



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: January 25th)

January, 1963
Volume 9, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Some youth projects will be displayed and discussed during the program.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. Tomales Bay. Carlyle Sather will lead.

Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 24, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Robert Hermes presents "Nova Scotia - Land of the Sea".

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Several years ago we had a very successful Youth Project night. Jane Nemetz, our Program Chairman, is making arrangements for another such night for our next meeting, January 10. There will be displays of natural history projects, and during the program there will be discussions and interpretations of these studies by youths of many ages - from the Elementary School to the Junior College level. Jane has been guiding children in nature projects for many years, so she will be able to pick out displays that she knows will be of interest to our Group. This program might appeal to some families. We invite you to bring your interested children and other visitors.

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On our next Field Trip, we return to the east shore of Tomales Bay, with Carlyle Sather again as our leader. Carlyle is an expert on identifying the many species of waterfowl that collect at Tomales this time of the year. Here are his directions:

"Meet at the grocery store parking lot in Inverness at 9:30 the morning of January 13. It can be chilly at this time of the year, so please bring warm clothing. Lunch and scopes will be very useful. Bring your friends, and I will try to make birders out of them."

Other Field Trips:

Feb. 17	Terminous Island
Mar. 17	Rodeo Lagoon; Canyon Ranch
Apr. 21	Moss Landing; Mt. Madonna
Apr. 28	Mt. Diablo (South Gate)

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Plan to attend the next Audubon Wildlife Tour, January 24. Beautiful Nova Scotia will be shown to us by one of the best photographers and speakers in the business, Bob Hermes, who has been with us several times. Recently, he was commissioned by Nova Scotia to film a picture of that province. As you see pictures of the forest primeval, you will be reminded of the opening lines of "Evangeline". You will see the habitats of cormorants, eider, and puffin. A fitting climax will be lapse-time pictures of the famous tides in the Basin of Minas.

If you are interested in attending a no-host dinner at the Adobe in Concord, prior to the show, contact Violet Beitzel (682-9588) several days before the 24th.

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Eighteen chilled birders met on the Silverado Trail above Napa on December 9 in the fog. The Shackelfords could be discerned as leaders, but few birds were visible, so the party went up the hill to Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey, where the sun was shining and there was a cool wind. Distant views through the scopes showed swans and geese on the far shore. On the way around the Lake, ducks of many species swam about. Ring-necked Ducks were in excellent plumage. After a lunch stop, a visit was made to the Wilcox Ranch, where more lambs than birds were seen. Back to the Lake for more birding, and then the party dropped down the hill and ran into soupy fog near Vallejo.

Birds observed: Horned, Lared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Whistling Swan; Canada and Snow Goose; Mallard; Pintail; American Widgeon; Wood, Redhead, Ring-necked, Canvasback, and Ruddy Ducks; Lesser Scaup; Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawks; Golden Eagle; California Quail; Ring-necked Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Glaucous and Ring-billed Gulls; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Crow; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; Purple and House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Lark, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows.

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It's too early for a complete summary of the Christmas Count, held on December 23. The number of observers was smaller than last year, but the number of bird species was close to the previous two year's. At the potluck dinner at the Beitzel's, Lynn Farrar told us that 115 species had been counted.

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Lynn had briefed us well on the Christmas Count at our last meeting. Our first count, in 1954, showed 89 species and a total of 6,000 birds; in 1961 there were 119 species and 44,000 birds. So far about 148 species have been seen on the counts. Lynn pointed out that we have an excellent area here, ranging from the marshes of Suisun Bay to the slopes of Mt. Diablo.

Lynn's talk followed a showing of the Sierra Club's "Island in Time". It is a relief to know that some of the beautiful lands photographed for this excellent picture have been saved for a National Seashore.

At this meeting, Ferd Ruth opened a letter from John and Alice Porterfield and showed us a check that will pay for two half-scholarships at the San Jose School of Nature Study. We are indeed fortunate to have members like the Porterfields, interested enough in the training of naturalists and teachers to give these scholarships in the name of our Society. Our sincere thanks go to them once more.

Ferd also warned us that a movement is now under way to reclassify some of the State Parks as Recreation Areas, wherein hunting would be permitted. He has been informed that there is little chance that Mt. Diablo State Park will be declassified. ... Subsequently, it has been announced that the purchase price for 839 acres of federal lands has been donated by a Colonel Wood for addition to this park. 80 acres of this would adjoin the present park. ... The John Muir home, near Martinez, has been designated a National historic site by the Department of Interior.

Two months ago, Ferd Ruth pointed out that, by passing Proposition 14 in the November election, the people have given away many tideland acres. Sure enough, we have recently read that 600 acres of property at Candlestick Cove, near Hunters Point, will be given to private developers to fill for an industrial park. ... Not all tidelands will go to industry, however. The City of Napa is buying land and making plans for an extensive park system along the Napa River opposite the State Hospital.

Most of Angel Island has been turned over to the State for park purposes. It will be more than a year before the existing park can be enlarged to the full 640 acres.

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Around the World: Over 2 million flamingos, half the world's population, perished in Africa as the result of a drought driving them to highly alkaline pools. Only 130,000 were saved. ... Over 6 million Sudanese dioch birds have been killed by the Sudan government in an effort to save crops. ... An airplane crash near Baltimore recently has been attributed to a Whistling Swan meeting a Viscount. ... Atom tests in the South Pacific may advance mankind's knowledge, but they have meant certain death to untold numbers of seabirds Helicoptering visitors in the Antarctic are driving the Adelle penguins towards extinction by frightening birds off the nests, leaving eggs to the hungry skuas.

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We now have a 31st National Park - 94,161 acre Petrified Forest National Park. An act of Congress in 1958 stipulated that when all 8000 acres of non-Federal land within the former Petrified Forest National Monument were acquired by the Government, it would become a National Park. This has been done.

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The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: February 25th)

February, 1963
Volume 9, No. 8

- Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Robert Lassen of the California Department of Fish and Game will discuss "Waterfowl Migration".
- Next Field Trip:** Sunday, February 17, 9:15 a.m. Delta Region. Barbara Bonnickson and Bev Wilder will lead.
- Next Screen Tour:** Wednesday, February 27, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Eben McMillan will present "The Shandon Hills".

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Some time ago, Program Chairman Jane Nemetz tried to arrange for a program on migratory birds, but the contacted members of the Fish and Game Department were too busy migrating during the hunting season, and we had to settle for a couple of interesting films. We were assured, however, that a speaker would gladly appear at a later meeting. Recently, Jane contacted Fish and Game again and was told that Mr. Robert Lassen, Game Management Supervisor, would be happy to come and talk to us on the subject of "Waterfowl Migration", Feb. 14th at 8 p.m. He will have charts to aid his presentation, and will be prepared to answer questions from the audience. It should be an interesting program.

Jane says that before the meeting, there will be a no-host dinner at the Nut Bowl in Pleasant Hill at 6:15 p.m. Here's a chance to go out to dinner on Valentine's Day. Contact Jane at 934-3295 by the 12th, so she can make definite reservations for a table.

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Bev Wilder, co-leader with Barbara Bonnickson, sends these directions for our next Field Trip, February 17, when we return to the Thornton-Delta area to see aquatic birds, swans, geese, Sandhill Cranes, curlews, hawks, etc.

"Meet at the Cafe at the south end of Thornton at 9:15. We must leave no later than 9:30 in order to complete the trip and meet a ferry-boat schedule. If you are late, look for the caravan south of town at the first road going to the west; we will go clear to the river on it. Take Highway 24 to the Rio Vista bridge; turn right (east) on Highway 12 across the delta about 12 miles to the turn-off marked Thornton. Then turn left (north) about 8 miles to town. The Cafe will be on the right as you enter town. Bring lunch, warm clothes, binoculars and scopes. If we get to the Terminous Ferry to Staten Island before 11:45 a.m., we will get across the river to eat lunch and watch the geese and swans in the corn fields. The free ferry will not run during the lunch hour under any circumstances. It only takes 3 to 4 cars at a time and the limit is 10 people, but it only takes 5 minutes to cross. There will be no walking, so you can enjoy birding from the car. For further information, call Bev Wilder at 934-6353."

Other Field Trips:

Mar. 17 Rodeo Lagoon; Canyon Ranch
 April 21 Moss Landing; Mt. Madonna
 April 28 Mt. Diablo (South Gate)
 May 5 Pinnacles National Monument

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The next Audubon Wildlife Tour, February 27, features Eben McMillan and "The Shandon Hills". Where's Shandon? Sounds like it's in Ireland; but actually it's about 20 miles east of Paso Robles. Near there the McMillans have a ranch on which they have provided a refuge for wild creatures. This picture is a biological calendar of the seasons at Shandon Hills, and it should appeal to us, since so many of its subjects might be seen on our own field trips. Mr. McMillan is one of the pillars of the Paso Robles Audubon Society Reservations for a no-host dinner at the Adobe in Concord prior to the lecture can be made by contacting Violet Beitzel (682-9588) several days before the 27th.

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The California Park Commission has voted to keep Mt. Diablo as a State Park, thus prohibiting any hunting there in the near future. Nearly 800 acres of former federal land are being added to the Park, thanks to an anonymous contribution. This acquisition adds 79 acres on the east boundary, 280 acres in Perkins Canyon, and 440 acres on Eagle Peak. ... Franks Tract in the Delta will be classified as a Recreation Area, primarily for nautical use ... Top priority has been assigned by the Park Commission to the purchase of a wilderness park in the San Bernardino Mountains and to a similar area in the Russian River country.

The Contra Costa Park and Recreation Department has developed a 9 million dollar pay-as-you-go program for the acquisition and development of 14 park sites over the next 20 years. Had the County bond issue passed last year the bill would have been a mere 7.5 million dollars. The present plan will add 6,880 acres to the park system by 1973.

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Several bills of interest to us were introduced in the California legislature in January. ... State Senator Cameron's bill, SB 153, would place the recently defeated 150 million bond issue on the 1964 general election ballot. ... Senator Collier's bill, SB 3, would give the Department of Parks and Recreation power to condemn property if negotiations fail. Such failures account for the State's hiking and riding trails being only about a thousand miles today, whereas 3,000 miles were planned 19 years ago. ... Since some northern counties fear loss of tax revenues, if new parks are placed there, one bill would reimburse the counties for such tax losses. ... Another bill would remove the State bounty on mountain lions. ... Most ominous proposed legislation is Senator Regan's bill, SB 117, which would repeal the State law against motorized travel within wilderness areas. Although the Federal laws would remain on the books, evasions would be easier.

On the National scene: No news - is not necessarily good news.

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Special Notice: During February there will be an Audubon exhibit in the display case at the Concord Library. Drop around and see what Glen Shanks, Margaret Shanks, and Jane Nemetz have arranged for public display.

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Here is Lynn Farrar's report on the 1962 Christmas Count:

"Our 1962 Christmas Count was held on Sunday, December 23, and produced quite satisfactory results. The day was cold to mild — not as cold as in past years. The extremely foggy weather of the preceding week almost miraculously dissipated leaving only local patches which did not hamper the count at all. Wind was mild up to 8 or 10 mph and the only real discomfort was very heavy ground moisture experienced by the Pine Canyon group. A total of 115 species was seen, 114 reported to National, and the total number of birds of all kinds was 14,059. While this was not a record for the count, it represented a most satisfactory result for a great deal of hard work and, I hope, fun on the part of the participants. I would like to offer my heartiest thanks to the many who took part in the count, but to save space I will not list the names. Also, a special thanks to the Beitzels, who put up with us that Sunday evening at the potluck dinner and recap.

"Just one note for future counts. It would be better if all participants would contact the leader of the count if they are going to be in the field. We missed covering some areas of importance this year which could easily have produced common birds not otherwise seen. Even two hours in a car on regular roads would have given us this coverage. This is the only time during the year in which we ask for something definite from our members in the way of field work. Please remember that every little bit helps. Thanks again,
Lynn Farrar.

"Birds observed, and numbers:

Eared Grebe, 5; Western Grebe, 15; Pied-billed Grebe, 13;
Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; Green Heron, 1;
Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Common Egret, 2; Snowy Egret, 1;
American Bittern, 1; Canada Goose, 91; White-fronted Goose, 26;
Mallard, 29; Pintail, 334; Green-winged Teal, 6; Cinnamon Teal, 4;
Shoveler, 356; American Widgeon, 116; Ring-necked Duck, 14; Canvas-
back, 50; Lesser Scaup, 90; Common Goldeneye, 3; Bufflehead, 3;
Ruddy Duck, 36; Hooded Merganser, 2; Common Merganser, 2;
Turkey Vulture, 7; White-tailed Kite, 4; Sharp-shinned
Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 33; Golden Eagle, 1;
Marsh Hawk, 10; Sparrow Hawk, 40; California Quail, 72; Ring-
necked Pheasant, 1; Common Gallinule, 6; American Coot, 679;
Killdeer, 47; Black-bellied Plover, 1; Common Snipe, 2; Greater
Yellowlegs, 11; Least Sandpiper, 132; Dunlin, 15; Long-billed
Dowitcher, 3; Western Sandpiper, 32; American Avocet, 2; Glaucous-
winged Gull, 3; California Gull, 610; Ring-billed Gull, 755; Mew
Gull, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 19; Mourning Dove, 533; Barn Owl, 2;
Great Horned Owl, 2; Burrowing Owl, 5; Short-eared Owl, 1;
White-throated Swift, 50; Anna's Hummingbird, 8; Belted
Kingfisher, 3; Red-shafted Flicker, 51; Acorn Woodpecker, 41;
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker,
3; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 22; Black Phoebe, 4; Horned Lark, 17;
Violet-green Swallow, 8 (a fantastically good find for the count);
Steller's Jay, 5; Scrub Jay, 118; Common Crow, 10; Plain Titmouse, 82;
Common Bushtit, 183; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Wrenit, 10;
(continued on the next page)

Winter Wren, 1 (first time for count); Bewick's Wren, 2; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 12; Rock Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 30; California Thrasher, 8; Robin, 31 (yes, only 31); Varied Thrush, 2; Hermit Thrush, 4; Western Bluebird, 52; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 52; Water Pipit, 50; Cedar Waxwing, 22 (only); Loggerhead Shrike, 22; Starling, 6; Hutton's Vireo, 1; Audubon's Warbler, 73; Yellowthroat, 4; House Sparrow, 247; Western Meadowlark, 360; Red-winged Blackbird, 956; Tri-colored Blackbird, 105; Brewer's Blackbird, 5407; Purple Finch, 4; House Finch, 246; American Goldfinch, 121; Lesser Goldfinch, 359; Rufous-sided Towhee, 26; Brown Towhee, 58; Savannah Sparrow, 90; Lark Sparrow, 18; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, 10 (good numbers); Oregon Junco, 279; White-crowned Sparrow, 280; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 160; Fox Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 80; and I had an Oriental Myna at Bancroft's place that was obviously an escapee and was not reported to National Audubon for the count. Also seen during the count period was Long-billed Curlew".

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Some rare birds, besides Mynahs, were seen by other Auduboners in the State. The Orange County branch definitely saw Cattle Egrets and a Ruff. San Fernando Valley reported 4 Yellow-headed Blackbirds way off course. A Bald Eagle was reported over Scho Park in L.A., and Santa Clara Valley reported two adult Bald Eagles near Calaveras Reservoir. ... All California branches reported few robins and waxwings. Last year we reported 5,829 Robins; this year only 31. Where did they all go? Did they find plenty of food in the hills, or did they all stay north?

Errata: There were no Glaucous Gulls seen at Conn Dam. There were Ring-billed Gulls and an unidentified gull.

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Last call for the Audubon Asilomar conference, April 6 - 9. Get Program and Registration Forms from Audubon Western Conference, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4. Persons may participate on a daily basis. The 8th Biennial Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club, will be held March 8 - 10 at the Sheraton-Palace in S.F. Tppie, "Tomorrow's Wilderness". Several notable speakers, and a bus trip to Pt. Reyes National Seashore. For information write Sierra Club, Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4.

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We had more youngsters than adults at our January meeting, as Jane Nemetz brought along a couple dozen pupils from her classes at Walnut Acres and San Miguel Schools to give us scholarly discussions on the life zones and natural features of Mt. Diablo. Considerable praise for the manner in which these young scientists presented their projects and for their exhibits. On the Junior College level, two of Ferd Ruth's students gave talks on the topography of the quail and on yellow jacket nests. A yellow jacket nest was on exhibition but, fortunately, the yellow jackets weren't.

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Dick Beitzel (President) .. 1713 S. 5th St. Concord ... 682-9588



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: March 26th)

March, 1963
Volume 9, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 8 pm. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. A film on Canyon Ranch will be shown.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 17, 9:30 am. Bolinas Bay and Canyon Ranch. The Coudens will lead.

Next Screen Tour: Friday, March 29, 8 pm. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Karl Maslowski presents "Gone With The Wilderness".

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We have heard much in recent months about Canyon Ranch — 507 acres of Marin County that Marin and Golden Gate Audubon Societies are buying for a nature sanctuary. The initial down payment has been met, and after ten more annual payments of \$24,750, title will go to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc., and the project will be run jointly by both societies. For our next meeting, Jane Nemetz has arranged for a showing of a film on this area. The picture was taken by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis, who turned out the Sierra Club film, "Island in Time", which delighted so many of us at our December meeting. The new film has also met with favorable response elsewhere.

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Our March field trip also features the Canyon Ranch area. Leader Harry Couden says,

"This is our first trip to Bolinas Bay and Canyon Ranch, and it should become another favorite. We scouted it a couple of weekends ago. Canyon Ranch, the big purchase and youth training project of the Golden Gate and Marin Societies, and recently publicized in the Christian Science Monitor, is located on large Bolinas Lagoon, just 3 1/2 miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway No. 1. Turn in at the gate marked Canyon Ranch and park in front of the milk house about 9:30 Sunday morning, March 17. Bring lunch, scope, binoculars, anticipation and stray Irishmen.

"It's over 50 miles to the Ranch — close to 2 hours driving time, no matter who you are, whether you serpentine up Highway 1, climb over the Panoramic Highway from Mill Valley, or take the winding road from Fairfax to Bolinas and come out onto Highway 1 a mile north of Canyon Ranch. All routes are interesting; and, of course, they will be scenic at the rate you must travel."

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The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: April 23)

April, 1963
Volume 9, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 8 pm. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. The Adamsons will show slides featuring the birds of the San Blas area of the West Mexican Coast.

Next Field Trips: Sunday, April 21, 10 am. Moss Landing and Mt. Madonna. El Mize will lead.

Sunday, April 28, 7 am. South Gate area of Mt. Diablo. Lynn Farrar will lead.

Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5. Pinnacles National Monument. The Adamsons will lead.

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Last December Harry and Betty Adamson joined a University of California Extension Class in San Blas, on the west coast of Mexico. After a week with this group, Harry and Betty stayed a couple weeks longer in western Mexico, before returning home with some outstanding pictures of the jungle country and its birds. At our next meeting, on April 11, the Adamsons will show us their pictures along with others they have collected, so that we should come away with a good idea of what can be seen in the State of Nayarit. (If you want a preview of this show, read the article on San Blas, which begins on page 81 of the latest, April, issue of Sunset.)

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So as not to conflict with Easter and Mothers Day festivities, the April Field Trip has been scheduled a week later than usual and the May Field Trip a week earlier. In between, Lynn Farrar will lead a special trip to Mt. Diablo to look for warblers and vireos. This means that we have three field trips available on three successive weekends.

The first of these trips will be on Sunday, April 21, to the Moss Landing area and Mt. Madonna. We birded Moss Landing last year on the way to Monterey, but Mt. Madonna will be a new spot for our group. It's a long trip for one day, but camping is available down that way for those who wish to make a two-day trip out of it. Your editor will be the leader; and here are my directions and some notes:

"Meet at 10 am Sunday at the Jetty Road on Highway 1 just north of Moss Landing. The tide will be on its way out, and there should be a good selection of birds, including avocets, grebes, gulls, ducks, terns, and other shore birds. Bring a lunch and either eat it there or at Mt. Madonna, which you get to by returning to Watsonville and then going east on Highway 152 about 9 miles to the top of Hecker Pass, where there will be a paved road going up the hill to Mt. Madonna.

"Santa Clara County has a mountain park on the 1900 ft. summit, and this 3,000 acre park contains open spaces, redwoods, oaks, and madrones. Meet again at the Park Headquarters about 2 pm Sunday, and we can bird the ruins of Henry Miller's country home with its surrounding open lands and see the descendants of Hearst's albino deer. Campsites are available at this park, but can be wet and cold in April. If the weather is reasonable, I plan to camp at Sunset Beach State Park, west of Watsonville, probably in the less-crowded Campground A. Hope to bird there about 3 pm Saturday."

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The following Sunday, April 28, Lynn Farrar will lead a group up the south side of Mt. Diablo to look for warblers and vireos. He says, "We have to go early, if we expect to see them, so meet at 7 am at San Ramon Hi in Danville. We will bird between South Gate and Rock City on the mountain after the gate opens, so latecomers can spot us somewhere along this road." (Editor's note: Don't forget Daylite Saving Time.)

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There is also a Field Trip on the weekend of May 4 and 5, with Harry and Betty Adamson as leaders. Harry says:

"This is an overnight trip to Pinnacles National Monument. We will probably camp in the old CCC camp in Old Pinnacles Canyon. Since there are no motel or restaurant accommodations at the Monument, bring camping gear, food, comfortable shoes, flashlight, and canteen. We haven't been down there for a couple of years, but prospects are that we can see a variety of birds not generally seen in our county."

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Other Field Trips:

May 19	...	Arroyo Mocho
June 16	...	Yuba Pass
June 23	...	Pine Canyon
July 14	...	Wright's Lake

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Here is a report from Lynn Farrar on the Feb. 17 Terminus trip:

"Birds were on the scarce side, with only about 200 Sandhill Cranes seen. Geese and ducks were very low in number, and no geese were seen in neighboring fields from the road, only across the sloughs. A pleasant day weatherwise, but the birds could have been more cooperative.

"Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Common Egret; Whistling Swan; White-fronted and Snow Goose; Mallard; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Raven; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer Blackbird;

House Finch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow."

No report yet on the Audubon Canyon and Bolinas Bay weekend. A good crowd turned out on a beautiful day. Birding was done in the morning along Bolinas Lagoon, to take advantage of a low tide, and there were wonderful displays of Black Brant and other water birds not usually seen. Lunch at the Ranch, in sight of the herons and egrets in the rookery, and then birding in the afternoon on the trails of the Ranch.

We voted at our March meeting to contribute to the Audubon Canyon Ranch fund - only a small amount, but then our supply of funds is limited. A good crowd enjoyed the film on the Ranch, and the picture proved to be good preparation for the field trip the following Sunday. (A special thanks goes to Jane Nemetz for all the extra trouble she went to in order to get the film to us in time. The film is so popular that the copy we used had not been returned to the office until the day of our meeting, and Jane had to make a special trip to get it. This marks about the third time this year that she has had to make special arrangements at the last minute - and that is work far beyond the requirements of a Program Chairman!)

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We have some new members:

Mrs. Ann Cavanagh, 1431 Barbis Way, Concord
 Lucille and William Finch, 314 Ada Drive, Martinez
 Mrs. Amy Hansen, 2221 Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek

An official welcome to them, and may they find something worthwhile in our meetings, field trips, projects, and bulletin. Our last Screen Tour speaker, Karl Maslowski, urged the audience to think about joining our group.

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At the March meeting, Lynn Farrar jumped to his feet with the plea that members submit bird sightings to "The Quail" so that others will know what's going on. The editor replied that he is glad to report such sightings - but first he has to receive them. So send them in!

Lynn pointed out that the Spring Migration began early in March. He sighted Orange-crowned warblers on March 2, and has since reported Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing in his back yard. The Shackelfords have seen Rufous and Allen Hummingbirds. Your Editor reports seeing his first Bullock Oriole of the season in his backyard in Concord on March 26, nineteen days earlier than last year. Elsewhere, Marin Audubon records sightings of a Nashville Warbler in Inverness, for the first time in the county, this Spring. Pasadena Audubon reports that several members saw Mexico's national bird, the Caracara, near Oceanside.

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In early March the Sierra Club sponsored its 8th Biennial Wilderness Conference. I was able to attend the Friday session and heard several nationally known speakers. Here are some thoughts that were not sensational enough to get into the papers:

.Carl Buchheister, National Audubon President, pointed out that wild life needs wilderness as well as man. It's fine to save some land in Texas for the Whooping Crane, but the Crane would

be extinct by now were it not for the wilderness of Wood Buffalo National Park in Northern Alberta. Likewise, you can have West Indian Flamingoes at a racetrack in Miami, but the Flamingo will disappear, if its nesting spot on Great Inagua in the Caribbean were to be overrun by man. The caribou, grizzly, and mountain lion all need wilderness, too. Dr. A. Spilhaus, from the University of Minnesota, said that more ducks are killed by oil than by hunting. He fears that eventually most of the rivers will deliver no water to the sea. He wants international agreement to reserve underwater "ocean parks" or even an isolated uninhabited island as a wilderness area. A speaker from the floor suggested that we bring a little wilderness back into the City. Not a bad idea!

A similar plea for saving a little wilderness near our cities was made by Karl Maslowski, whose "Gone With The Wilderness" brought our Screen Tours to a close. He called wilderness "a community of wild things".

If your blood can stand a little boiling, go to the nearest Library and read the March Harper's article "Congressman Aspinall vs The People of the United States". Read how one man thumbed his nose at millions of Americans by going home to Colorado the last three weeks of the last Congress so that the Wilderness Bill, which had been voted out of his Committee, would not be presented for debate and vote on the floor of the House. ... The latest Wilderness Bill has been approved by the Senate Interior Committee, but Aspinall is determined to delay and block passage of any Wilderness Bill.

....

At the last Screen Tour, the annual Porterfield awards were presented to: Mrs. Mary Rios and Mrs. Virginia Schaefer, who will each receive a two week scholarship at the San Jose State Field School of Natural History;

Vickie Bodeman, Mary Rios, and Bill Fox, who each received a copy of E. Lawrence Palmer's "Fieldbook of Natural History". In addition to these generous gifts from Alice and John Porterfield, our own Society voted at the March meeting to set up an award to a teacher. The winner was James Utz, teacher at Walnut Acres School, who will receive a scholarship to the San Jose class.

....

We read of an honor going to one of our faithful members - Mrs. Isabella McGeehon, who was given a special presentation for 45 years of service to the Red Cross. What were you doing 45 years ago?

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors tentatively approved a 16 million dollar, 20-year, park plan, which would require a tax rate of 8¢ per \$100. The Supervisors favored submitting the plan to the voters. ... East Bay Regional Parks wants to increase its tax rate from 5¢ to 10¢ for 5 years to acquire and improve major areas in Sunol Valley, Coyote Hills, Cull Creek Canyon, and along San Lorenzo Creek.

....

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord ... 682-9786
Dick Beitzel (President) .. 1713 S. 5th St., Concord .. 682-9588



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: May 24)

May, 1963
Volume 9, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 8 pm. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. The Adamsons will show slides of the San Blas area of the Western Mexican Coast. Carroll Davis will talk on the "Pay-As-You-Go" County Park Plan.

Next Field Trips: (Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5. Pinnacles National Monument. The Adamsons will lead.)

Sunday, May 19. Arroyo Mocho. Meet at the Livermore flagpole at 8 am. Elizabeth O'Meara and Dorothy Couden will lead.

.....

Although pictures and a talk on the San Blas region were scheduled by the Adamsons for our April meeting, the program had to be changed at the last minute when Betty and Harry were called East by a death in the family. As you probably know, the Adamsons went down Mexico way last December to spend some time with a University of California Extension Class and then stayed a little longer to see the country by themselves. On May 9, we will see their pictures and others they have collected of the birds and scenery found at San Blas and elsewhere in Sinaloa and Nayarit. (As mentioned last month, Sunset had an illustrated article on this region in the April issue.)

We will also have a talk on the County Park program by Carroll Davis, one of our members and 1st Vice President of the Contra Costa Park and Recreational Council. Since the bond issue was turned down last year, the next best thing seems to be the "Pay-As-You-Go" Park Plan. There is still hope of keeping a few acres away from the bulldozers.

.....

(In case this gets to you before the weekend of May 4 and 5, this is a repeat announcement that the Adamsons will be leading a camping trip to the Pinnacles National Monument that weekend. Camp will probably be at the old CCC camp in Old Pinnacles Canyon. Bring camping equipment, food, shoes, flashlight and canteen.)

On Sunday, May 19, Elizabeth O'Meara and Dorothy Couden will lead us into one of our more popular regions, the Arroyo Mocho. Bert says:

"We will rally 'round the flagpole in Livermore, East Main & Livermore Avenue, at 8 am on May 19. Then out Livermore Ave. a couple of miles and take the right fork, the Lines Road. First stop will be "Phainopepla Bridge", which to the uninitiated is the second major bridge on the Arroyo Mocho. Here we may find Phainopeplas, and always orioles, tanagers, kingbirds, and many songsters (at least they think they are). Then we continue up the canyon, birding as we go. I hope nobody gets hungry until we get over into the beautiful San Antone Valley. This should be a nice trip, after a wet Spring, with lots of birds and flowers. Bring the usual gear. Come one; come all."

....

Other Field Trips: June 16 ... Yuba Pass
 June 23 ... Pine Canyon
 July 14 ... Wright's Lake

....

Harry Couden felt good, when he wrote this summary of the March 17 trip to Canyon Ranch and Bolinas Lagoon:

"This thoroughly-planned, well-organized field trip for St. Patrick's luck-of-the-Irish Day exemplified the success to which we become accustomed when we have spent long hours of preparation. Request to use the Canyon Ranch was made and graciously acknowledged a week in advance. Great Blue Herons and American Egrets were on their rookeries in gorgeous plumage, as scheduled. The usual arrangements for slightly better than perfect weather were again adequate. And, oh yes, a record minus tide was arranged for our shore birding. The 82 species testify to the thoughtful planning - on the part of the birds. Some 30 of us were impressed with this lovely area and are now Canyon Ranch enthusiasts.

"Birds observed: Common Loon; all 5 Grebes; d.c. Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egret; Black Brant; Pintail; Am. Widgeon; Redhead; Canvasback; both Scaups; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged Scoter & Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; r.b. Merganser; TV; Cooper, Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawks; Cal. Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Black Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Dunlin; Dowitcher; Godwit; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, Calif, Ring-billed, Mew & Bonaparte Gulls; Caspian Tern; White-throated Swift; Anna & Allen's Hummers; Kingfisher; r.s. Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Barn Swallow; both Jays; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; w.b. Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Varied Thrush; r.c. Kinglet; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-crowned Warbler; Townsend's Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; r.w. Blackbird & Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; both Towhees; Ore. Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows."

....

Your Editor didn't plan quite as well as Harry for the Moss Landing-Mt. Madonna trip, and the birds and weather on the mountain were anything but superb. Fortunately, the sunshine and a favorable tide at the Landing gave us a good count of birds, featuring Cinnamon Teal, a straggler Black Brant, 3 knots, a Snowy Plover, and a Phalarope.

The weather was stormy Saturday, but I camped at Sunset Beach and then met four cars of birders at Moss Landing Sunday morning. Bill Betts brought over relatives from Morgan Hill, and they had a good time. All of us tried Mt. Madonna, but the weather was as wet and cold as a hound's nose, and a soppy walk didn't turn up many birds.

Birds observed:

At Sunset Beach ... Outstanding were 8 Cinnamon Teal in the marshlands, all 3 kinds of Goldfinches in good plumage, a California Thrasher, and 15 Forster Terns buffeted by an arctic squall that whipped Monterey Bay into a meringue of white caps.

At Moss Landing ... 46 species ... All 3 Loons; Horned, Eared, & Western Grebe; All 3 Cormorants; Black Brant; Pintail; Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Lesser Scaup; White-winged & Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; r.b. Merganser; Coot; Snowy Plover; Willet; Knot; Least & Western Sandpiper; Dunlin; Dowitcher; Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Stilt; Phalarope (Wilson or Northern); Ring-billed & Bonaparte Gull; Forster Tern; Caspian Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Tree, r.w. & Barn Swallow; Pipit; Meadowlark; Brewer & r.w. Blackbird; House Finch; Savannah & w.c. Sparrow.

At Mt. Madonna ... only 12 species ... Outstanding were Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and a kreeeeeing Red-Tailed Hawk that had some Band-tailed Pigeons all worried. Also, a big Bobcat dashing across the road in front of the Sather's car and mine.

....

Last month I mentioned the rough time that Jane Nemetz has been having in keeping programs scheduled. The April meeting was no exception. When the Adamson's talk was cancelled, versatile Jane made sure she'd have a program by scheduling herself — and then took us the easy way on several pack trips into the Salmon-Trinity area, where you measure distances as you would an elevator's path and not as the crow flies. It is easy to see why the Nemetz family returns to this area year after year.

Jane also reported on a conference she attended at Asilomar just before the Audubon conference. It had to do with Nature Centers and Natural Areas. According to her, lands are still available for wildlife preservation, and organizations are set up for this purpose. She has scads of information on this subject that she would be glad to share.

Ferd Ruth reported on the Asilomar Audubon conference, which he found interesting for the most part, although he said that ~~times~~ at times some of the orators were almost somnambulant during their own speeches. He thought that the most outstanding presentation was a three-projector showing of microphotographs by Stennet Heaton. Somehow, Ferd also managed to find himself in a Fish&Game plane flying over the Los Banos Refuge.

Dick Beitzel won two third-place ratings in two different categories for his pictures at the Audubon Conference.

....

Bird Observations:

Lynn Farrar reports a Nashville Warbler in his backyard on April 21, and he also says that the Adamsons had Harris' Sparrow recently.

Carlyle Sather helped identify a Baird's Sandpiper at Salmon Creek in Sonoma County on April 20.

The Beitzels heard a Black-headed Grosbeak on April 9. Vi Beitzel reported seeing a huge flock of Bandtailed Pigeons in the proposed

Las Juntas Park, and there are other reports of flocks in Martinez and Franklin Canyon. This is the year for them, and Isabella McGeehon thinks the acorns must be in good supply.

Ingra Lusebrink and Frances Blake went over to Canyon Ranch on April 16 and saw 6 nests of Blue Herons with young and an Egret nest with eggs. Also, Black-crowned Night Herons in the afternoon. Recently, Ingra saw a woodpecker and 3 blackbirds chasing a Barn Owl up a tree, and, elsewhere, a Crow chasing a Raven.

I can report seeing a swirling cloud of 15 Turkey Vultures above a spot on the north side of Mt. Diablo recently....Also a Gallinule walking down a tree trunk; actually the tree sloped gently into the waters of Keller Pond....I also noticed that the swallows returned in swarms to Galindo Reservoir on April 10.

Janet Willoughby saw 58 species of birds and ducks at Conn Dam on Easter. Janet is presently undergoing treatment at Napa State Hospital, and she would be very grateful if Audubon members would write to her, visit her, or take her birding. I'll have her letter at the next meeting, if you wish more details on how to arrange such a meeting, or you can contact Janet at P.O. Box A, Imola, Calif.

....

Flash. Just had word that our popular President, Dick Beitzel, is now in the Concord Hospital recovering from a heart attack he had in Sacramento on Saturday, April 27. Here's hoping he has a speedy recovery.

....

Hats off to the Stockton Audubon Society, which has just issued Vol. 1, No. 1 of its bulletin, "The Hoot Owl". The Editor, Mrs. Doris M. Shanks, is chief cook and bottle washer of Stockton Audubon, since she is also the President of the group.

....

There have been many words in the papers recently about the dearth of robins in the Bay Area this past winter. Reasons range all the way from an abundance of juniper berries in Modoc County to too much pesticide in the worms. ... Speaking of pesticides reminds me of Rachel Carson. In her recent TV appearance, I think she said more in fewer words than her scientific and governmental opponents. The lady knows what she's talking about -- just a week or so later three people were killed and 6 hospitalized in one Texas family, apparently as the result of drinking water that cotton insecticide contaminated. ... A poison called 1080, used as a predator control, is killing more than predators. Poisons used as squirrel bait in Siskiyou County killed more than 3000 ducks and geese. ... Are you aware that there are only 500 to 600 mountain lions left in California? And still we pay a bounty to kill them. A Measure introduced by Fred Farr in the California Senate would stop this bounty payment.

Sen. Farr has also introduced a bill that would make a person who willfully abandons any domestic animal guilty of misdemeanor. This is particularly aimed at people who dump cats miles from home. If the animals survive, they can become vicious predators with few natural enemies. Wildlife authorities say that these feral cats kill more upland game than all other predators combined. Trapping crews at 2600 acre Gray Lodge Waterfowl Refuge caught 82 of these cats.

....



The Quail

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

(Next deadline: June 24th)

June, 1963
Volume 9, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13th, 6 pm. Annual Potluck Dinner at Frank and Jane Nemetz' home, 2822 San Antonio Drive, Walnut Creek. (Details below.)

Next Field Trips: Saturday and Sunday, June 15th and 16th. Yuba Pass and Nevada desert. Joint trip with Golden Gate Audubon. Meet at Beth Snyder's cabin. (Details below.)

Saturday and Sunday, July 13th and 14th. Wright's Lake. (Details in next Quail.)

.....

The annual potluck dinner meeting this year will be on a Thursday instead of the usual Sunday, due to calendar conflicts by several of the members. Frank and Jane Nemetz (Phone: 934-3295) have generously made their home available and will try to squeeze everybody in.

As of this writing, arrangements have been made so recently that dinner chairmen have not been selected. But it is customary to bring either a hot dish, salad or dessert in enough quantity to feed several people. Try to be there by 6 pm. If you have room in your car, bring some folding chairs and a card table. Also be sure to bring your dishes and eating equipment—and a dollar per adult, since this is our money-raising project of the year.

To get to the Nemetz' house: Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road to the Rancho San Miguel subdivision. At the Standard station turn onto San Carlos Drive. Stay on San Carlos almost to the end, and then turn left onto San Antonio Drive and go around the curve to 2822 San Antonio Drive.

The Beitzels will be bringing a projector and screen. If you have a couple dozen slides you'd like to show, bring them along. Any subject will do. (Last year we went from Rainbow Bridge to Holland.)

Our officers for the forthcoming year, who were elected at the May meeting and will be installed on June 13, are as follows:

President	Jane Nemetz
Vice President	Bill Betts
Secretary	Ann Cavanagh
Treasurer	George Schad

See you there. This will be our last meeting until the Fall.

.....

Our only field trip in June will be to the Yuba Pass area. Harry Couden (Phone 934-8073) sends these directions:

"Take U.S. 40 to Truckee and then go north on State Highway 89 to the junction with State 49. Turn west on 49 and cross Yuba Pass. About 2 miles further west, at the Clark Station Homesite area, turn right onto the road leading to the Snyder cabin. (Highway 49 thru Grass Valley and Sierra City is passable, but not recommended because of winter storms.)

Meet at Beth Snyder's cabin at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday (June 15) and 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. We expect to see Black-backed Woodpecker, Calliope Hummingbird, and Green-tailed Towhee, and we hope to see Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and Blue Grouse on Saturday. The Sunday trip is to the Nevada desert for Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, and Sage Thrasher.

There is excellent camping at Chapman Creek Forest Service Camp, on Highway 49 about a mile west of the cabin. Nights may be cold. For motel accommodations write Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cornwall, Pioneer Lodge, Sattley, Calif. The lodge is 2 miles west of the Snyder cabin on 49, and the phone number is Pioneer Lodge, No. 1, Grass Valley Exchange. Other accommodations: Sierra Buttes Inn, Yuba River Inn, and Pence Motel - all at Sierra City about 10 miles from the cabin.

We are privileged to have Mrs. Snyder's special invitation to accompany the Golden Gate Audubon Society for this field trip."

....

There will not be a field trip to Pine Canyon on June 23 this year. Other activities and vacation plans have led to cancellation of this trip. Birding is said to be poor in the Canyon that late in the season. The trip to Wright's Lake is still being scheduled for July 13 & 14, however.

....

Lynn Farrar sent in this report of the April 28 trip to Mt. Diablo:

"It was a profitable trip, with 10 early birders and 6 more joining later at Rock City. A rather nice group of birds was singing, and I feel that a start was made on the learning of songs as a method of field identification. Early singers included California Thrasher, Bewick's Wren, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Sage Sparrow; later, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's Warblers were both heard and seen. A total of 63 species were identified by sight and/or song, but to conserve space only the more interesting additional birds are listed here: Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Horned Lark, a nesting Violet-Green Swallow, Rock Wren, Hermit Thrush (2 calling—a late date), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (scarce this year), Audubon's Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Pine Siskin, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Birds especially sought for but not found were Gnatcatcher and Black-chinned Sparrow.

"Thanks to all who joined me. I would be pleased to undertake further trips for the purpose of song identification, if there is sufficient interest". ... ~~LF~~ LF.

....

report

Here is Betty and Harry Adamson's, on the overnight trip to Pinnacles National Monument:

"On Saturday morning, May 4th, we met at the Chalone Creek (Old CCC Camp) Campground. There was no scheduled walk for Saturday so members birded in several different areas. Some went to Chalone Peak, the highest point in the Monument, where a late migrant Townsend Solitaire was seen. Others birded just west of the Old Pinnacles Cave and reported Lawrence Goldfinches and Lazuli Buntings.

"Saturday evening after supper and a campfire, with wood donated by John Bruce and his students, some of the group took a short walk to listen for Poorwills, but the frog chorus was so loud along the stream that the birds could hardly be heard. Later in the night, after the camp noise died down, Poorwills were calling very clearly and persisted until about 5:30a.m. Horned and Barn Owls were also heard during the night.

"Sunday, the 5th, was a beautiful day, and the 4 mile walk over the High Peaks trail was spectacular as always. Due to the late and frequent rains, the Upper Sonoran zone vegetation was lush compared with its usual arid appearance and wildflowers were abundant. Three Calif. Striped Racers were seen - slim and colorful snakes indeed and not too often seen these days. One disappointment was the lack of either of the large species of falcons which breed in the cliffs. Neither Prairie nor Peregrine was seen or heard, although we have had one or the other, sometimes both, on previous trips this time of the year.

"Good looks were had of Canyon Wren, White-throated Swift, Violet-Green Swallow, Raven, and others, so that the trip was not totally lacking in bird interest.

"Following is a list of birds observed: (A note of warning - in the past it has been the practice to include species seen between Hollister and the Pinnacles. On the list this can be misleading, because due to ecological differences some of these species are never, or at most very rarely seen within the Monument proper. The Magpie, Starling, Meadowlark, Rough-winged Swallow, Lewis Woodpecker, and others fall in this category)

"Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Cooper, Red-tailed, and Sparrow Hawks; Calif. Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Barn and Great Horned Owls; Poorwill; Vaux and White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Downy, and Nuttall Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Violet-Green and Rough-winged Swallow; Steller and Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Raven; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; House, Bewick, Canyon, & Rock Wrens; Calif. Thrasher; Swainson's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Solitaire; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Solitary & Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Black-throated-gray Warbler & Wilson Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwinged Blackbird; Cowbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; House Finch; Lesser & Lawrence Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Lark, Sage & Song Sparrows; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Bullock's Oriole; Brewer Blackbird. (66 species)."

.....
32 birders showed up for the Arroyo Mocho trip on May 19 and saw 57 Varieties. Doesn't look like there will be room enough here for Elizabeth O'Meara's report, so it will be in the next Quail.

.....
Some 50 members and guests bulged the walls at our May meeting, at which the Adamsons narrated Western Mexico trips and Carroll Davis gave a pictorial summary of the "Pay-As-You-Go" park plan. We voted to go on record as being in favor of this county plan, and the Board of Supervisors has since been notified.

Three young ladies from Orinda attended the May meeting and managed to scrape up enough money between them to become members. The girls also went on the Arroyo Mocho field trip. We welcome:

Virginia Burde, 34 La Campana, Orinda
 Marjie Honnold, 175 Moraga Highway, Orinda
 Carol McColl, 10 Ramona Drive, Orinda

Also a new member, though we have seen her many times, is Ferd Ruth's wife, Juliet.

....

Bird Observations:

Outstanding are the Black-chinned Hummingbirds, which just aren't supposed to be around this area. Nevertheless, one of Jane Nemetz' students brought in two birds that Jane and Lynn Farrar are positive are Black-chinned Hummers. If so, this is a "first" for this area. (Jane may have them available for inspection at the potluck). The birds, from the Oak Grove subdivision, were probably poisoned by spray.

Lynn Farrar writes that the adult Harris' Sparrow reported seen by the Adamsons evidently stayed around that section of Lafayette, for it appeared irregularly at the Steller's feeder for a couple of weeks and then went over to Lynn's feeder between April 28 and May 1. This is a very late date for this specie in this area.

Lynn says that he has had reports of or has seen all spring migrants except Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers. Let him know if you have seen these in the County this Spring.

Beitzels had a Yellow Warbler in their walnut tree all one day.

I can report Black-necked Stilts seen several times recently in a pond just east of Avon Refinery and north of Waterfront Road, in a spot where the Shackelfords reported them a year ago. Also, a Mother Gallinule and two chicks at Keller Pond. And several Western Tanagers up Russelman Park road.

....

Several members of our Society attended a Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council dinner meeting on May 1 and heard Nathaniel Owings, a famous architect, tell us that our Park plan was only one-tenth what it should be. Mr. Owings also feels that the Flood Control and Park Departments should get together and make some "green strips", where now is often desolation.

....

Roy Glotfelty, Conservation Chairman, reports that:

"The Garden Club of America has awarded its Founder's Fund Award of \$3,000 to the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, which will use the money to develop the north canyon of Audubon Canyon Ranch as part of a wildlife sanctuary and nature center.

"A five man team of Interior and Agriculture experts has been appointed to study the need for a nationwide system of "wild rivers".

"Milwaukee Audubon will sponser guided canoe trips into the Quetico wilderness June 10 and September 2. With wilderness trips increasing in popularity, it is good to see an Audubon Society getting into the business."

....

Your Editor doesn't have a full quota of grey hairs yet, so he has volunteered to produce "The Quail" regularly for next year yet. In addition, Frieda Shackelford and her daughter will faithfully address and stuff the envelopes. My thanks to them for their past help, and to some girls at Tidewater for some typing and duplications.

Ed Mize, 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord. 682-9786.



The Quail

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

(Next deadline: July 24th)

July 1963
Volume 10, No. 1

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, July 13 & 14. Wright's Lake. Leaders: Lynn Farrar and Carroll Davis, who plan to be on the scene by Friday evening. (See below)

Next Meeting: Not until September 12. Details in a later issue.

.....

Our final summer field trip will be to Wright's Lake, an area with many things in its favor—fishing, swimming, hiking, birding and botany. Thanks to recent rains, there should be many wild flowers in bloom (and maybe a few wild mosquitos). Here are Carroll Davis' directions:

"Take U. S. 50 through Kyburz, pass 'Fred's Place', and continue on 5 miles to the Wright's Lake road sign on your left. It's about 8 miles up to the lake. The road, said to be very rough in late June, should be passable by mid-July. Carroll Davis may have last minute information on the road condition, so you can call him at 685-8960 if you have any questions. Meet on the western side of the campground, in an area where there are some large rocks. Look for a yellow-green VW bus with an orange 'Stop Billboard Blight' bumper strip.

"Saturday's trip starts at 9:30 a.m. from the road fork (to cabin area) just north of the campground. This trip will be to Twin Lakes for most of us, but can extend into the snowfields above the Lakes, if enough are interested. Bring your lunch. Sunday's trip will be west on the Windmiller Trail. Meet at the road to the garbage pit at 6:30 a.m. Other short trips can be arranged, if desired.

"It is to be noted that John Bruce, who was to assist in leading, has an assignment with S.F. State College in the training of Peace Corps candidates who will be going to the Philippines. John may not be able to make the Wright's Lake trip—but certainly for a worthy reason."

.....

About 40 members and guests attended the Potluck Dinner at the Nemetz home on Thursday, June 13. The occasion proved to be a financial, gastronomic, and social success. Treasurer George Schad reports that we cleared over \$46. After a brief business meeting, wherein Dick Beitzel turned the President's gavel over to Jane Nemetz, the group went indoors and took some armchair tours to Mt. Adams (with Ann Cavanagh), to the Seattle Fair and Fraser River (with Ed Mize), to Europe (with the Rufus Johnsons), and to Lava Beds National Monument (with the Beitzels). Our thanks go to Jane and Frank Nemetz, our hosts in a lovely home.

we have added eight new members to our Society within the last couple of months. A special "Quail" greeting to:

Audrey Ayers, 3237 Quandt Road, Lafayette
 Ralph and Margaret Hodgson, 4081 Legion Court, Lafayette
 Carolyn Raynesford, 3058 Vessing Road, Pleasant Hill
 Mary Rios, 161 Adelaide, Concord
 Pat Shackelford, 712 Laurel Drive, Walnut Creek
 Robert and Mary Wymer, 3392 Ridge Road, Lafayette

....

Some time ago Elizabeth O'Heara sent in a report of the May 19 Arroyo Mocho trip. Space is limited, so here is a condensation of her report:

"32 Members and guests counted 57 varieties of birds on the Mocho trip. Three carloads of birders drove the long way home over Mt. Hamilton, adding a Thrasher to the list. We met in Livermore under a high, cold fog, but moved up into the sun and warmth. Phainopepla were seen at their bridge again. Flowers and birds were all over the place up the canyon. We ate lunch along the creek and got good views of Lazuli Bunting.

"Other less common species seen: Kingfisher; Lewis & Hairy (?); Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated & Olive-sided Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Peewee; Horned Lark (?); Violet-green & Rough-winged Swallow; Purple Martin; Steller Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Bewick & Rock Wren; Swainson's Thrush (?); Orange-crowned, Yellow & Wilson Warbler; Bullock Oriole; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lark & Chipping Sparrow."

....

Also, here is a condensation of Harry Couden's account of the June 15 & 16 field trip to Yuba Pass:

"Mt. Diablo and Golden Gate members accounted for 16 carloads, which imposed a problem of numbers, but was handled skillfully by Beth Snyder. Perfect weather followed a week of storm. The spring plumage added to our interest, and nests of many birds were located. Call the trip outstanding. Eight families from Mt. Diablo were there, some camping at Chapman Creek. Birding was in two parts - the Sierra forest on Saturday, and Sierra Valley on Sunday. We ran into a spraying problem on Sunday. 41 Species on Saturday and 35 on Sunday.

"Less common species on Saturday: Calliope Hummingbird; Hairy & White-headed Woodpecker; three Empidonax Flycatchers; Pewee; Violet-green & Tree Swallow; Mountain Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Creeper; Dipper; Solitaire; both Kinglets; Warbling Vireo; Nashville, Yellow, Audubon, Hermit, MacGillivray, & Wilson Warblers; Western Tanager; Evening & Pine Grosbeak; Cassin Finch; Pine Siskin; Green-tailed Towhee; White-crowned & Fox Sparrows. Golden Gate reported Pileated & Black-backed Woodpeckers.

"On Sunday: Horned Grebe; 5 Ducks; Cinnamon Teal; Swainson's Hawk; Gallinule; Willet; Avocet; Stilt; Wilson's Phalarope; Black Tern; Common Nighthawk; Kingbird; Horned Lark; Black-billed Magpie; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Sage Thrasher; Mountain Bluebird; Yellowthroat; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Brewer & Savannah Sparrow."

....

Harry also sent in an account of a trip to Florida, and his observations will appear with other observations next month.

....

Membership List July 1963

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette	283-2164
Amundsen, Mary B.	1229 Blvd. Way	Wal. Ck.	934-0221
Ayers, Audrey	3237 Quandt Rd.	Lafayette	934-5836
Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth	1268 Redwood Lane	Lafayette	284-4796
Beitzel, Dick & Violet	1713 S. 5th St.	Concord	682-9588
Betts, William J.	1827 Altura Drive	Concord	685-5119
Blake, Frances	4440 Walnut Bl.	Wal. Ck.	935-2884
Bolender, Mrs. M. C.	511 Highland Dr.	Danville	837-6642
Bonnicksen, 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
Burde, Virginia	34 La Campana	Orinda	254-5500
Carlock, Mildred	528 Clipper Hill Rd.	Danville	837-4528
Cavanagh, Ann	1431 Barbis Way	Concord	682-5127
Clausen, Karen	249 Margarido Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-9399
Couden, Harry & Dorothy	1491 Sunset Loop	Wal. Ck.	934-8873
Crosby, Doris & Joe	4214 Walnut Blvd.	Wal. Ck.	
Culbertson, Anne S.	1131 Scotts Lane	Wal. Ck.	934-3260
Davis, Carroll	52 Baylor Lane	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
Finch, Lucille & Wm.	314 Ada Dr.	Martinez	682-4207
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
Hansen, Mrs. Amy	2221 Newell Ave.	Wal. Ck.	934-3791
Hassler, Katie	1220 Dewing Ln.	Wal. Ck.	934-0388
Hawkins, Mrs. Virginia L.	1229 Blvd. Way, Apt. 9	Wal. Ck.	
Hill, Howard	2143 Gill Dr.	Concord	682-9048
Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret	4081 Legion Court	Lafayette	254-0657
Holsclaw, Mrs. Guy	600 Alhambra Way	Martinez	228-5114
Honnold, Marjie	175 Moraga Highway	Orinda	254-3503
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
Lusebrink, Engra	2232 Overlook Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-7251
McColl, Carol	10 Ramona Dr.	Orinda	376-8702
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, Jessie B.	P.O. Box 26	Antioch	
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.	1047 Kaski Lane	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
Porterfield, Mr. & Mrs. J.	3053 The Alameda	Concord	685-4616
Raynesford, Carolyn	3058 Vessing Rd.	Pl. Hill	
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	555 La Vista Rd.	Wal. Ck.	935-1813
Rieser, Dick	45 Tarry Ln.	Orinda	254-4861
Rios, Mary	161 Adelaide	Concord	
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, Ferd & Juliet	43 Cuesta Way	Wal. Ck.	934-8803
Samuelson, Mrs. Marie	3824 Walnut Ave.	Concord	685-3219
	Mail: 1663 Willow Pass		
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle	1700 El Camino Real Rue 20-10	So. S.F.	
Schad, George & Muriel	2906 Concord Bl.	Concord	685-7897
Shackelford, Clair & Frieda	712 Laurel Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-1344
Shackelford, Pat	712 Laurel Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	685-7444
Shuey, William	1461 Lydia Ln.	Concord	685-7052
Smith, Emily D.	19651 Glen Una Dr.	Saratoga	
Steller, Mrs. Ruth (Sally)	939 Carol Lane	Lafayette	284-4370
Swenson, Carl & Ruth	865 Hawthorne Dr.	Wal. Ck.	935-3256
Toaspern, Mrs. W. J.	1923 Buttner Rd.	Pl. Hill	934-0749
Veitch, Peter	154 Camino Sobrante	Orinda	254-2419
Warner, 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	
Wymer, Robert & Mary	3392 Ridge Road	Lafayette	283-6820



The Quail

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

(Next deadline: Aug. 23)

August, 1963
Volume 10, No. 2

Next Meeting: Probably September 12. Details and program in the next Quail.

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, September 15. Details in next Quail.

....

The annual midsummer field trip to Wright's Lake, held on the weekend of July 13th and 14th, was quite successful, as shown in this report by Carroll Davis:

"Approximately 25 members and guests met at the designated camping site on Wright's Lake and took the two scheduled hikes. Our campsite also proved to be a place of good fellowship, and we had interesting evening music and song, thanks to several ukuleles, Harry Couden's clarinet, and Frank Nemetz' harmonica.

"A total of 51 bird species were recorded during the weekend. Saturday's hike was to Twin Lakes. The highest point reached by Harry Adamson's group was the clifftop above the Lakes, where adults and young of the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch were observed. This hike was terminated by mounting thunderheads. The storm that followed soaked most of the members on the way down, except for a few lucky ones who hid under some large boulders.

"Sunday's hikers on the Windmuller Trail found White-headed Woodpeckers or Williamson's Sapsuckers, and even a stray pair of White-breasted Nuthatches. It was back at camp, however, that Pine Grosbeaks and a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker were seen.

"Birds observed: Mountain Quail; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Band-tailed Pigeon; Common Nighthawk; White-throated Swift; Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-bellied and Williamson's Sapsuckers; Hairy, White-headed, and Black-backed three-toed Woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, Western, and Olive-sided Flycatchers; Western Wood Pewee; Tree and Violet-green Swallows; Steller's Jay; Mountain Chickadee; White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; Rock Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Mountain Bluebird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Warbling Vireo; Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers; Brewer's Blackbird;

Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed, Evening, and Pine Grosbeaks; Cassin's Finch; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Green-tailed Towhee; Oregon Junco; Chipping, White-crowned, and Fox Sparrows."

....

Bird Observations:

Last month I mentioned that space prevented the printing of Harry Couden's account of bird observations in the Southeast. Here now is Harry's story:

"During May and June, a business and convention trip of 16 days took me into 15 Midwestern and Southeastern States. Obviously I hadn't much time for birding, tho with the help of a weekend in central Florida I accumulated all told a list of 76 species. It was nesting time and plumage was more brilliant than during my more customary February trips.

"By patient, special effort I ran down Lynn Farrar's oft-mentioned Prothonotary Warbler in the middle of a Florida cypress swamp. Four species of Terns were good to me, with one, Caspian, in nesting colony, and two, Least and Common, caring for young. And there were almost as many Black Vultures as there were Turkey Vultures from Florida to S. Carolina roadsides, which I attributed to the later season. The Florida Cattle Egrets were much fewer, and had buffy head and breast. In comparing with a previous list for February, Bobwhite, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least Tern, Ground Dove, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Kingbird, and Brown Thrasher were new to me for central Florida."

No other observations from club members to report, except that I might mention that I saw two Caspian Terns over Galindo Reservoir early one mid-June morning.

....

Here are some bird observations that have appeared in the papers:

.The plight of the Whooping Crane has taken a dramatic and ominous turn for the worse. Only 28 of the cranes are left out of the 38 reported a year ago, and the Canadian Government says that the birds apparently are not nesting this year, for the second year in a row.

.Likewise, it's tough on the Bald Eagle in the 48 States. Fewer than 1,000 are estimated to remain, contrasted with an actual count of 3600 two years ago. Pesticides in poisoned fish are blamed for many of the deaths.

.The Trumpeter Swan is coming back, however. There are believed to be about 600 in the 48 States, and about 1500 in Alaska and Canada. In 1935 the total was down to 73. Transplanted birds have hatched young in South Dakota - the first hatched east of the Rockies in 80 years.

....

I hope you noticed the fine work done with our membership list, which you received last month. Thanks to the generosity of Diablo Rapid Print & Photo of Lafayette, and to some work by that company's peerless employee, Pat Shackelford, we were given an A-1 job.

With all the cooks in the kitchen, there were bound to be mistakes. My apologies go to Engra Lusebrink, whose address was listed wrong. Please correct your copy to read:

Engra Lusebrink 56 Victory Lane Concord 686-6848

Marie Toaspern points out another error in the list, as follows:

"Mary B. Amundsen died in October, 1962. She had been out of school because of a foot operation and was making preparations to come back to teaching, when she had a fatal stroke."

I'm sure many of us recall meeting Mrs. Amundsen on several field trips. She was always friendly and interested in our group.

....

A week after our June Potluck meeting, new President Jane Nemetz held a Board of Directors Meeting at her house in order to set the Society's business in motion for the next year. Jane hopes to accent an increased membership during her reign, so that we can do more in conservation -- particularly in the field of scholarship. Treasurer George Schad reported that we had done well financially during the past year. Our Program Chairman for next year, Bill Betts, hopes to line up several interesting and informative meetings for next year.

That concludes information about our Society for this time. Vacations seem to cut down on the quantity of information sent to this editor, although contributions are always gladly received.

....

Here is a summarization of legislative news, brewed from my collection of clippings --

The principal session of the California Legislature did pretty well by the conservationists. Sad to say, some measures failed; for example, none of the several billboard-limitation bills got off the ground, and a measure to stall the filling of S.F. Bay was buried. And, unfortunately, the Yellow-billed Magpie remains on the unprotected list for another two years.

On the positive side, some of the bills that passed would:

- . set up a 150 million dollar State Park bond issue
- . set up a youth conservation program
- . establish a system of roadside rests
- . permit counties to acquire land for historical landmarks
- . declare a 4 year moratorium on mountain lion bounties
- . create a master plan for 5000 miles of scenic highways

Also, you won't see any more dyed chicks at Easter, and it will be a misdemeanor to abandon a cat or dog. Park and recreation districts are authorized to contact other public agencies for recreational facilities, and can incur indebtedness for 10 years instead of 5 years for lands and facilities.

Time Magazine calls the present 88th Congress "the do-nothingest of modern times". That is especially true in the conservation field. Sen. Kuchel's Tule Lake bill has finally passed the Senate. This bill would stabilize the Tule Lake area as it now is and would make wildlife conservation paramount to all other uses. ... Some time ago Pres. Kennedy signed a bill to promote and develop outdoor recreation programs. ... No good word on the Wilderness Bill. It is stalled in Congressman Aspinall's House Interior Committee, and he doubts if it will ever get out. ... No action on the Sisk bill, which would add Cedar Grove and Tehipite Dome to Kings Canyon National Park.

....

1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord
682-9786

Ed Mize,
Editor

....



The Quail

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

(Next deadline: Sept. 23)

September, 1963
Volume 10, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. There will be a discussion on field trips, followed by reports from recipients of our summer scholarships.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, September 15, to Bay Farm Island and Dumbarton Bridge. Leader: Lynn Farrar. Call Lynn at 283-3938 for information about the meeting place and time, or come to the Sept. 12th meeting and get full instructions.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, October 14, Diablo Valley College Gym. The program features a film entitled, "The Right to Live".

....

Although our first meeting of the season might be termed "Neophytes Night", it is guaranteed that there will be something of benefit to all who attend. Our Field Trip Chairman (Lynn Farrar) and other experienced birdmen will pass on information that should help us all get more out of field trips. Thus, more experienced members can get tips on how to conduct trips, and novices will learn what to look for, what to bring, and how to get maximum enjoyment out of a field trip. President Jane Nemetz hopes that some members will bring binoculars and other optics, so that beginners can get pointers on satisfactory equipment. And we are all urged to bring a friend - maybe a potential member, who might get the inspiration to attend our field trips.

In addition, it is hoped that some of the recipients of our scholarships this summer will be able to attend the meeting and give their impressions.

....

Our first field trip of the season, on Sunday the 15th, will be to spots we haven't birded for three years - Bay Farm Island and Dumbarton Bridge. This is what Harold Gilliam has to say about Bay Farm Island in his book, "San Francisco Bay" ..

"Bay Farm Island, just south of Alameda, has long been one of the great bird resorts of the West, populated in season by many varieties of sandpipers, avocets, willets, godwits, plovers,

"killdeer, curlews, and many others. Occasionally bird enthusiasts are thrilled by catching a glimpse of rarer species such as Wilson's snipe or the phalarope.."

Of course, this was written before any "developments" had taken place at Bay Farm. So things may be different now. What you don't see there you might pick up in the flats around Dumbarton.

....

Bird Observations.

Frieda Shackelford reports seeing a female MacGillivray's Warbler in her patio all afternoon August 19, and another one later in the week. Also a Townsend's Warbler in Bollinger Canyon recently.

The Nemetz family's annual vacation to the Trinity Mts. was a real success this year, since they had no rain. ~~for~~ Jane counted 55 species, including Blue Grouse, Crossbills, loads of warblers, hummingbirds— in the columbine—, Solitaires, and many more of the 7,000 ft. level birds.

The Nemetz "zoo" has expanded recently to include a baby jackrabbit and two baby Barn Owls. The owlets were known to be 3 weeks old upon arrival, as the eggs had been laid in a shaft near Sunol and had been under observation by an excavation crew. The birds have ~~survived~~ survived by forced feedings, are now losing their down, and getting meaner every day. One is light, one brown ... possibly male and female; and, as Jane says, "One squawks more than the other and must be the female".

I took a quick vacation to Colorado in August, but birding was poor. Did see: Warbling Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Nighthawks at noon; and, near the end, Mama Canvasback and 7 canvasbacklings on Donner Lake.

....

Member John Bruce will be giving Wednesday evening lectures and leading Saturday field trips at a U. of C. Extension course, "Biology for Elementary School Teachers". Classes get under way 7 p.m. Sept. 18th at Las Lomas High in Walnut Creek.

....

A new reserve, the Minarets Wilderness Area, covering 109,500 acres, has been announced. This magnificent area south of Yosemite is a popular one for backpackers. ... You can cross off one bit of wilderness, though. I noticed in a Denver paper that Uncompahgre Primitive Area (west of Lake City, Colorado) is being declassified. One third of it will be added to an adjacent Scenic Area, and the rest "opened up". It seems that there were some old mining roads in the area, and the Forest Service has found it impossible to keep out jeeps and scooters — so that's the end of it.

....

Also, cross off a proposed County Park at Point Pinole. Now that Bethlehem Steel has bought 1800 acres over there, this outstanding bit of shoreline will see ore carriers instead of people. ... All is not lost, however. The County has finished buying 95 acres of a eucalyptus grove at the foot of San Pablo Reservoir.

....

Boy, this pesticide business is really getting rough ... thousands of fish poisoned in Yolo County irrigation ditches, thousands of peach pickers endangered by Parathion in the orchards of the Central Valley, millions of bees snuffed out by toxic dust no wonder a National Cancer Institute spokesman terms pesticides "biological dynamite".

....



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Oct. 26)

October, 1963
Volume 10, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Lee Stallcup will talk on bird banding and bird migration.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, October 13, 8 a.m. Briones area. Leaders: "Doc" Mattison and Lynn Farrar.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, October 14, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Chester Lyons presents a film entitled "The Right to Live".

....

One night a year and a half ago, we had a very interesting meeting when Lee Stallcup, then with the Oakland Park Department, showed us slides expertly titled "California Contrasts". Our present Program Chairman, Bill Betts, has asked Lee to return and present a program at our October meeting. Since Mr. Stallcup and his son have had much experience in bird banding and in studying bird migration, it is expected that our next meeting will feature a discussion on these interesting subjects.

....

Some two years ago we took an inspirational field trip into the Briones Park area, helped along by "Doc" Mattison, County Park Director. You may recall that Contra Costa County is purchasing 1,435 acres from the East Bay Municipal Utility District in the Briones hills. By the end of this year, seventy per cent of the proposed park will be ours.

Mr. Mattison has agreed to guide us into the area on Sunday, October 13. Meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Bear Creek Road and Upper Happy Valley Road, about 20 minutes from Lafayette. To get there, turn off the Oakland-Walnut Creek Freeway and go north on Upper Happy Valley Road. About a half-mile beyond the Russell Tree Farm is the Bear Creek Road gate on the right, where we are to meet. "Doc" Mattison will answer questions on the Briones park and other parcels in the planned system, while Lynn Farrar will be chief bird watcher. Lynn says that there should be a good representation of birds, since Fall migrations are late this year. The public is invited, in order to become acquainted with this park acquisition. Lunches are optional.

....

Don't forget that the new Screen Tour season begins the following evening (October 14) in the Junior College gym.

Lynn Farrar sent in this account of the Sept. 15th field trip to the Eastshore flats and Bay Farm Island:

"We met at Berkeley Station on a pleasant morning and started our day of shorebirding by going to Point Isabel in our county. Here the Santa Fe Railway is creating a huge Industrial Park, with a consequent loss of shorebird habitat. While we saw some species in fair numbers, it was evident that overall numbers were down from past years. Our group then headed for Emeryville, where only slightly better viewing was had, probably because of an adverse tide. A swing around the shore to the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza was almost useless, because of the tide, but at least there were three Heermann's Gulls (L.Farrar) and 15 to 25 Elegant Terns.

"We then decided to go directly to Lincoln Park in Alameda for lunch, where we found several land birds that kept us busy for awhile. At the time seemingly indicated by the tide tables, we advanced en masse to Bay Farm Island, only to find that the wind~~ux~~ was blowing enough to keep the tide in an extra hour. Most of the group departed after some desultory observing, but about 3:30 a rather nice assemblage of birds was found at the Golf course end of the marsh. The overall number of birds seemed low - even lower than last year. It is hoped that this may be due to a poor tide and a later migration than usual. On the more pessimistic side, perhaps the ever encroaching land uses of today's society and industry are simply forcing the birds to look elsewhere for a place to stopover or winter.

"Birds observed: Brown Pelican; Snowy Egret; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye (J.Nemetz & B.Wilder); White-winged Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Clapper Rail (seen only by B.Wilder, although everybody saw its tracks - right where Bev was sitting); Coot; Semipalmated Plover (25); Snowy Plover (3); Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Snipe; Long-billed Curlew (8-10); Willet; Least and Red-backed Sandpipers (Dunlin); Short-billed Dowitchers; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Northern Phalarope (L.Farrar, before the group met at Point Isabel); Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls; Forster's, Common (6-8), and Elegant Terns; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Western Flycatcher; Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Bushtit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Mockingbird; Robin; Loggerhead Shrike; Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; Cowbird; House Finch; Brown Towhee; Savannah and Song Sparrows."

o o o o

Lynn also sent along a tentative field trip schedule for the 1963-64 season:

"November 9 (& 10) - Willows (& Gridley) or Los Banos. Refuge trip of one or two day length. Leader: open. This trip should be one planned to fit those attending. Persons definitely going should notify the leader ahead of time. Overnighters must make reservations in advance to be assured of accommodations. Well worth the effort.

December 8 (subject to change) - Tomales Bay.

December 29 - Christmas Count. One time when you are specifically asked to help in the field. Leader: L. Farrar. Be sure to check with him before taking a count other than in your backyard. Potluck dinner at the Schads.

January 12 - Conn Dam. Leaders: The Coudens.

February 16 - Terminus Area. Leader: B. Wilder.

March 15 - Calaveras Reservoir

April (late) - Maybe Point Lobos & Moss Landing.

April (other than above) - Mt. Diablo warbler hunt, birding by ear.

May 2 or 3 - Pine Canyon. Leader: J. Nemetz.

May 23-24 (subject to change) - Santa Lucia Mts.

June 13-14 (subject to change) - Yosemite. Leader: Volunteer wanted.

July 11-12 - Wright's Lake. Leader: Volunteer wanted.

August 2 - Aden's Resort. Leader: F. ~~Sex~~ Shackelford. Try for Cuckoo.

 "We need volunteers for leaders and co-leaders. Experience not necessary. Complete information and assistance can be secured from Lynn Farrar or other officers or members. We want you to take an active part in the group, so choose your trip now."

....

At our September meeting, Lynn gave a short pep talk on field trips. He had carefully analyzed previous trips, and showed tables giving the best time for different areas. This year Lynn hopes to have both Leaders and Co-leaders, in the hopes of developing leaders for the future. ... Some of the members brought optics for exhibition, and as a sideline Bev Wilder showed four of Jupiter's moons and Saturn's rings after the meeting.

Two recipients of our scholarships, Jim Utz and Virginia Schaefer, told us about the San Jose State Field School of Natural History which they attended. The weekly sessions this year were at Lassen (Manzanita Lake), Sequoia, and Cambria Pines. Jim showed slides that he took. A very interesting and informative report.

....

We welcome five new members to our group, namely:

James and Rita Utz	12 Diana Court	Pleasant Hills
Mrs. Louis Brackman	4098 Forestview Ave.	Concord
Wm. and Genevieve Sattler	4050 Poplar Ave.	Concord

....

Bird Observations: (mostly heard at the September meeting)

Bev Wilder reported that a Clapper Rail walked into the employment section of U. S. Steel at Pittsburg. He was a little immature, though. ... Bev also said that the Starlings are a-coming. There have been sightings of the "Chubby Bumble" group from Clayton being down Clayton Road as far as the Kirker Pass intersection. Over the Pass, another gang is on Buchanan Road, near the Standard Oil tanks.

Lynn Farrar spotted a Ruffed Grouse this summer in Siskiyou County, and Bill Betts saw Osprey in Minnesota and White-faced Ibis in S.E. Idaho.

Elizabeth O'Meara witnessed a Brown Towhee feeding a Cowbird.

Jane Nemetz says one of her Barn Owls died, but the other is o.k.

Frieda Shackelford reported on a trip to Aden's Resort for Cuckoos. No Cuckoos seen, but 30 Swainson Hawks made a good consolation prize. Frieda also reports a Red-breasted Nuthatch in her patio, making a total of 80 species she has seen at her place.

I saw a White-tailed Kite on lower Mt. Diablo, from a spot 3 miles in from the Northgate Road entrance sign. Also, later, I saw a flock of ten Black Turnstones at Natural Bridges State Park north of Santa Cruz. 32

Violet Beitzel says that she and Dick saw the following birds on their field trip to Europe this summer:

"Red-necked Grebe; Heron; Mute Swans; Moorhen; Wood Pigeons; ~~Black~~ Black-headed Gulls; Common Tern; Swifts (black); Swallow (like the Barn Swallow); Alpine Swift; Magpie (black bill); Alpine Chough; Marsh Tit; Blackbird (not like ours, has a yellow bill and is a very fine singer); Linnet; Hooded ~~Sw~~ Crow; Chaffinch; House Martin; Coot; Osprey; Hoopoe (in the Munich Zoo).

....

These are your Committee Chairmen for this year, as announced by Jane Nemetz at the September meeting:

Program	Bill Betts
Membership	Dorothy Couden
Field Trips	Lynn Farrar
Publicity	Elizabeth O'Meara
Conservation	Engra Lusebrink
Hostess	Muriel Schad
Scholarships & Sr. Advisor	Ferd Ruth
Ye Olde Quaille Editor	Ed Mize
Quail Stuffer (Mailer)	Frieda Shackelford

....

A word from Bill Goodall, Audubon Western Representative, about the Sanctuary over at Richardson Bay:

"John Larson will be returning on Sept. 30 with the permanent title of "Manager, Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary". He will also have charge of the Warden at the South S.F. Bay Sanctuary during the hunting season. This Fall, Elwood Bunting will again watch over the Area from Oct. 15 to Jan. 15." Goodall's office is now interviewing persons for the position of Program Naturalist at Richardson Bay. When personnel is available, schools, youth organizations, and others can telephone for field trip appointments, phone 388-9843.

....

An item in San Diego Audubon's "Sketches" says that Ranger Robert Pugh has been transferred from Silver Strand State Park to Doheny Beach State Park. This means that his wife, Eleanor, one of our former members, will be 70 miles closer to us.

....

California's Rep. Burkhalter has introduced a bill in Congress to create a National Park area to be called a "Natural Wildflower Sanctuary" on 20,000 acres near Lancaster, Calif. ... There will be no 57,000 acre Prairie National Park in Kansas, because the boys figure that nobody in his right mind would plow the area anyway. ... Looks like the Muir home will be a national historic site instead of a National Monument.

....

Odds and Ends:

In America some people throw eggs. But in Brazil, according to "Newsweek", when one of the political leaders (Lacerda) had nerve enough to criticize the Government recently, "workers were organized to pelt him with dead vultures".

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



The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Nov. 22)

November, 1963
Volume 10, No. 5

Next Field Trip: Saturday, November 9, 9:30 a.m. Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Engra Lusebrink will tell us about the Audubon Camp she attended in Wyoming last summer.

Next Screen Tour: Friday, November 15, 8 p.m. Walter Berlet presents "The Living Wilderness".

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Engra Lusebrink, our Conservation Chairman this year, attended the Audubon Camp in Wyoming during the first two weeks of July. She returned enthused about this camp in the Wind River Range, and has kindly consented to pass some of that enthusiasm on to us at our next meeting, November 14. During Engra's talk, she will show pictures of the Camp and of the Grand Tetons, which she also visited during her trip. She's proud of the mountain sheep she captured, on film.

(While we are on the subject, the "Audubon Camp of the West" will be held at the same Wyoming location again in 1964. There will be three sessions: June 21 to July 3, July 5 to July 17, and July 19 to 31. The fee for the session is \$125, with a deductible registration fee of \$25. It is recommended that requests for reservations be made early. Write National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif.)

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Please note that the November field trip is scheduled for a Saturday, November 9, before the next regular meeting. It seems that there were more interested members favoring the long Veterans Day weekend over a mid-November date. Field Trip Chairman, Lynn Farrar, writes:

"On November 9th a trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge near Willows is planned. No one has yet volunteered to be leader, so those planning to attend should contact me (ATLantic 3-3938) to let me know they will be along so that we can all go through the gate as one group. Plan to meet at the headquarters (about 9 miles south of Willows on U.S. 99W) at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Bring a lunch, and also rain gear if the weather threatens. Breakfast can be had at several places along the way any time. Driving time is usually about 3 hours or under. For best birding,

"plan to stay until at least 4 p.m. This is one of the most spectacular trips, from the standpoint of numbers of birds seen at close range, and is a fine opportunity to study wildfowl and hawks. It is suggested that those planning to go contact friends and form groups, both for the fun of the trip each way and to cut down the number of cars driving through the refuge, where the birds are still wary".

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On Friday the 15th, the night after our next meeting, the second of this year's Audubon Wildlife Films will be shown at the Junior College. This one features a keen conservationist, Walter Berlet of Casper, Wyoming. His film, "The Living Wilderness", has spectacular close-ups of animals, including a buck pronghorn forming his harem, a belligerent elk charging the camera, and a stalking cougar. A wide variety of bird life will also be seen.

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Here is Lynn Farrar's account of the October 13 field trip to Briones Park: "It was a clear and sunny day - perfect for birding, hiking, and just plain being out of doors. A nice group of 30 birders gathered about 8 a.m. at the Briones Road entrance to the Park, where "Doc" Mattison took charge for the first part of the trip. Some nice habitat was explored, but with surprisingly poor results.

"Mr. Mattison went over the plans for Briones Park, other acquisitions in the vicinity, proposals of various kinds, and then answered many questions about other areas of the county. It was brought out very strongly that it is up to those who want these parks to start working hard informing friends and urging the supervisors to authorize the funds needed to make these lands part of our park system. I like to believe that many of those there were seeing parts of the county they had never suspected existed. We surely have something beautiful as well as practical to fight for, when we try to assist in the acquisition of this type of land.

"After "Doc" was forced to leave early, to be with his family, the group went further into the area, with somewhat better birding, although not as good as I had anticipated. Several firsts for returning winter birds were found as well as a new hawk for the area, at least to my knowledge.

"Birds observed: Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered (new), and Sparrow Hawks; California Quail; Killdeer; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Downy, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Black and Say's Phoebe; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wren; Wren; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrushes; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton's Vireo; Audubon's Warbler; Western Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; Lark, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows."

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There is some hope that Contra Costa County will have a park in use by next August. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the lease of the first half of a proposed 925 acre park at Lafayette Reservoir and

the development of facilities for swimming, sail boating, canoeing, and fishing, along with picnic grounds and riding trails. The total project will cost about \$250,000. Eventually, at least 500 acres would be purchased. ... Secondary consideration is being given to development of the John Marsh home park site near Brentwood.

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Our speaker last month, Tom Holmes, from the Contra Costa Soil Conservation District, touched briefly on activities near the Marsh home. Two new dams on Marsh Creek, costing \$800,000, paid for themselves in the October flood last year and again in January. Tom showed slides of erosion, check dams, and soil horizons in our backyard.

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We welcome as new members:

Mrs. L. E. (Esther) James, 605 Maureen Lane, Pleasant Hill and
Mrs. Lucy Betts (wife of v.p. Bill Betts) 1827 Altura Drive, Concord.

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Bird Observations:

At the October meeting, Lynn Farrar said that he had 6 reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in this area so far this year. Until now, Lynn has considered it rare to have any sighting at all. Jane Nemetz reported one off Golf Links Road recently, and Lynn has one in his yard which is still there in late October. Lynn would appreciate any additional reports on these birds. ... They have also been seen in the Monterey area this year, according to "The Sanderling".

On Sunday, October 20, Lynn tallied 34 species in his yard, including Hutton's Vireo; Audubon, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's Warblers.

Isabel McGeehon sends along these observations on McGeehon Hill:

"Although there was a scarcity of winter visitants in '62 - '63, when the berries were more than usually abundant, the resident birds seem to have been more prolific than usual - even the quail. Sad to relate, so have been the cats. However, the residents "held their own". Young mockingbirds amounted to a virtual concentration, while the two varieties of towhees have been all over the place. The fig tree harbored just as many house finches and mockers as ever, both singing and squawking overhead, while the lady-of-the-house picked lower down. Nor has there been a shortage of jays. The titmice, never numerous, have come as usual to the McGeehon jungle with unimpaired appetite for cantaloupe seeds. Their wary and circuitous approach is in sharp contrast to their darting departure, one seed at a time. Not until the first week in October was a sparrow - a Golden-crowned - observed in the garden. The first robin came September 1, also the first in immature plumage ever seen by this observer. However, it knew where to find the early ripening pyracantha berries. And particularly active have been the opossums eating Niagara grapes at the back door. Most untidy is their habit of leaving the skins to be swept off by the said lady-of-the-house, who, more neat, just eats the grapes - skins and all."

A friend told me that during three days around Oct. 25 he saw well over a thousand Sandhill Cranes flying south in bunches of 50 to 100 at about 9,000 ft. over the Lake Sterling area, north of Emigrant Gap.

Early in October, by the shores of Manzanita Lake in Lassen Park, I was thrilled to see my first Evening Grosbeak. The late afternoon

rays of the sun lighted his yellow chest so brilliantly that the pictured bird in Peterson's Guide looked like he needed vitamins or a girl friend.

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Those who attended the season's first Audubon Wildlife Film got a good survey of the "zones" of British Columbia, as shown by Chester Lyons. He must have spent years in the field collecting his pictures. I'd always looked upon B.C. as a land of wide open spaces, but Mr. Lyons pointed out that population pressures there, too, are fast wiping out good park possibilities, flora, and fauna.

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On the heels of the creation of the Minarets Wilderness Area comes the announcement of the proposed High Sierra Wilderness Area, which would include Blackcap Basin. We now have a new Mokelumne Wild Area.

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One wonders who will win the tug-of-war in the redwoods. As fast as land is set aside for parks up there, the Highway Boys come up with suggestions on using state park land for freeways. There are still squabbles on how to chop up Prairie Creek State Park, and now there is a proposal to slash through Jedediah Smith State Park for a "water level route" along Smith River. ... Nevertheless, arrangements are going ahead to acquire Lane Flat as a State Park, thanks primarily to the gift of \$100,000 by Mrs. Stout of San Anselmo. ... Also, a movement is under way to create a Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Grove in Pepperwood Grove, north of the Avenue of the Giants.

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A similar tug-of-war is taking place on the Pt. Reyes peninsula. The National Park Service is busily buying up land, having peeled off about 7 million for 10,000 acres so far, but lumbermen have also been busily whacking down virgin Douglas firs, while their purchase is in escrow. How greedy can some people get?

Oregon Dunes National Seashore is getting a little closer to realization, although the proposed acreage has been cut down to 35,000.

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In another month you can stock up on the new Audubon 5¢ stamp and use it on your Christmas cards. It will be issued on Nov. 29 and features a reproduction of Audubon's "The Columbia Jays". ... Also, the Audubon Conservation Center in Berkeley will be open Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., through December 21 and features educational items and gifts.

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The first of ten \$24,750 payments for the purchase of Audubon Canyon Ranch has been made.

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Greetings to the newly formed Santa Barbara Audubon Society, and good luck to the staff of its bulletin, "El Tecolote". The October issue points out the seriousness of "bird collecting", which is in many cases just an excuse for bird killing.

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The Audubon convention in 1964 will be at Tucson, in 1965 at Boston, and in 1966 "somewhere in California".

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The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Dec. 23)

December, 1963
Volume 10, No. 6

- Next Field Trip:** Sunday, December 8, 9:30a.m. Tomales Bay.
Beth Reynolds, Leader.
- Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 12, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science
Building, Diablo Valley College. Program still
uncertain (see below).
- Christmas Count:** Sunday, December 29. Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938).
Potluck dinner, 6 p.m., at the Schad's.
- Next Screen Tour:** Monday, January 13, 1964. Edgar Jones presents his
film, "Alberta Outdoors".

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As of this writing (Nov. 26) the program for the December meeting has not been settled. Our Program Chairman, Bill Betts, has tried repeatedly to line something up for us, but so far there is nothing definite. There will be a regular meeting, however, during which there will probably be some discussion on the Christmas Count. If I hear anything definite regarding the program, before finishing the typing of this issue of "The Quail", you'll find it near the end of this bulletin. The early field trip next month means "The Quail" has to fly early this month, and disruption of schedules caused by President Kennedy's death and the Thanksgiving vacation has made it impossible to be more definite at this time.

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The December Field Trip is scheduled for December 8, the Sunday before the next meeting. (We are switching the Tomales Bay trip to December and the Conn Dam trip to January this year, to see if there is any marked difference in the birding). Tomales Bay is noted for excellent birding — in fact, the area is usually second to one in Florida for reporting the most species of birds observed during the Christmas Count. Last year, for instance, 166 bird species were reported from Tomales Bay. We won't see that many on our trip, of course, but should see plenty. Beth Reynolds is the leader, and has this to add:

"We will meet at the usual place, in the parking lot at the Inverness store, at 9:30 on Sunday morning, December 8. Be sure you go all the way to Inverness, as there is another store a couple of miles before town. We will bird in this area for

"awhile, and then head inland. The last couple of years we have gone around the Bay and up the east side, but this year we plan to do our birding on the Pt. Reyes peninsula side. There is considerable interest being shown in the new National Seashore there, so we will be anxious to see what we can find in the areas visited. Bring lunches and wear warm clothing. You may need some sturdy shoes or boots, because some of the ground can be soggy".

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FLASH... The program at our December 12 meeting will feature Dick and Vi Beitzel showing slides and telling us about their trip to Europe last summer.

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The Christmas Count this year will be held on December 29, and Chairman Lynn Farrar adds:

"As in previous years, those not already assigned to areas can meet me at 7 a.m. at the Monument in Pleasant Hill. All persons planning to participate in this year's count should contact me for assignments (phone 283-3938 after 6 p.m. weekdays). I would certainly like plenty of volunteers, in order that we can cover the areas better. If you have areas you prefer to cover, let me know. It is absolutely essential that everyone understand the regulations, and contacting me will preclude any wasted efforts. How long you bird is up to you. Be sure to dress warmly, as it can be cold work at times. We can't always have perfect weather, you know."

The fee this year will be 50¢ per participant, and the money will be sent to Audubon for compilation of lists in "Audubon Field Notes". The post-count Potluck and summation will be on that Sunday evening, December 29, about 6 p.m. at the home of George and Muriel Schad. Please contact them at 685-7897 in plenty of time, so that they will know how many to expect and you will know what to bring. Although the Schads have room in their dining room, it will be necessary for some of you to bring chairs and TV trays or card tables. Bring eating equipment, too.

The ~~Schads~~ Schads live in Concord at 2906 Concord Blvd. at the corner of Parkside. It's two short blocks south of the City Hall. If you come in from Walnut Creek on Highway 24 you go down Galindo Street and turn right at the first stoplight onto Concord Blvd. Go east on this street six-tenths of a mile, and their house, with its red tile roof, is on the SE corner at Parkside. If you come into Concord on Willow Pass Road, continue on that street to Parkside, which is marked by a Tidewater station and the City Hall on diagonal corners, and turn south two short blocks.

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The field trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge was a huge success for those who made the effort. Unfortunately, not many made the effort. Lynn Farrar says that 65 species (of birds) were seen there, with excellent displays of waterfowl and hawks. Jane Nemetz joyously found a Bittern to add to her life list. Space is short here, so Lynn says that persons really interested in learning what birds were seen can contact him.

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Despite the usual rain on Audubon night, several interested members and guests came out to see Engra Lusebrink's slides on Audubon Camp and parts

of Wyoming. Engra had many beautiful pictures, including many perfect shots of wildflowers. The next night Walter Berlet showed a Wildlife Film on the "Living Wilderness", which included many views in areas that Engra had covered. So those who saw both programs got a good glimpse of the Tetons, Yellowstone, and the Wind River country.

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Incidentally, Engra has announced that she is moving to Palo Alto, but will maintain contact with our group, when her travels permit. Your editor will take over her job as Conservation Chairman.

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We're picking up new members. A special welcome to the following:
Jim Lynch, 3758 Serrano, Martinez (who sent in 5 year's dues)
Richard and Margaret Schaller, 330 Sunset, Concord
Leo and Virginia Schaefer, 3611 Walnut Ave., Concord
Bill Taylor, 170 Easy Street, Alamo.

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Bird Observations:

Lynn Farrar mentioned at the November meeting that migratory birds are coming through about on average this year, according to his records. He spotted 40 species at his place on one day a few weeks ago, and attributed that number to plenty of feed and shelter.

The Shaakelfords vacationed in Arizona in mid-October, giving Frieda the chance to add 25 birds to her life list.

Swensons spotted White-throated Sparrow on Nov. 1, and Frances Blake reported Rufous-crowned Sparrow at her place on Nov. 10.

Don't worry about the robins - they weren't all killed off by insecticides. A friend of mine reports seeing thousands of them in the Sierraville area the weekend of Oct. 27.

"Progress" may be pushing some of the birds out of our area. Demolition of old oak trees at an apartment project south of Montgomery-Ward may force Lewis Woodpeckers to leave, and an access road across Keller Pond in Concord to projected apartments on the west side of the Pond probably means bye-bye Black-crowned Night Herons.

The Audubon Conservation Guide reports that three Everglade Kites were sighted in one day last March on the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. This may be the rarest bird in the United States.

The Whooping Cranes have returned to Texas. 31 reported, including 7 young. This is better than last year's loss of 6 and no young.

Whittier Audubon's "Observer" says that Mockingbirds seem to be moving north. The birds become more numerous in Winnipeg each year.

Red-breasted Nuthatches have been observed as far south as San Diego this season. Apparently their food in the mountains is scarce this year.

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The Board of Supervisors for this county has rejected the "Pay as You Go" park plan, which we endorsed by letter earlier this year. Only \$300,000 has been budgeted for 1963-1964, including \$78,000 for San Pablo and Briones Parks and \$150,000 for the lease and first phase development of Lafayette Reservoir.

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Mt. Diablo State Park will be expanded from the present 2,168 acres to about 5,000, thanks to proposed purchases from the Government and private landowners. An angel, Capt. William Nelson, bought up 800 acres of Government land recently and arranged for the State Park to acquire it.