought home snakes in plastic bags on field trips, after a year

at U.C., transferred to Arizona where an especially good course in archeology was available.

While on the subject of earned honors and radiation we might mention Dr. Cecil E. Leith, Jr., of Livermore who received a National Science Foundation fellowship for three months this summer at the Meteorology Institute in Stockholm, whither he, wife, and three children went the moment school was out. They joined Mt. D.A.S. at Mulfontes a few years ago and had planned to this year until events ruled otherwise. Cecil and children are cousins of President O'Meara and Ye Ed.

Now, the June trip up Pine Canyon on Mount Diablo; Elizabeth O'Meara, and Rosalyn Phillips leaders; bird list by Lynn D. Farrar.

"In the forenoon of June 5th, there were 12 society members present, and 2 guests. We gathered at the far gate back of the Castle Rock Park Recreation area, and started our tour at 9 a.m. The weather was almost perfect, clear sky, little or no wind, and just pleasantly warm. Carlyle Sather drove up from Colma. This was a "first" in Pine Canyon for him. He apparently enjoyed it, and the rest of us most certainly enjoyed his 'scope.

"Birds seen on the trip included the following: in the open area near the pavilion and picnic grounds, Western Meadowlark; Black Phoebe; House Finch; and overhead scores of Brewer's Blackbirds; a barn Swallow, many violet-green and some Cliff Swallows. At the first holding pond were some Killdeer, many Red-winged Blackbirds, a Western Bluebird, and on the hillsides, California Quail. Surrounding trees harbored good numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers, a few Nuttall and Downy Woodpeckers and several Red-shafted Flickers.

Not far into the canyon we encountered the first Flycatchers which included Western, Ash-throated, Western Kingbirds, and Western Wood Peewees. Overhead two dozen White-throated Swifts were wheeling with Violet-green Swallows. These were all numerous except the Kingbirds. A few Steller's Jays and countless Scrub Jays were in and out of the trees but never together.

The deeper part of the canyon produced the bulk of the species seen and these included Plain Titmouse (everywhere), three or four California Thrashers, a Solitary and Warbling Vireo, a beautiful pair of Lawrence Goldfinches as well as many Lesser Goldfinches; a few Bullock's Orioles; a number of Black-headed Grosbeaks; an Orange-crowned and Yellow Warbler; many House and one Bewick Wren; several White-breasted Nuthatches; an occasional Wrentit; several Anna's Hummers, and the usual crowd of Brown and Rufous-sided Towhees.

A goodly number of Oregon Juncos were seen, but the highlight of the deep canyon as well as the trip was a Sage Sparrow, seen excellently, thanks to Sather's 'scope which he generously shared. Two song Sparrows were heard. At the upper reservoir a rather scraggly Golden Eagle and more TV's were seen. One Lazuli Bunting sat for us on the railing of a catwalk. Several swallows were flashing over the water and here we picked up the Round-winged. Mourning Doves were plentiful at both ends of the hike, and on our return to the parking area the last bird picked up was a Brown-headed Cowbird.

While the number of any one species were not plentiful a rather nice variety

was present, and I am sure those attending were well rewarded. The Sage Sparrow (on the chapparal hillside in the middle canyon was a life bird for several present. L.D.F."

"But I maintain the Golden Eagle was majestic in his Tatters. E.O'M."

"All America is divided into three parts--Clock watchers, bird watchers, and budget watchers."

Vic and Evelyn Mann who are visiting refuges in northern California and Oregon have been feeding Mourning Doves, especially an injured female and recently saw a Chukar Partridge near at hand. A few days later Mrs. Vincent E. Young who lives on Oakvale Road on the hill, perhaps a mile as a partridge flies, called to describe an unusual and beautiful bird near her house. Same Partridge probably.

E.O'M. and Engra Lusebrink spent overnight at Mulfontes recently, where they found the Black Phoebe nest on the back porch with a newly hatched brood, at least the second this season, and a House Finch nesting ten feet away for at least the second time, a House Wren active about, but no nest visible, a suspiciously behaving Anna's Hummingbird in the toyon at the northeast corner, the air full of musical Larksparrrows, but most interesting down under the old house a nest full of four newly hatched Canyon Wrens.

A heavily laden plum tree makes a first class feeding station for fruit eaters, all day long; House Finches, the two Towhees, Mockingbird, Scrub Jay, and most colorful the Bullock's Orioles eating and chattering, all this can be seen through the glass door. From this inside vantage post three birds not seen before in the McGeehon yard appeared this month. One must be an Oriole, deep red orange and black, white on wings, but the head was obscured although the bird was not more than twenty feet distant, and unhurried. Another bird somewhat like a miniature Western Tanager, but different remains a complete puzzle, but the little yellow bird was identified as a Yellow Warbler, and L.D.F. agrees that it was a female of that species. McG.

Fortunate was The Editor to have two short eventful half days recently. The huge old, over-arching trees at Hill Girt, the home of Frank Swett and his daughter Mrs. Plummer, are the home of many Steller's Jays, raucous voiced to be sure, but handsome none the less.

Unexpectedly the next day she went up in Marin County as far as Point Reyes Station after touring the fascinating little old settlement of Bolinas. Between Stinson Beach and Bolinas in the inside ditch beside the much traveled road stood a dejected looking Great Blue Heron gazing down his beak. Beyond him at the mouth of a little wooded canyon was a well-filled Egret Rookery, three trees. According to L.D.F. the birds were Snowies. Later, not far from Nicasio there were many TV's--one flock of twelve or fifteen gathered in a circle in a barnyard, why we have no idea. Shortly after sundown we came along the Searspoint Cutoff, seeing many Brewer's blackbirds, two Swallows and that was all.

Ferd Ruth received a "write-up" in the Oakland Tribune for his work in compiling and publishing his Contra Costa Vertebrates, designed primarily to

fill the long felt need in biology classrooms. By the way, 353 indigenous vertebrates in the county.

Doris Crosby another member was written up as having given long service in Mount Diablo Unified District, specifically as a member of the Pleasant Hill Elementary School faculty, although not the century of its existence. Her son Joe, also a charter member of Mt.D.A.S. has just been graduated from Las Lomas High School and will enroll at Diablo Valley College presently, where he plans to lay the foundation for a degree in pedagogy.

As the Quail goes to press no new word on the Wright's Lake trip. Harry N. Couden, retiring trips chairman reports that it is still scheduled. Since the place is stationary we assume road directions of former years still hold so will quote this. July 9th-10th, the dates.

"To get there take U.S. 50 through Placerville, past Kyberz approximately 5 miles. Look for a sign on the left (North) side of Highway, at a graded road. The sign says, "Wright's Lake". Take this road about 8-9 miles to the lake. There is a public campground there."

Customarily participants have planned to be there in time to join the first walk, Saturday 9 a.m. The Sunday morning walk starts at 8 a.m.

This is strictly a camping trip. The advice is always "take it easy" over the last stretch of road, which is scenic but a bit rough. Work on it may have been done this year.

For additional information call Mrs. Harry C. Adamson, AT 3-2164, or the Coudens, YE 4-8873.

Lord of the Night--equipped with enormous eyes, outsize eardrums and silent wings, he is superbly engineered nocturnal hunter. He is also one of the most beneficial birds in the air around us. The Owl. From the Audubon Magazine via Reader's Digest.



# The Quail

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

August 1960  
Vol. 7. No. 2

The date of the next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society is Thursday, September 1st, an important date because then the proposed change in meeting day comes up for voting. Schools will not have opened by the 1st. Some of our members may yet be on vacation. Consequently, all those at home and interested in a change should make an effort to be present. No quorum; no vote; no change.

President Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek, has announced chairmen appointments:

Program--Mrs. J. R. Reynolds, 555 Vista Road, Walnut Creek, YE 5-1813  
Publicity--Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler, 18 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, YE 4-3151  
Conservation--Ed T. Mize, 1255 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord, MU 2-9786  
Field Trips--Lynn D. Farrar, 955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette, AT 3-3938  
The Quail--Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, Walnut Creek, YE 4-2752  
Quail committee members--B. B. Wilder, publisher; Mrs. J. S. Steller,  
addresser of envelopes.

From Ed Mize this report:

Congress adjourned for the Conventions and thereby further delayed action on several important conservation members. The Wilderness Bill has yet to be voted out of the Senate Interior Committee. Nothing has been done on the proposed shoreline bills nor on the protection of Rainbow Bridge from the forthcoming Glen Canyon reservoir in Arizona.

Closer to home the state has bought 204 acres of land on the shoulder of Mt. Tamalpais. About 700 acres remain to be acquired to complete the two-year-old plan to add over 3000 acres to the Tamalpais State Park.

With face of scarlet and full apology for plain stupidity, The Editor confesses to having erred in listing Dorothy Couden as co-chairman of the June potluck. Engra Lusebrink was it. As usual Dorothy did her share, but Engra was the official and capable appointee. We are ashamed.

August Quail--2

Appended is a list of books prepared by Mrs. Mildred Carlock, member of the Society and chief of staff of the Walnut Creek Branch County Library, as requested by President O'Meara.

Of special interest is the account of the May trip of Golden Gate Society out the Mines Road to the junction with that to Patterson, which the group took. As reported by Richard Stallcup, the Phainopepla was found at the foot of the Wilson Grade as usual, but most unusual was the find of a nesting colony of Costa's Hummingbirds approximately 250 miles "off course". Another instance of a bird out of area, and 250 is a "fur piece".

We read that a court battle was being waged in Modesto between the hunting fraternity and the ranchers. The former want a region thrown open to hunting; the ranchers, with Paul Gerber a spokesman, object because there is no access except over the cattlemen's holdings with open gates, broken fences, killed cattle, and probable fires the customary result. The Gerber family owns much of the San Antone Creek area.

A card from Violet and Dick Beitzel report a good trip up the coast and about the Olympic peninsula, but because of road conditions they could not visit the Rain Forest.

Doris and Joe Crosby are home after a trip to British Columbia going in this time on the ferry from Port Angelus. Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Cooperrider are in Alaska, Katie Hassler was last heard from in Rome, where pigeons were plentiful. Flora L. Hook made a quick trip to Hawaii out by plane, home by boat; wide ranging group this summer.

The J. S. Steller family planned a camping trip to the Mount Lassen region, and the Wilders their annual dancing convention at C.O.P., Stockton. This "old home week" so to speak, occupies two weeks or more. In the meantime, son Douglas, who has been visiting relatives in Roseburg, Oregon, and Happy Camp in Siskiyou County will spend his time with other relatives near Ben Lomond.

Frances Blake wrote that she and traveling companion, Dagmer Vinther, had been delayed in Holland where Miss Vinther was hospitalized for a time.

New member, Thomas Lee, 1017 Marilyn Way, Concord. Welcome.

To the Wm. F. Toasperms of Pleasant Hill, congratulations on the birth of a son.

Member Harriet Tholen who joined about 2 years ago has sent her dues from St. Louis where her work has taken her from Lafayette. We are glad she wishes to keep in touch, and hope when she returns to this region she will be able to attend meetings so that we may know her.

We are sorry to learn that the Lynn Farrar family has had so much illness the past few months, with throat surgery indicated for Ruth. He was happy to find Rosy Finches in the snow on the Wright's Lake trip in spite of being under the weather.

Bev Wilder was enthusiastic over that expedition and reported that several members added to their life lists, among the fortunate ones, Pete Veitch.

E. O'M. enjoyed watching a Scrub Jay spread a fig to dry on a limb, the first seemed small so he moved it to a wider one, but made no attempt to eat.

7/17 a brood of twelve new quail appeared in the McGeehon garden where they are seen daily.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR AUDUBON

595.799 Free, John B. - Bumblebees, Macmillan, 1959

This is a study of the life of a social insect, the bumblebee, in its habitat. It describes the founding of a colony, the division of labor among its members, and their reproductive and foodgathering habits. There are instructions on their capture and maintenance. Photographs by Colin G. Butler, the co-author, who is head of the Bee Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station, England.

574 Bates, Marston - The forest and the sea, Random House, 1960

A study of the biological community in the widest sense, examining the life of the forests, the lakes, the grasslands, the deserts, the coral reefs and the open seas. His aim is not only to describe the many forms of life in nature but, in his own words--"In a roundabout way, I am trying to answer the question about what good is the butterfly and what good is man; trying to look again at the ever-fascinating problem of man's place in nature."

574 Krutch, Joseph Wood - The great chain of life, Houghton Mifflin, 1956

In a wide-ranging discussion which covers the whole spectrum of life from the one-celled paramecium to the giant mammals, Dr. Krutch unfolds the richness and dignity of man's animal heritage; and without sacrificing the scrupulous research and deduction of the scientific method, he restores a sense of wonder and joy to man's contemplation of his world. This is an exciting challenge to the tidy and cheerless "laws of nature" as we now understand them.

574 Milne, Lorus J. and Margery J. - The world of night, Harpers, 1956

Not only is this book a beautifully written work of natural history for the layman, it is one of those rare books that makes us suddenly aware of a new aspect of life awaiting discovery in the world right around us. Here is the story of what happens under cover of darkness to birds, insects, reptiles, mammals and fish in the many different environments they inhabit. The Milnes are widely known to lecture audiences of the National Audubon Society Screen Tours and to readers of NATURAL HISTORY, AUDUBON MAGAZINE, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, FRONTIERS, NATURE MAGAZINE, and ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

508 Darwin, Charles R. - The voyage of the Beagle. Abridged and edited by Millicent E. Selsam. Harper, 1959

On the one-hundredth anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES, Millicent Selsam has abridged the long text and written a perceptive and illuminating introduction to each of the twenty-one chapters. It is an adventure story in which the greatest adventure of all is a young man's search for an understanding of the origin and development of all living things on earth. The drawings by Anthony Ravielli are the perfect complement to the text.

5919798 Crisler, Lois - Arctic wild. Harper, 1958

When Lois and Herb Crisler went to Alaska on an assignment from Walt Disney to photograph wolves and caribou and other wild life, they had had experiences of the wilderness but not of the Arctic. In eighteen months in the remote Brooks Range with a brief winter interlude at Point Barrow, they encountered a challenging new world--and it is this unique experience which Mrs. Crisler records with beauty, insight, and a wealth of fascinating information in ARCTIC WILD. Stanleigh Arnold wrote for the S.F. CHRONICLE, "The descriptions of the seasons, the fascinating glimpses of the caribou and grizzly bear, the portraits of the Arctic landscapes, the adventures of a couple in a country of danger--all these would make ARCTIC WILD worth while without a word about the wolves. But the wolves are the stars and deserve the position."



# The Quail

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

September 1960  
Vol. 7. No. 3

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society, the first since June, will be Thursday, the 1st, Las Lomas High School, Room 201, 8 p.m. Mrs. J. R. Reynolds, program chairman, announces Duane Mattison, Parks Director of Contra Costa County, will talk on the County park plans, and accomplishments.

This is a timely subject of increasing importance; one in which all conservation minded folk should take active interest. (McG.) Also, on the agenda is the matter of voting on the proposed meeting day.

First field trip of the new season will, as usual, include Bay Farm Island, but according to word from leader, Lynn D. Farrar the meeting place will be the Southern Pacific Station in Berkely, at the foot of University Avenue, at 9 a.m. Participants take lunch if they wish to "eat out". Lincoln Park in Alameda is a nice picnic spot. Lynn reports seeing a number of shore birds in the mud flats from the road along the shore from the S. P. Depot. Civilization has encroached on the "loafing grounds" of the Island.

The Steller family report a very fine time in the Mount Lassen Park region with many Mountain Chickadees among the interesting wildlife. Son Tom has again been a Junior Museum student. He has not missed a summer session since the project was started.

President O'Meara and Ye Ed. have recently read two books that could be of interest to the Society. "Alice Eastwood's Wonderland" by Carol Green Wilson is easy reading, although full of real interest to those who care for biography and botany. Miss Eastwood was for many years Curator at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Her heroic efforts saved a wagon load of the precious files in the morning of the 1906 fire. Twice in one day she moved them to keep ahead of the flames, and later removed them from temporary storage at Fort Mason to another temporary haven on Russian Hill. The minor episode of stepping on and going through the top of the settling barrel in the thicket above the "old house" at Mulfontes is not included.

And "Circle of the Seasons," Edwin Way Teale is full of authentic nature notes told in beautiful prose with poetic undertones as he records the day to day happenings in his immediate environs with occasional visits a little farther afield on Long Island, and one trip far up in Maine.



## September Quail - 2

In the Albatross, publication of the Santa Cruz Bird Club, editor Dorothy Hune of Trout Gulch Road, Aptos, we read that "Our Beautiful Western Birds," Mr. Russell T. Congdon, is well worth reading. Is to be had at the Santa Cruz Library, so we assume the Walnut Creek Branch of this County Library can get the book if requested.

Librarian Mrs. Mildred Carlock is recovering from a tough bout with pneumonia. We are very sorry she had it, and glad she is making a satisfactory recovery.

Teale reports hearing a great commotion among the Bluejays near his house. He went out to find them annoying a Barn Owl that had made a daylight invasion of their territory. Elizabeth O'Meara responded to a similar clamor of Scrub Jays and Mockingbirds in her garden. Presently, the same kind of an Owl left the tree in which it had perched and flew up the creek. Had these owls been belated and unable to get home before daylight?

Lynn reports--8/3 Orange-crowned Warbler and Western Tanager; 8/4 Hermit Warbler and Macgillivray's; 8/6 Lark Sparrow; 8/15 a flock of Common Mergansers flying northward. Others seen in his yard the past month were Warbling Vireo; Black-headed Grosbeak; Hutton's Vireo.

The question of the eating habits of the Turkey Vulture has come up. As we understand it, those birds are guided by sight so could well miss dead meat in the brush or under trees. A long time deceased bovine was slowly mummifying under a liveoak just over the Mulfontes fence, and all the while the TV's were circling overhead.

Again, from Circle of the Seasons, the early settlers in the United States debated the identity of the Hummingbird--bird or insect? Also, he observed a wasp transporting a green grasshopper, far larger than itself. Same thing in the McGeehon garden. The wasp had red wings, not the blue-black variety, nor of course, the Tarantula Hawk that at this season is plentiful at Mulfontes.

This is deer season so motorists and even hikers in deer country should be alert lest a deer blinded by the bright lights collide with the car. Everyone concerned could be injured. In 1959 the road-killed deer numbered 770. Although hikers are not likely to collide with deer, they could with the deer hunter's bullets. (McG)

In the August issue of Holiday is a good story on Death Valley, where a bird count of 230 species has been obtained.

Why would a half dozen or more Woolly Bear caterpillars congregate at the base of a tree this time of year? They did at McGeehon's.

No word as to the Screen Tour speakers this season, but from an Exchange we learn that Cruickshank and Petersen will make several appearances.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Veitch is out on Midway Island where the fascinating albatross known as the Gooney Bird is a problem to the Naval Airforce.

A final quotation from Teale, "Hell hath no fury like the self-righteous indignation of the gunner who sees the thing he wants to kill killed by a predator."

A lecture series under the auspices of the University of California telling the story of the High Sierra, covering geography, geology, anthropology, physiology, and history

September Quail - 3

starts Tuesday, October 4, 8 p.m., Extension Center, 55 Laguna Street, San Francisco. The Berkeley series starts Thursday, the 6th, same hour, Dwinelle Hall, Room 155.

The speakers are all qualified to speak on the subjects offered: Francis P. Farquar, a past president of the Sierra Club, and the California Academy of Sciences; David Miller of the U. S. Forest Service; A. E. Treganza, head of the department of anthropology at San Francisco State; Garniss H. Curtis, associate professor of geology at the University; Nello Pace, physiology and operations director of the White Mountain Research Center, and Sun Valley resident Russell Grater concludes the series in November with a talk on National Parks and Forests in the High Sierra.

Series tickets now on sale 2441 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4; general admission \$9.00, students \$5.00.

A few of those who signed for Quail letter paper last spring have not claimed it. It was taken to several meetings in the hope that at least one of the missing subscribers would be present. Please get in touch with McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Rd., W.C., YE 4-2752.

Field Trips chairman, Lynn D. Farrar, 955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette, AT 3-3938 submits this schedule. Although minor changes may be necessitated this is substantially the outline for the year.

1960

September 11 - as already announced.

October 8-9 - Fremont State Park, Moss Landing, leader Richard Stallcup.

November 5-6 - Willows-Gridley Refuges, Harry Adamson.

December - Hennessey Lake, Conn Dam; Dorothy and Harry Couden.

December - Christmas Count, date and details next issue.

1961

January 8 - Tomales Bay area; R. S. and Violet Beitzel.

February 5 - Terminous Island and environs; B. B. Wilder.

March 5 - Sunol Water Temple, Calaveras Dam; R. J. and Elizabeth Reynold.

April 9 - Mount Diablo; Eleanor Pugh.

April 22-23 - Pinnacles National Monument; the R. R. Glotfeltys.

May 6-7 - Indians Guard Station (King City); leader to be found.

May 27-28 - Arroyo del Valle Canyon; McGeehon and Crosby.

June 24-25 - Yuba Pass; Peter A. Veitch.

July 8-9 - Wright's Lake; Wilder?

Mrs. J. R. Reynolds, program chairman, 555 La Vista Road, Walnut Creek, YE 5-1833, would be happy to hear from anyone having a good concrete idea for a program for the regular meeting; or call the president, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4720.

Health note: Bird Watching is a mild paralysis of the nervous system which can be cured only by rising at dawn and sitting in a bog. (Authority forgotten.)



# The Quail

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

October 1960  
Vol 7 No. 4

The next regular meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday the 27th, 8 p.m., in the new Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College, Room 211, Ferd S. Ruth, host in his new laboratory. Mrs. Jack R. Reynolds program chairman calls attention to the date.

President Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara announces the fourth Thursday of the month will be the regular day on a three month trial basis, in accord with the proposal made at the June meeting and recorded by secretary, Mrs. Frank Nemetz.

The first three months may prove the hardest. The October meeting is precisely eight weeks since that of September 1st. The fourth Thursday in November already belongs to Thanksgiving Day. In December the fourth Thursday, Christmas, and probably the Christmas Count all come within a week. Ye Ed, suggests that the Count and meeting be set for the same day. The customary potluck supper and the recapitulation should make a good program thus relieving "Beth".

Next Field Trip, Fremont State Park and Moss Landing, October 8-9. From Lynn D. Farrar, trips chairman we have this:

"Meeting place will be the road junction of State Highway 156 and 1, just south of Castroville. Proceed south on U.S. 101 through Gilroy to junction with State Highway 156 turning right and proceeding toward Monterey. It is six miles from this turnoff to State Highway 1, and there look for the old blue Plymouth with me and my 'binocs'.

We will proceed from this point to Moss Landing and any other good spots available to us. Meeting time at the Junction will be 11:30 A.M., Saturday morning. Plan to bring a lunch as high tide is about noon and we want to start birding immediately. We can have lunch in the Moss Landing area.

Saturday we plan to camp in Fremont State Park near San Juan Bautista, and Sunday there will be a short local hike at the Park, after which we can either do more of the Moss Landing area, or some of the back roads in the Watsonville area.

The weather might be cool for those planning to camp. Water is available at the Park. For additional information contact me at Atlantic 3-3938 evenings after 6:30."

The first Screen Tour of the new season is scheduled for Friday, October 7th, in the Gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, Ferd Ruth again program chairman; Allan D. Cruickshank, lecturer, "River of the Crying Bird" the subject. The Cruickshanks are "top raters", his pictures superb. Those who have read Mrs. Cruickshank's "Flight Into Sunshine" are familiar with the pages of beautiful illustrations, reproductions of his photographs in the Florida region.

The gymnasium is roomy, and the parking lot, but one would do well to come early, especially on a Friday night. For those unfamiliar with the college-campus the map enclosed designed to show the way to Ferd's new quarters will serve equally for approaching the lecture hall.

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

"Even though the group was very small, 12 of us who turned out for this wonderful spot all were rewarded not only with good birding but ideal weather.

Saturday morning five hiked to Twin Lakes and for once we had sufficient time to go beyond to look for Rosy Finches. As soon as we gained more altitude we saw Rosy Finches flying overhead and below us and finally had them sitting on the slabs of granite nearby. It was a lifer for most of the group and certainly a new bird for the Mount Diablo Audubon Society's trip list. After returning to camp there still was time for a dip in the lake before dinner. That night we gathered for a short time around a campfire.

Next morning the group took the Windmill Trail which was new to most of the group, but proved to be a fine birding area. At one spot on the trail we had 18 different species of birds which included: White-throated Swift; Rufous Hummingbird; White-headed Woodpecker; Violet-green Swallow; Steller's Jay; Mountain Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Robin; Townsend's Solitaire; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Warbler; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Evening Grosbeak; Cassin's Finch; Green-tailed Towhee; Oregon Junco; Fox Sparrow and heard Blue Grouse."

In addition to these Betty reports 30 more species bringing the trip total to 48: Mallard; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks; Spotted Sandpiper; California Gull; Mourning Dove; Common Nighthawk; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Williamson's Sapsucker; Hairy Woodpecker; Western Wood Peewee; Olive-sided Flycatcher; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Dipper; Rock Wren; Mountain Bluebird; Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's McGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Chipping Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow.

Now, the September trip led by Field Trips chairman, L. D. Farrar. Although still called Bay Farm Island trip a new area along the waterfront from Berkeley as far as the Bay Bridge approach has been added, successfully.

"On a very delightful day 14 members and guests met at Berkeley Station and proceeded along the Eastshore Freeway to the Emeryville mudflats and then to the mud flats near the toll plaza. The tide was about one-third out, but the sun was at our backs making perfect lighting conditions. The number of species was not great, but the birds present included several not always seen in this area, on a given field trip, and the morning was climaxed by the aerial display of a Jaeger (sadly, the bird had lost its tail feathers and size comparison was the only possible clue to its identity). The best estimate

(Adamson) was Pomarine Jaeger, judged by its size next to Western Gull and a Tern, that the Jaeger harried until the prized fish was disgorged. Of course, this fish was deftly snatched in the air by our prime target.

The bird was in the dark phase, rested upon the water for a short interval between sallies, and came close enough so that the white patches or mirrors on the wings were plainly seen by all observers. A thorough check of references available to me bore out the conclusion that the bird most probably was a Pomarine Jaeger, and of course, it would have been a "life bird" for everyone but H.C.A. However, conservative practice must let us be content with having seen a species considered quite rare for inland waters.

Our group had lunch at Lincoln Park, Alameda after which we visited Bay Farm Island. The tide was not favorable, and we saw nothing we had not already encountered that morning. The list of birds seen included: Pied-billed Grebe; Brown Pelican; Cormorant (probably Double-crested); Pintail, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Ruddy duck; American Coot; Semi-palmated Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Ruddy and Black Turnstones; Long-billed Curlew and Whimbrel; Greater Yellow-legs; Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper; Dowitcher (probably Long-billed); Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; American Avocet; Northern Phalarope; Jaeger; Western, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, Mew, California, and Heerman's Gulls; Foster's and Common Terns; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Warbling Vireo; Yellow and Black-throated Gray Warblers; House Sparrow; Brewer's Blackbird; Western Meadowlark; House Finch; and Song Sparrow, a total of 41 species."

Sparrows, The Adamsons report White-crowned 9/3; Norma Warner 9/13; McGeehon 9/16; Farrar 9/19.

Golden Crowned, Farrar 9/17.

Fox and Lincoln, Adamson 9/21.

Oregon Junco, Steller 9/21.

Red-shafted Flicker, Farrar 9/15.

Lynn reports that his passing-through migrants have passed. In the McGeehon garden the neat little green Western Tanagers left during the second week of September, leaving the figs and grapes to the house finches, mockingbirds, and towhees, the two species.

Olive Beitzel writes of an interesting experience with a Wilson's Warbler which she was thrilled to hold in her hand. It was found in the storeroom of the Williams Elementary School in Concord. The custodian took it in to Mrs. Rufous Johnson, who teaches in the same school, and is also a member of Mt. A. S., and she sent it on to Violet.

The little bird was quite uninjured so she put it in a screened cage where it promptly caught a foot in the wire. After extricating it she decided to give over singing and devote time to birdlore.

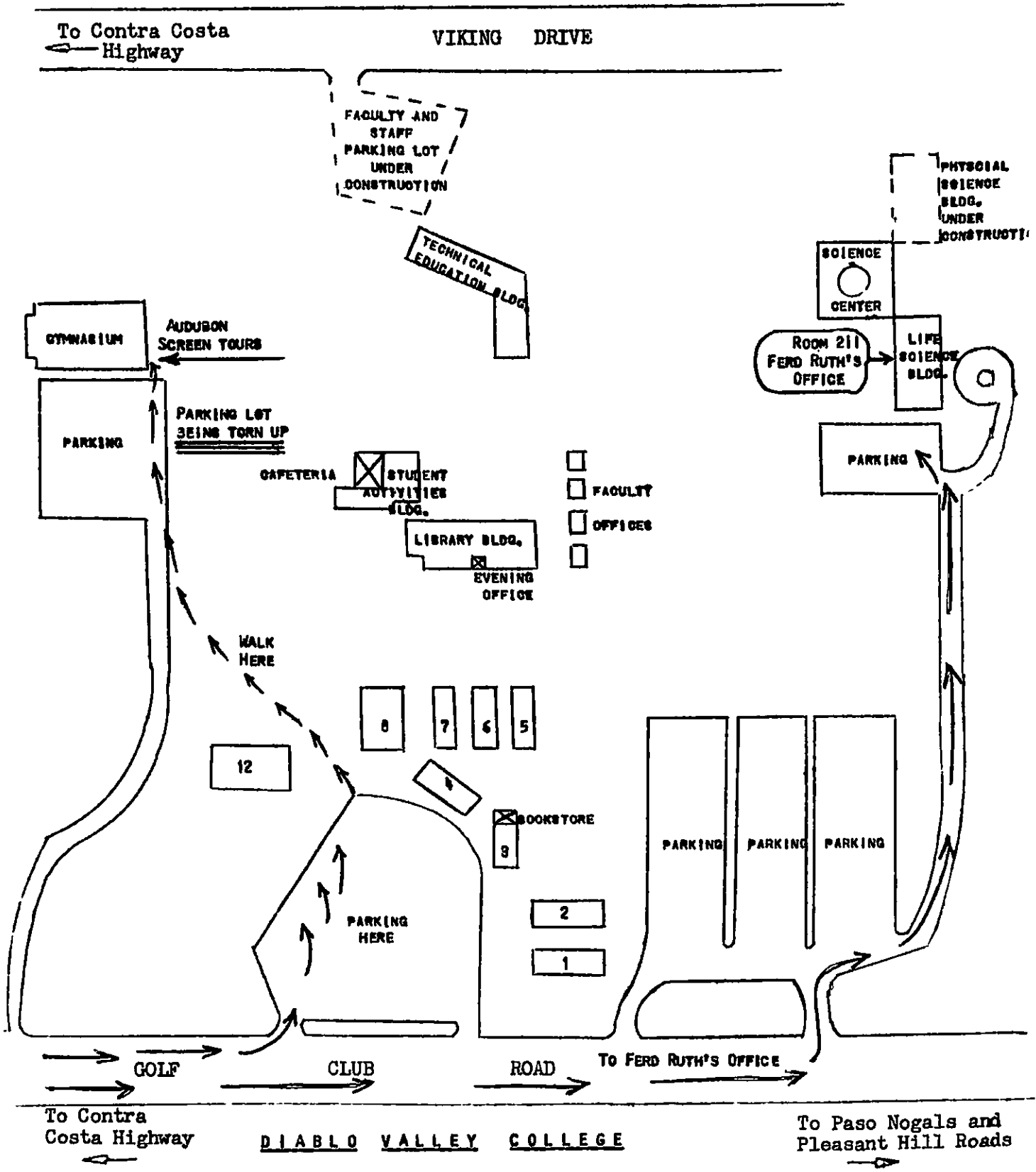
After telling the children about the warbler they trooped out to the yard where she held her hand toward the trees. After a moment it flew away none the worse.

Lepidoptera: Sally Steller agreed with Ye Ed. that we have had a greater number of Silver Fritellary this season than heretofore; and Mourning Cloaks and Tiger Swallowtails have been fewer. As of 9/23 not a Red Admiral has been observed. One sunny morning Monarchs, numerous Silver Fritellaries, a Tiger Swallowtail, several Cabbages and an Anna's Hummingbird were all feasting on the tangle of Turk's Cap Abutilon, (bright red for hummers) and small very yellow sunflowers.

Oct. Quail - 4

The California Thrasher of the Paso Robles Audubon Society reports several observations of Condors overhead this past summer; over Los Osos 9/2 and over Shandon Hills 1/9 eight of the large vultures hesitated briefly on their way northward into Cholame Valley.

President, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara - 2231 Overlook Dr., Walnut Creek, YE 4-4720.  
Vice-president and program chairman, Mrs. Jack R. Reynolds, 555 LaVista Dr.,  
Walnut Creek, YE 5-1813.





# The Quail

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

November 1960  
Vol. 7 No. 5

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Program chairman, Mrs. J. R. Reynolds announces that she has asked Mrs. Gus "Engra" Lusebrink and Mrs. Frank "Jane" Nemetz, who were Audubon Campers last summer but at different sessions to tell their stories.

A reminder of the Audubon convention at Asilomar next March seems in order at this point. Reservations might well be made now, although no money need be sent at this time. Full details are to be had at the National Office, 2624 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4. That is also a good place to visit with Christmas shopping in mind.

Next Field Trip is the annual to the refuges at Willows and Gridley. Because he was leading the Golden Gate trip to that area on the 5th and 6th, Harry Adamson volunteered to lead Mount Diablo, also. As The Quail goes to press, the Adamsons have not returned from their Montana visit. We suggest those interested in making a two day excursion of it telephone Harry - AT 3-2164.

Lynn D. Farrar, field trips chairman, is considering a one-day trip to that area on Saturday the 5th, and would be glad to hear from anyone or two who would like to go along - telephone AT 3-3938.

That sounds like a golden opportunity for the many who cannot see their way clear to two days. Sometimes really rare birds are seen on that trip, but the outstanding sight is the astounding number of birds all in one place.





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Ferd Ruth's new laboratory is a beauty, the thing for which he has planned for ten years; ever since he came to the college and organized the Biological Science department. An added feature at the October meeting was his Yellowstone National Park illustrated story. One or two of the pictures showed before and after the '59 earthquake.

The next screen tour is scheduled for Monday, November 28th, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gymnasium, Ferd S. Ruth, program chairman, introducing Wm. A. Anderson, who will tell of the wonders of Design for Survival. Nature's design for survival and perpetuation of the species is a never-ending struggle, and never-ending marvel to those who watch and study it.

For ten years the husband and wife team of "Bill" and Claire Anderson have been dedicated to an effort to awaken and increase an appreciation and respect for all wildlife. These world famed producers of prize-winning motion pictures will show the stories of how animals adapt themselves to environment and environmental changes. In addition to the usual animals, the Andersons will show "oddities" of land and water.

The unforgettable pictures of the River of the Crying Bird shown by Allan D. Cruickshank last month should have whetted Screen Tour appetities for more. The startling and startled "Fiddlin" crabs; the beautiful, but repelling (to some of us) coral snake, the nice little passerine birds on the wires and the surpassing beauty of white birds flying thick in a blue sky merited the rapt attention accorded them.

E. T. Mize, conservation chairman, has sent in this after his return from a late August trip to Glacier Park. They reported a good time in spite of wet weather. Their last day there was the first clear day in three weeks.

"California is selling over three thousand acres of land in the Madeline Plains Waterfowl Management Area in Lassen County. Prison labor is now being used extensively in California for fire prevention, fire suppression, and conservation projects. Three parcels of the Klamath Indian Reservation timberland in Oregon are being acquired by the Government at the end of the year. The land will either be divided between the Rogue River and the Fremont National Forests, or set up as a new Klamath National Forest. Plans are being made to change the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area to a more restrictive Wilderness Area.

This region is southwest of Missoula, Montana, and contains more than a million acres. Nearly a half million acres have been set aside in Washington, as the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Only a few acres of Glacier Park were destroyed by forest fires this year, despite 6 weeks of hot and dry weather in July and August."

And from Lynn D. Farrar, chairman of Field Trips and leader of the expedition of October 8-9, to Moss Landing and Fremont Peak Area:

"On a beautiful sunny morning four members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society met at Castroville about 11:30 a.m., for a day and a half of very fine birding. Permission was obtained from the local salt works to walk along the dikes between the salt ponds and Elkhorn Slough. A fair variety of birds was seen, highlighted by ten Royal Terns, about 200 Heerman's Gulls, and an estimated 500 or more Brown Pelicans arriving from the north

via the ocean in flock after flock. The terns were at close range and viewed through the two 'scopes of Carlyle Sather and the Coudens provided a life bird for me.

Coloration of the bill, the shaggy crest on the rear of the head, the general heavy build of the body, and comparative size of the birds with gulls standing next to them finally convinced me that these were Royal and not Elegant Terns. Forster's and Common Terns were also in the area. Even more comparison was possible. Other species seen at the salt ponds included Eared Grebe; Shoveler, Ruddy Duck; Sparrow Hawk; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Marbled Godwit; Avocet; Black-necked Stilt; Northern Phalarope; Glaucus-winged, Western Herring, California, and Ring-billed Gulls; Savannah Sparrow.

We hopped up the road a short distance to Jetty Road, stopping for lunch and birds. On the marshes we found American and Snowy Egrets; one Canada Goose; Marsh Hawk; Coot; both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Dunlin; Long-billed Dowitcher; Sanderling; Western Meadowlark; Redwing and Brewer's Blackbirds; and in nearby Castroville, House Sparrow. Just beyond Jetty Road to the north a small pond yielded Pied-billed Grebe; eight White Pelicans; Black and Says Phoebe. Farther north at another lagoon we found Mallard; Killdeer; two Cliff Swallows; Crow; and in the fields Horned Larks and Water Pipits.

Walking a short distance to the beach and dunes we finally spotted Western Grebe; Sooty Shearwater (C.S.); probably Brandt's Cormorant; White-winged Scoter. Near here at a small lagoon Harry Couden and I were able to approach a group of Dowitchers to within twenty feet of where they were feeding in shallow water. We were able to observe the markings and listen to the voices so well that we felt quite confident in identifying Long-bills. We also think there may have been a Short-bill or two (not counted tho').

From there we drove to Fremont State Park where the cold wind almost convinced us to return home, but after a cozy dinner we decided to stay. The next morning we birded the camp area and then hiked down a tree and brush filled ravine. The Park produced Red-tailed Hawk; California Quail; Band-tailed Pigeons; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Scrub and Steller's Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick Wren; Robin; a group of Varied Thrushes; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; 2, possibly 3, Solitary Vireos; House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco, a possible Slate-colored Junco (not counted); Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrow; and a probable Sage Sparrow, also not counted because the central spot not visible. Leaving the Park, I found White-crowned and Lark Sparrows. Total species 82 for the entire trip. LFD."

At the October Screen Tour it was pleasant to greet Paul Opler who has made a good recovery from his automobile accident, and is planning to do some graduate work next year. Contrary to rumor he is not married, or at least, was not of that date. Ferd Ruth had the word of the woman in the case.

Frances Blake reported that her birding opportunities were few in Europe last summer, but she did see a new Woodpecker in Rotterdam where her neighbor, friend and traveling companion was hospitalized after being knocked

down by a boy on a bicycle.

Kate Hassler did better so far as birds were concerned. While her mother attended the Soroptimist Convention she birded the London Parks.

Jane Nemetz who is working from the Recreation Center leads children on nature walks. On an October trip they found a large flock of Western Bluebirds up Pine Canyon. October 5, she saw the first pair of Audubon Warblers, 4 days later than in '59. The Hermit Thrush appeared the last week in September, the same week Elizabeth O'Meara observed one in her garden, but October 5, was the first date one was seen in the McGeehon jungle.

On that date Jane reported Oregon Juncos and Sparrows in numbers, Hutton's Vireo and numerous Audubon Warblers seen when rambling. After a month of post-operative care the Mourning Dove tended by the Nemetz family flew away.

Audubon Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are observed daily in the O'Meara trees. A flock of about 50 California Quail feed on the McGeehon hill evenings, where characteristically gallinaceous activities are entertaining. In October a Turkey Vulture was observed flying over--rare sight in Walnut Creek.

The Massachusetts Audubon reports the Midway Gooney situation is being resolved by the Navy without resorting to slaughter. Changing the contour of the dunes adjoining the airstrip has done it to a great degree. In one area interference by the big birds has been reduced 95%. Approximately 130,000 Layan Albatross nest on the Island. The storm of protest that resulted when word of the proposed annihilation "got out" is responsible for further study which has saved the big birds. The situation was serious with human lives at stake.

Considerable controversy over sugared water versus watered honey as food for hummingbirds. The Observer, publication of the Sacramento Audubon Society listed recently plants that are good pasture for these "feathered mites of the bird world" Crepe Myrtle, Honeysuckle, Trumpet Vine, Poor man's Orchid (balsam) Nicotiana, Gladiolus, Silk Tree, Bottle Brush, Lobelia, Salvia, Abelia, Canna, Fuschia. To this list we would add that there are several salvias that they like, a royal blue one that E.O'M. has in her garden as well as the commoner red in Ye Ed's, the old Red Sage, a shrubby salvia, at least two varieties of Cotyledon, a small flowered deep blue Plumbago, Tritoma (poker plant) Turk's Cap Abutilon, which has upright rather than the usual drooping bell of abutilons, and that California native of the dry places Zauschneria Californica, sometimes called California Fuschia, not a fuschia, however.

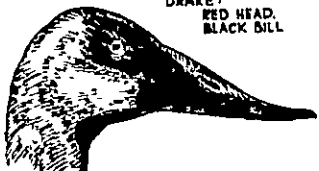
These plants are hardy and easily grown, though the cotyledons and abutilons are occasionally a bit frost susceptible. Anyone interested in trying these has but to ask. Telephone YE 4-2752, 2165 Oakvale Rd., W.C.

According to the President, Mrs. Elizabeth C. O'Meara "winter is closing in" at 2231 Overlook Drive, YE 4-4720, the Hermit Thrush and Red-shafted Flicker having returned.

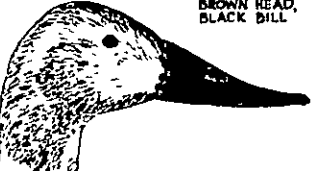
# IDENTIFY YOUR DUCKS.

**CANVASBACKS**

DRAKE: RED HEAD, BLACK BILL




HEN: BROWN HEAD, BLACK BILL




**REDHEADS**

DRAKE: RED HEAD, BLuish BILL with WHITE RING




HEN: BROWN HEAD, BLuish BILL with WHITE RING


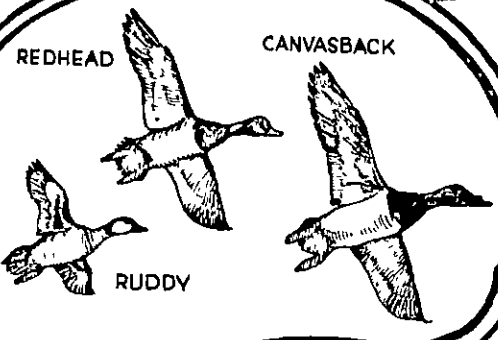


**RUDDYS**

DRAKE: LIGHT CHEEK, BLuish BILL




HEN: MOTTLED CHEEK, GRAYISH BILL

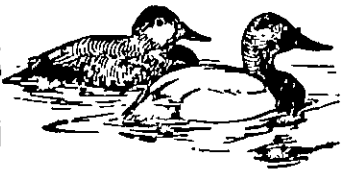
REDHEAD      CANVASBACK

RUDDY

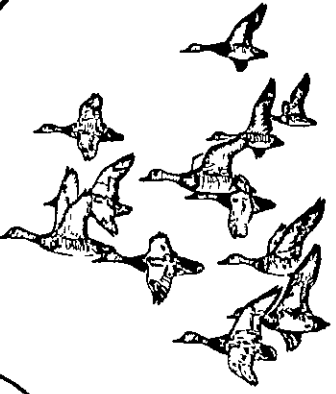
*These Ducks*  
**NEED HELP**



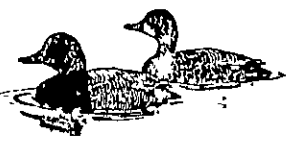
**DO NOT CONFUSE WITH SCAUP** →



*Bob Hines*



→ **SCAUP HAVE A WHITE SPECULUM**




UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN NESTING GROUNDS HAVE CUT THIS FALL'S DUCK SUPPLY. IN MOST SERIOUS TROUBLE ARE THE THREE SPECIES SHOWN HERE.

**Gunners:**  
LET THE DUCKS COME IN CLOSE UNTIL YOU CAN IDENTIFY THEM, THEN, IF POSSIBLE, AVOID SHOOTING REDHEADS, "CANS," AND RUDDYS. CHECK YOUR DUCK HUNTING REGULATIONS.





# The Quail

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

December 1960  
Vol. 7. No.6.

The next regular meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be an innovation Sunday, the 26th. A brief business meeting will follow the customary Christmas Count dinner, tally, and recapitulation, at the Farrars', 995 Diablo Drive, Lafayette.

The counters will assemble near The Monument north of Walnut Creek, Highway 21, and under the leadership of Lynn D. Farrar will make up teams, each with an assigned area planned to cover a circle having a 15 mile diameter. This will include various habitats from mountain to shore, everything but real desert and ocean.

Warm clothing, stout shoes, binoculars, and lunch and guests if hardy souls, are the advised equipment. Five o'clock is the usual "quitting time", dinner about six.

Members who plan to come to dinner are asked to get in touch with Ruth to plan their contributions. Also they are specifically asked to bring their own silverware. The Farrars' telephone is AT 3-3938.

And those who are unable to tramp the bird line are reminded that counting those in the home yard adds numerically and sometimes "species wise", so keep the glasses at hand and eyes out the window.

Monday, January 30, 1961, our old friend of the Screen Tours, Robert C. Hermes, will tell of Animals at Home and Afield. Watch the migration of Monarch butterflies, a raven side show, a tight-rope walking racoon, and ant-lion building a sand trap, baby octopuses, noddy terns and sooty terns, pelicans. The Hermes' pictures are always dramatic as well as accurate.

Also, by the end of January, Diablo Valley College will have had two more months in which to improve parking conditions. Sorry we could not warn all who came to the last lecture to wear their mud shoes. A parking lot of any size just is not made over the weekend.

Next Field Trip, Sunday, December 4th, to the Conn Dam Area and Lake Hennessey, made by the dam in what was Conn Valley. Lynn D. Farrar, fields trip chairman will lead taking the place of Harry Couden who will be on one of his Safeway business trips, to Oregon this time.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail not far past Napa. Usual equipment, including provision for cooler weather, at either end of the day. After driving and walking above the lake, perhaps visiting the Wilcox sheep ranch, and lunching in one of the numerous inviting spots, the return trip may be made via Lake Berryessa which has filled another good valley and engulfed the little town of Monticello. This region is rapidly becoming a choice birding area.

On Lake Hennessey, Wood Ducks are usually found, also Mergansers, frequently a Loon, Herons, Whistling Swans, and several Geese. Among the land birds Lewis Woodpeckers are usually abundant.

New members welcomed this month are:

Mrs. Guy Holsclaw, 1300 Ulfian Way, Martinez.  
Maurice W. Johnson, 3630 Serrano Street, Martinez.  
H. Wehmeier, 3603 Powell Drive, Lafayette.

Mrs. Holsclaw and daughter, Mrs. Pauline Hayes former residents of Walnut Creek, read the publicity in the paper, came to visit, and a new member is the result.

The Audubon Summer Camp program given by Engra Lusebrink and Jane Nemetz in close collaboration was outstanding. Engra illustrated Jane's account and explanations with her carefully chosen pictures. In addition to telling of the flora and fauna found in that region of varied habitat, Jane touched on the ecology of the region. An interesting bit was her account of the heavy concentration of Calliope Hummingbirds high up on Mount Disney. There must have been one hundred at least, she said.

Mrs. Mildred Carlock, Society literature chairman, recommends a new book, National Parks in California by Don Yeager of Alamo, put out by The Lane Publishing Company. Price \$1.95. It is the year round story of the parks as well as a reliable guide book.

Edwin Way Teale has another of his "seasonal" books just out--Journey Into Summer. We feel safe in recommending it so lyrical as well as factual are his other books. He makes the lowliest insect or weed an object of great interest, keeping well within the limits of science all the while. He walks about with eyes open and ears attuned to the smallest different sound. On a winter ramble he brushed against the dried stalk of a weed from which hung the abandoned crystals of a Cecropia Moth. It rattled. In it he found an acorn stored by a Bluejay. That was in Circle of the Seasons. McG.

And George Schad, treasurer, has that check list of Contra Costa Vertebrates compiled by Ferd Ruth, sold by Diablo Valley College for 50¢ of which Ferd receives a small share; but the 50¢ paid to George are clear profit for the Society. Ferd gave 100 copies.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY REFUGES: On November 5 and 6 some 35 members and guests of

the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies visited the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, south of Willows and, after staying overnight in the vicinity of Gridley, they toured the Gray Lodge State Game Refuge near that town.

Saturday night most of the group met and had dinner together at the Country Kitchen just south of Gridley.

The weather was threatening all day Saturday, but no rain fell until we were leaving the Sacramento Refuge. It rained intermittently during the night, but was fair Sunday with beautiful cloud formations which formed an attractive backdrop for the flocks of Geese, Cranes, Ducks, etc.

At the Sacramento Refuge Mr. O'Neil, the Refuge Manager, showed colored slides of some of the crops grown on the Refuge as winter food for the waterfowl, in an effort to prevent deprecation on nearby farmlands. There were also slides of the birds themselves. Following this orientation lecture, Mr. O'Neil guided us around the southern half of the Refuge where Whistling Swans and White Pelicans were seen. In addition to these, some of the more noteworthy observations included Ross' Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Golden Eagle, Short-eared Owl, White-tailed Kite, and Ferruginous' Hawk, the latter two species being found between Meridian and Arbuckle, as the greater part of the group took the slow-but-interesting route home, which skirts the western side of the Sutter Buttes. In this Butte Sink area we watched several thousand Cackling Geese land in a field; and in this same area a loose flock of Turkey Vultures, which numbered close to 100 birds, was circling.

The following 89 species were observed:

Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous' Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Sora Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Species in doubt Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, American Avocet, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.--Harry C. Adamson, Leader and Historian.

Most exciting bird of the month was ten Crossbills (seen and identified by Engra Lusebrink) busily working among the conifers in the John W. Winkley yard on Hillside, Walnut Creek. At first glance Engra thought she was seeing House Finches, but the next instant realized the color was wrong; and then the unmistakably crossed bills, which she reported they used scissorlike. She had



an excellent opportunity to study them through her glasses.

The young Poorwill given the Nemetz family arrived in a glass jar, but was soon made comfortable in a box in the kitchen. Before Jane released it, Rich Stallcup came out and banded it.

Perhaps, Ye Ed. saw a Vesper Sparrow bathing with other sparrows in the small bird pool in her yard. Definitely there were white tail feathers, and the bird was not an Oregon Junco, although there were many around. Identification uncertain. However, a Vesper Sparrow might be in the Walnut Creek hill area.

Howard Gogswell is writing for the Gull the story of the Robin as it behaves in gardens. Interesting all the way through. He notes that they gulp berries with apparent difficulty. We noticed the same thing with Cedar Waxwings.

They appeared in the McGeehon garden 10/26 and left 4 days later, for a southern region, we surmised. Frequently a flock will make a brief autumn stop, leave and return in spring to clean up the berries. Sometimes they work in conjunction with the Robins. One morning Ye Ed. stood less than 10 feet from a gulper who swallowed 12 while she watched before retiring to the flock. Seemingly the hawthorne were most to their liking. That tree was stripped first, then some cotoneasters and pyracathas, but no toyon. Those will be riper by March.

A handsome Ring-necked Pheasant has been a regular caller in the O'Meara yard. Varied Thrushes appeared in the Farrar yard 10/26. The Ruby-crowned Kinglets ten days earlier.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!