



The Quail

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

January, 1962
Volume 8, No. 7

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 11, 1962, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Emerson Scott will present his film, "Rocky Mountain Rambles".

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 14th, 9:30 a.m. Tomales Bay.

Next Meeting: Thursday, FEBRUARY 8th. The program will be announced in the next issue of "The Quail".

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Please note again that there will be no meeting in January. A vote was taken in October to forego our January meeting, because the date coincided with the next Audubon Wildlife Tour. We'll see you all at Emerson Scott's show instead.

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We go to Tomales Bay region for our next Field Trip. Meet at 9:30 Sunday, January 14, in the parking lot next to the store in Inverness. Our leader will probably be Carl Sather. No definite itinerary has yet been set, but you can be sure of plenty of birds. Tomales Bay reported the second highest number of bird species in the nation at the last Christmas Count (1961). Come prepared for some sloppy footing, if there are rains just before the scheduled date.

Harry Couden was the leader of the December Field Trip to Conn Lake, and he makes this report:

"For the dozen Society members who ignored the intermittent - though hardly dampening - rains, the Conn Lake Trip proved again why it is among our best. With but few exceptions (Green Heron, Snow Goose, Gadwall, and Widgeon), we saw what we came to see; and for my younger guests, David Petrie of Walnut Creek and Dick Rieser and Mike Smallwood (both Eagle Scouts) of Orinda, it was an outstanding experience. Dorothy counted 71 species. The Goldeneye, Screech Owl, and Downy Woodpecker haven't been reported as far back as our '57 reports.

"Birds observed: Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Whistling Swan (6 this year); Canada Goose; Green-winged Teal (1); Mallard; Wood (1 pair), Ring-necked, and Ruddy Ducks; Shoveler; Common Goldeneye (1); Bufflehead; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Red-shouldered Hawk; Kestrel; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Ring-billed Gull; Rock Dove;

a dead Screech Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Downy, and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick's and Rock Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Logger-head Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbird; Purple and House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows."

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A good turnout of 31 members and guests at our December meeting took an armchair trip to the Chiricahua and Huachuca Mountains in S.E. Arizona with the members of our Society who went there last May. Harry Adamson first oriented us with an excellent map of the area on the blackboard, and then narrated the Wilder and Adamson pictures projected by Roy Glotfelty. Outstanding were the hummingbird pictures taken by the Adamsons. The lecture was concluded by the showing of several slides of Arizona birds.

H. E. Davis and daughter Sharon, of 1851 Del Monte Court in Walnut Creek, came to this meeting as guests and went home as members.

Jane Nemetz gave a report on the Heather Pond pollution problem. Correspondence and conferences with those involved indicated that the cutting of the ditch from the Rancho San Miguel tract and draining into Heather Pond was apparently due to the lack of communication between the Flood Control District and the Public Works and Park and Recreation Departments of Walnut Creek. We have assurances that it won't happen again. However, Jane called our attention to the possibility that the Fish and Game may kill off the "trash fish" in the Pond. This seems pointless, since fishing is not permitted in the pond to begin with. The Pond is a valuable museum of limnology and the habitat of a complete cycle of aquatic and bird life just the way it is.

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Sometimes the killing of "trash fish" can be carried too far. Carl Buchheister, President of the National Audubon Society, told the Annual Audubon Convention recently of a plan in the works whereby fish technicians of Wyoming and Utah plan to dump 70 tons of rotenone poison into 475 miles of the Green River and its tributaries to kill off the "trash fish", in order that the lake above the new Flaming Gorge Dam can be restocked with "sport fish". Mr. Buchheister said that this could lead to the extinction of three species of fish found nowhere else on earth - at a cost of \$173,000! Is this necessary?

Water pollution in the Bay Area became front page news early in December, when heavy rains washed oil and asphalt from a road construction project in Oakland into Lake Merritt. Hundreds of ducks and geese became sick with pneumonia, and many died. Even some that were de-oiled by sympathetic citizens and put in cages were later killed or stolen by warped individuals.

Other geese had their troubles last month. One night, thousands of them got fog-bound and knocked down enough distribution lines to cause power failures in Corning, Gerber, and Redding. PG&E says that it was the first blackout caused by geese in Northern California.

This seems to be an odd winter for Sierra birds. Eleanor Pugh reports that in addition to the Townsend Solitaires that have been reported in Walnut Creek, they have also been seen on Mt. Diablo and even in Golden Gate Park. Harry Adamson has been seeing Evening Grosbeaks again this winter. And there have been many reports on Clark Nutcrackers — not only in this area but as far south as San Diego and all up and down the Coastal counties. Monterey Audubon reports that sightings on the Peninsula this year are comparable to the winters of 1946-47 and 1955-56. The opinion has been expressed that a poor food supply in the mountains, brought on by the drought of recent years, has forced them into a more favorable environment.

Eleanor Pugh also reminded us at the meeting that there will be another nationwide inventory of Bald Eagles between January 5th and 15th. If you see some during these days, let the Society know.

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Congress resumes work in early January, so before too long there might be some action on the controversial Wilderness Bill, which passed the Senate in September. A hearing in Sacramento brought strong endorsement from Governor Brown's Administration and from spokesmen for conservation and outdoor groups.

The National Park Service is advocating a 57,000 acre Prairie National Park in Kansas. On a recent inspection tour of the site, Interior Secretary and NPS Director Wirth were ordered off the land by irate farmers. Despite such local opposition, there is a nationwide feeling that a representative sample of the original American prairie should be reserved.

A State Senate fact finding committee has been holding hearings on State Parks, and it has been urged to pass a bill to promote a hundred million dollar bond issue to buy and develop recreational areas. Mt. Diablo is one such area. Out of 60,000 acres on the mountain, the State so far owns 2160 acres and subdividers and industry have already acquired over 8,000 acres.

Marin Audubon informs us that Golden Gate Audubon has voted to collaborate fully with them on the Canyon Ranch project. It has been tentatively decided to form an independent organization to acquire the ranch. Mrs. Laurel Reynolds, who showed us a screen tour picture two years ago, has agreed to make a 15-minute film on Canyon Ranch.

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

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Officers of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society:
 President.. Beth Reynolds, 555 La Vista Rd. Walnut Creek, YE 5-1813
 Secretary.. Jane Nemetz, 2822 San Antonio Dr. Walnut Creek, YE 4-3295
 Programs... Roy Glotfelty, 3576 Powell Drive, Lafayette, 284-4014



The Quail

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

February, 1962
Volume 8, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 8th, 1962, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Vi Beitzel will show pictures of the Navajo and Hopi Country.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, February 11th, 9:15 a.m. Terminous Island. Meet at Thornton. Bev Wilder leader.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, February 14th, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley Gymnasium. Howard Cleaves showing "Animals are Exciting".

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Program Chairman Roy Glotfelty has arranged for us to see some more of Vi Beitzel's outstanding color photography again. Vi has this to say about her presentation:

"My camera will present to you a picture of "Indian Country", taken in the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation of Northern Arizona. You will see the dry and arid land that these people must live in. You will also see some of the beauty of this land, by taking a trip by jeep through beautiful Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto. Another 4-wheel-drive trip will take you through the wonderful Monument Valley near the Utah border. This trip was made in July when beautiful picture clouds are in the sky and just before the real summer rains arrive in August. The Indian Country is high in elevation, mostly from 5000 to over 7000 feet on their new paved highways, so the weather is quite comfortable and makes a trip there rewarding. The color slides will be presented with taped musical background and comments by the photographer".

Roy suggests once again that we bring our friends along to enjoy this scenic armchair tour.

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We return again to the Delta Region for our next field trip. Last year the group was well rewarded with the sightings of geese, curlews, Whistling Swans, Sandhill Cranes, etc. As before, meet at the Cafe at Thornton at 9:15. To get there: Turn right at Rio Vista Bridge and drive east. 5 miles beyond the Terminous sign, turn left at the Thornton sign. Drive to Thornton.

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Our next Wildlife Tour speaker, Howard Cleaves, has been with us many times before. His next picture jumps from the canyons of New York City to the peaks of the Canadian Rockies.
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The Tomales Bay Field Trip was a huge success. About 30 members and guests, including several youngsters, braved a crisp morning to go birding under favorable conditions. They were also treated to the cavorts of about 20 sealions, who apparently were finding Tomales Bay herring a delicacy.

Carlyle Sather, co-leader with Bev Wilder, reports on the trip as follows: "A large turnout of members and friends enjoyed a beautiful day of birding on Tomales Bay. 82 species of birds were seen along with a Rock Sandpiper at Duncan's Landing by a fortunate few of us.

"Birds observed: Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons; Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; White Pelican; Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorants; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; Common and Snowy Egrets; Mallard; Pintail; American Widgeon; Redhead; Canvasback; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged and Surf Scoters; Ruddy Duck; Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered and Sparrow Hawks; Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Surf-bird; Black Turnstone; Willet; Rock and Least Sandpipers; Dunlin; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Western, California, Ring-billed, and Mew's Gulls; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Horned Lark; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Common Bushtit; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Varied Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; Purple Finch and House Finch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows."

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Birds have been in the news this past month - especially the robins. One report said that they got so drunk on ripe berries in Los Altos that they almost acted human. Another report that they were so filled with berries between Pittsburg and Antioch that they didn't get altitude fast enough and were clobbered by cars on the freeway. And down near Watsonville they did considerable damage eating red berries on a holly farm - a crime generally credited to the Cedar Waxwings. ... In Sonoma and Humboldt Counties the ravens have been branded as killers preying on lambs and ewes. More than 400 lambs and ewes were lost last year, according to the Calif. Dept. of Agriculture.

....

Here in our own group we hear that: The Schads were visited by 8 Evening Grosbeaks for the first time. ... One of our highly esteemed members observed birds viewing themselves in a pool and jumping back 2 inches in surprise, so she went over and looked in the pool and jumped back 2 feet. ... The Rufus Johnsons are planning a foreign trip. ... Bev Wilder will call some "do-se-do"s at a Folk Dance benefit dance Feb. 10 at College Park High - proceeds to the Mt. Diablo Therapy Center ... Harry Couden and Ed Mize are part of a dance band playing at a benefit dance Feb. 17 at Del Valle High - proceeds into a projected swimming pool.

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1961 Christmas Count
(Lynn Farrar, Compiler)

December 31 began cold and foggy for the 23 members and friends of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on their annual count. It was really miserable early, and too much cannot be said for those who braved the elements to participate in this, the eighth count. The count was memorable in these respects: the number of birders was the highest for many years; four new species were found; 35 species had the greatest numbers ever recorded; and one species seen and reported has never been known in Central Contra Costa County before. A total of 119 species were listed, tying last year's record. In addition, two more were seen during the count period. If the new bird is added, a new record can be claimed, but I will leave that to those who are better qualified than myself. In the complete list below, underlined birds are new on the count and underlined numbers are the highest recorded.

Eared Grebe	4	Comm. Gallinule	4	Scrub Jay	89
Pied-billed Grebe	49	Amer. Coot	208	Common Crow	4
White Pelican	16	Killdeer	116	Plain Titmouse	<u>94</u>
Dbl-Cr. Cormorant	3	Common Snipe	56	Common Bushtit	<u>51</u>
Gt. Blue Heron	<u>1</u>	Grtr. Yellowlegs	16	Wht-brst Nuthatch	34
Common Egret	4	Lst. Sandpiper	38	Red-brst Nuthatch	1
Snowy Egret	14	Dunlin	<u>360</u>	Wrentit	10
Amer. Bittern	1	Amer. Avocet	43	Bewick's Wren	<u>10</u>
<u>Whistling Swan</u>	<u>4</u>	Glauc-wing Gull	150	Lng-bld Marsh Wren	10
Canada Goose	<u>191</u>	<u>Western Gull</u>	<u>25</u>	Mockingbird	39
Wht-Frntd Goose	<u>105</u>	Herring Gull	3	Calif. Thrasher	7
<u>Snow Goose</u>	<u>1</u>	Calif. Gull	1205	Robin	<u>5829</u>
Mallard	54	Ring-bill Gull	<u>704</u>	Varied Thrush	2
Gadwall	2	Bonaparte Gull	<u>120</u>	Hermit Thrush	<u>48</u>
Pintail	<u>5254</u>	Band-tail Pign	<u>11</u>	Western Bluebird	<u>46</u>
Green-wing Teal	4	Mourning Dove	48	<u>Townsend Solitaire</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Cinnamon Teal</u>	<u>1</u>	Barn Owl	2	<u>Gold-crwd Kinglet</u>	<u>24</u>
Amer. Widgeon	<u>2000</u>	Screech Owl	1	Ruby-crwd Kinglet	28
Shoveler	<u>3500</u>	Grt. Horned Owl	11	Water Pipit	<u>520</u>
Ring-neck Duck	<u>32</u>	Burrowing Owl	2	Cedar Waxwing	<u>4041</u>
Canvasback	<u>292</u>	Short-ear Owl	1	Loggerhd Shrike	32
Lesser Scaup	2	Wht-throat Swift	<u>197</u>	Starling	212
Comm. Goldeneye	1	Anna Hummingbd	<u>13</u>	Hutton's Vireo	2
Bufflehead	3	Belted Kingfish	2	Audubon Warbler	185
Ruddy Duck	269	Red-shaft Flick	190	Townsend Warbler	1
Hood. Merganser	4	Acorn Wdpecker	38	Yellowthroat	2
Turkey Vulture	4	Lewis Wdpecker	<u>10</u>	House Sparrow	408
Wht-Tailed Kite	<u>12</u>	Ylw-bld Sapskr	2	West. Meadowlark	688
Sharp-shin Hawk	1	Hairy Wdpecker	2	Red-wngd Blackbrd	<u>7131</u>
Cooper's Hawk	3	Downy Wdpecker	5	Tricolor Blackbrd	<u>2500</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	19	Nuttal Wdpecker	<u>17</u>	Brewer's Blackbrd	<u>2419</u>
Marsh Hawk	11	Black Phoebe	8	Brwn-head Cowbird	6
Sparrow Hawk	64	Say's Phoebe	4	Purple Finch	10
Calif. Quail	<u>601</u>	Horned Lark	5	House Finch	394
Ring-neck Pheas.	<u>7</u>	Steller Jay	15	Pine Siskin	5

Amer. Goldfinch	<u>524</u>	Lark Sparrow	8	White-crnd Sparrow	1253
Less. Goldfinch	<u>885</u>	Ruf-crwnd Sparrow	2	Golden-crnd Sparrow	<u>995</u>
Ruf-side Towhee	<u>78</u>	Sage Sparrow	1	Fox Sparrow	40
Brown Towhee	<u>118</u>	Slate-clrd Junco	1	Lincoln Sparrow	1
Savan. Sparrow	<u>39</u>	Oregon Junco	<u>917</u>	Song Sparrow	66

During the count period, Common Merganser and Rock Wren were seen. New birds were found as follows: Whistling Swan by B Wilder, Adamsons, Shackelfords, Mize, Davises; Snow Goose by Farrar and Wilder; Cinnamon Teal by the Adamsons; Townsend's Solitaire by the Adamsons and Eleanor Pugh's parties - also the next day this reporter had one at the Nortonville Coal Mine. The Western Gulls were reported by Vi Beitzel and Bev Wilder. This species is tremendously interesting in that it is not known to go even to San Pablo Reservoir with the other gulls. It is not known to me farther east than Pinole, and a search of all local records of birders reveals the same. While it is pleasant to contemplate new birds for the area, I would rather be censured for conservatism in listing something brand new than acquire the reputation that a sister club in the South has. I would be very pleased to hear of any other serious sightings of Western Gulls in the Central County area. This gull is relatively easy to identify because of its large size and black (actually slatey) mantle. However, all gulls can be tricky, and there is so much difference between young and mature birds that only pure adult birds should be considered except by an expert. An easy way to get acquainted with the Western Gull is to go to the Richmond garbage dump (with a gas mask) and see them in all plumages.

Excuse the long report, but the count seems to warrant it. Every party had something to add as a new species or a new high number. The climax to the day was sharing the hospitality of Jane and Frank Nemetz, at whose house we held the get-together for food and the final tally. The mulled wine tasted exceptionally good after the chilling day, and the delicious food prevented my diet from getting off the ground. One last thanks to everybody, and an extra bit to Bev Wilder for guiding me across the Pacheco Sewage Plant "pond". Those shoes will never be the same. (Lynn Farrar)

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And this interesting bird observation comes from Harry Adamson:

"On Jan. 6th while I was a guest of Mr. William Nittler, who is Gunsmith for Abercrombie & Fitch in San Francisco, we went duck hunting at his club on the Suisun marshes and during the morning he shot an immature Snow Goose. On picking up the bird I noticed that it was banded, and, on examining the band more closely, found that it had been banded in the Soviet Union. The band has three words in Russian across the top and the word Moskwa and a number on the bottom. As Betty and I hold a Federal Banders Permit, Mr. Nittler has given the band to us to send to the Banding Headquarters at Patuxent, Maryland.

"Also a field observation of some rarity - although there has been a known invasion of the lowlands this winter, including two on our Christmas Count - just 15 minutes ago (12/8) I had a Townsend Solitaire in a cottonwood tree in our backyard, my first Lafayette record since 1952."

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

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The Quail

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

March, 1962
Volume 8, No. 9

- Next Meeting: Thursday, March 8th, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Lee Stallcup will show his "California Contrasts". Prior to the meeting, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a no-host dinner at "El Charro" restaurant in Lafayette.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 11th, 8:30 a.m. Sunol area, and possibly Calaveras Dam. Meet at Sunol Water Temple. Elizabeth O'Meara and Engra Lusebrink leaders.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, March 12th, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Cleveland Grant will show his "Heart of the Wild", which deals primarily with the big game and birds in Manitoba marshes and in the Rockies.
- Future Trips: April 28th and 29th, to Monterey.
May 6th, to Patterson Pass.

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Program Chairman Roy Glotfelty has this to say about March 8th:

"For those who are interested, we are planning a no-host dinner no later than 6:30 p.m. on March 8 at the "El Charro". (This is a highly recommended restaurant on the eastern side of Lafayette, on Mt. Diablo Blvd., and serves moderately seasoned, excellent, Mexican food at reasonable prices.) Lee Stallcup and his wife will be our guests. Many of you have probably seen Lee on the job at the Oakland Park Department duck-banding station at Lake Merritt. He is a life-long enthusiast of conservation. After dinner, Lee will show his "California Contrasts" at our regular meeting place at Diablo Valley College. (Lee says that "this is to be an account of about 20 years of roaming up and down the State, vertically as well as horizontally. No season is neglected, because beauty knows no season".) All are invited to the dinner and/or the meeting.

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Elizabeth O'Meara is having difficulty getting clearances from the S.F. Water District, so it isn't certain yet just where we will go birding on March 11. We will meet at the Sunol Water Temple at 8:30.

This is on Highway 21, 9 miles south of Dublin, at the spot where the road forks to San Jose and Niles. We may go into country new to us, formerly known as the Brinker Ranch and scheduled to be called the Sunol Regional Park. It lies up Sunol Valley, off Geary Road.

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Members attending our last meeting were stunned to hear that our able and popular President, Beth Reynolds, was in a Berkeley hospital recovering from major surgery. She has since returned home, and now she and her husband, Jack, are down at Palm Springs, where Beth will recuperate at her mother's home. Beth is doing well, and has the best wishes of all the members of our Society.

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Vice President, Roy Glotfelty, substituted for Beth at our February meeting. Our speakers, Vi and Dick Beitzel, showed us some excellent pictures of the Arizona Indian Country, with emphasis on the Canyon de Chelly and Monument Valley portions of the Navajo country. Many of us have been to the fringe of the Navajo and Hopi country, but the Beitzels took us into the colorful back-country. Gorgeous colors did justice to spectacular scenery, and Vi's taped comments helped explain the sights we saw.

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Here is Leader Bev Wilder's report on the Thornton-Delta Area field trip, held February 11:

"At 9:15 a.m., 7 carloads of eager Mt. Diablo Auduboners and their friends (many young ones) met at the Dole Cafe, Thornton, to start a great birding day under threatening skies. A great day to greet Sally and Tommy Stellar back to our trips! 23 of us left the Cafe and went out the game farm road, with a stop to see a meager group of Shovellers. Then on to the levee, our first good stop, where a pair of Wood Ducks flew up and Lynn had an eagle. Along the levee to a "great stop"! Below us in the field, Cranes were dancing and calling for us, and others were wheeling about overhead to land - perhaps 50 in sight at one time. Excellent views under clearing skies, with lots of light for scopes. Then a flight of White-fronted Geese went by with two larger geese clearly distinguishable. They lit in the field and there we had the relatively rare sub-species, the Tule Goose (4 during the day). A swing with the scope revealed a flock of Canada Geese, with 3 distinct sizes - Western, Lesser, and Cackling. Thence on to the bridge for a turn-around stop, more good birding, mostly small birds. On then to Woodbridge Road for shore birds in the field - and we saw Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs, and an Avocet. Rushing on to Terminous to arrive before the ferry shuts down for lunch. It is limited to only 6 people, so we bribe the ferryman to take us over during his lunch hour (and he only works perhaps a half hour per day, too!), and we had to hide one youngster so that an extra trip wasn't necessary. Then our second great stop on the levee looking down on thousands of "specklebellies" and perhaps 500 swans. Really fine scope views while we ate, including the courting flight of a pair of White-tailed Kites, and to watch a Gallinule while the ferry plied back and forth. Thence down on the flat for another stop to see thousands more White-fronted Geese and Swans and many Snow Geese. Another good day in the delta area! The Glotfelty car had a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks on the river road.

The day resulted in 65 species, plus 3 sub-species or races, plus unidentified peeps. A nearly perfect day for scopes - unlimited visibility, a broken overcast with plenty of light, not too cold, very little thermal wave problem - the best weather we have had on this trip for many years.

"Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose (Western, Lesser, and Cackling); White-fronted (and Tule) Goose; Snow Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Shoveler; Ruddy Duck; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks; Golden Eagle; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Common Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Snipe; Greater Yellowlegs; Dowitcher, Long-billed; Avocet; California Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Unidentified Peep; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Short-eared Owl; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn and Downy Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe; Violet-green and Tree Swallows; Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah and Lark Sparrows; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows."

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Monterey Field Trip: Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29, 1962.

Ferd Ruth, leader of this Field Trip, has arranged an interesting program. More details will appear in the next quail. We will first meet at the Moss Landing Jetty Road at 10:30 Saturday to take advantage of a low tide an hour later. From there we go to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Dinner at 5:30 for those interested in fine dining at Cerritos on the Old Wharf at Monterey. At 8 p.m. we can see an oleo play at the First Theatre in Monterey. Reservations will be necessary at both Cerritos and the Theatre, and Ferd wants these in by March 8. He wants a firm reservation and not just a "maybe". On Sunday there will be a hike at Point Lobos State Park, from 9 a.m. until noon, in which we will study many forms of natural history, including animals, plants, and tide pools, as well as birds. Ferd says that he will be taking in all these activities, even if he is the only one present - which hardly seems likely. He recognizes, too, that not all families will have the time or the money to attend all the gatherings he has planned, but you are welcome to any portion of the schedule. So send in the following form by mail by March 8th, so he can make his plans and reservations. The nearest camping is at Sunset Beach State Park near Watsonville, or at Big Sur State Park, but Ferd recommends that you stay in a motel on the Monterey Peninsula for convenience.

Send to Ferd Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek, by March 8th:

MONTEREY PENINSULA FIELD TRIP DATA SLIP

Names of Party Members:

Number in Party: Adults _____ Children _____

Number of reservations for Cerritos on Sat. Eve. at \$3.50 _____

Number of reservations for First Theatre at \$1.85 _____

Here is a preliminary announcement to let you know that the May Field Trip to Patterson Pass (east of Livermore) will be held on May 6, the Sunday before our May meeting and only one week after the Monterey Trip. More details will be in the next quail. Harry Adamson will be the leader. You will be asked to contact him in April, because the trip could be cancelled if not enough interest were shown.

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Harry Couden recently returned from a Florida business trip and managed to squeeze in some birding in Corkscrew Swamp, Key Largo, Miami Bay, and Florida Bay (on weekends, of course). Here are some of Harry's observations on one of these trips:

"Birding climax was an Audubon Wildlife Tour (No. 1) in Florida Bay, at the southern tip of the State. Here, in single view and amidst a cacophony reminiscent of some Willows-Gridley experiences, were nesting colonies of Roseate Spoonbills, Brown Pelicans, Little Blue Herons, and Great White Herons; and presiding above all this, in motionless soaring, two Man-o'-War Birds. While we were watching, a Bald Eagle flew partly around and over the rookery, during all of which time he was dive-bombed by an Osprey, whose nest was probably one of the several we had already observed. The tour yielded 55 species".

....

Ferd Ruth announced at our last meeting that Mr. and Mrs. John Porterfield are again awarding, through the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, two half-scholarships, which will enable two teachers or students in natural history to take training at the Audubon Camp at the Sugar Bowl for two weeks this summer. Past experience has shown that the Porterfield awards result in the development of two conservation enthusiasts each year. We appreciate the generous offer.

....

Two of our supporters have left us. We heard at our February meeting that A. O. Cooperrider, the first President of our Society, died earlier in the month. Also, we heard that Alexander Lindsay, of Seven Hills Ranch, had passed away from a heart condition. Ferd Ruth informed us that Mr. Lindsay, in his short life of 43 years, had devoted almost full time to Civic projects - many of them dealing with conservation - and that he was a strong supporter of the Junior Museum project.

....

Plan to vote on June 5. Then you will have the chance to approve a 7 1/2 million dollar bond issue for the development of the County Park system. Our county is growing, and we can have a good system of parks within easy driving distance, if you and enough of your friends will support a strong "YES" vote on June 5. Would you pay 12¢ a month to have a commendable Contra Costa Park system?

....

The Pt. Reyes Park bill stalled in the House, through lack of a subcommittee quorum - possibly just a matter of a few minutes. Meanwhile Marin Supervisors have approved the 6th subdivision in the proposed Point Reyes National Seashore Park site.

....

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

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The Quail

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

April, 1962
Volume 8, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 12th, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. George Whitney will give an illustrated talk about Mt. Diablo.

Next Field Trip: Weekend of April 28th & 29th, to Monterey Peninsula.

Future Trips: May 6th, to Del Puerto Canyon.
June 17th, to Pine Canyon.

.....

Our Program Chairman this year, Roy Glotfelty, has intentionally and frequently given us the opportunity to learn something about natural history while we are being entertained at the meetings. In this same spirit he has arranged for us to hear something about our own backyard in April, for he says:

"Mt. Diablo has been enjoyed by many of us in years gone by; and yet there are, no doubt, many things about this interesting and beautiful mountain that we have yet to learn and see. What, for instance, is the geological story of the mountain? What beautiful wild flowers have we not yet seen? Just where does the Spanish history of this area fit in? George Whitney, who has lived in our area for the past 20 years, has a great interest in Mt. Diablo and will answer many of our questions at our next meeting. In doing so, he will also show many beautiful slides. I suggest that you come early to ensure yourself a seat. And don't forget the friends! See you on the mountain."

....

The April field trip will be two weeks later than usual because of Easter Week. On the weekend of April 28th and 29th we go to the Monterey area. Ferd Ruth is the leader, and he has received enough of a response from the members to be able to report "all signals GO". Although he wanted all dinner and theatre reservations in a few weeks ago, Ferd says that doesn't stop anyone from going to the events at the last minute and taking a chance - after all there might be a cancellation here and there. Nor does it stop anyone from taking

part in only some of the weekend events. In fact there might be some members who will just go down for the day. There have been no changes in Ferd's schedule; and here it is once more:

Saturday, April 28th:

- 10:30 a.m. Meet at Moss Landing Jetty Road. Look for Ferd's black and white Buick at Jetty Road entrance about 1/4 mile north of bridge at Moss Landing. Low tide is 11:30 a.m. This stop will be primarily of interest to birders.
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Meet at Pacific Grove Natural History Museum.
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner at Cerritos on the Old Wharf in Monterey.
- 8:00 p.m. First Theatre at Monterey, to see a mellerdrama of 1860 vintage.

Sunday, April 29th:

- 9:00 - Noon. Point Lobos State Park hike, where we will study a variety of natural history subjects.

Bring your own lunch, including drink, on Saturday. You will need warm clothes for the outdoor activities, and a change for the evening. Come prepared to enjoy yourselves. To get to Moss Landing, below Watsonville, either take the road through Los Gatos and Santa Cruz, or go down 101 to Gilroy, then turn right and go over Hecker Pass. It's about a hundred miles to Watsonville. Camping, though economical, might be rigorous, and you would likely miss some of the events. Nearest State Parks: Sunset Beach, New Brighton Beach, or Big Sur. There are several motels in the Monterey & Pacific Grove areas, but they aren't cheap, although some might still have "off season" rates. If you have sent in a dinner or theatre reservation to Ferd Ruth and find your plans have since been changed, let him know at YE 4-8803.

....

Only one week later we have another Field Trip planned. This has been scheduled for early in May, before the May meeting, to have a better chance of seeing birds in the Patterson Pass area, and to avoid a Mother's Day conflict. Harry Adamson is the Leader, and here are his directions for the Del Puerto Canyon trip:

"On Sunday, May 6th, meet at the Flagpole in Livermore at 7:30 A.M. (The days are long at this time of the year, and the birds are most active from 5 to 9 A.M.). We will bird the Arroyo Mocho (Orioles, Phainopepla, Golden Eagle, Yellow-billed Magpies, Lewis Woodpecker, possibilities), then cross the backbone of the Coast Range and drop into an arid canyon opening into the San Joaquin Valley. Here we sometimes find Costa Hummingbirds, a desert species which reaches its northern limit in this section of Stanislaus County. Be sure you have more than half a tank of gasoline - preferably a full tank - as there are no filling stations between Livermore and Patterson in the Central Valley. Bring lunches, canteens or other drinking containers (dry country), binoculars, telescopes and friends."

If you decide to go, call Harry C. Adamson at 283-2164. Save these directions, because the May Quail might be out after the trip.

....

Elizabeth C. O'Meara piloted us on our last outing, to the Calaveras Dam area. This is her report:

"The Society made it's annual trek to the S.F. Water District's Water Temple and Calaveras Reservoir, adding the new South Alameda County Regional Park at the end of the day. As usual, the Temple yielded the greatest number of species, some 33. Rain preceded us up the canyon, but we stayed dry. On the road to the Dam, the kites were in their proper place (three this year) but the deer were absent. Woodpeckers were in short supply, and the Lewis Woodpecker was conspicuous by its absence. Seeing six separate Golden Eagles was the highlight of the day. Two of these were up towards the end of the Reservoir, on a promontory where we had seen them last year. One lit on top of an oak tree long enough for Bev Wilder to get a picture, and everyone was able to get a view of the eagle's beautiful colors through Bev's powerful scope. Jack and Beth Reynolds joined us for a brief run through the new park and up to the Mendoza Ranch. We only spotted four new birds there: Rough-legged Hawk, 9 Pelicans flying high, Rough-winged Swallow, and a Lesser Scaup.

"Birds observed: White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Mallard; Lesser Scaup; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Rough-legged Hawk; Golden Eagle; Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; California Gull; Band-tailed Pigeon; Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Say's Phoebe; Horned Lark; Violet-green and Rough-winged W Swallows; Yellow-billed Magpie; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Rock Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrush; Western Kingbird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Lark, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrows."

....

Cleveland Grant showed two films at the last Audubon Wildlife Tour of the season. One reel showed us the work and preparation that went into making the celebrated "Anvil Chorus" battering ram sequences in Disney's "Vanishing Prairie"; the other film showed several nesting waterfowl at the Delta Refuge on Lake Manitoba.

A feature of the program was the presentation of the John and Alice Porterfield Awards, through the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, to ~~six~~ five Diablo Valley College students for outstanding performance and interest in natural history. The two top awards went to Marjorie Short and Jim Hannan, each given a half-scholarship to the San Jose State Western School of Nature Study. (Originally it had been planned to give half-scholarships to the Audubon Camp at the Sugar Bowl, but the Audubon Camp was suddenly cancelled, because of some scheduled construction work at the Sugar Bowl.) In addition, the Porterfields gave copies of Palmer's "Field Book of Natural History" to Betty Nelson, Rene Roloff, and Pat Erman. Our sincere thanks to the Porterfields for this stimulus to nature study at the College.

....

Prior to our March meeting, about 20 members and guests met at the "El Charro" restaurant in Lafayette for good fellowship and food, before going to the regular meeting, where Lee Stallcup showed some excellent pictures to about 40 members and guests. Lee's pictures, titled "California Contrasts", were skillfully arranged — in some cases, for instance, he showed the same location at different times of the year. He also showed us what it looks like up on top of some of those mountains, and then pictured various trees, flowers, birds, and problems in the lowlands. To quote Mr. Stallcup, "There is so much beauty around us". Meanwhile in the background, the beeping California toads puzzled the speaker and most of the audience, until Ferd Ruth educated us on the habits of toads. At this meeting, the Society voted 25 dollars to the Alexander Lindsay Memorial Fund.

We added to our membership, too. A hearty welcome is extended to the following new members:

Georgia Kenaston, 1362 Ulfonian Way, Martinez
 Carroll Davis, 52 Baylor Lane, Pleasant Hill
 Dick Rieser, 45 Tarry Lane, Orinda.

We hope that these new members met friendly Society members at the restaurant or at the coffee hour which followed the meeting.

....

Not many bird observations to report this month. Lee Stallcup mentioned the absence of European Widgeons at Lake Merritt during the past winter. Harry Adamson reported that the Cowbirds were back at his place, and Sally Stellar told of a Varied Thrush. One morning recently your editor didn't mind a traffic stall next to the Galindo Reservoir — after all, just 50 feet away was a Common Gallinule gingerly walking through the reeds. Looks like the Starlings are due for some obliteration, as the Senate Finance Committee has approved a \$50,000 appropriation to U.C. for the development of a method to kill off Starlings wholesale. There is said to be a million-bird rookery near Santa Rosa.

....

Beth Reynolds made a quick recovery from her recent surgery and ably conducted our March meeting. Since there were a few members who were not present at the meeting, Beth wants to take this opportunity to thank those who remembered her with their thoughtfulness a few weeks ago.

....

The Conservation Resource Center of the National Audubon Society (2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley) will have special Saturday hours: March 10 — June 9, 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Other wanderers may be interested in knowing that the Seattle Audubon Society's office will be staffed six days a week, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m., to give information on field trip areas, books on the natural history of the area, and other pertinent data. Address: 820 Joshua Green Building, Fourth Ave. and Pike St., Seattle 1, Phone: MAIN 2-6695.

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Publicity Chairman Frances Blake (4440 Walnut Blvd, Walnut Creek) would like to receive any meeting notice or publicity about our Society that you happen to see in one of the area papers.

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



The Quail

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

May, 1962
Volume 8, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 10th, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Bill Goodall will show the Audubon films, "The Bald Eagle" and "The Flamingo".

Next Field Trip: Sunday, May 6th, to Del Puerto Canyon. Leader: Harry Adamson. Meet at the Livermore Flagpole at 7:30 a.m.

....

In May, we have a special treat in store for our last regular meeting of the season. William Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, will show us two very interesting films. To quote our Program Chairman, Roy Glotfelty:

"Bill Goodall has been operating on a very busy schedule trying to show "The Bald Eagle" to as many persons as possible. The basic purpose behind the production of this film was to familiarize as many persons as possible with this bird and to point out the seriousness of its declining numbers. It is part of a nationwide research program now under way. The second film will be "The Flamingo". Let's have all regular and new members bring friends and enjoy these films and a few words from Bill Goodall, who has been with us before."

....

Our May Field Trip is a week earlier than usual and may be held before this issue of "The Quail" gets into your hands. Full details were given in the previous issue. But just in case they have been mislaid, here is a brief repetition: Meet at the Flagpole in Livermore at 7:30 a.m. on May 6th. After birding the Arroyo Mocho, the group will cross the Coast Range and drop into an arid canyon opening off of the San Joaquin Valley. Here we may be lucky to see some Costa Hummingbirds, a desert species. Before leaving Livermore, be sure you have at least a half a tank of gasoline, as there are no filling stations between Livermore and Patterson. Bring lunches, canteens or other drinking containers, binoculars, telescopes, and friends.

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Those who attended our last meeting saw some outstanding color slides of Mt. Diablo's flowers and heard an informative geological and historical talk by George Whitney. We learned that Our Mountain can claim one flower as its own, the three-inch "hairy twisted flower", found nowhere else in the world. Also, that some Diablo flowers are found elsewhere, but no nearer than the Siskiyou or in the mountains of Southern California. How many former Montana residents know that their State flower, the bitterroot, grows on Diablo? Unfortunately, some flowers have vanished from the mountain: notably a little orchid, and a crimson sage - the latter not having been seen since 1898.

The Society voted to send #25 to the Condor sanctuary being maintained in the southern part of the state.

Mildred Gerringer, of 260 Douglas Court in Concord, first attended one of our meetings in April. Mildred must have liked what she saw and heard, for she became a new member of our Society that evening.

....

Roy Glotfelty is sure that there are more meadowlarks than usual around the area this year. He has never before seen them in his neighborhood, because of limited habitat, but this year they are present in large numbers. Roy reports his first sighting of the year of a Bullock's Oriole on April 14, and a Black-headed Grosbeak on the same day - both later than usual.

Your editor reports that a distant cousin of that Bullock's Oriole was in his backyard on April 14, also. I can also report observations made on a trip to the Mendocino Coast early in the Easter Week. Outstanding bird sightings were: a Lewis Woodpecker, 3 Ospreys (or one Osprey three times), and a Wilson's Warbler. The Ospreys and the Warbler were seen in Kruse Rhododendron Reserve State Park, and one of the Ospreys was carrying a fish head to the wind. These fish hawks nest within this preserve and can invariably be seen and heard in the area.

Here is a tardy item of interest: The Ivory Billed Woodpecker is one of the rarest birds in this country - so rare that at times it has been considered extinct. At the 1961 American Ornithological Union meeting it was announced that two pairs of the rare bird have been found in East Texas, and a solitary bird in South Carolina.

....

Circle June 5 on your calendar. That's the day we hope you will go out and vote in favor of the seven and a half million dollar bond issue for the development of the County Park System. Remember that our group is a member of the Contra Costa Park & Recreation Council, which has been working for over seven years to get a decent park system in this area. A 2/3 majority will be required. If we are successful, we can expect to save acreage at: Briones, Redwood Canyon, the old coal mining area, John Marsh ranch, Mallard Slough, at the airport, Point Pinole, San Pablo reservoir, and College Park. Is it worth 12¢ a month to you? Spread the word among your friends; and vote.

....

You will also have the chance to vote on proposed State bond issues at the June 5 primary. Proposition 5 calls for 150 million dollars, to finance development of State and county beaches, parks, recreational and historical facilities.

....

With all this talk of bond issues, it was refreshing to pick up the paper and read recently that three members of the Marks family, pioneer Monterey County residents, are selling 9,600 acres of choice Santa Cruz County land at 10% of its value for the purpose of creating a State Park in honor of their mother. Nature Conservancy will take an option on the 15-square mile area and hold it until State funds are available. The area is on Aptos and Soquel Creeks, near Monterey Bay. Sometime when you are in the Santa Cruz area, drop down to Soquel and take the slower Soquel Road back towards Los Gatos. It takes off near the west side of the bridge spanning the creek. From this winding road you can see some of the beautiful country that the Marks family is passing on to the State.

Another bit of good news was the announcement that the Save the Redwoods League has purchased 6,000 acres in the Bull Creek Basin and will donate the tract to the State for addition to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Perhaps you may recall that wasteful logging in this basin resulted in so much erosion and flooding that about 700 of the giant redwoods in the Rockefeller Forest have been destroyed since 1955. It is hoped that the new addition of land will curb some of the erosion and thus minimize future flooding of Bull Creek.

Another addition to the State Park system will be a 340 acre tract adjacent to Fort Ross State Park. This land, on the Call Ranch, would enable the State to build a museum outside the Fort, thus permitting the present museum, the Commandant House, to be restored to its original form, along with the possible reconstruction of some of the other buildings that were in and around the Fort 150 years ago.

....

Congress started off well in the first part of this session, but lately has bogged down. The Wilderness Bill passed the Senate in the first session, but is presently awaiting action in a House committee. No action is expected until after the forthcoming issuance of a wilderness report; and that may be too late. The Point Reyes bill passed the Senate and has been approved by a House committee, but there has been no action in the last month. The Senate has passed a bill creating Great Basin National Park, but the House has taken no action. The House did pass a resolution protecting the Golden Eagle. At present, a House committee is considering an amendment to the migratory bird treaty that would protect the mourning dove.

....

Bill Goodall writes that the 1963 National Audubon Western Conference will be held at Asilomar State Park April 6 to 9, 1963, and is open to both Audubon members and friends. Bill says:

"Anyone planning to attend the Conference should get their names on the Priority List in order to receive an early October mailing of the Official Registration Form. For the past several Con-

ferences we have had to turn people away because they waited too long before registering."

The 3rd Nature Photography Salon will be held in connection with the 1963 Conference. Copies of Regulations and Conditions of Entry are being sent to our President, Beth Reynolds, so contact her if you are interested. Dick Beitzel walked away with an award from the 1961 2nd Nature Photography ~~Salon~~ Salon. Mr. Goodall's address is National Audubon Society, 1000 North Durfee Avenue, El Monte, Calif.

Sometime ago, some members asked me to arrange for the purchase of some quality typing paper having a printing of Harry Adamson's quail (which you can see on page 1, minus the lettering). I now have some paper available, printed on Fox River Bond. If interested, you can contact me at the next meeting or by phone. The rock-bottom price is 2 1/2 ¢ per sheet.

....

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

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Officers of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society:

President.. Beth Reynolds, 555 La Vista Rd., Walnut Creek, YE 5-1813
Secretary.. Jane Nemetz, 2822 San Antonio Dr. Walnut Creek, YE 4-3295
Programs... Roy Glotfelty, 3576 Powell Drive, Lafayette. 284-4014

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The Quail

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

June, 1962
Volume 8, No. 12

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 10th. Annual Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m.,
at Carl & Ruth Swenson's home, 865 Hawthorne Drive,
Walnut Creek. (Details below)

Next Field Trip: Also on Sunday, June 10th. Pine Canyon. Leader:
Jane Nemetz. Meet at Castle Rock Park, 7:30 a.m.

....

This year, Carl and Ruth Swenson are generously making their home available for the potluck dinner. We hope to eat around 6 p.m., so plan on being there a little before then. Please contact ~~the~~ a dinner chairmen (Elsie Glotfelty, 284-4014) (Beth Reynolds, YE 5-1813) (Elizabeth O'Meara, YE 4-4720) (Engra Lusebrink, YE 4-7251), so that they can plan a balanced meal. If you have room, bring some folding chairs and a card table. Also be sure to bring dishes and other eating utensils, unless you eat like a Polynesian. Treasurer George Schad, or a substitute, will gladly collect the small fee - because this is our money-raising project of the year. Guests are welcome.

To get there: Take San Miguel Road east from Walnut Creek to the junction with Mt. View. Go out Mt. View and turn right on the first street, Palmer. A block more and you find Hawthorne, parallel to Mt. View. The Swensons live at 865 Hawthorne, phone YE-5-3256, in case you get lost. If you're taking the Freeway around Walnut Creek towards Alamo, turn at the Newell Ave. ramp, continue past the Capwell parking area and up the hill to San Miguel and out San Miguel. You can also get to San Miguel from Ygnacio Valley Road via Walnut Blvd. and Sierra Dr.

After we eat, we elect our officers for next year. (We hear that Dick Beitzel will swing the gavel as our President, if we elect him.)

Then we relax with an interesting program. Roy Glotfelty will be lining up some travellers willing to show some interesting color slides. Call him if you have a few choice shots to show. Phone: 284-4842.

....

On our next Field Trip, Jane Nemetz will lead us up Pine Canyon, on Mt. Diablo's western slopes. Jane says we might see a great variety of birds (maybe Blackheaded Grosbeaks, Swallows, a Horned Owl, Tanagers, etc.) Meet at the Castle Rock Park gate, by the Ford's house, at 7:30. There will be no charge. To get to the Park: Take the North Gate Road off Ygnacio Valley Road until it forks, where you take the well-marked road to Castle Rock Park. Or you can go down Walnut Avenue until you get to Castle Rock Road. We should be through by noon, by which time it may be somewhat warm; but then you'll have all afternoon to rest up for the dinner that night.

....

No official listing of the birds seen on our successful Monterey Bay Field Trip has been turned in yet. Those who attended were enthusiastic about all the facets of Ferd Ruth's careful schedule. Despite the stormy weather on Friday, we had beautiful weather on the weekend. Many shore birds were seen at Moss Landing; and it seemed cool enough for Snowy Owls, but none showed up. Thence to the Pacific Grove Museum, for confirmation of bird identifications, plus the viewing of many other exhibits. Then a good dinner at Cerrito's, with more views of sandpipers and gulls, followed by the evening stage show, "East Lynne", at the First Theatre, with the Audubon group in the first three rows picking up the nuances. The olio, which followed the drama, had some very clever and entertaining bits, to get our minds off the hard seats.

Fully refreshed, a large group met at Pt. Lobos the next morning for some excellent hours of birding ~~xxx~~ and nature studying under perfect conditions. The group saw Oyster Catchers in crying flight, Pelagic Cormorants zooming in for landings on the rookery below, Pigeon Guillemots under some ledges, etc. Many of the group saw sea otters for the first time, as several (of the otters) were in the kelp beds.

....

A week later, on May 6, another field trip was successfully held in the Livermore Hills, and a good turnout greeted Leader Harry Adamson, who records the day as follows:

"26 Members and friends of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society met at the flagpole in Livermore and then drove by car caravan southeastward into Santa Clara and Stanislaus Counties, via Arroyo Mocho and Del Puerto Canyon. About 7 miles out of Livermore, the Phainopeplas put on a much better show than usual - at least 2 pair were continually in sight, and even their dark red eyes were examined through the 'scopes.

The Costa Hummingbird, which was the real goal for many persons on the trip, was not found - although a female Costa or Black-chinned Hummer~~x~~ was seen late in the day (unfortunately in the field they are indistinguishable). Two birds seldom seen by Bay Area birders were Swainson's Hawk and Prairie Falcon. Both are inhabitants of the arid canyons opening into the San Joaquin Valley. Two Golden Eagles were seen. One was being dived on by a Red-tailed Hawk and the Eagle's evasive tactics were very interesting to watch.

"Birds observed (62 species): Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks; Golden Eagle; Prairie Falcon; California Quail;

Killdeer; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Black-chinned (?), Costa's (?), and Anna's Hummingbirds; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn and Lewis Woodpeckers; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black and Say's Phoebe; Western Wood Pewee; Horned Lark; Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Yellow-billed Magpie; Raven; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; House, Bewick, Cañon, and Rock Wrens; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Robin; Western Bluebird; Phainopepla; Yellow and Hermit Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbirds; Bullock's Oriole; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; House Finch; Lesser and Lawrence's Goldfinch; Oregon Junco; Lark, Rufous-crowned, Sage, and Chipping Sparrows."

....

No more programs for awhile. We enjoyed Bill Goodall's presentation last time, when we learned facts about Flamingoes and Bald Eagles.

At this meeting we added the following new members:

Dr. & Mrs. James L. Naviaux, 1243 Cape Cod Way, Concord
 Mary B. Amundsen, 1229 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek
 Mike Roth, 726 Miner Road, Orinda
 Virginia L. Hawkins, 1761 Meadow Lane, Walnut Creek

The group missed Elsie Glotfelty. She was home recuperating from a serious operation, and is now reported doing fine.

Georgia Kenaston, who joined a few months ago, recently returned from a trip to the South Pacific. We heard a list of the birds she had seen.

....

Last call on the Park Bonds. Both County and State bond issues are on the June 5th ballot. Please vote; and induce others to vote in favor of these worthy bond issues.

....

Little activity on the Wilderness Bill and the Point Reyes Bill. Hearings were held on the former early in May. The future is not bright.

Marin Audubon's campaign for preserving the 507 acre Canyon Ranch received favorable publicity in the May 20th Chronicle, in a graphic article by Harold Gilliam. We quote, "Canyon Ranch is the last big rookery of egrets and great blue herons left in Marin" also, "They're talking about a freeway that would slice right through the middle of our nature preserve". If you're interested, the address for contributions is: Audubon Canyon Ranch, Box 441, Tiburon.

....

This is the last issue of "The Quail" for this year. I extend my public thanks to Bev Wilder, who has arranged for the "offset" printing of the bulletin, and to Frieda Shackelford, for her promptness in mailing the printed copy each month. Hope it's been worthwhile,

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

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The Quail

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

July, 1962
Volume 9, No. 1

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15. Wright's Lake.

Next Meeting: Not until September 13. Details in a later issue of "The Quail".

....

Once more our summer field trip will be to Wright's Lake. Leaders will be Harry and Dorothy Couden, probably assisted by Lynn Farrar and Bev Wilder. To get to the Lake, take U.S. 50 through Kyburz, continue on about 7 miles, and look for the Wright's Lake sign and road on your left. There will be a Forest Service road going up the steep hill, and it could be a wee bit rough. Our group likes to camp in somewhat seclusion on the fringe of the campground, SW of the Lake, in a spot where there are some large rocks. The first birding trip will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Other trips, later Saturday and on Sunday morning, will include a climb up the hill to look for Rosy Finches and easier walks for those who prefer to stay nearer the Lake. The weather and mosquitos can be variable, so you'd better bring some bug repellent just in case. Swimming is available.

....

The annual potluck dinner and business meeting held on Sunday, June 10, was very enjoyable. The Society expresses sincere appreciation to Carl and Ruth Swenson, who opened their beautiful patio and home to the members. Tables groaned under the load of the many dishes of high-caloried, delicious food. Despite a windy day, the Swenson's patio was sheltered enough to ward off most of the evening breeze. It was cool after dinner, so the group squeezed into the house to attend the meeting.

The Nominating Committee's selections for the 1962-63 officers were approved, and are as follows:

President	Dick Beitzel
Vice President	Jane Nemetz
Secretary	Helen Deman
Treasurer	George Schad

When Dick Beitzel climbed into the driver's seat, he immediately opened his "little black book" and read off his appointments for committee chairmen. Despite muffled squawks of "ruthlessness", it is significant that none of the appointees declined the golden opportunity of working under Dictator Dick!

The members then relaxed and enjoyed color slides of the Rainbow Bridge area (the Adamsons), Yosemite back country (Roy Glotfelty & Maurice Johnson), a trip to Arizona (Ed Mize), and to Holland at tulip time (Jarl Gerringer).

....

At a Board Meeting ten days later, plans were discussed for increasing our membership and keeping up interest in the Society. We expect to continue to meet at Diablo Junior College this next year, but possibly in a different room having more adequate seating facilities. During the year just completed, we had good increases in the average attendance at the meetings and the field trips. No definite news on the field trips for next year so far, but there is a possibility that one will be scheduled to the Canyon Ranch project in Marin County, site of one of the outstanding bird rookeries in this part of the State. Violet Beitzel has been appointed Reservation Chairman, to handle reservations from members desiring to meet together at dinners for our program and Screen Tour speakers, should the members decide to have more such get-togethers.

....

Jane Nemetz reports on the Pine Canyon field trip as follows:

"18 Birders and 1 beagle dog made the trip into Pine Canyon on the morning of June 10. The dog proved valuable in flushing out many birds we might not have seen otherwise. The weather was windy at the start, but warm and pleasant in the shelter of the trees. Although only 52 species were counted, the number of birds was very large. We saw many Warbling Vireos, Flycatchers, Vultures, Violet-green Swallows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lark Sparrows, and Oregon Juncos. There were also many young Juncos, indicating that nesting must have taken place earlier this year. We failed to see the Great Horned Owl this trip. But we did see a nest of heavy twigs at the top of the sandstone rocks, with a nestling therein. Although we failed to see the parents, Mr. Ford of Castle Rock Park said he thought that they were Prairie Falcons.

"Birds observed were: Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks; Golden Eagle; California Quail; Mourning Dove; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acord, Hairy, Downy, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black and Say's Phoebe; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-green, Tree, and Cliff Swallows; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; House and Bewick Wrens; Mockingbird; California Thrasher; Swainson's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Hutton's, Solitary, and Warbling Vireos; Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's

Blackbirds;

/ Bullock's Oriole; Black-headed Grosbeak; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Lark, Sage, and Chipping Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

....

Frieda Shackelford reports seeing as many as 10 Black-necked Stilts on more than one occasion, in the marshes just east of Tidewater's Avon refinery, off the road which runs between Martinez and Port Chicago.

....

Harry and Dorothy Couden's son, Henry, has gone south to attend the University of Mexico for seven weeks. Hank has a new camera and hopes to use it on some weekend touring.

....

Election Day in June was a black day for Conservationists. Both the State and Contra Costa County Park bond issues failed to pass. There is some possibility that the State issue will appear again on the November ballot, along with 24 other propositions. No word on the future of the County issue. It may be years before any land the County acquires can be developed for use, under the present budgetary conditions. Some of the people who voted "no" and refused to spend 12¢ a month for parks will now burn up a couple of dollars worth of gas looking for a place to picnic, and then will gripe because this County doesn't have a decent place to relax in! Some of the lands we might have acquired are now doomed to be lost to industrial and residential expansion.

....

The National news is no better. Congress, busily looking ahead to adjournment and election campaigns, has taken no recent action on the Wilderness Bill or any of the projected Park issues. Meanwhile, two more residential subdivisions within the projected Point Reyes National Seashore have been approved by Marin Supervisors, making a total of nine residential and two apartment projects approved.

The Department of Interior announces the opening of three "wildlife management areas" within the State (near Clear Lake, and in the Otay Mountains and Jacumba areas along the Mexican border). The Bureau of Land Management proposes to supply more water to these areas, so that the numbers of deer, quail, partridges, and doves can be built up enough to stand more profitable shooting. There is also strong advocacy nationally for "wildlife management" in some of the National Parks — another way of expressing the desire to allow public hunting in these restricted areas! Such regulated hunting is now permitted in Grand Teton National Park. Action on the proposed Canyon Lands National Park in southern Utah is stymied on this very point, and such "management" has also been proposed for Dinosaur National Monument. Must all nature be regulated these days?

....

Deadline for material for the next Quail: July 20rd.
Don't be afraid to send in interesting bird observations you may note on your vacation trips.

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

....

Membership List July 1962

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette	283-2164
Albertson, E. A.	P.O. Box 61	Palo Alto	
Allen, Miss Alice	5835 Cherokee Ln. 28	Stockton 5	
Amundsen, Mary B.	1229 Blvd. Way	Wal. Ck.	934-0221
Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth	1268 Redwood Lane	Lafayette	284-4796
Beitzel, R.(Dick)&Violet	1713 S. 5th St.	Concord	682-9588
Blackburn, Miss Jessie	Antioch Unified Sch. Dist., 20th & A Sts.	Antioch	
Blake, Miss Frances J.	4440 Walnut Bl.	Wal. Ck.	935-2884
Bolender, Mrs. M. C.	511 Highland Dr.	Danville	837-6642
Bonnickson, Barbara	Box 295	Brentwood	634-4152
Bowman, Mrs. A. W.	62 Orchard Rd.	Orinda	254-2592
Bruce, John & Helen	348 Verona Ave.	Danville	837-2704
Bruce, Mrs. Marion	3149 Hacienda Dr.	Concord	686-1453
Carlock, Mildred	528 Clipper Hill Rd.	Danville	837-4528
Couden, Harry & Dorothy	1491 Sunset Loop	Wal. Ck.	934-8873
Crosby, Mrs. W.L. & Joe	167 Las Vegas	Orinda	254-0653
Culbertson, Miss Anne S.	1131 Scotts Ln.	Wal. Ck.	934-3260
Davis, Carroll	52 Baylor Ln.	Pl. Hill	685-8960
Davis, H.E. & Sharon	1851 Del Monte Ct.	Wal. Ck.	934-8458
Davis, John A.	21 Wanda Way	Martinez	228-2509
Demam, Helen J.	148 Sierra Dr. Apt.12	Wal. Ck.	935-0569
Farrar, Lynn & Ruth	955 Diablo Dr.	Lafayette	283-3938
Gardner, Mrs. Cynthia	2136 Oakvale Rd.	Wal. Ck.	934 934 -3531
Gerringer, J. & Mildred	260 Douglas Court	Concord	682-4842
Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie	3576 Powell Dr.	Lafayette	284-4014
Goren, Audrey	206 Santa Fe. Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-8144
Greuner, Mrs. Wm. Jr.	877 Broadmoor	Lafayette	284-4562
Hassler, Katie	1220 Dewing Ln.	Wal. Ck.	934-0388
Hassler, Wm. E.	18 Cuesta Way	Wal. Ck.	934-3151
Hawkins, Mrs. Virginia L.	1761 Meadow Ln.	Wal. Ck.	935-4370
Hill, Howard	2143 Gill Dr.	Concord	682-9048
Holsclaw, Mrs. Guy	600 Alhambra Way	Martinez	228-5114
Hozier, Ruth J.	948 Hawthorne Dr.	Lafayette	284-4559
Huffman, Ava	20 W. 16th St.	Antioch	757-2923
Hulse, Mrs. Anita C.	4831 Pacheco Bl.	Martinez	228-2732
Irving, Mrs. Erna	1200 North Gate Rd.	Wal. Ck.	935-3072
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. C.E.	14 Maybeck Twin Dr.	Berkeley	TH 1-7606
Johnson, Maurice W.	3630 Serrano St.	Martinez	228-5347
Johnson, Rufus & Laura	Box 161	Concord	685-5560
	2827 Concord Bl.		
Kenaston, Georgia	1362 Ulfinian Way	Martinez	228-5846

Lee, Tom	3071 Walnut Bl.	Wal. Ck.	934-5475
Lusebrink, Engra	2232 Overlook Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-7251
McCullough, Mrs. Dorothy	1341 Milton Ave.	Wal. Ck.	934-8314
McGeehon, Mrs. J. C.	2165 Oakvale Rd.	Wal. Ck.	934-2752
Mann, Mrs. Evelyn B.	120 Montecito Cres.	Wal. Ck.	934-2265
Matlock, Alberta	270 Muir Rd.	Martinez	228-3553
Miller, Mrs. Mabel C.	765 Grayson Rd.	Pl. Hill	
Mize, Ed	1255 Mt. Diablo St.	Concord	682-9786
Mohr, Mr. & Mrs. A.C.	P.O. Box 83	Orinda	254-5026
Naviaux, Dr. James L.	1243 Cape Cod Way	Concord	682-3456
Nemetz, Frank & Jane	2822 San Antonio Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-3295
Newport, Mrs. Winnifred	3551 Brook St.	Lafayette	283-8721
O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth	2231 Overlook Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-4720
Paige, Harold L.	1212 Monticello Rd.	Lafayette	283-3408
Perlman, Isadore	1158 Glen Rd.	Lafayette	283-3021
Phillips, Mrs. Rosalyn	1225 University Ave.	Berkeley 2	
Porterfield, Mr. & Mrs. J.	3053 The Alameda	Concord	685-4616
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	555 La Vista Rd.	Wal. Ck.	935-1813
Rieser, Dick	45 Tarry Ln.	Orinda	254-4861
Robinson, Jennifer	480 Arbol Via	Wal. Ck.	934-6404
Roemer, Elsie	1556 Everett St.	Alameda	LA 2-0941
Roth, Mike	726 Miner Rd.	Orinda	254-8723
Ruth, Ferdinand S.	43 Cuesta Way	Wal. Ck.	934-8803
Samuelson, Mrs. Marie	3824 Walnut Ave.	Concord	685-3219
	Mail: 2095 Concord Bl.		
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle	1700 El Camino Real	So. S.F.	
	Rue 20-10		
Schad, George & Muriel	2906 Concord Bl.	Concord	685-7897
Scott, W. Lee & Phyllis	2864 San Benito Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-4325
Shackelford, Clair & Frieda	712 Laurel Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-1344
Shuey, Wm. & Betty	1461 Lydia Ln.	Concord	685-7052
Smith, Miss Emily D.	19651 Glen Una Dr.	Saratoga	
Steller, Mrs. Ruth (Sally)	939 Carol Ln.	Lafayette	284-4370
Swenson, Carl & Ruth	865 Hawthorne Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-3256
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	685-7444
Toaspern, Mrs. W.J.	1923 Buttner Rd.	Pl. Hill	934-0749
Veitch, Peter	154 Camino Sobrante	Orinda	254-2419
Warner, Miss Norma L.	3163 Wayside Ln.	Wal. Ck.	934-4604
Wehmeier, H.	3603 Powell Dr.	Lafayette	283-2864
Wilder, B. B.	1304 Alma Ave.	Wal. Ck.	934-6353
Willoughby, Janet	3273 Glenside Dr.	Lafayette	283-3761



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: August 27)

August, 1962
Volume 9, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 13. Program and location not yet determined.

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, Sept. 16. Destination not yet determined.

....

Everybody must be on vacation! Your editor returned from a trip to the Fair and found a mailbox full of bills, but nothing for "The Quail". So maybe this would be a good time to attach our latest membership list, prepared by our new Membership Chairmen, Jack and Beth Reynolds.

....

No official report received on the Wright's Lake trip in July, but I did hear unofficially that 46 birders saw many birds and mosquitoes. Didn't hear whether blood transfusions were necessitated by the latter, but they say it was touch and go for awhile. Good time, though, with wonderful weather.

....

Recently the House sprung to action and surprisingly passed the Point Reyes National Seashore bill. It now goes to the Senate for some slight changes, and then to the President for signature. So maybe in a few years we can go over there and see some foggy birds.

....

PG&E says that a big owl short-circuited a 12,000 volt power line in the vicinity of Muir Woods and blacked out portions of western Marin County for 12 hours. The owl went up in smoke.

....

Welcome to a new young member, Jenny Robinson of 480 Arbol Via, Walnut Creek. Her first contribution to "The Quail":

First Birdwatcher: "I can show you a white-tailed kite"

Second Birdwatcher: "With no strings attached?"

....

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Calif. ... 682-9786

....

Other Field Trips:

April 21 Moss Landing; Mt. Madonna
 April 28 Mt. Diablo (South Gate)
 May 5 Pinnacles National Monument
 May 19 Arroyo Mocho

....

We have had some excellent Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours this year. The last of this series will be presented on Friday, March 29, when Karl Maslowski will return to show his "Gone With the Wilderness". Mr. Maslowski is a renowned naturalist and photographer from Cincinnati. His new film is an outstanding contribution to the cause of conservation, for it shows how many forms of nature are affected by the acts of man. ... Call Violet Beitzel (682-9588) if you care to attend a no-host dinner at the Adobe in Concord just before the lecture. Winners of the John and Alice Porterfield scholarships will be announced at the Wildlife Tour program.

....

Eben McMillan's film on "The Shandon Hills" was different from the usual Wildlife Tour in that Mr. McMillan synchronized his talk with the words of the chief character in the film, "Old Tuck", rancher of the Shandon country. A chronicle of the seasons in this area just east of Paso Robles was presented. There were excellent shots of nesting golden eagles, camouflaged nighthawks, tarantulas, and sandhill cranes. A nice thing about the program was that almost every animal and bird shown in the picture could possibly be seen on one of our own Field Trips.

....

Our Congressional Representative, John F. Baldwin, has introduced H.R. 439, designed to save the John Muir home near Martinez as a National Monument. To emphasize this movement, the John Muir Memorial Association, with some other Bay Area Conservation groups, is presenting a program on Muir at the Acalanes High School Cafeteria, Wednesday, March 13 at 8 p.m. John Nejedly, our District Attorney, will take you over the Muir Trail via Yosemite with color slides and comments. (No admission charge).

....

You have acquired a portion of 13,558 acres of redwoods in the Bull Creek watershed in Humboldt County. The Save-the-Redwoods League has given a million dollars worth of land in the Rockefeller Forest to the State, in order to control flood damage such as occurred in 1955-56 after "cut it and get out" loggers had virtually denuded the hillsides. ... Most of the State Parks new money this year has gone to purchase the Nisine Marx Forest, near Santa Cruz, which was offered to the State at a low price by her children a year ago. ... Tamalpais State Park will add 161 acres no longer needed by the Marin Municipal Water District.

....

Our local Board of Supervisors has set aside \$75,000 for the purchase of a major portion of the eucalyptus grove north of San Pablo Dam. ... We may lose the John Marsh home and adjoining 7 1/3 acres, since there is criticism that the County is not taking proper care of this gift from the Cowell Foundation. The lack of funds for needed improvements is a sorrowful aftermath of the defeat of County Park Bonds last year.

....

Roy Glotfelty, our Conservation Chairman, sent in the following report on National news:

"Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. S. 20, introduced by Sen. Anderson (New Mexico) and co-sponsors, would give this new Bureau in the Interior Dept. the basic authority needed to coordinate recreation policy among federal agencies, and provide technical assistance to the States. (Ed. note: Late in February both the Senate and House Interior Committees approved legislation for development of Federal and State outdoor recreation programs.) ... Another proposed bill sets up revenue sources for a "Land and Water Conservation Fund" and for grants to help states acquire new park and recreation lands.

"Water Pollution Control. Identical bills by Rep. Blatnik (Minn.) and Dingell (Mich.) puts this program under a Commissioner responsible to the Sec. of Health, Education, and Welfare. A new "positive national policy of keeping waters clean" would be declared, and efforts would be made to ban pollutants and speed sewage-treatment.

"Wildlife Conservation Bills. H.R. 2578, reintroduced by Rep. Dingell, would have bird watchers and other users of Wildlife Refuges buy 2 stamps annually, with the funds to be used to buy new refuge lands. ... S. 468, by Sen. Metcalf (Mont.) would require approval by the Sec. of Interior of federal-aid highway plans, to avert damage to fishing streams. ... Several bills would increase the percentage of Wildlife Refuge revenues paid to local counties. Wetland acquisition in the Dakotas has been blocked for this reason.

"Eagle Hunting from Airplanes. Approved Federal regulations will protect the Bald and Golden Eagle from airplane hunting and from poisoning, although permits would be available for restricted control.

"States Tackle Pesticides. Maine and Massachusetts have legislative proposals for the regulation of chemical pesticides. Opposition is well organized.

"Wilderness Bill. S. 4, introduced by Sen. Anderson and co-sponsors. Hearings scheduled Feb. 28. Letters are needed for follow-up meetings and on the final Senate vote and should be addressed to Hon. Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Bldg., Washington 25, D.C. Please do it today. Our Wilderness needs your support. Thank you ... RRG."

....

Tucson Audubon reports that Patagonia, Arizona, will be submerged under the waters behind a proposed 110 ft. dam. A group of our members birded in that area two years ago. ... In California, the Forest Service has set aside the Mokelumne Wild Area. ... An advertisement in a S.F. paper says that you can buy a dream lot in the heart of the Point Reyes National Seashore!

No field trip reports this time, for one reason: none were received.

....

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Calif. .. 682-9786

....



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Sept. 24)

September, 1962
Volume 9, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Ed Haddick talks on rock collecting and polishing.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, September 16, to the Eastshore of S.F. Bay. Meet at the S.P. Depot in Berkeley at 8:45 a.m. Leader will be Lynn Farrar.

Next Screen Tour: Tues. Oct. 16. Chas. Hotchkiss with "Teton Trails".

....

This year's Program Chairman, Jane Nemetz, is making an effort to line up a string of programs that will cover a wide range of natural history subjects. On September 13 we start "in the beginning" - with the study of rocks. Jane, aided by Beth Reynolds, has arranged for Ed Haddick, a geologist from Sacramento, to come down for the evening and give us a talk on rocks: what rocks to look for, where to look for them, and what to do with rocks after you find them. In his talk he will also demonstrate some lapidary technics. Our speaker has appeared before many groups, and he comes well recommended. He expects to have a rock-hound helper or two with him. Since this promises to be an interesting and informative evening, let's start our new year off with a good turnout, to show the visitors our interest and appreciation.

....

The first Field Trip, on Sunday the 16th of September, will take the group back to the Eastshore to look primarily for shorebirds. Lynn wants us to meet at the S.P. Depot at the foot of University Avenue in Berkeley at 8:45 a.m., after which the group will try some potential spots along the shore. The tide will not be favorable on the 16th; but the trip will be held that day, since Lynn might be out of town later.

Other Field Trips: Oct. 14th ... Bodega Bay
Nov. 11th ... Willows-Gridley
Dec. 9th ... Conn Dam

....

Before they left on vacation to the Seattle Fair, Harry and Dorothy Couden sent in this report on the successful Wright's Lake trip, July 14 & 15:

"Highlight of the Wright's Lake trip was, undoubtedly, finding so many Mt. Diablo Auduboners 180 miles from home 46 in all, including a sizeable teen-age and sub-teen contingent!

"The weather was perfect. The late spring and moist results of last winter's unusually heavy snow pack made for the showiest wild flowers ever. They almost stole the show from the birds, especially since John Bruce and Carroll Davis (biology instructors from San Ramon and Miramonte High Schools respectively) were on hand to lend the botanists' stamp to identification.

"25 completed the hike on the Twin Lakes Trail. H. Couden, C. Davis, and teeners Dick Reiser, Brian Cartwright, and Jenny Robinson then hiked on up above in search of Rosy Finches, which they found (as did an Adamson group later) above the wonderful alpine meadows. The Couden party got lost, crossed the wrong pass, dropped down into another drainage area, and finally stumbled wearily back to camp about 7:30 p.m., but with enoughumph left to muster up a cheer for Jenny.

"The 6:30 Sunday a.m. enthusiasts on the Windmueller Trail did themselves proud with a Black-backed three-toed Woodpecker and a Williamson Sapsucker. The 9:30 group did find a nuthatch multiple dwelling and a Williamson Sapsucker, but not much else. Spotted Sandpiper was added to the tally by several birders at the first ford going out of camp.

"Wright's Lake has something for everyone ... fishing, swimming, hiking, birding, and botany. See you all there next July. Thanks for making this trip so memorable.

"Birds observed were: Mallard; Red-tailed Hawk; Spotted Sandpiper; Common Nighthawk; Rufous Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Williamson's Sapsucker; Lewis, Hairy, White-headed, and Black-backed three-toed Woodpeckers; Hammond and Olive-sided Flycatchers; Western Wood Peewee; Violet-green, Tree, and Cliff Swallows; Steller's Jay; Clark's Nutcracker; Mountain Chickadee; White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Nashville, Audubon, Hermit and Wilson Warblers; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed and Pine Grosbeak; Evening Grosbeak; Cassin and Rosy Finch; Pine Siskin; Red Crossbill; Green-tailed Towhee; Oregon Junco; Chipping, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows."

....

Please note that the meetings next year will be held in the same room we used last year - Room 211 in the Life Science Building at Diablo Valley. The College turned down our request for a lecture room, because there are possibilities that such rooms would be needed for extension classes.

....

During their Northwest vacation this summer, the Beitzels camped at Lava Beds National Monument and were thrilled to find Purple Martins at Skull Cave. The birds had not been reported in the Monument since 1957, and at that time were at Captain Jack's Stronghold. Dick and Vi registered the new find in the name of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. The Nemetz family packed into a remote part of the Trinity Mountains a few weeks ago, but got rained out. Jane says that the best bird find was great numbers of Red Crossbills feeding on the ground, so close that they could almost be touched. ... Bev Wilder mentions that he has seen Cedar Waxwings in Central Contra Costa every month this year (except in July, when he was away). ... Santa Cruz Bird Club's "Albatross" reports that an American Redstart was seen there on July 19. Their bulletin says, "This is a common warbler of the East and Middle West, and it is rarely seen in California, especially in our area".

....

For the past five years, we have been fortunate in having Bev Wilder arrange for the printing of "The Quail" at Columbia Steel and at minimum expense. Now Bev informs us, with regrets, that after this issue he will not be able to continue this service, because a change in job prevents him from having access to the printing machine. Hence, your next "Quail" will probably have a different appearance. We will probably have to have the bulletin printed commercially, until someone else with access to printing equipment can help us out.

....

I have been asked to put the following notice in this issue:

"Experienced Spanish-speaking couple plan guided bird finding, sight seeing tour in November and December to exotic bird sections and Aztec, Toltec and Mayan ruin areas of Mexico, in comfortable private car. Guests picked up in Bay Area, en route, or in Mexico City. For information, and rates, write or call the Lynn Bramkamps, 37 Via Farallon, Orinda. Phone: 254-8615. Plans must be firmed by mid-September."

....

Very little to report on Conservation. The State Park Bond issue will not be back on the November ballot. ... Supervisors of Contra Costa are studying a "pay as you go" park acquisition and development program, as an alternative to the bond program that failed in June. Emphasis would be on acquiring 110 acres below San Pablo Dam and 670 acres adjacent to the Briones area. The College Park site is no longer available, and is destined for residential development. In Pacheco, small Hayden Park has been bulldozed into oblivion, as part of a flood control project. ... Over in Marin, conservationists squawked so much that the Marin Municipal Water District dropped plans to log 12 million board feet on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais.

....

President Dick Beitzel has appointed the following committee chairmen: Program, Jane Nemetz; Field Trips, Harry Couden; Conservation, Roy and Elsie Glotfelty; Membership, Beth and Jack Reynolds; Host & Hostess, Carl and Ruth Swenson; Publicity, Frances Blake; Reservations, Vi Beitzel; Parliamentarian, Isabella McGeehon; Quail Editor, Ed Mize. In addition, Frieda Shackelford will handle the mailing of "The Quail" again.

....

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Calif. .. 682- 9786



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: October 24th)

October, 1962
Volume 9, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Dan Lutten will tell us about the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, October 14. Bodega Bay. Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to Doran Park off Highway 1. Leaders: Violet and Dick Beitzel.

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, October 16, 8 p.m., Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Charles Hotchkiss presents "Teton Trails".

....

Program Chairman Jane Nemetz has arranged for Dr. Dan Lutten of the Geography Department at U.C. to be our speaker on October 11. He will represent the Save San Francisco Bay Association, formed about two years ago in an effort to protect the Bay from piecemeal destruction. As we know, thousands of acres of the Bay have already been transformed into industrial, urban and freeway sites, and more acres are doomed in the future. The Association hopes to promote boating, fishing and wildlife areas; protect open water; and promote regional planning for beauty along with any utilization. Our group should be interested in the work of the Association, since the Bay is the winter home of countless migratory shorebirds. Dr. Lutten, well known in Bay Area scientific circles, joined U.C. recently, after a career as research chemist for Shell Development. In recent years he headed a group which has collected tons of used technical journals, which have since been sent to the empty libraries of several Asiatic universities.

....

On our October 14 Field Trip, we go to Bodega Bay, an area that our group has not birded before. The Beitzels admit that the bird count may not be great, but they say that

"this is a wonderful place where you can sit and let the birds come to you so that you can study them. The tide might not be the best until late afternoon, but there will be plenty of activity. Meet at 10 a.m. at the junction of the road to Sonoma County's Doran Park and Highway 1, about a mile south of the town of Bodega Bay. The Park is on Bodega Spit, with the ocean beach on the south side and the bay flats on the north. We will work our way around the bay to the opposite side. Bring lunch and warm clothes.

"To get there: the best way is to go to Petaluma, and near the center of town take the Two Rock-Valley Ford road to the west and then continue on Highway 1 toward Bodega Bay. Violet and Dick will meet you at the junction of the Doran Park road and Highway 1 at 10 a.m. Sunday, although they are trailering up on Saturday morning. Anybody else wish to trailer along too? Pit "Him and Hers" but no water at Doran." Fancier camping is available at Wright's Beach (Sonoma Coast State Park) about 6 miles north of Bodega Bay.

Other Field Trips: Nov. 11 ... Willows-Gridley
 Dec. 9 ... Conn Dam
 Dec. 23 ... Annual Christmas Count
 Jan. 13 ... Tomales Bay

....

The Audubon Wildlife Tours start off this year with a beautiful subject: Grand Teton National Park. Charles T. Hotchkiss now lives in Homestead, Florida, but for several years he was a Ranger-Naturalist at Grand Teton Park. His "Teton Trails" color film uses these majestic mountains as background for pictures of many interesting animals and birds. A fitting climax to the film is the climbing of the Grand Teton. Those of you who have seen the Tetons will not want to miss this chance to revisit them in pictures ... and if you haven't been there yet here's a chance to see what you've been missing. There is no admission charge.

There will be a "no host" dinner for Mr. Hotchkiss at the Adobe Restaurant in Concord at 6 p.m. on October 16. For reservations, contact Violet Beitzel (682-9588) before October 12.

....

There was a slight error in last month's Quail -- the speaker for our September meeting didn't speak. All arrangements had been made for Ed Haddick to come from Sacramento and give us a talk on rocks, but at the last minute an Extension Course he teaches was shifted to our meeting night. In the hopes of scheduling Mr. Haddick again, the Society voted to hold our December meeting one day later, on Friday, December 14.

After Ed Haddick struck out, Vi Beitzel came in as pinch hitter and hit a home run. Her set of beautiful slides, entitled "Land of the Sleeping Rainbow" and complete with taped narration and background music, took us into country that most of us will never have nerve enough to explore. The Beitzels captured many pretty shots of the bright sandstones in the Capitol Reef region of south-central Utah. Best shot of all was a perfect rainbow, in this land of rainbow-hued rocks.

....

I'm late in introducing a new member of our group,
 Karen Clausen, 249 Margarido Dr., Walnut Creek (934-9399).

Alice Allen of Stockton has transferred her membership to the new President of the Stockton Audubon Society:

Mrs. Carlton Shanks, 1874 Jewel Ct., Stockton 3, Calif.

....

Marie Toasperm, one of our Pleasant Hill members, writes of her family's experiences with baby birds. Have you ever tried to feed one? The Toasperms started two years ago, when they found a fledgling mockingbird, which they kept for three months, even taking it on a vacation. This year they've had a blackbird and another mockingbird. The children found the blackbird at school and kept it for three months, taming it to ride piggyback on trips to the mailbox. Of the latest bird, Marie says, "We still have our last mockingbird, which fell out of its nest when only a day old. The girls put the little thing back four times; so we took it in (July 8). It responded very well to our feeding (hard boiled egg, baby cereal, and fruit in equal parts mixed together). The bird now feeds itself; we still give it the egg mixture with bird seed and gravel mixed in. Also there are grapes and other fruit available, and we dig it a few worms each day. For part of the day it flies about the house freely; the rest of the time it is in a cage outdoors."

The bird has flown the coop twice, but still prefers people and homes.

....

An item in San Diego Audubon's "Sketches" indicated that one of our former members, Eleanor Pugh, recently led a field trip in Silver Strand State Park, where her husband, Bob, is a ranger. ... You may recall that Bev Wilder reported seeing Cedar Waxwings most of the summer. Santa Clara Valley's "Avocet" also reported flocks seen there in late May and early June.

....

A recent press release gave some interesting statistics on the speed of birds. Dr. W. E. Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History has been clocking birds by radar. Fastest bird so far has been the Ring-necked Duck, capable of speeds up to 66 mph. Less speedy, but more shifty, is the Black Duck at 55 mph. The Blue Jay is capable of 26 mph, and the House Finch does 21 mph, says Dr. Lanyon.

....

Your Conservation Chairman, Roy Glotfelty, makes this report:

"A substitute Wilderness Bill wasn't pushed through the House by commercial interests as they had hoped. It would have guaranteed mining and roads in Wilderness Areas for 25 years, failed to protect Primitive Areas, and made it easier to gain access for logging, water and power development plus other commercial uses. A nationwide wave of protest did much to halt this poor excuse for a good Wilderness Bill.

"The Golden Eagle Bill should be debated and voted in the Senate soon. Opposition is expected, probably led by Sen. Tower of Texas, who has been receiving letters from West Texas sheep and goat ranchers who want to keep killing eagles.

"No sooner did the President sign the Point Reyes National Seashore bill than Sen. Engle and Rep. Clem Miller pressed for a 5 million dollar special appropriation for land acquisition. Four days later the Padre Island Seashore bill was signed by the President.

"For the second year, Pres. Buchheister of Audubon has advised a moratorium on duck hunting. The Fish and Wildlife Service was not persuaded. It is claimed by the Audubon Society that 3,500,000 ducks too many were shot last year. Other organizations are willing to gamble on better nesting during the next breeding season. Time will tell. Once before ducks were shot down to an extremely low few."

o o o o

Total destruction of Hayden Park in Pacheco has led our Secretary, Helen Deman, to express the written hope that members of our Society will make protests to Supervisors over the loss of so many trees for storm drains and apartment houses in this County. Not all of us feel that the complete loss of natural beauty can be termed "progress".

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The Audubon Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, will be open on Saturdays, 11 to 4, through October, November, and December. The Center has many items that would make excellent gifts for Christmas. Visit them in person, or write for information.

Audubon spent all summer looking for a new Camp in the West, but to no avail. It may be necessary for Audubon to start a land and building program of its own.

Keep in mind that the National Audubon Western Conference will be held April 6 - 9, 1963, at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Calif. For information write Audubon at the above Berkeley address. ... The 22nd Annual Conservation Conference of the California Conservation Council will be held October 25 - 27 in Fresno. Details available from the Council at 912 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara.

o o o o

Diablo Valley College and the National Audubon Society present the 12th annual series of Audubon Wildlife Tours, as follows:

Oct. 16	.. Charles Hotchkiss	.. "Teton Trails"
Nov. 15	.. Kenneth Morrison	.. "The Long Flight Back"
Jan. 24	.. Robert Hermes	.. "Nova Scotia, Land of the Sea"
Feb. 27	.. Eben McMillan	.. "The Shandon Hills"
Mar. 29	.. Karl Maslowski	.. "Gone With the Wilderness"

o o o o

As you see, we are able to have "The Quail" again this month. Thanks to the wonderful cooperation of some of my co-workers at Tidewater, arrangements have been made to use a Ditto duplicator. Admittedly, the results will not be as classy as the bulletin has been for the last 5 years; but to have "The Quail" multilithed commercially would cost us at least \$25 per issue - and our Treasury isn't that full! So, unless another "angel" can be found, it looks like your news will come to you in purple ink for awhile.

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Calif ... 682-9786



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: November 24th)

November, 1962
Volume 9, No. 5

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 8, 8 pm, Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. We expect to have a speaker from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11; Willows and Gridley Areas; Meet Saturday morning, 9:30, at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Meet Sunday morning, 9:30, at the Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area. Leaders: Lynn Farrar and the Harry Coudens.

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, November 15, 8 pm, Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Kenneth Morrison presents, "The Long Flight Back".

....

At press time, our next program is not definite—through no fault of Program Chairman, Jane Nemetz. Weeks ago she was able to get a commitment from the Department of Fish and Game that one of their staff would appear as a speaker, but since then Jane has not been able to get a definite statement regarding the name of the speaker and the topic. Seems like this is the time of year that their men are out in the field checking up on the hunters. All Jane can say is that we have been promised a speaker, and that the subject should be of interest to all of us.

....

Harry Coudens gives these instructions for the November Field Trip, a two-day outing near Willows and Gridley:

"Leaders will be Lynn Farrar on Saturday, November 10, and the Coudens on Sunday, November 11. Bring your lunch, hiking clothes, rain gear, if necessary, and 'scopes. Make your own lodging reservations. On Saturday, meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99W, at 9:30 am. Drive right in. On Sunday, meet at Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, southwest of Gridley, at 9:30 am. From Gridley on 99E, drive west on Colusa Road about 4 miles, then south on Pennington Road to sign on right directing traffic to Refuge. It can also be reached from Route 99E by turning west at Live Oak, but better inquire about road conditions. The Coudens and Farrar will be going, rain or shine—unless we have a three-alarm storm like the last one and the roads are blocked. No need to contact the leaders. Lynn returns to Lafayette Saturday".

Other Field Trips: Dec. 9 ... Corn Dam
 Dec. 23 ... Annual Christmas Count
 Jan. 13 ... Tomales Bay
 Feb. 17 ... Terminous Island

Kenneth Morrison, who presents the Audubon Wildlife Tour on Nov. 15, is Director of the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower in Florida. He has been active in conservation for years and has written many articles on the subject. His film, "The Long Flight Back", deals primarily with the return from near extinction of some of our scarce wildlife, particularly the Whooping Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, and Flamingo.

....

Boy, it was a sloppy night - the night of our October meeting. Only a handful of members, plus five visitors, showed up. Secretary Helen Deman, blinded by the rain, took the wrong turnoff and wound up with her car stuck in the mud. It was unfortunate that the heavy mist kept so many people away, because Dr. Lutten gave a very interesting talk on the rapidity with which S.F. Bay is being "reclaimed". Consider this one fact: the garbage from 10,000 people fills an acre of tideland a year. Dr. Lutten presented several aerial slides showing the vast ~~of~~ Bay tidelands that have been filled in recent years. Also, there were several slides of European cities, showing that water-fronts can be used by people and not just by industry. If interested, you can get more information on the subject from the Save San Francisco Bay Association, P.O. Box 925, Berkeley 1.

....

Proposition 14 on the November ballot is connected with this problem. This Proposition would permit the sale of tidelands regarded as no longer necessary for navigational purposes within 2 miles of a city or county line. Proponents list possible "developments" near Hunters Point and Richardson Bay. Opponents argue that constitutional restrictions should be maintained, and that sale to private parties or corporations will jeopardize natural resources and public rights.

....

One of our visitors at the last meeting became a member, namely:

William J. Betts, 1827 Altura Drive, Concord. (685-5119)

....

Well, our October Field Trip to Bodega Bay was a washout. The Beitzels, who were to lead the expedition, would probably like to blame the rains on some hopped-up Hopi Indians. Anyhow, Dick and Vi weren't prepared for a naval exercise, so they reluctantly had to call the trip off. As Dick says,

"My apologies to all who may have been inconvenienced by not knowing that the trip was called off. We tried to call as many as we could, but the phones were just not working in many cases. Instead of watching the birds come to us at Bodega, we had so much water around our place that we expected to see some ducks go floating by the front door at any moment."

....

Lynn Farrar had to leave town in a hurry right after the September field trip, so his report has been delayed until now:

"Our mudflats trip, September 16, was better than anticipated from a tidal standpoint. Upon leaving Berkeley Station, we visited Point Isabella, which is rapidly being industrialized, and saw a rather small group of shorebirds, including Northern Phalaropes and Black Turnstones. From there we scouted the Berkeley and Emeryville shores, catching Whimbrel and Semipalmated Plover as well as common species. As we proceeded toward the Toll Plaza of the Bay Bridge, we made an unplanned stop to watch a White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Ducks, and Lesser Scaups. Upon reaching the Toll Plaza, we had our best light and a fair tide (incoming), giving our best birding of the day. We finally spotted what Tom and Sally Steller and Harry Couden kept insisting were not Forster's Terns. And they were right, as there were three Elegant Terns, with very bright swordlike bills, at rest on a sandspit for all to see. A very nice find. In summary, birding was fair, with the number far below last year. A fine turnout of birders certainly made for pleasant company, and I hope future outings will also be well attended.

"Birds observed: Brown Pelican; Lesser Scaup; White-winged Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Kestrel; Coot; Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers; Killdeer; Black Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Whimbrel; Willet; Least and Western Sandpipers; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Northern Phalarope; Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's and (3) Elegant Terns; Loggerhead Shrike; Western Meadowlark; House Finch; Savannah and Song Sparrows".

....

The speaker at the October Wildlife Tour, "Ty" Hotchkiss, was amazed at the size of the large audience that came out to see his "Teton Trails". Mr. Hotchkiss' film covered many angles of the scenic and wildlife aspects of the area, and his pictures of the climb up Grand Teton itself will probably never be duplicated by any member of this organization.

....

One of our members, Carroll Davis, is 1st v.p. of the Contra Costa Park & Recreational Council. Among the Directors we find Ferd Ruth, Jane Nemetz, and Mrs. John Davis. At the Council's annual dinner recently, it was announced that East Bay MUD would hold lands for parks for our County, if the County has definite plans for acquisition over a reasonable period of time. Briones Park might be developed in the near future. Briones and Lafayette Reservoirs might be developed by the County someday. Park Director Mattison is now working out a "pay as you go" plan for making a ten year plan of acquisition and development of these lands.

....

Congress has shut down for the year. Some conservation progress was made; but there were failures, too. Point Reyes became a National Seashore, but without money for the acquisition of land. Developers still use the bulldozers, although those 15 inches of rain may slow them down. The Padre Island Seashore bill was signed.

The House completed congressional action on the Golden Eagle bill. Senator Kuchel's Tule Lake bill failed. The Wilderness bill also failed, after opponents tacked on enough amendments to defeat its purpose. The President signed a bill permitting the Interior Secretary to sell up to 5 acres of public land to holders of mining claims. That's nice for the "squatters", but it also opens forest land to abuse by resorts and hunting lodges.

Conservationists lost a friend, when Rep. Clem Miller died in a plane crash near Eureka. One of the leaders in the Point Reyes fight, he will be buried in the Park he helped create. Late in the session he introduced for study a bill that would create a 204,000 conservation area, with 36 miles of ocean frontage in Humboldt and Mendocino.

Marin and Golden Gate Audubon Societies were successful in meeting the required \$90,000 downpayment option on the Audubon Canyon Ranch. Title goes to the two societies; and also the \$247,500 bill for the balance of payment required in the next ten years.

....

Grape growers in San Joaquin Valley are complaining about damage done by starlings. The birds have been blamed for well over 10% crop damage in some vineyards studied. Pest scientists are testing chemicals for controlling the starling population.

Koppers Co. has developed a paste to slap on telephone poles to cut down woodpecker damage. Can't hurt the birds—just tastes awful.

Sacramento Audubon's "The Observer" reports many shorebirds killed by botulism at the Davis and Woodland sewer ponds in mid-September.

Recently it was reported that the Florida Audubon Society has arranged for the establishment of more than a half-million acres of ranch land in south-central Florida as a Bald Eagle sanctuary. Owners keep the land, but have agreed with the Society to maintain the properties in a manner to protect the eagles.

....

Ferd Ruth has told us about the vanishing Tule Elk, found only in California. A few hundred are left in Owens Valley, but they are victims of special hunts. The City of Los Angeles is not opposed to the use of 240 sq. mi. of land south of the Tinemaha Reservoir as a refuge, but somebody else has to build the fence. The Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk, 5502 Markland Drive, Los Angeles 22, is seeking funds from interested persons. Even a letter in behalf of the elk would show evidence of support.

....

There will be a Western Audubon Camp next summer, at Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming, in the Wind River Range. You can get particulars from: Audubon Camp, P. O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif.

....

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Calif. ... 682-9786



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: December 24th)

December, 1962
Volume 9, No. 6

Next Field Trip: Sunday, December 9, 9 a.m. Conn Dam Area.
The Shackelfords will be leaders.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building,
Diablo Valley College. We will see the Sierra Club film, "Island
in Time", and Lynn Farrar will tell us about the annual Christmas
Count.

Christmas Count: Sunday, December 23. (Details below)

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 24, 1963. Robert Herms with his film, "Nova
Scotia - Land of the Sea".

Note that the December Field Trip will be on the Sunday before the next meeting. It will be to the Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey areas. This has been a popular December trip in previous years, generally with good results. Thus, 71 bird species were counted there last year. The leaders, Frieda and Clair Shackelford, hope to meet a good-sized group at 9 a.m. on December 9 at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail not far beyond Napa. Look for some cool and possibly damp weather, and bring something to nibble on. (Now that the new Bonicia bridge is open, you can sleep a little longer that morning.)

Come to our next meeting and see the motion picture that is credited with playing an important part in the passage of the Point Reyes National Seashore bill. Program Chairman Jane Nemetz has arranged for a showing of the Sierra Club film, "Island in Time", photographed by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis. It is said to be an excellent picture. In addition, Jane has asked Lynn Farrar to be there and tell us the whole story of the annual Christmas Count. Lynn will have maps, past records, groupings, reasons for the count, how it is conducted, and how the results are used. Whether or not you plan to attend the count this year, you will find much of interest in Lynn's talk. Please note that this meeting is on our regular meeting night, Thursday, December 13. At our September meeting we voted conditionally to change the December meeting to a Friday night, in the event that Mr. Haddick could come down to give us his postponed talks on rocks. Jane has since learned that Mr. Haddick teaches on Friday too, so he won't be down. The meeting has therefore reverted to our regular night.

Lynn Farrar will be in charge of the Christmas Count, to be held this year on December 23. The potluck dinner and summation will be held at the Beitzel home (1713 S. 5th St., Concord) about 6 pm. Those wishing to attend the dinner should contact Violet Beitzel (682-9588) by December 17, so as to know what to bring. Lynn wants those definitely planning to attend the count to call him (283-3938) after 6 pm weekdays for assignments. Those not previously assigned, or last minute participants, should be at the Monument in Pleasant Hill no later than 7 am. on December 23. Last year was cold, so you'd better wear your woollens. Those who can only observe at home and don't expect to attend the dinner can call their lists in to Lynn Farrar or Dick Beitzel.

Other Field Trips: Jan. 13 Tomales Bay
 Feb. 17 Terminous Island
 Mar. 17 Rodeo Lagoon; Canyon Ranch

Lynn Farrar and Harry Couden were the leaders of the two-day Field Trip last month to the willows-Gridley areas. Harry's account of the trip is as follows:

"This trip has always been outstanding. Again the weather was perfect, and the attendance good with 11 birders on Saturday (4 cars) and 13 on Sunday (3 cars). The bulk of Saturday's group was the Lynn Farrar and Jane Nemetz station wagonloads containing their youthful family members, and the largest group on Sunday was Carroll Davis' busload bringing himself and 6 biology students. The Shaskelfords and Coudens were in both groups.

"Outstanding sightings on Saturday - in addition to experiencing the proximity and flights of so many thousands of waterfowl at a time - were the large number and variety of hawks, the three Golden Eagles, and the high concentrations of Cackling Goose. Sunday high points were a colony of Black-crowned Night herons, two- or three-hundred Sandhill Cranes in flight and on the ground, a single Whistling Swan in flight, and numerous furtive Gallinules - all of whom had eluded us on Saturday. Virginia Rails were spotted twice.

"There were 57 species counted on Saturday, 54 on Sunday (including 15 not seen on Saturday, for a combined total of 72 for the trip. Birds observed were as follows:

"Western and Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Heron; Common and Snowy Egret; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada, White-fronted, Snow, and Ross Goose (1); Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Ring-necked, Canvasback, and Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Rough-legged, Marsh, Ferruginous, and Sparrow Hawk; Golden Eagle (3); California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Virginia Rail; Common Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Greater Yellowlegs; Dowitcher; Avocet; Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gull; Mourning Dove;

Burrowing Owl; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Crow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Oregon Junco; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrows."

....

Note that there will be no Screen Tour until January, when Robert Hermes will talk about Nova Scotia. Kenneth Morrison's film, "The Long Flight Back", last month had much of interest in it about bird species that are extinct or nearly so. Some Audubon paintings were cleverly used to show the vanished species. It seems that the rarest birds we have in this country now are the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, which may be extinct, and the Everglades Kite, of which no more than 3 or 4 remain. Mr. Morrison urged his listeners to support conservation groups, and he singled out the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

....

John Bruce, science teacher at San Ramon High, sends a pertinent quotation from Wallace Stegner, Director of Stanford's Creative Writing Center, as follows:

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clear streams, and push our paved roads through the last of silence, so that never again will Americans be free in their own country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, as part of the geography of hope."

....

Wonder if Congressman Aspinall, who smothered the Wilderness Bill in his Committee, ever read those words? ... Congress changed little in the November elections, so look for more dilly-dallying. Sen. Kuchel's bill to keep 90,000 acres of marsh in the Tule Lake-Klamath Lake areas, died in the House Interior Committee, for lack of a quorum in the final days of the session. The Senator will introduce the measure in the next session, and he hopes for passage.

Army Engineers are developing 50 acres on the NW corner of Lake Mendocino (3 miles north of Ukiah) for picnic and camp sites, trails and landscaping. ... San Francisco expects to make a survey of possible recreational uses of the City's San Mateo county watershed.

The Sunday Chronicle says that starlings are nesting in Golden Gate Park, and it is but a matter of time until they roost downtown and make the pigeons look like angels. ... The Administration in Washington is trying to rid the White House grounds of starlings.

....

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