



# THE QUAIL

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

January 1961  
Vol.7.No.7

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Society will be Thursday the 26th, which is the fourth Thursday and the beginning of another trial of three months for a changed meeting date. Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 pm.

Mrs. J. R. "Beth" Reynolds, vice-chairman and program chairman will introduce Leroy Kerr of the Mount Diablo State Park ranger force who will speak on a few of the many facets of The Mountain. Mrs. Robert Pugh, a member of the Society who works on Audubon Field notes, lives on the mountain with her growing family; her husband, one of the force, acted as "contact".

Field Trip, Sunday, the 8th, with Paul Opler leader--meet 9:30 in the parking lot next the store in Inverness. Being on time is important. At the time of going to press the definite itinerary has not been reported, thus the route from the parking lot cannot be given. Paul is thoroughly familiar with that region, and may be depended upon to lead to the best places.

Robert C. Hermes who brings the Screen Tour, Monday the 30th, will tell of Animals at Home and Afield. He, naturalist, lecturer, photographer and artist, after many experiences has given up the advertising field in which he starred to devote full time to Audubon work. Many of Mt. D.A.S. members will remember his film of wildlife in Venezuela.

Unofficial reports of the Lake Hennessey field trip in December indicate a good day altho the day had to be shortened. Lynn D. Farrar called to apologize for his inability to get the complete report in until later. That family is but one of the many suffering from respiratory trouble. Full report on Lake Hennessey and the Christmas Count will come next month.

Lynn also called to express appreciation for the cooperation of all who participated in the count, especially the leaders of the various groups. Of

those there were seven who in spite of much tule fog in the low country were able to identify 118 species. Outstanding bird of the day was the White Pelican, rather rare in the area covered. At least thirty-five were seen here and there, several in inland ponds. Other birds not common, at least at this season, were California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Tri-colored Blackbird, White-fronted Goose, Sage Sparrow, and Band-tailed Pigeon.

Ye Ed. housebound, did all her counting from her east and north windows, running up a score of 97 in two days of which 50 were sparrows, apparently Golden-crowned. They were concentrated on the limbs of two adjacent trees. Most interesting find was a small flock of California Purple Finches, first time they have been observed in the McGeehon yard. Now, more than a week after the first identification they are still about.

Since Engra Lusebrink reported Crossbills, two other small flocks have been reported, probably not the same ones. The Fox Sparrows in the O'Meara garden do not fraternize with the other sparrows so far as she has observed, but when separated seem quite perturbed.

Interesting guests in the Adamson yard were ten Evening Grosbeaks. Jane Nemetz reports the little lake on the former Marchbank property a spot well worth visiting. Upon some occasions she has it full of birds, among them ducks and waders.

We were in error--it was Lee Stallcup, not son Rich, who came out from Oakland to band the Nemetz Poorwill. Before releasing it, Jane took some excellent pictures which she showed to the Society in November. In spite of her best efforts, it refused to stretch its neck so as to really show the white about it. Very pretty plumage, but seldom seen in daylight for the Poorwill is a nocturnal bird. Although by no means unusual in this part of the State, a day time view is.

E. O'M. and McG. in the days of their childhood and youth slept out in the Mulfontes orchard on the soft hay (not barley, barley beards are poor bed fellows) about five months of the year and well knew the nightly call of the Poorwill. Driving up the grade after nightfall those birds were almost always dark blobs flopping along the road just under the noses of the team. Ye Ed. recalls more than once feeling sure her mount must step on the little bird, but never. Even now coming down that hill, as on Mount Diablo, it is amazing how long they keep ahead of a motor driven vehicle.

March 25, 26, 27 and 28 are the dates of the Audubon Convention at Asilomar. The program includes business, lectures by outstanding speakers, a variety of field trips, and again the West Coast Photography Salon, deadline for that, March 1st.

Those planning to attend are advised to make reservations now. Full details may be had at the National Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, or write for a reservation blank.

In Washington, D.C., the street trees along the line of the inaugural parade are being sprayed to discourage starlings. The spray reported good for a year. According to David Brinkley of the Texaco News Program, the starling may or may not be "sturnus", but it is "vulgaris".

Those birds are an example, horrible example, of an introduction that went awry insofar as our economy is concerned, worse even than that weaver finch known now as House Sparrow.

The good Barbary Partridge and more recently tried Turkish Partridge do not promise well. Two other partridge types under trial at the Yountville Game Farm may be given up.

Autumn Across America, Edwin Way Teale, published four years ago and widely quoted is a gem of prose poetry combined with science that covers autumn from Cape Cod as the calendar season begins until it closes at Point Reyes. Completely fascinating all the way. Among the interesting incidents is his account of their search for a White-tailed Kite led by Charles and Viola Anderson of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, and Santa Cruz Bird Club, we think.

We are glad to know that Violet Beitzel is making good recovery after exciting emergency surgery. Stricken as she entered her classroom in the morning, soon all hands and two telephones were at work and she on her way to the hospital.

Mrs. Flora L. Hook, a member the past two years, a screen tour devotee, who frequently served on the hospitality-to-speaker committee succumbed a few days after Thanksgiving Day to an illness of several months.

President Elizabeth C. O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek, YE 4-4720, has named these chairmen:

Program -	Mrs. J. R. Reynolds
Press -	Mrs. Wm. E. Hassler
Conservation -	Edward T. Mize
Membership and Hospitality -	Mrs. Carl J. Swenson
Literature -	Mrs. Mildred Carlock
The Quail -	Mrs. J. C. McGeehon



# The Quail

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

Feb. 1961  
Vol.7.No.8

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be Thursday, the 23rd, Room 201, Las Lomas High School, Walnut Creek, 8 p.m. Mrs. J. R. Reynolds, program chairman announces Paul Covell as speaker. He will give a Birdseye View of Europe as he recounts his travels there last year. As most of the Society members know, Mr. Covell is the chief naturalist for the City of Oakland, versatile and expert, and an interesting speaker. Bring friends.

Next Field Trip, Sunday the 5th, B.B. Wilder leader, Terminous Island and environs. Sand Hill Cranes are always in evidence by way of a highlight. The amount of water more or less governs the variety and number of some species, but the trip is always good.

Customarily the trip has been made via the levee to Walnut Grove, turn right and drive to Thornton, meeting opposite the little cafe, right on the road. (9:15 A.M.)

Bev suggests a slightly different route which he reports as interesting. At Rio Vista Bridge turn right and drive East on Highway 10, 5 miles past Terminous sign turn left at sign bearing the Legend "Thornton", and meet in Thornton at cafe.

March and the Biennial Audubon Convention at Asilomar are coming apace. Get in touch with the National Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. As usual, the program for those days is superior.

No Screen Tour in February. Roger Tory Petersen comes in March.

The Quail appears to have been erratic in coming out the past two months. Illness of the Publisher, legal holidays, two long weekends and the change of meeting day have all contributed to this behavior. Previously, the field trip was on the Saturday and/or Sunday following the regular meeting on the first Thursday. When the trip schedule was set up last summer it was "predicated on the

Feb. Quail - 2.

premise" of the old meeting day. Under the new trial date the trip comes two or three weeks before the meeting. The program chairman, the field trip leader, the publisher, and the Editor all have to get together.

Tomales Bay Field Trip - January 8, 1961.

21 members and guests of the Society enjoyed a brisk rewarding day, as they made a scenic ornithologic survey of the Tomales Bay Area. There was a high fog which was with the group all day. This fog, if nothing else, provided good lighting for birds on the water. Among the areas visited were the Millers' home in Inverness (Also home of White-throated Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco), Inverness Ridge, where fog prevented us from finding Red Crossbills, the east side of Tomales Bay, and Dillon's Beach.

The botanical spring was beginning as the willows were beginning to bloom and a few blooms of the yellow bush lupin were in evidence.

Birdwise, a total of 113 species were observed during the day. List includes species seen travelling to and from the trip. Highlight of the trip: 2 old Squaws seen near Marshall, thanks to Harry Adamson. Bird of the day: Swainson's Thrush observed at Taylor State Park by B.B. Wilder. The former bird is more often seen at the tip of Tomales Point. The latter bird was several thousand miles from his usual wintering grounds. Also rans: A ruddy and a Black Turnstone standing side by side for easy comparison. Backyard birds at the Millers' and an adult Rough-legged Hawk, seen by the leader on his way home on the sear's Point Cutoff.

I am sure the entire group joins me in expressing thanks to Gus and Grace Miller for their gracious hospitality.

Loons, Common, Arctic, Red-throated; Grebes, Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western, Pied-billed; Pelicans, White, Brown; Cormorants, Double-crested, Brandts; Heron, Great Blue; Egrets, Common, Snowy; Geese, Black Brant; Ducks, Pintail, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Old Squaw, White-winged, Surf, and Common Scooter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted and Common Merganser (B.W.); Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite (P.O.); Hawks, Rough-legged, Red-tailed, Sparrow; California Quail; Ring-necked pheasant; American Coot; Killdeer; Plovers, Snowy, Black-bellied; Turnstones, Ruddy, Black; Willet; Sandpipers, Western, Least, Dunlin.

Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Gulls, Glaucus-winged, Herring, Western, Mew, California, Bonaparte's; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Hairy, Downy; Phoebe, Black, Say's; Common Bushtit; Nuthatches, White-breasted, Pygmy; Brown, Creeper; Wren; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Thrushes, Varied, Hermit, Swainson's; Western Bluebird; Kinglets, Golden-crowned, Ruby-crowned; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing (B.W.) Logger-head Shrike; Starling; Hutton's Vireo Warblers, Orange-crowned, Audubon's, Townsend's; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Brewer's, Red-winged; Finches, House, Pine Siskin, Purple, Lesser Goldfinch (B.W.); Brown-headed Cowbird; Towhees, Brown, Rufous-sided; Juncos, Oregon, Slate-colored; Sparrows, Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox, Song.

It may be of interest that on the Tomales Bay Christmas Count (2nd in Nation

Feb. Quail - 3.

last year) which was on January 2nd, 174 species were recorded. Notables were: Osprey, Golden Plover, Glaucus Gull (not on count day) Long-eared Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, and Swamp Sparrow.

The leader says "Thank you" to all who came on this extremely enjoyable excursion.--Paul Opler.

Paul is another who makes frequent visits to the little lake on the former Marchbank property. He reports observing a number of Anserines - geese - 1/9-12, White-fronted; and ducks in variety; Pintail, Mallard, American Widgeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked, Common Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser.

"The owner of the lake welcomes birdwatchers, but requests them to be careful crossing fences, to be sure to report to him any damage to fences, i.e., missing boards. P.O."

And now, some words from Lynn D. Farrar, Fields Trip Chairman and leader of the Christmas Count. "Here is the complete Christmas Count for 1960. Our day, December 26th, was not the best weatherwise, but the low fog probably accounted for seeing several species that are otherwise very hard to find. The number of birders was our best turnout for at least three years, and I certainly want to thank everyone for his part in the count and the dinner afterward."

Editorial comment--Actually the thanks should come from Mount Diablo Audubon Society to the Farrars who contributed many hours of before, during, and after the count, in addition to opening their house for the evening gathering.

Eared Grebe 2, Horned Grebe 1, Western Grebe 15, Pied-billed Grebe 23; White Pelican 54; Great Blue Heron 6, Green Heron 3; Common Egret 14, Snowy Egret 29; Black-crowned Night Heron 2; Canada Goose 1, White-fronted Goose 1; Mallard 12, Gadwall 1, Pintail 310, Green-winged Teal 9, American Widgeon 12, Shoveler 764, Ring-necked Duck 8, Canvasback 29; Lesser Scaup 4, Common Goldeneye 8, Bufflehead 6, Ruddy Duck 288, Hooded Merganser 3, Common Merganser 3; White-tailed Kite 9, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 8, Marsh Hawk 16, Sparrow Hawk 97;

California Quail 259; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Common Gallinule 26; American Coot 868; Killdeer 58; Common Snipe 67; Willwt 4; Greater Yellowlegs 14; Lesser Yellowlegs 2; Least Sandpiper 167; Dunlin 16; Long-billed Dowitcher 6; Western Sandpiper 16; American Avocet 4; Glaucus-winged Gull 371; Herring Gull 420; California Gull 122; Ring-billed Gull 927; Mew Gull 3; Bonaparte's Gull 30; Band-tailed Pigeon 158; Mourning Dove 94; Barn Owl 5; Great-horned Owl 12; Burrowing Owl 7; Short-eared Owl 1; White-throated Swift 50; Anna's Hummingbird 24; Belted Kingfisher 3; Red-shafted Flicker 125; Acorn Woodpecker 77; Lewis' Woodpecker 8; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5; Downy Woodpecker 3; Nuttall's Woodpecker 6.

Black Phoebe 13; Say's Phoebe 2; Violet-green Swallow 2; Barn Swallow 2; Steller's Jay 24; Scrub Jay 149; Plain Titmouse 68; Common Bushtit 92; White-breasted Nuthatch 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 5; Wrentit 17; House Wren 1; Bewick's Wren 7; Long-billed Marsh Wren 39; Mockingbird 63; California Thrasher 16; Robin 255; Varied Thrush 10, Hermit Thrush 10; Western Bluebird 93; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 26; Water Pipit 438; Cedar Waxwing 229; Loggerhead Shrike 46; Starling 290;

Feb. Quail - 4.

Myrtle Warbler 1; Audubon's Warbler 1325; Yellowthroat 28; House Sparrow 408; Western Meadowlark 726; Red-winged Blackbird 1141; Tri-colored Blackbird 2; Brewer's Blackbird 6809; Brown-headed Cowbird 13; Purple Finch 67; House Finch 257; Pine Siskin 73; American Goldfinch 119; Lesser Goldfinch 593; Rufous-sided Towhee 30; Brown Towhee 102; Savannah Sparrow 155; Lark Sparrow 31; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 1; Sage Sparrow 4; Oregon Junco 543; White-crowned Sparrow 1320; Golden-crowned Sparrow 506; Fox Sparrow 25; Song Sparrow 368.

Total species 119 - about 22,300 individuals. Total number of species seen on all Counts of Mt.D.A.S. to date 144. Paul who has participated every year has kept the record.

Seen for the first time on the Count were Herring Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Violet Green Swallow, Barn Swallow, and Brown Creeper.

Lynn further lists these birds as having been seen in greater number than on previous Christmas counts: Western Grebe, White Pelican, Blue Heron, Bufflehead, Sparrow Hawk, Lesser Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Common Gallinule, Common Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, Glaucus-winged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Plain Titmouse, Wrentit, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Sage Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

By way of change of subject--A mole consumes its own weight of insects daily. It may tunnel 75 yards in a single night, which may be distressing in a garden as it will uproot plants as it burrows although it does not eat them. Thus the gardener is forced to choose between the insects or plants.

Interesting, that in spite of the protracted cold weather, there are more Anna's Hummingbirds reported than usual at this season. President Elizabeth *O'neave* of 2231 Overlook Drive, W.C. reports one that comes to her feeder daily, and an Audubon's Warbler that hops about on the grass beneath sipping the overflow. Elizabeth now puts out a small dish of syrup for the warbler.

These little bird antics are of much interest. The Editor, YE 4-2752, or Mrs. J. C. McGeehon, 2165 Oakvale Road, W.C., is always glad to be informed and will always print the news as space permits. Sometimes an item may have to be held over.

As we go to press an announcement is received from Del Rio Girl Scout Council through Camp Director, Sally Deisroth, who is looking for Nature Specialist at their established camp this summer. An attractive salary goes with it. Contact the Council, P. O. Box 936, Concord. Sorry no space for the full letter, but The Editor will gladly read it over telephone.



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March 1961  
Vol. 8, No. 9

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201 Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m., Thursday the 23rd. Mrs. J. R. Reynolds announces Dr. Harold C. Bradley of Berkeley, a past president of the Sierra Club, as speaker with Wilderness Alps of the Cascades his topic.

With Paul Covel the February speaker, Roger Tory Petersen at Diablo Valley College the 14th, and Dr. Bradley the fourth Thursday, members of the Society will have an exceptionally interesting month.

Sunday the 5th, Beth and Jack Reynolds will lead the annual trip to the Calaveras Dam area. Meet 9 a.m. at the Water Temple near Sunol. Follow Highway 21 right to the reservation of the water company. Drive through the gateway with the tall iron gates, down the tree-lined avenue to the temple. Usually the birding is good in that spot.

March 23rd, will be the final Thursday of the second trial of the fourth Thursday as meeting day rather than the first Thursday of the month. This matter was discussed at length at the annual meeting in June. To date those who favored the change have come but once. One member who had been a faithful attendant and participant on the old regular day has been unable to attend, he having a previous commitment of long standing.

This will be a matter of prime importance at the business session scheduled to follow the program. Also, on the agenda is the announcement of the nominating committee to select nominees whose names will be presented at the April meeting for election. Responsibility of office not assumed until the annual meeting.

The March Screen Tour will be in the gymnasium of Diablo Valley College, best approach via Viking Drive with parking in the new lot on the knoll and a good wide walkway leading to the gym.

A 1st reminder of the Audubon Convention March 25-28 at Asilomar. Those biennial gatherings are always planned and full of interest covering a wide range of conservation topics. This time from Tundra to Tropics. The field



Mar. Quail - 2.

trips cover various habitats. And nearly every time there is a bird or beast that is something special; one year a King Eider, and before that, the happy little otters were the highlights of the outdoors.

Details of bed and board as well as the full program may be had of the office staff, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, address National Audubon Society.

June and the first session of the Audubon summer camp will be along before long. Again, details of the office in Berkeley, Mount Diablo will have at least two scholarship recipients attending.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pugh to whom a son was born February 2nd. We learn with regret that the Pughs will soon be transferred from Mount Diablo.

B.B. Wilder has given us his report of the Terminous Island trip, which appears to have been successful in spite of the heavy low-lying fog.

"Six carloads of Diablo Audubon enthusiasts braved the fog of the bay and delta areas to meet at the Cafe at Thornton. The group was well rewarded for their efforts by excellent views, both on the ground and in the air of all the large birds anticipated. In addition they had the thrill of hearing as well as seeing thousands of geese taking off from the flooded corn fields. A total of 62 species was observed during the day, despite periods of very low visibility.

"Some of the outstanding observations were of several hundred curlews feeding in a field immediately adjacent to a 'coot hunt': cackling geese flying the corners of a wedge of White-fronted Geese; many, many strings of Whistling Swans flying overhead, as well as Sandhill Cranes; Sandhill Cranes on the ground with a few doing their mating dance; and hundreds of Snow Geese in flight with thousands of White-fronted Geese.

"Despite the game warden's statement of the presence of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the area this year, none was seen. Mrs. Nemetz reported 4 White-throated Swifts in the Terminous area. And, one shouldn't forget the Staten Island Ferry taking two cars across in the fog, going back and picking up three more which caused it to stick in the mud, and having to rock itself off. It seems that every year this trip brings about new joys to even the old timers. Regardless of weather it is always interesting."

The Birds--Pied-billed Grebe; Herons, Great Blue, Green, Common Egret; Whistling Swan; Geese, White-fronted, Cackling, Snow; Ducks, Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Ruddy; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant; Common Gallipule; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Yellow-legs; Long-billed Dowitcher; Gulls, Western, Pied-billed; Small Sandpipers; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Downy; Black Phoebe; Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Common Crow; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Blackbirds, Red-winged, Brewer's; House Finch; Rufous-sided

Mar. Quail - 3.

Towhee; Oregon Junco; Sparrow, Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox, Lincoln, Song.

Also, Bev brought us this from the Keene Evening Sentinel, New Hampshire. The Christmas Count covered the customary circle. There were 12 observers doing this third annual count in the Manadnock region. They began at 6:30 a.m. continuing until 4:30 p.m. Clear sky, temperature 12 to 26 degrees, northwest wind 15-25 mph. Total count 939, species 23. The prize bird seen was a Goshawk. Other birds were Ruffed Grouse; Ring-necked Pheasant; Pileated Woodpecker; also Hairy and Downy; Crow; Black-capped Chickadee (303); White-breasted Nuthatch; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Starling; Blue Jay; House Sparrow; Cowbird; Evening Grosbeak; Pine Grosbeak; Redpoll; Pine Siskin; Goldfinch; Slate-colored Junco; Tree Sparrow.

Queer birds--President Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Drive, W. C., reports an albino cedar waxwing, a pinto robin, and a white towhee.

Another scribbled note contains information on the birds found happy on the little lake in the Lakewood section of Walnut Creek, which is across the creek and east a bit. B. B. W. saw a Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Golden Eye, Ruddies, and Woodluck.

Jane Nemetz, Paul Opler and Bev all report visiting the lake on the former Marchbank property worthwhile.

In January, Paul reported signs of the botanical spring in the Tomales region. For the past month (Feb.), we have noticed signs of the ornithological spring: a pair of Sparrow Hawks high diving and skimming about, the calls of the Mourning Dove and Meadowlark, and from treetop the strident notes of an enthusiastic Rufous-sided Towhee. McG.

Notes and more notes. To Mrs. Ava Huffman, member from Antioch, we have these. An Eastern Airlines DC-8 was forced to return for a second start when birds sucked into one of the engines crippled the plane. Probably starlings. State Fish and Game officials have been transferring King Salmon to a new artificial spawning ground below Pardee Dam, and apparently successfully.

The fish are picked up in large nets for the transfer. E.B.M.U.D. is co-operating with State officials in this work, and has promised to construct an artificial spawning area on the Mokelumne River if the experiment does prove successful.

Thousands of robins have been harvesting berries throughout this section of Contra Costa County the past few weeks. Many years one or two will remain for weeks after the main flock or flocks have left; as late as June one year there was just one on the McGeehon place.

Turkish Chukar Partridges have been released as far north as Montague, Siskiyou County, in the hope that this variety will become habituated where the previously introduced Indian Chukar did not "take".

Protection has paid off in the case of Redheads and Canvasback, increase of

Mar. Quail - 4.

40% for the former, 10% for the latter since last year's count.

We almost overlooked the Swanson's Green-tailed Towhee in their yard in Walnut Heights, which is the area east of town south of Lakewood.

Announcement is at hand of the 1961 season at Camp Denali, near College, Alaska. This Arctic-Alpine environment is located on the north boundary of McKinley Park. In addition to "Wilderness Workshop", "Tundra Treks" and "Shutter Safari" will be featured special sessions. Full information may be had by writing Camp Denali, Box 526, College, Alaska. The operators of the camp will present a feature program on that State at the Asilomar Convention.

We are attempting to make note of all our random notes, and find "Dorothy N. Couden" scribbled here. Dorothy is going to college with a brand new teaching credential in view. She has rated B plus and better.

And, we note "Milner-eye surgery". Mrs. Guy Milner is the editor of Redwood Log, bulletin of Marin Audubon. We are sorry and trust Mrs. Milner will make a complete recovery.

After The Quail was out of our hands last time, these notes were received from E. T. Mize, conservation chairman for Mt.D.A.S:

"A long range plan for county parks totals more than 10,000 acres including over a 1,000 near Cowell and 1,200 on Marsh Creek. The entire development might cost as high as 15 million dollars.

"Freeways continue to gobble up park land. The Southern Freeway in San Francisco will take 8 to 10 acres of Balboa Park and the Sharp Park Municipal Golf Course may be excessively damaged.

"California will be able to buy 2290 acres of old Forts Banker and Cronkite in Marin County at half price for \$307,500 from the General Services Administration. This would be the first step in a projected 2400 acres of park land along the Golden Gate Coast.

"Gov. Brown has proposed a 150 million dollar, five-year beach and park development plan. A proposal has been made that 55,000 acres of the watershed of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River be set aside by the Forest Service as a Wild Area.

The State of New York recently voted 3-1 in favor of a 75 million dollar bond issue to acquire land for recreation and conservation."

As we reach the bottom of the pile we find two over-due items, and trust those from field trip chairman Lynn D. Farrar in late December are not too cold. However, the birds seen on the Conn Dam trip have never been officially recorded. If wrong, we will "stand corrected" next time.

Grebes, Horned, Western Pied-billed; Great Blue Heron; Green Heron; Ruddy Duck; Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; American Coot; California Gull; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Plain Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Varied Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar

Mar. Quail - 5.

Waxwing; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; Purple Finch; House Finch; American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-Crowned Sparrow, Golden-Crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The biologist's daughter explained that a rabbit belongs to the bunny family.

"Yet (Phillpot) knew that the way to become acquainted with an area intimately, to appreciate it best, is to walk over it. And the slower the walk the better. For a naturalist, the most productive pace is a snail's pace. A large part of his walk is often spent standing still. A mile an hour may well be fast enough. For his goal is different from that of the pedestrian. It is not how far he goes that counts; it is not how fast he goes; it is how much he sees."

This by way of Nature News Notes is quoted from Teale's newest book--Journey into Summer.

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

P.S. 2-19-61--Last minute word from Janet Willoughby tells that she, Jane Nemetz, and Eleanor Pugh with new son birded at Barbecue Terrace Juniper Camp and South Gate scoring Turkey Vulture; Golden Eagle; Hawks, Sharpshinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed and Sparrow; White-throated Swift; Woodpeckers, Acorn, Hairy; Phoebe, Black, Says; Jay, Steller's, Scrub; Plain Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wren; Bewick's Wren; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Meadowlark; Blackbird; Brewer's, Red-winged; Lesser Goldfinch; Towhees, Brown, Rufous-sided; Sage Sparrow; Oregon Junco; Sparrow, White-crowned, Golden-crowned.

Two more late items: Evening Grosbeaks have been about the Admasons' all winter and as of 2-19-61 the Nashville Warbler was yet about.



# The Quail

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

April 1961.  
Vol. 7. No. 10

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8 p.m. Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>. That is the fourth Thursday. At the March meeting the vote went in favor of continuing on that day until the annual meeting in June, the program chairman, and The Quail having become adjusted.

Mrs. J. R. "Beth" Reynolds, program chairman was not able to make definite announcement at press time, but to date her arrangements have all been good, not the least of which was the talk by Dr. Harold Bradley on Wilderness accompanied by the dramatic Sierra Club film.

The next field trip will be the long anticipated visit to the Warblers of Mount Diablo. Lynn D. Farrar, field trips chairman and leader on this expedition has set 7:30 a.m. at the South gate as the time and place for starting. If unable to accompany the group, Eleanor Pugh will give directions to the Warbler haunts. These little birds have been described as "the butterflies of the bird world".

The second April trip will be overnight to Pinnacles National Monument with Roy R. and Elsie Glotfelty the leaders. Word from Elsie - "This is one of the most rewarding of our scheduled field trips. There are birds and wilderness in abundance, fine hiking trails and wooded areas in which to camp.

Pinnacles National Monument is located south of Hollister; drive south through San Jose to Gilroy, just south of Gilroy turn left to Hollister then approximately 33 miles to the Monument.

We will meet there about noon Saturday. However, get there early for the best camping sites. We will probably camp in the old CCC Camp in Old Pinnacles Canyon - ask Ranger for directions.

Bring food for all meals and sleeping gear - no food nor lodging available at the Monument. Bring comfortable walking shoes and warm clothing, evenings are cool this time of year. A canteen and small knapsack for lunch while hiking are a good idea."

For further information call AT 4-4014.

The next screen Tour will be the last of this series. Patricia Bailey Witherspoon will tell a part of the story of Kangaroo Continent Australia the land "Down Under" where much of the fauna is of a past age, but living and in good health. Egg laying animals, fascinating example is the Ornithorhynchus Paradoxus, Platypus Duckbill, which is indeed a paradoxus. Some of the trees will be familiar to a California audience for such as the acacia and eucalyptus have been introduced here so successfully as to become California horticulture. Mrs. Witherspoon traveled much with her father, a skillfull photographer so that she practically grew up her eye on the lense.

Tuesday, April 18th, 8 p.m. in the gymnasium at Diablo Valley College. Best approach is via Viking Drive to the new large parking lot, then down the ramp to the gymn.

The Peterson lecture must have been as gratifying to him as it was to the room filled with intent listeners and viewers. More and more chairs were brought in from other buildings until capacity was nearly reached.

Score one for Mount Diablo! He was much interested in the Society mast head, The Quail, and pleased to chat with the artist Harry C. Adamson.

President Elizabeth C. O'Meara has brought back enthusiastic reports of the Bi-ennial Convention at Asilomar, which she, and Engra Lusebrink attended full time, Ferd Ruth half time. He had a class Monday evening so had to return, but brought back glad tidings to R. S. "Dick" Beitzel who was awarded a prize for his picture of Manley Beacon taken in Death Valley two years ago.

Beth Reynolds was too ill to lead the trip to Calaveras Dam and environs. However, her husband Jack represented the family, but L. D. F. acted as recorder.

"REPORT OF TRIP TO CALAVERAS DAM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5:

On a cloudy day that at times produced a few drizzles, 17 members and friends of MDAS met at the Sunol water temple about 9:30 AM. The water temple area itself was comparatively void of birdlife, perhaps because of the extreme dryness, so after a short visit the caravan set out for the dam. A quick stop was made to view a Sharp-shinned Hawk circling overhead, and then full speed ahead for the gate. Once through the gate a stop was made at the usual place where Kites have been seen. No Kites but at least 30 deer were seen moving on the opposite hillsides, the largest herd this observer has ever seen in this area. A short stop for water birds before the dam and then the parking at the ranch house.

The hike from the cars to the end of the reservoir proved to be a rewarding one. Very fine views were had of Rock Wrens, Horned Larks, Lewis Woodpecker, and four Golden Eagles in at least six different locations. Say's Phobes presented themselves for long observations, and just about every conceivable plumage of the Audubon's Warbler was available at close range. The first Orange-Crowned Warblers of the year for most birders put in their appearance, and the air was at times swarming with White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows. On the water we found Common Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, and some ducks which appeared even through the scopes to be just south of Monterey! Another notable record was the numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons seen on the trip. A last stop on the return trip to Sunol produced a big old Barn Owl 200 yards downstream from the bridge over Alameda Creek. It was apparently disturbed by something and I was fortunate to be looking at the spot just as it floated out of a large tree. I would like to thank the very excellent "bird dogging" of Harry Couden and Bev Wilder who flushed Rock Wrens and Horned Larks for the rest of us. Also, I would like to thank the four newcomers on the trip. Embarrassingly enough, I can recall only one name, Mrs. Romer of Alameda. It is very pleasant having new members or friends join us on these outings, and I wish we would all try to bring a person to the next trip and the next meeting. Also, it was quite

enjoyable to me to lead such a comtable group. I am sorry Beth Reynolds was unable to be leader, but I have apparently put a hex on those selected as trip leaders this year.

Birds seen on trip: Dble-crested Cormorant, Ruddy Duck, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, Cal. Quail, Amer. Coot, Glaucous-winged Gull, Cal and Ring-billed Gulls, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl (LF), White-throated Swift, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn, Lewis', Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Says and Black Phoebes, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's and Scrub Jays, Yellow-billed Magpie, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Rock Wren, Cal Thrasher Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned, and Audubon's Warblers, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned and Golden crowned Sparrows."

New members welcomed:

Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Mohr, P. O. Box 83, Orinda; CL 4-5026  
Marion Bruce 2274 $\frac{1}{2}$  East St. Concord  
Marie Wentling 2095 Concord Blvd. Concord

The nominating committee appointed by the chairman in March will submit its recommendations in April, in accord with the Society By-Laws: B. B. Wilder chairman, Engra Lusebring, and Isabella McGeehon.

A report of four varieties of hummers received recently - Anna's Allen's Rufous, and Costa's. Costa's are a rarity in the Walnut Creek area.

A Rufous, frequently seen are migrating to their nesting grounds north. In the fall they keep well east of this region when going south. If one sees a Rufous over a period of several weeks it is probably not the same bird. It is true they can be observed going through their pendulum or mating dance in Walnut Creek and environs. This season Ye Ed has seen but one and that 3/29, but Roy Glotfelty reported one or more making trouble for the other hummers in his yard the first week of the month.



Dick Beitzel reported an albino Brewer's Black bird seen by him and Violet while on a trip recently. The bird was not pure white, rather a pale buff.

At last report the Green-tailed Towhee was still at home in the Swenson's garden. That bird has had many callers.

B. B. Wilder has observed Rough-winged and Violet-green Swallows skimming about the flats below their house on Alma Ave. For several years he has made note of the arrival of Cliff Swallows, always a few days after mid-March, frequently the 18th or 19th of the month. This year he saw them on the 18th.

Elizabeth O'Mears has retailed her interesting conversation with Sandy Sprunt III, who is doing extensive work on Bald Eagles, but not banding. He was interested in the report of one seen several times near Verdi on the Truckee River, Nevada by John W. O'Meara, son of Elizabeth.

Word is that the wilderness Bill will probably be enacted this year. Although the proposed wilderness area will become that in virtual perpetuity in actual fact the classification can be changed. However, only by Congressional ruling, which is a far safer authority than a small committee or bureau. Congressman can be flooded with letters and telegrams.

And now we have the Point Reyes Seashore proposed National Park, where the embattled farmers are pleading to have but 20,000 acres taken from them. That is a good bit of land.

Beautiful region. Ye Ed was so fortunate as to be a guest of the Coudens on a day long trip up there very recently. We visited the Miller birds at Inverness where we discovered after some bird comparisons that we had met at Mulfontes May 1960. The Chestnut-backed Chickadees were clowning on the wire that supports the suet sticks, the Fox Sparrow was bathing and bathing. Mrs. Miller reported Sharp Shin trouble so was scattering the feed along the edge of the shrubbery where the hawk could not swoop under.

The Western Grebes were in beautiful plumage, also one Pied-billed seen from the Tomales Bay National Park vantage point. Ducks were not numerous but in variety; the Old Squaw seen by Mrs. Miller did not show. However, Scaup, Pintail, White-winged Scoter, Mallard (of course), and busy Ruddies were in several places. The Marsh Hawks were fascinating, the Turkey Vultures clearing the highway of deceased rabbits, and the ravens glistening, or scintillating. One group of small birds in weeds revealed an American Goldfinch a Lesser, a Pine Siskin, and numerous house Finches.

The roadside and hillside flowers were in full bloom. Ye Ed was most impressed by the Blue to near-purple Iris which went on mile after mile and the luxuriant and showy white-flowered elder.

The Miller Pygmy Nuthatchers were a life bird for Ye Ed.

Doris Crosby and son Joe have moved into their new abode on Las Vegas, Orinda, where they have had Bandtailed Pigeons under and among the huge liveoaks in their back yard. L.D.F. and H.N.C. report seeing small flocks in the Lafayette area. Could be the same ones.

An effort is to be made at this session of the State Legislature to have \$100,000 allocated to Mount Diablo State Park for expansion, particularly to the south and east. Chopping of trees is coming very near Barbecue Terrace boundary to the east, and subdividing is planned south on part of the Blackhawk

April Quail - 6

holdings. Subdividing strictly for money, so why not State money invested to extend the park!

President O'Meara reminded the Society that the time of the annual fund-raising potluck supper is not far distant and that it is time to give serious thought to it. Her address is 2231 Overlook Dr. W. C. YE 4-4720.



# The Quail

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

May 1961  
Vol. 8. No. 11  
7

The next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Room 201, Las Lomas High School, 8:00 p.m., Thursday, May 25. Program chairman, Mrs. J. R. "Beth" Reynolds is planning her last evening of the year.

The June meeting will be the annual potluck supper, and again Glen and Margaret Shanks have offered their pleasant and spacious patio for the party.

We cannot announce the program for the May meeting having to go to press early because of the first field trip of the month, which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th. Indian Guard Station not far from King's City.

Field Trips chairman, Lynn D. Farrar, is again stepping into the breach as leader. This area is somewhat new to him, and completely so to most of the Society, but Lynn says that he is ready to lead an exploring party in the Santa Lucia Mountains. Travel directions: Turn right before King City toward San Antonio Mission, look for Indian Guard Station camping ground.

He suggests that those interested get in touch with him at his home in the evening after 6:30 week days. This region "comes highly recommended" he reports.

The second May trip will be but a one day event and perhaps a short day. That is a matter of individual choice. The Livermore hill country, the destination, Las Lomas High School parking space the rendezvous, at 8:00 a.m. the morning of the 21st. The route to Livermore will be through the Tassajara Country and into the town via Livermore Avenue. At the junction of that street and First Street at the Flag Pole area there will be a 15 minute wait for any who might have chosen another route. Parking around the corner from First is better than on that main traveled street.

Next stop will be at the McCoy Ranch where birding is always good, then farther on the Mines Road across two bridges to the Wilson Grade where Phainopepla may be glimpsed. That bird has been in evidence much this year. A report of five flying has come in.

Then, retracing the route a short distance we shall take the road on the opposite side of the Mocho which leads up to the ridge which is the divide between the canyon and the Arroyo del Valle and see what we may see, going at least as far as Mendenhall Springs; once a spa under the name of Agua de Vida.

All or most of the experts of the Society are expected to be in Arizona at that time, but the day and the trip should be good even so. Unfortunatley, Ye Ed. the perennial novice has consented to plan the expedition rather than "let down" L.F.D. who has had appointments and family illnesses this year. McGeehon YE 4-2752.

B. B. Wilder on Good Friday made a short excursion up the Mines Road and beyond the Wilson Grade where he saw the much sought little black crested bird. He was so pleased with what he saw in the way of birds and wild flowers that when his wife and son returned from visiting the Wilder background in Independence, Inyo County, he talked them into going that route and farther, all the way over Mount Hamilton, and down the other side, home by way of San Jose.

More recently Engra Lusebrink and President Elizabeth O'Meara went the same route to the top of the mountain where they visited the Observatory plant.

Jane Nemetz reports a dead Crossbill brought to her for stuffing. It had collided with a window, which is a healthful though tragic death. Unless one knows the cause of death leaving a dead bird lie, or simply burying it is the best policy. Research has proved that deceased birds can and have transmitted disease or diseases to persons. Parrot fever not the only one.

Jane also, gave first aid to a Hummingbird that was hit by a child riding a bicycle: most unusual experience from which the bird recovered.

Roy Glotfelty took a Varied Thrush, victim of violent death, over to Ferd Ruth for the students' laboratory work. Ferd likes to have such contributions.

A Calliope Hummingbird has been reported at the Adamson feeder. A bird of the high mountains and forest glens, it is indeed a rare one for this region.

E. O'M. reported a Western Tanager early in April - sometime the first week. Interesting; Tanagers are not observed about the McGeehon place in the spring, but female and young come in the fall to clean up the grapes.

Robert Cornelius a former member, and a neighbor of Norma Warner recently passed his bird-badge merit badge after birding 25 acres at St. Mary's including LaSalle Lake, and two trips to Marin County during Easter vacation. He turned his list in to Harry Couden.

Bob listed a total of 511 individuals: American Coot, Meadowlark, Scrub Jay, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, House Finch, House Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewer's Blackbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Robin, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Gold Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Ruddy Duck, Mockingbird, Wilson's Warbler, California Quail, Killdeer, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Bushtit, Bank Swallows, Herring gull. He omitted to specify the goldfinch.

Golden-crowned Sparrows have been observed in the McGeehon garden as late as the last day in April. This year as of the 24th, they were heard and seen when all other birds had left, even the Hermit Thrush not seen on a limb shaking wings and tail, for at least a week. On that date the Swainson's had not appeared although a regular in early summer.

The Costa's Hummer reported as one of four seen in a yard equipped with a feeder has become a controversial bird. Ye Ed. did not see the questionable bird.

At the March meeting of the Society the president polled those present with the result that the second Thursday in the month was agreeable, unanimously. Bear in mind when the vote comes up in June.

Another matter for thought is an increase in dues to \$2.00 for a single membership, \$3.50 for two in one household where but one copy of the bulletin is sent. There is precedent for the increase, most if not all of the Societies that had a \$1.50 membership upped it to \$2.00 about two years ago.

Still further on finances; the suggestion has been made that the potluck charge be 50¢ for adults henceforth. Thus reducing the cost to those who bring the food and then pay to eat. To be sure there seems to have been no objection, but the increase in dues would reach all members. Cost to potluck participants would be about the same, true.

But one more issue of The Quail this year.

These officers are about to become emeritus. The Society thanks them for their faithful service. Next month the full list of chairmen.

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

And remember the Audubon Summer Camp offers two week sessions from June to August at Sugar Bowl Lodge, near Norden. Full details at the Berkeley office of the National Society - 2426 Bancroft Way.



# The Quail

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

June, 1961.  
Vol. 7 No. 12

The next meeting of Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be the Annual meeting featured by the customary potluck dinner, which as previously announced will be in the patio of the Glenn Shanks, the 17th. 6 p.m. 3849 Maplewood Ct., Concord. Dinner chairman, Mrs. Emgra Lusebrink should be reached so as to plan the commissary. Address is 2132 Overlook Dr, YE 4-7251. If unable to get in touch with her try President E. C. O'Meara across the road YE 4-4720.

Margaret Shanks has asked members to bring dishes and cutlery sufficient for their group. Although no deadline has been set for reservations time is of the essence, so the sooner the better. Also, some additional folding chairs and perhaps a table or two may be useful. If there is transportation space they could be taken along, "just in case".

Program chairman, Mrs. J. R. "Beth" Reynolds is not available at this writing but we understand she is planning the usual informal, member-participation hour with pictures after dark.

On the business agenda will be three proposed changes in the by-laws. As already announced a definite change in meeting day will come up; increase in dues from \$1.50 to \$2.00 for an individual membership, and \$3.50 for two when but one copy of The Quail is sent; and a third revision suggested at the May meeting. That provides that the program chairman continue to be appointed by the president, as at present but that the Executive Board appoint two more members, thus a committee of three, and so relieving the chairman of full responsibility.

Any proposed amendment to the by-laws may be voted at any meeting provided written notice is sent all members to their last known address, and requires a two-thirds vote of members present. This is the written notice.

Treasurer George Schad reported (at the May meeting) having received acknowledgement of the \$25.00 sent for the California Condor Sanctuary Fund.

New member Mrs. Dorothy McCullough, 1341 Milton Ave; W. C. was introduced by membership chairman, Mrs. Carl Swenson. She also pre-sented a number of guests, several of who had come to see the three films shown by J. V. Bruce.

## June Quail-2

While waiting for sufficient darkness John told of the Cooper Society meeting he had attended recently in Berkeley. The speaker of the evening advanced his revolutionary experiments in bird classification, according to the albumin pattern of the egg. He had tested many thousands and to date had found no deviation from his theory that all birds of a certain family have a like egg albumin pattern, be it barnyard hen or woodland grouse. If this theory is accepted there will be an upheaval in classification, etc.

The Livermore Hills field trip, Sunday the 21st of May was a delightful expedition although until noon the sky was so overcast that being sure of colors was not possible at all times. A last minute muscle spasm and a severe attack of hay fever reduced participation to eight, all members. Birding along the creek in the Tassajara region was good, also on the McCoy Ranch. On the Mendenhall Springs Road high above the Mocho but few additions to the count were found, but the loveliness of the lunchtime serenade a California Thrasher on the hill among the goosberry bushes more than compensated.

No Phainopepla was visible at the Wilson Grade crossing, Engra Lusebrink thought she saw one lower down, but the glimpse as she drove by was so fleeting that bird is on the doubtful list, also the Hawk that flew over as the group ate on a steep hillside, Cooper's perhaps. The light was poor. A pair of unidentified were seen in the Tassajara. They were a shade smaller but were not sparrow Hawks.

The bird-of-the-day was the Mourning Dove according to Elizabeth and certainly we heard them mourning all day. Loggerhead Shrikes were out in number most spectacular were the Acorn Woodpeckers, also numerous but noisiest were the Killdeer, active in the McCoy creekbed, but much more so in the Arroyodel Valle.

Turkey Vulture (cleaning the highway), Hawks, Sparrow, Red-tailed, Cooper's. California Quail, Killdeer, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Woodpeckers, Acorn, Lewis', Nuttail's, Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Ashthroated, Black Phoebe, Western Wood Peewee, Swallows, Violet-green, Barn Cliff, Rough-winged, Scrub Jay; Common Crow, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrens, House, Bewick's, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Wilson's Warbler, Blackbirds, Brewer's, Red-winged, Tri-colored (E.L.) Western Meadowlark, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grossbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Finches-House, Lesser Goldfinches, Towhees, Rufous-sided Brown, Sparrows, Lark Song, Oregon Junco, and House Sparrow and perhaps Phainopepla. 50?

The films shown by J.V.B. told graphically of three important conservation projects in California; all of them successful. The Bank Beaver now fully protected has increased in number to such an extent that occasionally there are beavers to spare. Their dam building rates them as important water conservationists. When the need of maintaining water table level is apparent they have frequently been trapped humanely and transported to a new stream where they at once start an engineering project. Occasionally some of them may have to be moved because they have raised the water too high. From the Salmon pictures we learned how modern science is combating or working with modern industry to preserve fresh water for spawning, and the means of reaching the spawning riffles that an important fish and an important industry may continue. The playful little Sea Otter of the Monterey Peninsula kelp beds from near extinction has become a "herd" of 600. These furbearers once numerous enough

### June Quail-3

to bring the Russians to California, ostensibly for agricultural purposes, are now a tourist asset and thus added value to the State.

The Adamson, Coudens, Glotfelty, Lynn Farrar, and B. B. Wilder made a May visit to Arizona in search of new birds. As The Quail goes to press no word has come from them to Ye Ed.

But, at the field trip meeting last summer June 24-25 were the dates for a weekend trip to the Yuba Pass region. Lynn's telephone AT 3-3938 should give detailed information to those who wish to go.

Land and Life of California The High Sierra Part 2, Summer Seminar, Extension Department University of California. Although the full seminar is for two weeks attendance may be limited to but one week, either the first or last. Howard Gogswell of Mills College faculty will lead the first session. As may be expected the study of birds will be stressed, particularly from the ecological point of view, by the Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences. July 8-14.

The second session John H. Thomas lecturer in residence will emphasize the flora. He is Assistant Professor of Biology and Curator, Dudley Herbarium Stanford University. The Quail has more detailed information for anyone who may be interested in this particularly fine opportunity.

And, there is the Audubon Camp opening at Sugar Bowl Lodge this month. Our understanding is that registration for at least one of the two-week sessions may yet be made, but delay may be fatal. Sign up at the Berkeley office of the National Society., 2426 Bancroft Way.

Frances Blake has enjoyed watching the activity of the Rufous-crowned sparrow in her yard, gone after a visit of several weeks. The Swensons reported the Green-tailed Towhee has been last seen in their yard, first seen 9-60 it made a long visit, but was never friendly with the other towhees.

Elizabeth O'Meara found a nesting pair of Common Bushtits in her garden and later the nestlings were about. Western Tanagers made quick visits as early as mid-April. Sally Steller has observed several Black-headed Grosbeaks in her yard, and B.B.W. saw them at his place early in April.

New member, Dorothy McCullough reported the Bullock's Orioles in her yard fond of bread. The Albert C. Mohrs, Orinda members have been observing a nest full of Red-tailed Hawks in their garden, so situated in nest abandoned by an Owl that the observers may look down into the nest.

Somewhere between typewriters a "winter" was lost last month. Ye Ed did not mean that all birds had left her jungle, just the seasonal ones, but even that was not true. B.B.W. saw the Hermit Thrush while endeavoring to identify a flitting Warble 4-28. The Golden-crowned Sparrows were last seen 5-1. The Hermit was seen but once after that date, but a few days later a Swainson's was seen and daily since. The Warbler was finally identified as Wilson's. In mid-May two male Western Tanagers spent an hour or so flying about in an oak.

Jayne Nemetz is rapidly building a reputation as a bird pathologist and doctor. Most recent case reported was a small Owl, which she was unable to identify over the telephone.



June Quail-4

From Harry Couden in New York a few weeks ago Dorothy forwards some bird notes which space does not permit us to give in full. Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Magnolia Warbler, Prarie Warbler, Ovenbird, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, all life birds. Also, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throat, Wilson's Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrow; all in Central Park.

John Porterfield awards through Mt. Diablo Society for 1961.

Mrs. Phyllis Scott and Ann Thomas half scholarships to Audubon Camp. John Huddleston, Stanley Byrne, Wm. Splaine copies of Lawrence E. Palmer's Field Book of Natural History.

Huddleston also has received a \$300.00 Annual Conservation award in Biology from the Walnut Creek Kiwanis.

These students as "Lab." assistants have all given beyond the call of duty, according to Ferd. S. Ruth with whom they have worked.

Although she is not connected with MDAS Ferd to credit the distaff side of the student body with scientific accomplishment reports that Jonele Rochelle has the Norsecar for high achievement in educational studies in Natural Science in this instance. "Norsecar" is an Oscar in Education.

This is the last issue of this volume of The Quail. For faithful service in addressing the envelopes all year for those on the membership list our gratitude, Sally Steller.

To Bev. Wilder for picking up the copy, taking it to his place of employment and returning the finished work from the "offset" again our gratitude.

To date the president is Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara, 2231 Overlook Dr. W.C.



# The Quail

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

Volume VIII, Number 1  
June 28, 1961

It is with great regret that the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society announces the resignation of its perennial Quail Editor, Mrs. McGeehon. After many years of devoted service to the chapter, Mrs. McGeehon has asked this year that a new person take over the editorship of the chapter's monthly news letter. As readers, we will all miss the warm, and charming manner in which she kept us all informed as to the chapter's activities, and on conservation matters. What many of the readers do not appreciate, is that she also kept the field trip leaders reminded to send in their field trip publicity, and to report on their field trips after they were held. Her quiet wit, charming phrasing and excellent reporting has made the Quail one of the sought-after exchange bulletins, and has undoubtedly assisted in maintaining the chapter's membership. For her many years of devoted service to the Quail, the chapter wishes to extend its most sincere thanks for a job "well done".

President Reynolds is in search of a new Editor, and hopes to announce the new Editor with the next issue of the Quail.

Last weekend Field Trip Chairman Lynn Farrar led the field trip to Yuba Pass. Only two member families were represented - the Farrars and the Swensons. This was an unusually good opportunity to see a part of the state that is not normally field-tripped. It is unfortunate that so few could accept the opportunity to see this part of the state. Lynn reports that the birding was representative, but not spectacular, and that both families thoroughly enjoyed the scenery. By the time of the next issue of the Quail he hopes to find his bird list for the trip. (Lynn: how about April trip?)

Our next field trip should be well-attended. It is to Wright's Lake, the weekend of July 8-9. This trip is put on the schedule each year by popular request. By coincidence, the Golden Gate group will also be at Wright's Lake the same weekend, so here is your chance to meet old and new friends and to be with several very good birders. Our Co-Leaders will be Dorothy Couden and Bev Wilder. They announce that the Saturday trip schedule will be dependent on the wishes of those that arrive by 9:30 A.M., Saturday morning. Normally the two longer trips are divided between the two days, one up to Twin Lakes, and the other to the west of camp down the long ridge. Both trips provide excellent birding and delightful scenery. For those that do not prefer the long walks, good birding can be found within 200 yards of camp, and by car at Dark Lake, a half mile distant. Although this is a "dry" year, we recommend that you bring your favorite mosquito deterrant (i.e., 612, Off, etc.), and also some See and Ski. Good campsites and good water are available. Take U.S. 50 through Kyburz, continue on about 7 miles, look for the Wright's Lake sign and road on your left. Take this forest service road, drive carefully, it is likely to be rough. Allow about a half hour to get into camp. Look for Wilder's or Couden's station wagons, they will have signs. Bring swim suits if you like lake swimming. See YOU there, with your family!!

The outstanding field trip of the year took place just before Memorial Day. This was the Arizona Field Trip led by the Adamsons. Although not an official activity of M. Diablo Audubon, it was well attended by members of that chapter; 3 Coudens, 2 Gotfeltys, 1 Wilder, 1 Farrar, 2 Adamsons, and 1 Clancy. A total of 20 people, plus Clancy had the birding experience of a lifetime, under the extremely able leadership of Harry and Betty (& Clancy). Although no official record of the birds observed on the trip was made, given below is the list developed by Lynn Farrar and Bev Wilder - this list includes species observed beyond the Tehachapis and the Sierras. Not only did the Adamsons do an outstanding job of organizing the trip, but they are on such good terms with the birds of the region that all observations of new species were in full sunlight, with excellent views over a period of time. None of the observations were of a fleeting bird disappearing through the brush. The trip lasted officially from Sunday, May 20th, through to Sunday, May 28th, and covered the following special bird areas of Southeastern Arizona; Bonita Canyon, Rustler Peak, Cave Creek, Guadalupe Canyon, and Patagonia - with a side trip to Mexico at Douglas. The camping facilities ran the gamut from excellent facilities at Bonita ("flushing" type) to primitive facilities at Patagonia and Guadalupe (boys that way, gals that way). Those that were not particularly crazy to get "new species", had an ample opportunity to see magnificent scenery - as good as many of our national parks. Even the weather cooperated - fine weather and not too hot. It would take a couple of hours to tell the adventures and the wonderful time that all of us had. The only disappointments to the Adamsons were our failure to see the Redstarts and the Violet Crowned Hummingbird. We were too early for them, but they were more than offset by the wonderful performance put on by the hummers at the Research Station, and the Trogon and Painted Redstarts at Cave Creek. So much for the trip itself - lets reschedule it for 1964 with the same leaders! (I'm sure that most of us that went, will try to go again!). Here is the species list of Farrar and Wilder: (176 in total; 67 lifers for Wilder)

Grebe, Eared	Stilt, Black-Necked	Flicker, Gilded
Grebe, Pied Bill	Gull, California	Woodpecker, Gila
Heron, Great Blue	Gull, Ring-Billed	Woodpecker, Acorn
Heron, Green	Gull, Laughing	Sapsucker, Red-Breasted
Egret, Common	Gull, Bonaparte's	Woodpecker, Hairy
Duck, Pintail	Tern, Common	Woodpecker, Ladder-Backed
Teal, Sinnamon	Tern, Black	Woodpecker, Arizona
Duck, Ruddy	Pigeon, Band-Tailed	Kingbird, Western
Merganser, Common	Dove, White-Winged	Kingbird, Cassin's
Vulture, Turkey	Dove, Mourning	Flycatcher, Sulphur-Bellied
Kite, White-Tailed	Dove, Ground	Flycatcher, Wied's Crested
(San Joaquin Valley)	Roadrunner	Flycatcher, Ash-throated
Hawk, Copper's	Owl, Great Horned	Flycatcher, Olivaceous
Hawk, Red-Tailed	Owl, Elf	Phoebe, Black
Hawk, Swainson's	Owl, Screech	Flycatcher, Traill's
Hawk, Zone-Tailed	Owl, Burrowing	Flycatcher, Coue's
Hawk, Grey	Whip-poor-will, Ridgeways	Peewee, Western Wood
Eagle, Golden	(Cookachee)	Flycatcher, Vermillion
Hawk, Marsh	Whip-poor-will	Lark, Horned
Hawk, Sparrow	Poor-will	Swallow, Violet-Green
Quail, Scaled	Nighthawk, Common	Swallow, Rough-Winged
Quail, California	Nighthawk, Lesser	Swallow, Barn
Quail, Gambel's	Swift, White-throated	Swallow, Cliff
Pheasant, Ring-Necked	Hummingbird, Allen's	Martin, Purple
Turkey	Hummingbird, Black-Chinned	Jay, Steller's
Gallinule, Common	Hummingbird, Broad-tailed	Jay, Scrub
Coot, American	Hummingbird, Rufous	Jay, Mexican
Killdeer	Hummingbird, Rivoli's	Magpie, Black-Billed
Sandpiper, Spotted	Hummingbird, Blue-Throated	Magpie, Yellow-Billed (S. Joaquin)
Willet	Hummingbird, Broad-Billed	Raven, Common
Yellowlegs, Greater	Trogon, Coppery-Tailed	Raven, White-Necked
Avocet, American	Flicker, Red-Shafted	Crow, Common

- |                          |                              |                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chickadee, Mexican       | Warbler, Orange-Crowned      | Bunting, Indigo                |
| Titmouse, Plain          | Warbler, Lucy's              | Finch, Cassin's                |
| Titmouse, Bridled        | Warbler, Olive               | Finch, House                   |
| Verdin                   | Warbler, Yellow              | Siskin, Pine                   |
| Bushtit, Common          | Warbler, Audubon's           | Goldfinch, Lesser              |
| Bushtit, Black-eared     | Warbler, Virginia            | Towhee, Green-Tailed           |
| Nuthatch, White-Breasted | Warbler, Black-Throated Grey | Towhee, Rufous-Sided           |
| Nuthatch, Pigmy          | Warbler, Grace's             | Towhee, Brown                  |
| Creeper, Brown           | Warbler, Macgillivray's      | Towhee, Abert's                |
| Dipper                   | Chat, Yellow-Breasted        | Sparrow, Lark                  |
| Wren, House              | Warbler, Red-Faced           | Sparrow, Rufous-Crowned        |
| Wren, Brown-Throated     | Warbler, Wilson's            | Sparrow, Cassin's              |
| Wren, Bewick's           | Redstart, Painted            | Sparrow, Black-Throated        |
| Wren, Cactus             | Sparrow, House               | Junco, Mexican                 |
| Wren, Cañon              | Meadowlark, Eastern          | Sparrow, Chipping              |
| Wren, Rock               | Meadowlark, Western          | Sparrow, White-Crowned         |
| Mockingbird              | Blackbird, Yellow-Headed     | Vireo, Bell's                  |
| Thrasher, Curve-Billed   | Blackbird, Red-Winged        |                                |
| Robin                    | Oriole, Hooded               | Warbler, Myrtle (Questionable) |
| Thrush, Hermit           | Oriole, Scott's              |                                |
| Bluebird, Western        | Oriole, Bullock's            |                                |
| Bluebird, Mountain       | Blackbird, Brewer's          |                                |
| Solitaire, Townsend's    | Grackle, Boat-Tailed         |                                |
| Gnatcatcher, Blue-Grey   | Cowbird, Brown-Headed        |                                |
| Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned    | Cowbird, Bronzed             |                                |
| Phainopepla              | Tanager, Western             |                                |
| Shrike, Loggerhead       | Tanager, Hepatic             |                                |
| Vireo, Hutton's          | Tanager, Summer              |                                |
| Vireo, Gray              | Cardinal                     |                                |
| Vireo, Solitary          | Grosbeak, Black-Headed       |                                |
| Vireo, Warbling          | Grosbeak, Blue               |                                |

It looks like a Life List - and to many it could be! Plan to go next time!! It is truly a terrific trip.

If you have not obtained your copy of the new Peterson, Field Guide to Western Birds, order yours now. The 1961 edition is vastly better than the old one, and has many, many more colored plates.

Your interim Editor apologies for his poor typing, and for lack-lustre copy - but we did get an edition out. I don't know who will put it in the envelopes and mail it yet.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bev Wilder*

Bev Wilder

President: Beth Reynolds (Mrs. Jack R. Reynolds)  
555 La Vista Road, Walnut Creek  
Phone: Yellowstone 5-1813



# The Quail

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

August, 1961  
Vol. 8, No. 2

The Mount Diablo Audubon Society will not meet in August. Also there will be no field trip that month. Time for vacations!

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 1961. An announcement of the place and the program will be in the next issue of The Quail. At the pot-luck dinner in June, the Society voted to hold meetings on the second Thursday of each month. We tired the fourth Thursdays last year, but ran into difficulties with the winter holidays and school programs.

The Quail has a new Editor this year. Last year's Conservation Chairman, Ed Mize, has agreed to try his hand at putting out your news letter this year. Wish him luck! Following in the footsteps of Mrs. McGeehon isn't going to be easy. The new editor is reminded of the quip from yesteryear, "Don't shoot the piano player folks, he's doing the best he can"!

Naturally your Quail will have a little starved look if nobody submits any material to fatten the pages. This present issue is a spur-of-the-moment attempt to get something into print. Bev Wilder has offered to write up the Wright's Lake trip, and that surely helps (report given elsewhere). Bev has volunteered to see that The Quail gets printed for another year.

If you have information for future issues of The Quail, call Ed Mize, at MU 2-9786, or mail your scoops to him at 1255 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord.

Here is the list of your officers for next year:

President: Mrs. J. R. "Beth" Reynolds  
Vice-Pres: Roy Glotfelty  
Secretary: Mrs. Frank "Jane" Nemetz  
Treasurer: George E. Schad  
Director: Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara

Beth Reynolds has appointed the following committee chairmen:

Program: Roy Glotfelty  
Conservation: Ferd Ruth  
Publicity: Frances Blake  
Quail Editor: Ed Mize

So far Beth hasn't found a Field Trip Chairman for the year. Here is a chance for someone to help out the Society. The work isn't too rough, because it's mostly an organizational job. The main duties are to line up leaders, help select sites for

Quail -2-  
August, 1961

field trips, and to submit field notes to The Quail Editor. Call Beth Ryenolds at YE 5-1813, if you can help her out this year.

Ed Mize (Editor)

Printer's Note: Ed's letter containing the above material, also notes that he is going to New Mexico in August, so he'll have a story for us when he gets back.

Both the Golden Gate Society and Mount Diablo had field trips to Wright's Lake the same weekend. We are proud to say that our Society had the larger group, although we are significantly smaller in numbers. In all, we had 17 members in our party, as follows: Jack & Beth Reynolds, Harry & Betty Adamson, Harry & Dorothy Couden, with Penny & Henry, and friend John Husing, Clair & Freida Shackelford and daughter Patsy, Frank & Jane Nemetz and their Hank and Karen, and Bev Wilder. The weather was delightfully warm, and mosquitos at a minimum. The birding was not as good as usual, due larger to the very dry year. The Spotted Sandpiper, which usually nests at the east end of the lake in the swampy area, was found above Twin Lakes - the usual swamp was dry. The snow line hardly exists, with small patches just under the summit in protected areas. Although only 37 species of birds were noted, most of those species for which the trip was designed were viewed in good light - only the Rosy Finches were missed. It was a welcome surprise to have Harry and Betty Adamson drop in on their way back home from a month's trip, and have them climb up to Twin Lakes to surprise the group on Saturday. They have been gone from home since May 19th. On Saturday the hardy souls climbed up to Twin Lakes, with Harry Couden and Bev Wilder going up on the cliffs above (Bev lugging his Questar all the way). Those that stayed in the camp area, made the shorter circuit around by Dark Lake, led by Dorothy Couden, who stayed in Camp to study for her college tests. On Sunday the group went down the Windmiller Trail about 3 miles, returning to camp shortly after noon. The following species were noted on Co-Leader Wilder's score card: (Dorothy was the other Co-Leader)

Sandpiper, Spotted	Nuthatch, White-Breasted	Blackbird, Brewer's
Nighthawk, Common	Nuthatch, Red-Breasted	Cowbird, Brown-Headed
Hummingbird, Rufous	Creeper, Brown	Tanager, Western
Flicker, Red-Shafted	Dipper	Grosbeak, Evening
Sapsucker, Williamson's	Wren, Rock	Finch, Purple
Woodpecker, White-Headed	Robin	Finch, Cassin's
* Flycatcher, Hammond's	Thrush, Hermit	Grosbeak, Pine
— Peewee, Western Wood	Bluebird, Mountain	Towhee, Green-Tailed
Swallow, Violet-Green	Solitaire, Townsend's	Junco, Oregon
Jay, Steller's	Warbler, Audubon's	Sparrow, Chipping
Nutcracker, Clark's	Warbler, Hermit	Sparrow, White-Crowned
Chickadee, Mountain	Warbler, Wilson's	Sparrow, Fox
*Flycatcher, Olive-Sided		

Bev Wilder (Printer)



# The Quail

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

September, 1961  
Volume 8, No. 3

The first meeting this season of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society will be held in Ferd Ruth's laboratory at the Diablo Valley College, Room 211, Life Science Building, at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14th.

Program Chairman, Roy R. Glotfelty, makes this comment on the meeting: "Observing the beauty and scenes of special interest through the eye of a 35 mm camera, while slowly traversing tamed and untamed portions of Canada and Alaska, will be the entertainment program for the evening. Many beautiful scenes have been captured by one of our newer members, Maurice Johnson, who has offered to share his vacation with us. The Society officers are looking forward to a real good turn-out. Friends of members will be most welcome".

Maurice took his trip up the Alaska Highway in the summer of 1960, and he was lucky to get some very striking shots of the country in between numerous rain showers. Maurice and Roy recently returned from a five day pack trip into the back country of southern Yosemite, helped along by a burro, and report both storm clouds and bright sunshine.

President Beth Reynolds remarks that "all members are invited to come prepared with suggestions and ideas for a youth activities program and any other conservation or nature study projects for the coming year. The meeting will be open for general discussion on these subjects after Mr. Johnson has presented his program. I suggest also that members bring family and friends to share our interesting programs and be introduced to the fun of observing nature in our own back yards". This is in line with suggestions made at a meeting of Board members, that our group take a more active part in community projects.

Early-birder Lynn Farrar will be the leader of our first field trip of the season, scheduled for Sunday, September 17th. Lynn's notice says that "the trip will cover the mud-flat areas near the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza. Because the tide will only be favorable for a limited time, we will rendezvous at 7:00 a.m. SHARP at 40th & Adeline Streets, Emeryville - turn right on 40th, from Broadway, and follow to the end. Latecomers will have to fend for themselves. Set your alarms, and come prepared for cool weather and a couple of hours of good birding." For any further information call Lynn at 283-3938. (That is no misprint, Lafayette numbers have dropped the letter prefixes)

Lynn also reports having seen two pairs of Black-throated Grey Warblers and a Wilson's Warbler with his binoculars all at the same time on August 19th in his yard. He reports also that on his way back from Fort Bragg, a Pileated Woodpecker flew across the road.

The Field Trip Committee recently met at Chairman Jack Reynold's house to cook up the following tentative schedule for this year:

September ....	Eastshore Flats
October .....	St. Mary's College
November .....	Crystal Springs Reservoir
December .....	Conn Dam
January .....	Tomales Bay
February .....	Terminus and the Delta
March .....	Calaveras Dam and Water Temple
April .....	Pt. Lobos and Moss Landing
May .....	San Antonio Valley and Patterson Pass
June .....	Pine Canyon
July .....	Wright's Lake

Most of the trips will be about the middle of the month, on the first Sunday after our meetings (the second Thursday). The May trip will be a week earlier, to get better birding conditions at Patterson Pass.

Lynn Farrar says he will chairman our annual Christmas count this year. Only 100 shopping days until Christmas, so buy some oil for the boots, in case we have a foggy or rainy day this year.

Our membership and finances swooped down a little this year. Although we now have 88 paid members, the Board of Directors recently scratched its collective head trying to figure out ways of attracting and keeping members. The personal approach seems to be the best way. We hope to have programs and field trips varied throughout the whole field of conservation, nature study, and travel this year. The Screen Tours show how many of our neighbors are really interested in the outdoors. We might pass our information at these performances.

The season's first Screen Tour will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 8 p.m. at the Diablo Valley College gymnasium. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History, will show a film entitled "Subantarctic Isle". Dr. Bailey's daughter, Patricia Bailey Witherspoon, gave us that excellent Tour of Australia last Spring. The subantarctic isle, Campbell Island, is a dot 450 miles south of New Zealand, but albatrosses, penguins, and other seafoal find it.

Nearer home, you might enjoy an article in the Sept. 2nd issue of the Saturday Evening Post. Richard Thruelsen's article, "Tourists' New Frontier", describes the new Utah Park and Recreation program. Recently a 17,000 acre Wasatch Mountain State Park was established, and hopes are that superlative scenic spots in the southern part of Utah might be reserved. Violet Beitzel showed us some of this beautiful country at the June potluck dinner.

The Beitzels still win honors with their pictures. Vi got honorable mention in competition at the Placer County Fair in July. Both Dick and Vi did well at a recent competition at the Concord Camera Club.

Beth Reynolds and Jane Nemetz report good birding in Indian Valley, not far from Beth's house. Migrant birds should be passing through the area soon.

Ed Mize (Editor)





# The Quail

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

October, 1961  
Volume 8, No. 4

Duane Mattison, County Park Director, will speak at the next meeting of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society, which will be held in Ferd Ruth's laboratory at the Diablo Valley College, Room 211, Life Science Building, at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12th.

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The next field trip will be on Sunday morning, October 15th, in the St. Marys-Bollinger Canyon area. At 7:30 a.m., Clair and Frieda Shackelford will lead the crowd of early birders.

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The first Audubon Wildlife Film of the season will be shown on Tuesday, October 24th, at 8 p.m. at the Diablo Valley College. Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History, will narrate a film on "Subantarctic Isle", a dot of land south of New Zealand.

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Program Chairman, Roy R. Glotfelty, has this to say about the next meeting:

"Acquisition of park land is of vital importance to us whether it be through national, state, or county government. Because of its quick accessibility, Contra Costa County park land is especially important to us. Trips close to home can often be "fitted in", when our time is very limited. With our county population climbing at a rapid rate, the importance of time in acquiring this land is of the essence. Because of this importance, "Doc" Mattison, County Park Director, is going to bring us right up to date on this problem and other important park matters. This should make for a most interesting evening in which members as well as guests should come prepared to ask any questions. Let's show "Doc" by our numbers that the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is a vitally interested group. See you in college".

Director Mattison appeared before our Society at our first meeting last year, shortly before Labor Day, and the sparse attendance at that time could be attributed to the fact that many members were on vacation. We should be able to show "Doc" a larger turnout at our next meeting.

Our major County Park so far is in the Briones Hills, where 1,435 acres are being acquired in 10 annual installments from the East Bay Municipal

Utility District. Facilities and roads have not been open to the public so far, but organizations do get into the area at times. The Sierra Club, for instance, has arranged an overnight camping safari into the area for the weekend of Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, and hikes were scheduled into present and proposed park areas.

Before leaving for a vacation in the redwoods, Frieda Shackelford left these instructions about the next field trip:

"Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Bollinger Canyon Road just off of St. Marys Road. When coming from Walnut Creek and Lafayette, watch for the Moraga sign. Bollinger Canyon is the first left turn after you pass it and before St. Mary's College. You can watch for one or two SHACKELBIRDS in the road. They will be watching for you".

The early hour is necessary, because we no longer have Daylight Savings Time, and because the birds will have their engines all warmed up and will be rarin' to take off for the blue yonder shortly after 7:30. It might be a little crisp that morning. We'll probably be through by noon, so lunches are optional. This St. Mary's trip is a favorite one, although we haven't been there officially for about 3 years. There is a chance that we might have representatives from a local paper present, as part of our planned publicity, so a good turnout would be to our advantage.

Some of our members may be interested in a field trip sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society to the Waterfowl Refuges on November 4th and 5th. Harry Adamson (995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, Phone: 283-2164) will be the leader. On Saturday the group will meet at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the headquarters of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99W. A social evening is being planned at Woodward's Country Kitchen on Route 99E south of Gridley on Saturday night. On Sunday the group will meet at the post office in Gridley at 8 a.m. for a conducted trip to Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area southwest of Gridley.

The official tabulationx of the birds seen on our September field trip to the Eastshore flats has not been received yet, but the word is that the trip was a success. About 15 braved the cool overcast. Many of the usual shore birds were seen, and a Red-necked Grebe was reported. Some land birds, especially warblers and song sparrows, were in the bushes at the Aquatic Park.

You should have seen the gleam in President Beth Reynold's eyes at our last meeting, when she walked into Ferd Ruth's lab and found 42 of us eagerly awaiting the showing of Maurice Johnson's colorful pictures of Alcan Highway scenery. Of those present, 26 were members, 15 guests, and I signed up that night as a member. This is one of the best turnouts we have had in years, and many feel that we should have more meetings in Ferd's lab - even though he does have a live alligator next door.

New members are W. Lee and Phyllis Scott of 2864 San Benito Drive in Walnut Creek. At the meeting, Phyllis gave her summation of a thoroughly enjoyable and inspirational two weeks at the Audubon Camp during the summer.

We also welcome new member Jessie Blackburn, from the Antioch Unified School District, 20th and A Streets, in Antioch.

It looks like an excellent Audubon Wildlife Film series this year. Following Prof. Bailey's x film on October 24, we will again have Fran William Hall with us, this time showing us "Puerto Rico, U.S.A." on Wednesday, November 22. Then on Thursday, January 11, 1962, newcomer Emerson Scott will present a natural history film entitled "Rocky Mountain Rambles". On Wednesday, February 14, Howard Cleaves returns to prove that "Animals are Exciting". Finally, on Tuesday, March 12, Cleveland P. Grant will return, this time to show his "Heart of the Wild". Once more the films are presented by the Diablo Valley College as a part of its public service, and all we have to spend is the time and the effort to get there.

At our last meeting, we discussed the possibility of our club doing more for youth groups. Some of our individual members have been active in developing youth nature programs, but the Society as a group has not sponsored anything yet. There's plenty of work we can do, and willing hands, but we need a coordinator. Beth Reynolds welcomes all volunteers and suggestions.

Some interesting bird observations: Eleanor Pugh says that there are lots of sparrows on Mt. Diablo now. Ferd Ruth showed a bunch of Boy Scouts a portion of the Muir Trail during the summer, and around Mono Pass they saw 60 to 100 Rosy Finches. Also, they saw a Great Blue Heron fishing in the Merced Canyon. Jane Nemetz spotted a MacGillivray Warbler and a Wilson Warbler in Ygnacio Valley and Chestnut-backed Chickadees in Redwood Canyon.

Mrs. Charles (Alberta) Matlock writes from her home on Muir Road, Martinez: "We named our place Hummingbird Hill, and so far the name fits well. Last summer a 55 ft. Century plant bloomed, and the Hummers all moved in. Since then I have been maintaining 3 feeders for them, and we have been trying to establish plants they like. We had a Rufous hummer visit us in the Spring for a few days. Other than that they are all Annas and Allens. I can get them to come to a feeder when I hold it in my hand".

Other birds seen by the Matlock's: White-crowned Sparrow, an English Sparrow with a downcurved beak, Lesser and Lawrence Goldfinches, Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches. Alberta saw 2 Pileated Woodpeckers at Austin Creek on Sept. 3. Let's hope that they survived the big fire, because there will be bugs in that burned timber soon.

Your editor recently returned from some solo camping at Mt. Lassen Park. I did some hiking and was rewarded by seeing a Townsend Solitaire and a Golden-crowned Kinglet (I think). On the way to Crumbaugh Lake there were hundreds of Juncos in the meadows. The biggest thrill of all, though, was to be in the path of tens of thousands of Monarch Butterflies migrating south. They were coming around the west side of Mt. Lassen, crossing the highway at the parking lot where the hikers take the trail to the peak.

Maybe you read during the summer that the Senate sent to the White House a bill to transfer 1040 acres of land from Lassen National Forest to the Park. I checked up on this and learned that the land was adjacent to the Manzanita Lake Campground, which is being enlarged.

Ferd Ruth tells us that a measure has been introduced in Congress to amend the Bald Eagle Act to protect the Golden Eagle. Also, we hear that Sen. Kuchel has introduced S-1988, which would give permanent conservation status to the Tulelake-Klamath Lakes wetlands. About time, too, as much of this wetland has been "reclaimed" in recent years to grow more potatoes and fewer birds. And then the Government buys the potatoes and buries them again!

Parkland legislation has progressed. Pres. Kennedy has been authorized to proceed with his pet 26,670 acre Cape Cod National Seashore. The Pt. Reyes National Seashore moved two steps closer to realization with approval by a Senate Subcommittee and a Senate Committee. The Wilderness Bill passed the Senate on Sept. 6 by a 78-8 margin, but more opposition is expected in the House.

Pres. Kennedy has urged a 10-year 2.5 billion dollar program to build more camp grounds, picnic sites, swimming areas and boating facilities in the national forests. Let us hope that some of the money will go into the maintenance of some of our present forest campgrounds, which have been sadly neglected in recent years. The Forest Service has been actively engaged in an Improvement Program in recent years, with some good results.

Congress has been informed that an estimated one million wild fowl each season are illegally killed or crippled by hunters who sell the birds. Only 10% of the hunters are said to violate the law, but the small force of agents we now have cannot cope with the situation.

The news from Capitola is that the sooty shearwaters came back with the fog on Sept. 11, but not by the thousands as on Aug. 18, when they plopped exhausted on the roads or slammed into cars and buildings.

Members interested in Southern California birds might like to know that a revision of the "Annotated Field List - Birds of Southern California", by Robert L. Pyle and Arnold Small, is now available from the Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, for \$1.25 postpaid. The newly compiled graphs and notes outline the seasonal status and distribution of the more than 400 species in the area. Valuable guides as to where and when to seek out particular species are offered, together with a map and notes on the best bird-guiding areas. (This information from the Pasadena Audubon Society).

There's at least one error on the membership list sent out with the last Quail. Please change Roy Glotfelty's phone number to 284-4014.

+++++

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord, Calif. .. MU 2-9786



# The Quail

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

November, 1961  
Volume 8, No. 5

- Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9th, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. The speaker will be Dr. Herbert Mason, Director of the Arboretum at the University of California.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, November 12th, 7:30 a.m. Briones Area. Leaders: Beth and Jack Reynolds (YE 5-1813).
- Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, November 22nd, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Fran William Hall will show a film on Puerto Rico.

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Program Chairman Roy Glotfelty makes this statement about the next meeting:

"Dr. Mason is coming to us through the Western Regional Office of Nature Conservancy. Conservation of balanced nature will be his main theme. Dr. Curtis Newcombe, chairman of Nature Conservancy, highly recommends Dr. Mason's method of making his subject matter extremely interesting. This program should be informative as well as most interesting, so I am looking forward to another good turnout."

The organization called Nature Conservancy was established ten years ago in an effort to save some areas throughout the country as living museums. Here in California it has bought nearly 3,000 acres of the Elder Creek watershed in Mendocino County, and last April the U.S. Department of Interior announced that 3600 acres of adjacent government land would be set aside as an undisturbed wilderness.

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At our last meeting, "Doc" Mattison, our County Park Director, gave an excellent and inspirational talk to about 30 members. He outlined the possible park spots in the County that might be acquired in time — and even more rapidly if the voters approve a bond issue that will probably come before us late next Spring. Five parcels of the Briones area have been purchased, but we are losing two portions of our park system. Tiny Hampton Park in the Bear Creek country will soon be drowned in Briones Reservoir, and Hayden Park in Pacheco will be chewed up by the Grayson Creek flood control project and the new freeway.

Our next Field Trip ties in with the October meeting, as Mr. Mattison has agreed to be our guide into the Briones area on November 12th. To get there turn off the Oakland-Walnut Creek Freeway and proceed north on Upper Happy Valley Road. About a half-mile beyond the Russell Tree Farm will be the junction of Briones and Bear Creek Roads, where Mr. Mattison will be waiting for us at 7:30. You must come in from the Lafayette side, because the Martinez side of Bear Creek Road is now closed. Lunches are optional.

The October Field Trip, to Bollinger Canyon and St. Mary's College, was a dandy one. It wasn't quite the "crisp morning" anticipated, since it turned out to be one of the warmest of Fall days. But the birds didn't know the difference. Let Frieda Shackelford tell the story:

"Take one beautiful fall morning, add 24 congenial, alert bird-watchers and 51 species of birds, mix well and serve in Bollinger Canyon. Results: a very delightful and rewarding morning. As people were arriving, Lynn Farrar, Elizabeth O'Meara, Ingra Lusebrink and Frances Blake did some advance birding along St. Mary's Reservoir. They were fortunate in finding a Vesper Sparrow, which Lynn says is the first recorded in our county. A Great Blue Heron, a Green Heron, Killdeer and Common Snipe were also seen at the lake. Many more birds were added to our list as we went up both forks of the road. We found many Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows up the left fork. We came back through the St. Mary's campus, but no additional birds were noted. Upon returning to our starting point, we encountered our most appealing bird - a plump female Mallard sitting in an up-turned box at the edge of the water immediately below the bank. She appeared to be as interested in us as we were in her and brought our trip to a humorous close. While we looked at the birdie, a photographer from the Walnut Creek Sun took many pictures.

"Birds observed: Great Blue and Green Herons; Mallard Duck; Sharp-Shinned, Red-Tailed and Sparrow Hawks; California Quail; American Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, Downy and Nuttall Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe; Steller and Scrub Jays; Common Crow; Chestnut-Backed Chickadee; Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-Breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; Bewick Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-Crowned Kinglet; Audubon Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-Winged and Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; American and Lesser Goldfinches; Rufous-Sided and Brown Towhees; Vesper, Lark, White-Crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox, Lincoln and Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

Lynn Farrar reported on the September Field Trip as follows:

"On Sunday morning, September 17 at 7 a.m., 16 members met in Emeryville ~~next~~ for shorebirding. It was a somewhat foggy day, and the number of birds present was far below last year. A representative group of species was seen, however, and I feel very encouraged that several members showed more than passing interest in birds completely new to them. The best way to learn birds is to come out on field trips. B.B. Wilder thought he had a sight on a Black Tern, but it turned out to be a Forster Tern. We saw a group of Harbor Seals, too.

"Birds observed: Red-Necked, Horned, and Pied-Billed Grebes (the Red-Necked was the best find of the day); Brown Pelican; Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon, Scaup, Ruddy Duck; Sparrow Hawk; American Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; ~~Black~~ Black Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Least Sandpiper; Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Sanderling; Marbled Godwit; American Avocet; Northern Phalarope; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte Gulls; Forster and Common Terns, Mourning Dove, Barn Swallow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Brown Towhee, House and Song Sparrows."

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Jane Nemetz says that Audubon Warblers have returned to the Heather Pond area, and that she had Yellow Warblers in her yard for week cleaning out the aphids. The Shackelfords went camping at Standish-Hickey State Park and saw lots of Townsend Warblers.

You can read a general article about the Whooping Cranes in the October Reader's Digest. Newsweek recently reported that the Canadian National Railway will detour a hundred miles ~~more~~ longer on a new line between Edmonton and Great Slave Lake, so as to avoid the nesting grounds of the cranes. There were 36 of the cranes counted last Spring, and four baby ones have been observed up north. The first cranes have returned to the hurricane-swept Aransas refuge in Texas.

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We welcome the following new members to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society:  
 Helen J. Deman, 148 Sierra Dr., Apt. 12, Walnut Creek  
 William and Betty Shuey, 1465 Lydia Lane, Concord  
 Howard Hill, 2143 Gill Drive, Concord.

Ferd Ruth, one of our busier members, is going to be loaned by Diablo Valley College to the State Department of Education in Sacramento for a week in mid-November. Ferd will help the State review local school district participation under the National Defense Education Act.

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The first semester of the 87th Congress is over, with a better than average grade in Conservation. A portion of Cape Cod is definitely a National Seashore. Between now and the end of the year, House committees will hold hearings on the Pt. Reyes Bill and the Wilderness Bill, both passed by the Senate. The Senate ratified the International Oil Pollution Control Treaty, which will cut down on the spilling of oil on the high seas, thereby saving hundreds of thousands of birds.

Maybe we need an International Radiation Control Treaty, too, if the report is true that hundreds of Tasmanian mutton birds (known in California as the Slender-billed Shearwater) have been found dead along the Tasmanian coast. They may have been victims of a fallout cloud in their migration from Siberia to Australia.

Look for a compromise on the House and Senate versions of the Wetlands Acquisition Bill. Possibly 105 million dollars will be provided for buying marshlands over the next seven years, with part of the money being paid back from Duck Stamp revenues. But it is depressing to hear that the Bureau of Reclamation wants to whack another 14,000 acres off the Tule Lake waterfowl refuge, so we can have more potato chips. 80% of the Pacific Flyway waterfowl drop in at Tule Lake.

It's good to hear that more California land is being set aside for recreation. The National Park Service wants to condemn about 140 acres of the Foresta tract within Yosemite Park so it can be used for camping purposes. (If Foresta isn't on your Yosemite map, look for Big Meadows on the old Coulterville Road, between the All Year Highway and the Crane Flat Road. It has a low enough elevation to permit a long camping season). Our State has purchased .488 acres adjacent to Big Basin State Park, to protect four waterfalls on Berry Creek. Recently, 1400 acres of the Monterey County coast, 10 miles south of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, have been given to the State for park purposes.

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The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society reports in its bulletin (The Western Meadowlark) that agriculturists throughout the country are worried about bird damage to crops. Some damage can be attributed to weed killing campaigns, which have destroyed some of the bird food. Some farmers advocate destruction of more birds. (Let's remember that a year or so ago the Chinese Communists "saved" grain by killing off the sparrows. Time Magazine recently reported that "the campaign was so successful that there has been a tremendous increase in insects".)

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Our Society has voted to cancel the January, 1962, meeting, because Emerson Scott will show a Wildlife Tour on the meeting night, January 11th.

Many of our members were in the audience when Prof. Bailey opened this year's Wildlife Tours with his film "Subantarctic Isle", showing human and wild life on isolated Campbell Island. He had many beautiful pictures of a bleak land, homely elephant seals, graceful albatrosses, pompous penguins, and other sea birds. Prof. Bailey opened his film with several minutes of spectacular New Zealand scenery.

On November 22, Fran William Hall, expert photographer and naturalist from Carleton College (Northfield, Minnesota), will show us the first natural history color film ever made about Puerto Rico.

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Our members have voted to ask Walnut Creek authorities why a permit was given for the construction of a drainage ditch between Rancho San Miguel and Heather Pond. Runoff of insecticides and fertilizers so polluted the pond that most of the fishes and frogs were killed. The pond has since been flushed with fresh water, and some wildlife has returned, but the cycle might be repeated. Elizabeth O'Meara suggested at our last meeting that members attend more City Council and Planning Board meetings, to forestall other threats to good conservation.

As evidence that club-sponsored youth projects are needed, we have received requests from the Girl Scouts for advice on conservation projects in the area, and from the Boy Scouts for help on the nature study merit badge as well as possible conservation projects.

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Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord, Calif. .. MU 2-9786





# The Quail

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

December, 1961  
Volume 8, No. 6

- Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14th, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. The program will be a résumé, with pictures, of the Arizona Field Trip last May.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, December 17th, 9 a.m. Conn Dam Area.
- Christmas Count: Sunday, December 31st. (Details below)
- Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 11, 1962, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Newcomer Emerson Scott will show a film entitled, "Rocky Mountain Rambles".

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Program Chairman Roy Glotfelty went on that fabulous trip down Patagonia way last May, so he speaks from the heart when he writes:

"Rambling through Arizona this past late Spring was most rewarding for a group of about 20 people. The experiences and what this group saw in the way of bird life will be told and shown by way of colored slides at our December meeting. Bev Wilder's pictorial story of the trip will be shown, and Harry and Betty Adamson, who lead the group, will be showing their pictures, including wonderful shots of hummingbirds of this region. So come to the meeting and get some first hand information about an outstanding birding region."

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The Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey area is a favorite spot for birds at this time of the year. Our group will meet at 9 a.m. on December 17th at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail not far beyond Napa. For information, call Beth Reynolds at YE 5-1813. No leader has been named yet, because those members contacted are not definite on their Holiday plans. Come prepared for cool and possibly damp weather. It's a long ways from home, so bring a feed bag.

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Lynn Farrar is again in charge of the Christmas Count, which will be held this year on December 31. Lynn's instructions are as follows:

"Those who can definitely be on hand please contact me at 283-3938 after 6 PM evenings. Those not previously assigned or last minute participants should be at the Monument in Pleasant Hill not later than 7:00 AM on Dec. 31. A pot-luck dinner will be held in the evening at Jane Nemetz's in Walnut Creek. Those wishing to attend should contact Jane by Dec. 24 as to what to bring and the exact time. Those who can only observe at home are invited to phone lists in to Jane Nemetz, Lynn Farrar, or Jack Reynolds. Participants are welcome for whatever time they have available, but at least the morning would be appreciated".

....

Dr. Herbert Mason, from the University of California, gave an interesting and informative talk at our last meeting. He stressed the importance of saving a little of our wild lands as "living museums", where all wildlife could be studied through the years. Dr. Mason also represented Nature Conservancy, a non-profit organization which he says is in the real estate business - buying up some of that wild land to keep in a natural state. The largest unit purchased so far in the nation is the 4,000 acre Angelo property in the Elder Creek watershed in Mendocino County. Nature Conservancy is also active in the East, where it specializes in buying and saving bogs.

Beth Reynolds reports on our November Field Trip in this manner:

"About 30 eager early-birders braved the crisp chill of a beautiful Fall day to explore the virgin territory of the new Briones County Park. Duane Mattison, County Park Director, led us along the dirt county road into the heart of the area. Although adjacent lands are leased for grazing, the access road cannot be closed to the public. A total of 41 species were positively identified. We did not leave the road, except at the site of the old Briones home. We are all looking forward to enjoying this beautiful region as a recreation and nature study area.

"Birds observed: White Pelican; Swainson, Cooper and Red-Tailed Hawks; Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Anna Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy and Nuttall Woodpeckers; Say Phoebe; Stellar and Scrub Jays; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Audubon Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Brewer Blackbird; House Finch and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

We all appreciated "Doc" Mattison guiding us, especially when he confessed that he should have stood in bed with a touch of the flu. He pointed out some land adjacent to the Briones Reservoir that he hopes will eventually become part of the County Park system. Over

in the next valley, the County hopes to acquire 110 acres adjacent to and below San Pablo Dam. Plans are for recreational development in this area. The land would be paid for in part by the 70 acres of Hampton Park taken over by the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

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Some of our members have new addresses, i.e.:

Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Sather, 1700 El Camino Real, Rue 20-10,  
So. San Francisco.

Mrs. Rosalyn Phillips, 1225 University Ave., Apt. B., Berkeley 2.

Dick Beitzel brightened the walls of the Concord Library recently with his colorful paintings, including several of ducks and Southwestern scenery. Bev Wilder headed a campaign to collect money in Walnut Creek for the American Field Service, which hopes to continue the foreign exchange program at the Las Lomas High School. Jack and Beth Reynolds spent Thanksgiving Weekend at Garden Grove and in the desert.

Many of our members, who were here on Thanksgiving Eve, enjoyed Fran Hall's Wildlife Tour film on Puerto Rico. Mr. Hall started his program by playing a tape recording of some of the Puerto Rico "sounds of the night", so we could hear the "co-kee" of the tree frog and the basso of the foot-high Surinam Toad. There are only 27 native birds on the Island, but we saw most of them, including the rare Puerto Rico Parrot. We also saw many pictures of the Cattle Egrets, which Mr. Hall predicts will migrate to California before too many years.

Here is a bird observation reported by one of our Walnut Creek members, Mrs. Evelyn Mann,

"We had a Townsend Solitaire in the Chinese Elm outside our kitchen window on October 29, definitely identified by three experienced birders. It was the first time we had ever seen this bird in this area, although we have often observed them in the High Sierra."

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It was reported at the national convention of the Audubon Society that only about 3600 bald eagles are left in the Nation, outside of Alaska. This bird can't stand civilization and insecticides. Less than ten years ago it was shot for a two dollar bounty in Alaska. Now the bald eagle is protected, and there are Golden Eagle protection bills in Senate and House Committees.

You might be interested in the following report by Richard Starr, which appeared in the San Fernando Valley Audubon's "The Phainopepla":

"On our trip up the Coast in August we were hiking in the Hills about 10 miles inland and 30 miles north of Morro Bay when we saw three large birds circling over the peaks. We identified them as two adult and one young Condor".

So keep your eyes wide open on your next trip to Morro Bay or San Simeon, and you might see one of our rarest birds.

Another rare bird is the Mearns, or Harlequin, Quail. Our members who went to Arizona in May failed to see one. According to an article

in the Los Angeles Times, it took the San Diego Zoo five years to capture three of these rare quail near the Huachuca Mountains, as part of a program to preserve birds nearing extinction.

Because there are now over 600 Trumpeter Swans in the northern Rockies and about 1500 in Alaska and Canada, the Fish and Wildlife Service is distributing some to zoos throughout the country.

....

At the November meeting, President Beth Reynolds told us that Marin Audubon Society hopes to buy the 507 acre Canyon Ranch between Stinson Beach and Bolinas. The Marin group would welcome help from other Audubon Societies and individuals. We discussed the matter, but the subject was tabled until later, as it was not felt that enough members were present to commit our group at this time.

At this meeting, too, Ferd Ruth introduced Bruce Schreiber, an honor science student from Del Valle High. Ferd brought Bruce along on the Briones trip, and Jane Nemetz also brought some youngsters along on that trip. Both Ferd and Jane tell us that there are dozens of youths who would be interested in our activities, but they have to be asked to go places and transportation must be furnished. So this is one way our members can help the youngsters. Ferd also says that there are many high school and college classes that would welcome speakers on scientific subjects. It was suggested that members of our group proficient in any scientific field communicate with Beth Reynolds, and maybe a roster of volunteer speakers can be prepared.

The Walnut Creek Sun favored us with a front page picture and story about the St. Mary's Field Trip. This same paper also featured an article on the Heather Pond debacle, thanks to the letter our Secretary sent to the City of Walnut Creek. But we still don't know who authorized the construction of the ditch that apparently carried the insecticides to Heather Pond and snuffed out so much of the wildlife in the only good pond around here.

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The Paso Robles Audubon Society, in its November "California Thrasher", informs us that a movement has been organized down there to denude the Salinas River of its protective growth of trees and shrubs from near Santa Margarita to the Monterey County line. It seems that some people believe that the cottonwoods and willows should be destroyed because they are taking too much water out of the river. (Doesn't this sound something like the strange reasoning that resulted in the recent destruction of the lush botanical growth along the Sacramento River levees? Maybe some of those people should sit under those trees awhile and get out of the hot sun!)

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Bill Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, says that the N.A.S. Conservation Center at 2426 Bancroft Way in Berkeley has many nature gifts suitable for Christmas presents. You can write to the Berkeley address and get their catalog, "The Answer to 1001 Questions About Nature Gifts".

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