



# The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Jan. 25)

January, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Dr. Joe Sweet will speak and show a Ducks Unlimited film.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 12, 9 a.m. Conn Dam Area. Leader: Harry Couden.

Next Wildlife Tour: Monday, January 13, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Edgar Jones presents his film, "Alberta Outdoors".

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Program Chairman Bill Betts has arranged for Dr. Joe Sweet, a dentist from Oakland and a long time Audubon member, to show us one of the Ducks Unlimited films at our next meeting, January 9th. Dr. Sweet is a Trustee of Ducks Unlimited and does considerable travelling in their behalf - in fact he is scheduled for appearances in Minnesota a few days before he meets with us. Bill is sure that you will enjoy this program on wildfowl. Let's have a good turnout.

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The January Field Trip will be held the following Sunday, the 12th, and will be to the Conn Dam Area, one of our favorites. Leader Harry Couden writes:

"This trip has always been in early December. This year it is scheduled a month later, just to learn what difference this may make. On Dec. 21 I "scouted out" the area and found it excellent, as always. Missed the Wood Duck (only one pair last year), but got Snow Goose, which we haven't logged since '59. Redhead is there, as is Ringneck, which we missed last year; also Goldeneye and a single Bufflehead; also 7 Swan, and flock after flock of Canada Goose in their assorted sizes. The Rock Wren and Says Phoebe are right where we've found them since 1955. There are now a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, in almost brilliant red plumage, less than 1/4 mile down the road (creekside) from where we meet. This is at the far side of the stone bridge 2 miles out of Napa on the Silverado Trail Highway. Be there at 9 a.m., January 12. Bring lunch, wear warm clothing, hiking shoes, and bring a scope if you can get one. We have arranged for good weather."

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Our next Wildlife Tour, January 13, in the Gymnasium at Diablo Valley College, brings us another Canadian, Edgar T. Jones, who will show us "Alberta Outdoors". Some portions of this Canadian province are gorgeous, as those who have gone to Banff and Jasper can testify, and we may see those areas as well as many of the animals and birds of the region. Remember -- this film will be shown the night after our next Field Trip ... Monday, January 13.

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The field trip to Tomales Bay on Sunday, Dec. 8, was a success, despite the rain that came along and diminished observations. We met on a crisp morning at Inverness, scouted the Bay from there with good results, and then went out to McClure's Beach. For awhile we Auduboners were the only humans on this beautiful beach. A rainstorm moved in about 11 a.m., and efforts to outrun the storm were futile -- it rained all the way back home. Thus, birding on the Pt. Reyes road wasn't too good. Leader Beth Reynolds adds,

"Highlight of the day was Bill Betts' discovery of the Harlequin Duck, which we were all able to see through the scopes. Also, five Osprey were seen on the trip. In spite of the dampness, we did see 66 species, a respectable number. I saw the Great Horned Owl just as we were leaving the Point area, heading toward Inverness.

"Birds observed: Common and Red-throated Loon; Red-necked, Horned, Mared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Brown Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant and Pelagic Cormorant; Pintail; Shoveler; Scaup (Sp?); Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Harlequin Duck; White-winged, Surf, & Common Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Hooded Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Cooper, and Red-tailed Hawk; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Calif. Quail; Coo; Killdeer; Common Snipe; Willet; Dunlin; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte Gull; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Downy Woodpecker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Robin; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Starling; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Goldfinch (Sp?); Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow."

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Nearly all who turned out for our December meeting were "old timers", which shows that the old timers know what to expect at a Beitzel program. Vi was tied up at a PTA meeting, but Dick performed excellently and showed us the beauties of Switzerland and Venice. Dick's parting advice to all travellers is, "Take half the luggage and twice the money". ... At the meeting Jane Nemetz brought us up to date on the annexation of the county to the East Bay Regional Park District ... And Betty Adamson made the fine suggestion that we spend money on ourselves for a change and buy a good 'scope to lug along on field trips.

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Bird Observations: Few reported. Jane Nemetz says this may be the last year to see Heather Pond as is, since apartments are moving in. ... There's been a Whistling Swan on Galindo Pond lately. ... Lynn Farrar says there is a report of a Flamingo near Dumbarton Bridge, obviously an escapee. ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR



# The Quail

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

(Next Deadline: Feb. 25th)

February, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 8

- Next Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Dr. Johnson, from the University of California, will talk on Bird Habitats.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, February 15, 9:15 a.m. Delta Area. Meet at Thornton. Bev Wilder, Leader.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, March 2, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Emerson Scott with his "Pika Country".

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Program Chairman Bill Betts has arranged for Dr. Johnson, of U.C.'s Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, to talk at our Feb. 13 meeting. His talk will be primarily on the subject of bird habitat, with emphasis on what you can grow in your own backyard to attract certain species.

Several items reviewed at a recent Board of Directors meeting will be presented for discussion at this meeting. Among the items is a proposal to change the meeting place, since several of our members are dissatisfied with present arrangements and desire a place more centrally located and more convenient.

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The next Field Trip is to the Delta again, with Bev Wilder pointing out the aquatic birds, swans, geese, and cranes that are found there. Bev says: "There was some talk of changing the meeting place, but we feel it is less confusing if we meet at our usual spot, the Little White Cafe at Thornton, at 9:15 a.m. on Feb. 15. From there we take the little ferry to Staten Island, down to Terminous, and come back to Thornton. Actually the route may depend upon the weather, but we will meet in Thornton and take the ferry first. To get there, take Highway 24 to the Rio Vista bridge, turn right (east) across the delta for about 13 miles to the turnoff marked Thornton, and north 8 miles to the town. This is a birding trip by car. For further information, call me at 934-6353".

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Our next Wildlife Tour will be on March 2, before the March "Quail" will be in your hands. Emerson Scott will show "Pika Country". You may recall that Mr. Scott was here two years ago with a film on the Rocky

Mountains, which included a wild ride down the Yampa River. His "Pika Country" will also take us to Colorado mountains to see the rabbit-like pika, and from there to Glacier Park and Jackson Hole.

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Harry Couden predicted good weather for his Conn Dam trip and, naturally, he was lucky again, as shown in his report of that trip:

"The clear, bright weather that brought out 16 cars of people also brought out 72 species of birds. So January is pretty good after all. However, a week earlier and we might still have seen Swan and Snow Goose, as seen there in late December. The pair of Red-shouldered Hawk were not minding their regular roadside stand, but were observed by the Nemetz and Farrar groups when they overdrove the turnoff to the north side of the lake. The Mew Gulls were a roadside flock at rest. A female Mountain Bluebird was in singular contrast to the many Westerns and is a first sighting for this trip.

"Birds observed: Western and Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Egret; Canada Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Canvasback; Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Ring-necked and Ruddy Duck; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawk; Calif. Quail; Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Snipe; California, Ring-billed, and Mew Gull; Mourning Dove; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, and Nuttall Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Rock Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western and Mountain Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird and Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Lark, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Lincoln, and Song Sparrow."

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An overflow audience showed up at the January meeting to hear Dr. Joe Sweet, an Oakland dentist, talk about Ducks Unlimited and show a DU film called "Waterfowl Heritage". Emphasis was on good shooting, of course, but non-hunters got good views of many waterfowl, of breeding grounds in Canada, and refuge grounds in our own state. Dr. Sweet is an excellent speaker, and listeners found his talk also informative.

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Incidentally, official reports show that the recent waterfowl season was the best since 1959 on state and federal management areas. Hunters on 12 management areas in our state brought down 131,020 ducks, geese, and coots - almost 50,000 more than the year before.

Several reports of banded Snow Goose this season. Apparently they were banded by the Russians at Wrangell Island in the Arctic. Birds were taken in the Colusa area and at Tule Lake. Also, Dr. Sweet mentioned that 93 were picked up at Summer Lake in Oregon.

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Roy Glotfelty sent me a clipping on the battle between the Highway Dept. and the State Parks over freeways through our redwood parks. Roy aptly calls it a "disgusting situation", this proposed whacking of freeways through forests that have been donated by thousands of people.

Lynn Farrar gives this report on the Christmas Count, held Dec. 29, 1963:

"Birds observed, and numbers:

Hared Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 28; Great Blue Heron, 2; Green Heron, 1; Common Egret, 3; Snowy Egret, 16; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Whistling Swan, 18; Canada Goose, 28; White-fronted Goose, 19; Mallard, 9; Pintail, 811; Green-winged Teal, 7; Cinnamon Teal, 1; American Widgeon, 302; Shoveler, 259; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Canvasback, 130; Lesser Scaup, 2; Common Goldeneye, 3; Bufflehead, 6; Ruddy Duck, 431; Hooded Merganser, 4;

Turkey Vulture, 18; White-tailed Kite, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 56; Golden Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 28; Sparrow Hawk, 75; California Quail, 258; Ring-necked Pheasant, 4; Common Gallinule, 11; American Coot, 510; Killdeer, 81; Common Snipe, 35; Willet, 4; Greater Yellowlegs, 15; Least Sandpiper, 100; Dunlin, 50; Long-billed Dowitcher, 1; Western Sandpiper, 25; American Avocet, 2; Glaucous-winged Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 300; California Gull, 628; Ring-billed Gull, 300; Mew Gull, 2; Bonaparte's Gull, 65;

Mourning Dove, 79; Barn Owl, 3; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2; Burrowing Owl, 2; White-throated Swift, 34; Anna's Hummingbird, 28; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Red-shafted Flicker, 89; Acorn Woodpecker, 45; Lewis' Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 13;

Black Phoebe, 5; Say's Phoebe, 5; Horned Lark, 36; Tree Swallow, 10; Violet-green Swallow, 11; Steller's Jay, 49; Scrub Jay, 150; Common Crow, 12; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 8; Plain Titmouse, 123; Common Bushtit, 156; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Wrentit, 27; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 2; Bewick's Wren, 17; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 3; Rock Wren, 3;

Mockingbird, 31; California Thrasher, 32; Robin, 68; Varied Thrush, 17; Hermit Thrush, 11; Western Bluebird, 141; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 67; Water Pipit, 42; Cedar Waxwing, 48; Loggerhead Shrike, 41; Starling, 2105; Hutton's Vireo, 1; Audubon's Warbler, 129; Yellowthroat, 4; House Sparrow, 372;

Western Meadowlark, 773; Red-winged Blackbird, 10,985; Tricolored Blackbird, 1025; Brewer's Blackbird, 6,310; Brown-headed Cowbird, 8; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, 465; Pine Siskin, 113; American Goldfinch, 163; Lesser Goldfinch, 986; Lawrence's Goldfinch, 2 (!); Rufous-sided Towhee, 38; Brown Towhee, 110; Savannah Sparrow, 105; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, 6; Sage Sparrow, 1; Oregon Junco, 220; White-crowned Sparrow, 480; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 165; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Fox Sparrow, 8; and Song Sparrow, 47

for a grand total of 123 species and 30,761 individuals. Seen during the count period, but not on the day of the count, were Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Common Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, and Lark Sparrow.

"This was the best count by far ever held by MDAS and I certainly wish to thank again all those who did such a wonderful job. The results show that with everybody helping out, even for a few hours or at home, and with the added experience of each year, we are raising our total number of species. Over 30 observers were on the count this year and everyone of them did a fine job. Almost every party had at least one bird that was an "only" for the count. Thanks again. And thanks to the Schads for the warm hospitality on a cool night."

We were not alone in reporting higher counts this year. As usual, Allan Cruickshank's group in Florida was tops with 195 species. Marin Audubon found 164 species at Tomales Bay.

Cattle Egrets were reported in the southern part of the state again.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon reports a large increase of starlings near San Jose and predicts that in a couple of years the pest will become a common sight on summer lawns.

Sacramento Audubon blames destruction of rookeries for a drop in heron and egret counts over a period of years.

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#### Bird Observations:

Robins have swarmed back in certain areas this season. The Wymers and others reported hundreds in Lafayette recently.

Harry Adamson has seen Evening Grosbeak, Ringed Turtle Dove, and as many as 77 Mourning Dove in his yard.

The Schads have been feeding Pine Siskins walnut meats.

Vi Beitzel counted 36 Killdeer on the Williams School grounds (Concord), along with Water Pipit. A few days later over 40 were there. It is unusual to see more than a handful in town.

Big flocks of starlings reported recently between Martinez and Avon. They are moving into our area fast. Chem. & Eng. News says the bird was first reported in California in 1942, and now there are over 24 million here, with Fresno County having over 8 million.

Attn, Wilder: Sacramento Audubon reports a male Vermillion Flycatcher on Jan. 13 & 14 south of Thornton, at the end of Peltier Road.

An Audubon Conservation Guide item says that 40 birds of prey in Europe face extermination from the pesticide "chain of death".

The day of the Christmas Count, Lynn Farrar found 9 dead Avocet near the Pacheco Sewer Farm, and had noticed boys earlier trying out new Christmas guns. Such destruction is lamentable, and against the law, but probably can only be stopped by education. You should see all the kids with guns in the Galindo Reservoir area!

We've also had reports that the Fish & Game boys were called in by a Sun Valley (Walnut Creek) resident, who couldn't sleep because there were 16 Barn Owls in a nearby tree. Fish & Game silenced half of the owls in a manner that may have pleased the tax payer but not some of our members.

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Sacramento Audubon invites all California Audubon groups to their annual trip to the Grasslands (near Los Banos) on March 14 & 15 this year. They expect to see cranes, stilts, egrets, night herons, and even ibis on the 45,000 acres of ponded gun club land. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Canal Farm Inn in Los Banos, on March 14. Howard Leach, 3828 French Avenue, Sacramento 21 (phone 489-1618) would like to hear from those who plan to attend. (Incidentally, we have a trip scheduled to Calaveras Dam on March 15th).

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Our Assemblyman, Jerrie Waldie, has sent me material on Mt. Diablo and Frank Tract State Park expansion and development, and has also asked to be placed on the mailing list of "The Quail".

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Seven of our members plan to attend an all-day conference of Northern California Audubon Society representatives to be held in Berkeley on Saturday, February 8th.

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Jane Nemetz (Phone: 934-3295)  
2822 San Antonio Dr., Walnut Creek)

(Next Deadline: March 23rd)

March, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 8 p.m., Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Earl Lauppe of the Department of Fish and Game will discuss the birds of San Francisco Bay.

Next Field Trips: Sunday, March 15, Calaveras Dam. Meet at the Sunol Water Temple at 8:45 a.m. Ed Mize, Leader.

Saturday and Sunday, April 18 & 19. Monterey Bay Area. Ferd Ruth, Leader. (See details and form on page 3)

Next Screen Tour: Monday, April 20, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Eben McMillan presents the "Land that I Love".

....

Program Chairman Bill Betts has arranged for Earl Lauppe of the Dept. of Fish and Game to talk at our next meeting, March 12. His talk might be titled, "The Birds of San Francisco Bay". He has been busy surveying the bird population of the Bay, gathering information to show how filling the Bay might affect the bird life.

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We have permission from the San Francisco Water Department to go into the Calaveras Dam area again on Sunday, Mar. 15. However, it will be necessary that we all go into the area in one group of cars about 10:15 a.m. and come out together about 2:15 p.m., at which times there will be a gateman. It has been two years since we have been in this area. The trip has much to offer. We will take an easy hike, with good views of the reservoir and side canyons. We can expect a good variety of birds, including White-tailed Kite, a variety of hawks, and Golden Eagle. Last time we had excellent views of six eagles. You will need lunches, sturdy shoes, and raingear (if necessary). Wildflowers should be available, in case we have enthusiasts in our group. Your leader will be your editor (me), and I will meet you at the Sunol Water Temple about 8:45. We will bird there a short time and generally pick up a good collection. Thence by caravan to the Calaveras Dam area. To get to the Water Temple: take State 21 south from Walnut Creek, and continue on past Dublin about 6 miles to the point where the road branches to Niles and San Jose.

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So far, no report received on the Feb. 16 trip to the Delta, except that I heard that there was too much wind for bird study with scopes and binocs. Birds were seen in the tens of thousands, however.

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We had a good turnout at our February meeting. Dr. Ned Johnson didn't quite talk on the subject we had promised you (Bird Habitat), but he did give an interesting and factual study on Bird Territories.

At the business meeting, it was voted to continue to meet at the Junior College, but other places would be investigated for information. It was also voted not to purchase a Society scope, as it was felt that the money could be spent in better ways.

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Ferd Ruth announced the completion of his compilation called, "Habitat Check List of the Vertebrates of the San Francisco Bay Region". The booklet is available for 50¢ + tax at the bookstores of Diablo Valley College and Univ. of California, and also at the Berkeley office of the National Audubon Society. This is a much expanded and revised version of the checklist compiled by Ferd in 1960.

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Welcome to our ~~member~~ newest member -- Lucy A. Hall, 40 Esther Lane, Alamo.

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It is a pleasure to announce that John and Alice Porterfield have again donated money for scholarships in the name of our Society. Awards will be made at the last Wildlife Tour, April 20. The money will be used for half-scholarships for students to attend the San Jose Nature School. Our thanks to the Porterfields for helping in the education of naturalists.

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Bird Observations:

Starlings came to Concord the end of January and look like they are here to stay. Give the Beitzels credit for making the first public announcement of the birds' arrival. They can be seen in flocks every morning on the grounds of the Williams Elementary School.

If you haven't seen many robins yet this season, you'd better have your eyes checked. The birds, which did a disappearing act a year ago, have returned in good numbers. Unfortunately, dozens have been killed on the highways where the Highway Dept. has furnished lots of ripe pyracantha berries, since the birds can't gain altitude enough to miss the fast cars. Especially bad is the Walnut Creek exchange and the road to Pittsburg and Antioch.

Jane Nemetz has been given two birds found dead at Heather Pond. A Lesser Yellowlegs apparently drowned and a Great Blue Heron broke his neck.

The Condor is threatened by a proposed road through their refuge.

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Seven of our members attended a gathering of representatives of Audubon Societies in Northern California, which was held in Berkeley on Feb. 8. Reports at our last meeting indicated the sessions were well worthwhile.

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Lynn Farrar reminds us that we have a trip scheduled to Yosemite for the weekend of June 13 & 14. If you are not planning on camping, you should make lodging ~~reservations~~ reservations now, because there is always a crowd in Yosemite observing the Falls in June.

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Monterey Peninsula Field Trip: Sat. April 18 and Sun. April 19, 1964.

Two years ago Ferd Ruth led one of our best field trips, to the Monterey Peninsula. It was well attended, and many of us have wanted to repeat the trip. Ferd has agreed to lead us again this year. His proposed schedule is printed below. You are welcome to take part in all events or even just a portion, depending upon your time and finances. Note the reservation form at the bottom of the page. Ferd wants this or a copy returned, preferably by mail, by March 12th - in other words, right away!

**Saturday, April 18th:**

- 7 a.m. or earlier .. Leave this area by private car or carpool.  
 8:45 a.m. .. Meet at Moss Landing Jetty Road, about 1/4 mile N. of the bridge at Moss Landing. Look for Ferd's black and white Buick at the Jetty Road entrance. Low tide is 8:05 a.m. We will do birding here.  
 Noon - 12:40 p.m. .. Lunch. Bring your own, including drink.  
 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. .. At Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.  
 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. .. Free time to get organized in housing & cleanup.  
 5:30 p.m. .. Dinner at Cerritos on the Old Wharf at Monterey. (Reservations needed) Approx. \$3.50 + tip.  
 8 p.m. .. First Theatre at Monterey for fun play, vintage 1860. ("Satan in Paris" or "The Mysterious Stranger") (Reserved seats only). \$2.00

**Sunday, April 19th:**

- 9 a.m. - Noon .. Point Lobos State Park hike.  
 Afternoon .. Leave for home at will.  
 .....

**Gear needed:** Binoculars & scope, if you have one. Lunch & drink on Saturday. Comfortable warm clothes, and change for evening. Good spirits & willingness to enjoy yourself.

**Route:** Moss Landing is about 100 miles from this area. Take Highway 21 to San Jose Freeway; thence via Freeway thru Los Gatos towards Santa Cruz, going on thru Watsonville. Or, from San Jose take the Los Angeles Bypass to Gilroy; then turn right over Hecker Pass to Watsonville. Moss Landing is about 10 miles south.

**Housing:** No camping on the Monterey Peninsula. You can camp at Sunset Beach State Park near Watsonville, but you will have difficulty taking part in the activities. It is recommended that you stay in a motel on the Monterey Peninsula.

You may want to make a one day trip out of it and go home after the dinner, Saturday, but it is recommended that you stay overnight and participate fully. You will have fun!

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Send to Ferd Ruth, 43 Cuesta Way, Walnut Creek. C.O.D. Send no money.

**Names of Party Members:**

**Number in Party:** Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of firm reservations for Cerritos, Sat. Eve. at 5:30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of firm reservations for First Theatre Sat. Eve. at \$2.00** \_\_\_\_\_ +

+ You pay at the door before 8 p.m. Reservations not picked up by you will be sold at 8 p.m. We get the best seats in the house. If you reserve and then cancel it makes it difficult to get good seats in the future.



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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

(Pres: Jane Nemetz 934-3295  
2822 San Antonio Dr., Walnut Creek)

(Next Deadline: April 20th)

April, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Youth Night.

Next Field Trips: Saturday and Sunday, April 18 & 19. Monterey Bay Area. Ferd Ruth, Leader.

Sunday, April 26. (Tentative) South Gate area of Mt. Diablo to seek warblers and vireos. Meet at San Ramon High School, Danville, 7 a.m.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, April 20, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Eben McMillan and his "Land that I Love".

...

A year ago January we had a successful program presented by young nature students. You may recall - Jane Nemetz had several of her pupils talk about the ecology of Mt. Diablo, and two of Ferd Ruth's students entertained us with such things as yellowjacket nests and a quail's topography. At our meeting on April 9, we hope to have some more studies presented by a student or two from classes conducted by John Bruce, Jane Nemetz, and Ferd Ruth. Topics are not definite as yet, but we can promise you interesting subjects. So come on out and see what the youngsters are doing.

...

Two Field Trips are lined up for April. Details of the Monterey trip, April 18 & 19, were in the last "Quail". In case you've forgotten ... We meet at the Moss Landing Jetty Road at 8:45 a.m. Saturday, April 18. After birding there until Noon, the group will meet at 2 p.m. at the Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove. At 5:30 p.m. at Cerritos on the Old Wharf at Monterey for dinner, followed by attendance at the First Theatre at 8 p.m. (Reservations for the dinner and show are recommended. Too late to get any from Ferd unless he has cancellations. His phone: 934-8803) The Theatre will be sold out, so don't expect to get in without a reservation. You might get into Cerritos, but probably won't be close to our group. We meet again at Point Lobos Reserve State Park at 9 a.m. Sunday for a nature hike in one of California's finest areas. If the weather cooperates, you will have a memorable experience. Remember, you

can take part in any of these events ... some members are going to stay overnight on the Peninsula, and others going down just for daytime events.

The second April trip will be the following Sunday, April 26, if Lynn Farrar is not out of town on business. Contact him for definite news at 283-3938 as the time approaches. If the trip takes place, we will meet at 7 a.m. Daylight Time at the Parking Lot of San Ramon Hi in Danville. A couple of hours later the cars should be somewhere between South Gate and Rock City on the mountain. An early hour has been selected in order to get the maximum number of birds and bird calls, as some of this trip will be birding by ear. A similar trip held just a year ago proved to be quite successful.

....

Let me call your attention again to the final Wildlife Tour of the season, to be held at the Diablo Valley Gym at 8 p.m. on Monday, April 20 (the night after the Monterey trip). Eben McMillan will show a film he made with John Todd called "Land that I Love". Eben has been a rancher for years in the Cholame area (near Paso Robles) and he knows that country thoroughly. Perhaps you remember Eben's former picture, "The Shandon Hills", taken in the same area. This was the novel presentation in which the speaker mouthed the words of "Old Tuck" in the film and gave a commentary on the area, the birds, and the animals.

At this Wildlife Tour, the John and Alice Porterfield awards will be given in the name of our Society.

....

A good crowd attended our March meeting, despite threatening weather. Speaker Bob Lassen, Game Management Supervisor for the California Dept. of Fish and Game, substituted for the announced speaker, Earl Lauppe. This was Bob's second appearance before our group, and this time he dealt largely with the pollution and filling of S. F. Bay and its effect on wildlife. Highlight of his presentation was a series of excellent pictures taken from the air on a swing around the Bay shores on an exceptionally clear day. We could see the fingers of "improvements" jutting from many of the communities, and also polluted streams.

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An enthusiastic crowd of about 35 birders showed up in perfect weather for the Sunol Water Temple & Calaveras Dam trip on March 15. Your editor was the leader, and survived. Only a few of the "old timers" were present, but the "new timers" found much of interest. 47 species of birds were counted during the day.

At the Water Temple, the White-throated Swifts put on a brilliant display of aerial maneuvers, while a pair of Red-tailed Hawks took it easy at the top of a tree across the canyon. We counted 29 species at the Temple, and outstanding were: Nuttall Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Steller Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Audubon Warbler, Pheasant, and Purple Finch.

An additional 18 species were counted at Calaveras. We were thrilled to count 6 White-tailed Kites, 3 of them being near enough to be seen well without glasses. Five Golden Eagles were spotted at a distance. Surprisingly there were few water birds, just Ruddy Duck, Coot, and California Gull. A nice find was a Sage Sparrow, with textbook features. Hawks were all over the place, and we think we saw Swainson and Cooper Hawks.

Horned Larks were in abundance this year, and both Phoebes were around. An Allen Hummingbird zipped across the path. Other species were: Bewick and Rock Wren; Rufous-crowned, Savannah, Lark, and Song Sparrow.

One rare bird spotted was a Vandal, pushing boulders into the spillway. Ordinarily we are glad to have young people on our trips, but this kind of monkey business isn't wanted. Our Society cannot and will not tolerate vandalism and playful destructiveness on our Field Trips.

....

Welcome to these many new members:

Bob Cornelius, 3143 Wayside Lane, Walnut Creek  
 John Mack, 1711 Allston Way, Berkeley  
 Mrs. John Meagher, 1537 N. Marta Drive, Pleasant Hill  
 Wesley and Dolores Nunes, 3400 El Monte Drive, Concord  
 Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Richardson, Eagle City, 10 Geneseo, Oakley  
 Mrs. Ida Rush, 131 Sunset, Concord  
 Chuck Watson, 505 Lakewood Circle, Walnut Creek

....

We hear that Laura Johnson came home a few weeks ago from the hospital, but she had to return to Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek on Good Friday following another heart attack. Her troubles prevented Rufus and Laura from taking a trans-Pacific cruise this Spring.

....

Concord hopes to acquire at least 50 acres of the Galindo Reservoir land and put in a ball park and "dredge and fill the low area of the property". Let's hope that land isn't "improved" too much, because right now it is one of the best birding spots in this part of the county.

....

#### Bird Observations:

While we were at Calaveras, Lynn Farrar was birding in Sabino Canyon, near Tucson. He spotted 108 species on his recent trip to El Paso, including these 7 Life Birds: Rufous-winged Sparrow, Bendire Thrasher, Blacktailed Gnatcatcher, Black-chinned Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and Inca Dove.

The Adamsons had 8 Evening Grosbeaks in their backyard recently. The Beitzels settled for Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

Cinnamon Teal were observed by Carolyn Raynesford at Heather Pond, and these birds were seen by others in the ponds on the Martinez-Avon road and at Galindo Reservoir. Carolyn also spotted a Blue-winged Teal at Heather Pond.

Guests from Golden Gate Audubon on our Calaveras trip were George and Molly Jane Monheit, who reported that Burrowing Owls no longer have a home near McEvoy's Yacht Harbor .. it's been bulldozed away.

Mrs. John Meagher spotted an immature Black-crowned Night Heron flying up the creek (Walnut Creek, that is).

Bob Cornelius tells of seeing 13 Turkey Vultures spiraling above Pleasant Hill - as though something were dead in the area.

John Bruce says not<sup>to</sup> be alarmed if you see some Green or Pink Pelicans. Dr. Keith from U.C. (Davis) has been painting Tule Lake pelicans, in a study on toxaphene poisoning in birds and fish.

Nationally, the wild Whooping Crane population dropped 3%, when one died recently at Aransas Refuge, leaving only 32.

....

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Jane Nemetz 934-3295  
2822 San Antonio Dr. Walnut Creek)

(Next Deadline: May 25th)

May, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Jane Nemetz will show pictures and discuss Pine Canyon and Mt. Diablo.

Next Field Trips: Saturday and Sunday, May 9 & 10. Santa Lucia Range. Meet at the Indian Guard Station about 10:30 a.m. Saturday (see below for directions). Leaders: Harry Adamson & Lynn Farrar.

Sunday, May 17, 8 a.m. Pine Canyon. Meet at Castle Rock Park. Leader: Jane Nemetz.

o o o

Since our next meeting comes three days before she leads an expedition of birders up Pine Canyon, Jane Nemetz is going to present a program featuring the area. She will have slides of the Canyon and will also have some of habitat studies she has made on Mt. Diablo. This is an excellent opportunity to learn something about the mountain in your backyard.

The field trip to Pine Canyon will start at 8 a.m. at Castle Rock Park. To get there, take Oak Grove Road towards Mt. Diablo for about a mile south of the junction of Oak Grove and Ygnacio Valley Roads. Then at the junction of North Gate and Castle Rock Roads turn right and drive 1.5 miles to Castle Rock Park. It's all well marked. Jane Nemetz knows Pine Canyon like a book, for she regularly conducts nature hikes there with school children. She, and others who know the area, will assert that it is one of the best birding spots we have. Thanks to a conservation-minded owner, Mr. Ford, all natural life in the area is protected and plentiful. This is a walking trip, and we leave our cars at Castle Rock Park. How much you walk is up to you. If conditions are favorable, Jane hopes that some members will go all the way up the Canyon, but those who wish to turn back may do so at any time. You may need a lunch, and you will need good walking shoes. The day may start cool and warm up as we proceed.

o o o

On May 9 & 10, a week before Pine Canyon and a few days before our May meeting, a Field Trip is scheduled into the Santa Lucia Mountains of Monterey County. Originally planned for later in the month, it was moved up in hopes of better birding. This is a trip for the more adventuresome and is really out in the boondocks.

This is how you get there: Go down U.S. 101 until just before King City you take the road towards Jolon and Mission San Antonio. 12 miles south you come to the Jolon-Mission San Antonio junction, and here you take the Mission road. Continue on this for 6 miles and take the road going to the right (west) towards Indian Guard Station (and eventually Arroyo Seco). Go northwest up this road about 20 miles to Indian Guard Station. (I can give you no guarantee on this road condition, for I have not talked to anyone who has been in there recently). The group plans to meet at the Guard Station about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9th. Set up camp at the Memorial Park near the Guard Station. The destination is approximately 175 miles from Walnut Creek, so you'll have to get up early that morning. Birding in this wild brush and oak country should be interesting, and you might see Road Runners enroute and some of the rare and beautiful Santa Lucia Firs on the trails. For more information, contact Harry Adamson (283-2164) or Lynn Farrar (283-3938).

...

No complete report on the Monterey trip yet. Those who went reported a wonderful time, with cooperative weather on Sunday. Leader Ferd Ruth was called away Sunday by a death in the family, and able substitute Harry Couden reports:

"We are surprised at sighting 111 species, considering the light count Saturday at Moss Landing and the fact there never appeared a great number of species at any one time. The Sunday trip was very informal. We separated into two and three sections between the entrance and Bird Island, and scattered even more thereafter. Quite a group collected at Cypress Grove, then split up again."

...

At the final Wildlife Screen Tour of the season, Eben McMillan of Paso Robles Audubon presented his "Land that I Love". Eb was evangelistic in his theme that "soil is the Number One problem of our time". At times his talk and pictures would wander into related fields, but then he would bring us back to a consideration of the soil. He showed many birds and wild creatures in this interesting film.

Prior to the showing of the film, the Alice & John Porterfield Awards were given, followed by awards from our own Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

Those receiving a copy of E. Lawrence Palmer's "Fieldbook of Natural History" as their Porterfield award were:

Howard Knight, biological science instructor at Diablo Valley College, and many times projectionist for the Screen Tours;

John Bryant, principal of Heights Elementary School in Pittsburg, for his outstanding work with children and teachers; and

Bob Stewart, Chief Ranger at Mt. Diablo State Park, who regularly conducts a radio interview each morning (and who very nicely expressed his appreciation a few days later on the radio for his award).

Those receiving Porterfield Awards, as half-scholarships to the San Jose State Field School of Nature Study, were:

Victoria Bodeman and Richard Bonnington, Diablo Valley College students. And, finally, those receiving "50 half-scholarships from us were:

Jane Nemetz, our President, and Sandra Johnson, who helps Ferd Ruth in his laboratory.

Congratulations to all seven!

...

The April meeting brought forth much knowledge and many youngsters. Jane Nemetz' elementary students discussed collections made in the Diablo-Pine Canyon area. One of John Bruce's students, Devan Nickerson, showed display boxes and briefly discussed a family trip on the Yukon. Then three little maids from school (Diablo Valley College) showed kits on fishes, birds, etc., available from the Museum on loan, and then demonstrated a press for laminating plant exhibits in plastic. Ferd Ruth discussed work he has done for the Lawrence Hall project at U.C. and showed some spectacular displays of insects.

...

Welcome to our newest members:

George and Olive Atthowe, 40 Iris Lane, Walnut Creek  
Doris N. Kroger and son, Tom, 1800 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek

...

### Bird Observations:

Harry Adamson found a Black-chinned Hummingbird in his Coral Bells. This makes five hummingbird species he has seen in his yard.

Lynn Farrar and Frieda Shackelford both report a male Calliope Hummingbird in their yards. Frieda saw a Nashville Warbler on Mt. Diablo.

Jane Nemetz found 3 Lewis Woodpeckers at Heather Pond. Looked like nesting activity - which would be fine, since Lewis Woodpeckers have been driven out of other areas by subdivisions. Jane also says the Cinnamon Teal are still at Heather Pond.

On a cold and windy Wednesday morning recently, I birded with Santa Clara Valley Audubon along Sawyer Camp Road, near Crystal Springs Reservoir (San Mateo County). An Orange-crowned Warbler gave an excellent exhibition. We also saw hundreds of Indian Warriors and other wildflowers, a giant Trillium, and the odd nests of Dusky-footed wood rats.

The Harry Adamson report of Evening Grosbeaks, mentioned last month, takes on added significance because other Audubon groups in the State have been spotting this colorful bird this year.

Two of the rare California Condors were found dead recently - probably from eating poisoned rodents. Eb and Ian McMillan have been studying condors under a National Geographic research grant.

...

VERY IMPORTANT .... Don't forget the Park Bond elections on June 2nd ... a simple majority is needed to annex most of this county to the East Bay Regional Parks District ... and a 2/3 majority needed to pass a \$2.4 million park and recreation bond issue in Concord. Both elections will be our last chance to have parks in this area.

...

at Santa Cruz  
If interested in Leavitt McQuesten's annual "Albatross Expedition" on Monday, June 15, leaving Stagnaro's at 7:30 a.m. and returning about noon, for \$1.50, write Viola Anderson, 1015 Connely St., Salinas.

The 60th National Audubon Convention will be held at Tucson, November 7-11 this year. Send Registration fee (\$5.00) to Mrs. Duryea Morton - National Audubon Convention - 613 Riversville Road - Greenwich, Conn., and receive full information. Make check out to "National Audubon Convention".

...

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Jane Nemetz 934-3295  
2822 San Antonio Dr. Walnut Creek)

(Next Deadline: June 25th)

June, 1964  
Volume 10, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 6 p.m. Potluck Dinner at the Nemetz home, followed by a brief meeting. (Details below)

Next Field Trips: Saturday and Sunday, June 13 & 14. Yosemite Park. (Details next page) Leader: Lynn Farrar.

Saturday and Sunday, July 18 & 19. Wright's Lake. (Details in the next Quail)

...

Traditionally, our June meeting has been in conjunction with a fund-raising potluck dinner. There being no mad rush of applicants to loan a house for the occasion this year, Jane and Frank Nemetz have again offered their limited backyard and living room.

To get there: Go out Ygnacio Valley Road and turn into the Rancho San Miguel subdivision onto San Carlos Drive at the stoplight. Continue on San Carlos several blocks and turn left onto San Antonio Drive. Around the curve is the Nemetz home at 2822 San Antonio Drive. Meet about 6 p.m.

Bring food, dishes, and eating tools. Extra chairs and a card table might come in handy. Mrs. George Schad, Hostess Committee Chairman, suggests that all bring a hot dish and a salad, or a hot dish and a dessert (unless you bring a whole lot of one item), and generally figure on tripling one person's rations. Contact Muriel Schad (685-7897) or Jane Nemetz (934-3295) so they will know how much of a crowd and food to expect. This is our only money-raising project of the year, so bring a dollar per adult and 50¢ per child.

The meeting will consist largely of the "election" of the officers for next year, after which the new officers will take over. The nominating committee was successful in getting a slate of 1964-65 officers for your approval, namely:

President ....  
Veep .....

Bill Betts  
Ann Cavanagh

Secretary ... Esther James  
Treasurer ... George Schad

Generally after the meeting members of the group show a few of their slides. Last year, for instance, we went to the Mt. Adams country, the Seattle Fair, Lava Beds National Monument, and even to sections of Europe. If you have a couple dozen on any subject you want to show, bring them along, and (assuming we have a projector and screen), we'll enjoy them.

.....

Lynn Farrar, leader for the Yosemite field trip, June 13 & 14, says:

"I'll be camping at Camp 11 in the Valley, so look for a white station wagon with a red top. Plan to meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday the 13th at the LeConte Memorial Sierra Club building, which is on the south side of the Valley about 0.7 mile west of Camp Curry. Saturday afternoon we plan to go up to Peregoy Meadows (near Bridal Veil Campground) and bird there and at places on the way to Glacier Point. We will be looking for GGO at ~~the~~ Peregoy (Great Gray Owl, featured in Edgar Jones' Wildlife Tour film on Alberta shown last January). Depending on the wants of the group, we will hike towards Nevada Falls on Sunday."

Might be wise to contact Lynn (283-3938) so he can be looking for you, as there could be a few thousand people in the Valley that weekend. He scouted the area recently and says that there is an early runoff and the falls are now at their peak. Lynn joyously found Black Swift, a life bird for him, at the waterfalls.

.....

Ferd Ruth, leader of the mid-April field trip to Monterey, sent in the following summary and bird list of that trip:

"Data indicate that 44 people were on the trip, with most of them staying for the weekend. After birding at Moss Landing, the group proceeded to Monterey to establish housing and then went to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, where taxidermy specimens of birds were reviewed and a beautiful collection of wild flowers, trees, and shrubs of the area was seen. After a wonderful dinner at Cerrito's on the Wharf at Monterey, the group went over to the First Theatre Historical Monument for an entertaining evening, watching a play of 1880 vintage, of interest to all.

"Late that evening my wife and I had to leave the group unexpectedly due to a death in the family. The Sunday field trip around Point Lobos was conducted by Lynn Farrar and other volunteers. All had a good time finding the following 111 species of birds:

"Common Loon; Hared and Western Grebe; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorant; Mallard; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Canvasback; Scaup; Ruddy Duck; White-winged & Surf Scoter; Red-breasted Merganser; Vulture; Golden Eagle; Sparrow Hawk; Calif. Quail; Gallinule; Coot; Oystercatcher; Semipalmated, Snowy & Black-bellied Plover; Killdeer; Surfbird; Ruddy & Black Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Whimbrel; Wandering Tattler; Willet; Least & Western Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short & Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, and Mew Gull; Forster's, Common & Caspian Tern; Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Vaux & White-throated Swift; Anna's, Rufous, and Allen's Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn & Hairy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Tree, Rough-winged and Barn Swallow; Steller & Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Chestnut backed Chickadee; Bushtit; Pygmy Nuthatch;

"Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Bewick's & Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton's & Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Audubon, and Wilson Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged, Tricolored, & Brewer Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Cowbird; Western Tanager; Purple & House Finch; Pine Siskin; American & Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Savannah, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow."

....

These birds were seen by 10 observers and a dog on Lynn Farrar's April 26 dawn expedition to the South Gate side of Mt. Diablo:

"Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Ferruginous, and Sparrow Hawk; Golden Eagle; Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Vaux & White-throated Swift; Anna & Rufous Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Western Flycatcher; Violet-green Swallow; Purple Martin; Steller & Scrub Jay; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted & Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; California Thrasher; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Wilson Warbler; Meadowlark; Redwinged & Brewer Blackbird; Cowbird; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Black-chinned, White-crowned & Golden-crowned Sparrow."

....

No official report on the Santa Lucia trip yet. A group of 14 had a wonderful time in perfect weather. 74 species of birds seen, including 2 Pygmy Owls and 8 Warblers. Turned out there was a paved road within 8 miles of the Santa Lucia Memorial Park. Lynn thinks we should go down about every two years.

....

Also, nothing official on the Pine Canyon trip on May 17. About 15 birders showed up on a nice day and saw, in the lower Canyon, excellent displays of Western Kingbird, the robbing of a Black-headed Grosbeak nest by a Jay, the dive-bombing of a Golden Eagle by a Red-tailed Hawk, and Lynn's successful ferreting of a MacGillivray's Warbler.

....

### Bird News:

The Nemets family let their captive Barn Owl fly back to Birdland. At our May meeting Jane showed several pictures of the bird and steps towards its release. ... Jane also passed around a dead male MacGillivray Warbler — the only one many of us have seen at close range.

Harry Couden reported 4 Vaux Swift near the Oakland Tribune tower.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in the Adamson backyard on 5/20 and in the Farrar backyard the next day.

Lynn Farrar has Juncos nesting on his place for the first time in 7 years. Also possibly Western Tanager. Lynn has tallied 64 different species on his half-acre since the first of May.

Stockton Audubon found a Green-tailed Towhee on the University of Pacific campus — the first time seen in the Valley north of Fresno.

Worried about Eagles? Oregon Audubon found 69 Bald Eagles and 27 Golden Eagles on the Klamath Basin Refuges during January, compared with 48 Balds and 3 Golden a year ago. Golden Gate Audubon has been reporting immature Bald Eagle at Tomales Bay.

A Hayward man lost an eye recently, when a Mallard flew through the windshield of his car near the Carquinez Bridge.

A Porterville couple had a five hour battle with hundreds of birds pouring out of the fireplace into the living room, literally ruining the house.

In Louisiana a bantam hen hatched a Whooping Crane, bringing the total Cranes to 40 (8 captive and 32 wild). Something to consider are remarks made recently by Jack Throp to the Maricopa Audubon Society in Phoenix, for he feels that the Whooping Crane in the wild is doomed because of its long migration and refuge dangers. He thinks that eventually the birds raised in captivity will outnumber the wild ones, because of better control. The Japanese have successfully practiced avi-culture on a similar crane, and have even caused the cranes to cease migrating.

....

Entre Nous:

Congratulations to Glenn Shanks, awarded a Mt. Diablo Unified School District "school bell" for helping children in their study of rocks.

Congratulations to one of our more recent members, Mrs. Louis Brackman, elected President of the Concord Women's Garden Club.

It was nice to hear Park Ranger Bob Stewart praise Jane Nemetz on one of his "man on the mountain" radio programs for her helping children in nature study on Mt. Diablo.

Dorothy and Harry Couden will be busy, having announced daughter Penny's engagement, with the marriage planned for late in the summer.

....

Jane Nemetz gave a complete discussion of Pine Canyon and Mt. Diablo at our May meeting, which was good preparation for the field trip a few days later. She showed pictures of flood damage, pictures of the Canyon and habitats, and many slides of trees, insects, flowers, birds, and animals.

....

Our newest member is our youngest - 9 year old Robert Gregory of 5613 Likins Avenue, Martinez.

....

Camping is now available at our newest State Recreation Area near Woodson Bridge, on the Sacramento River, a few miles east of Corning. ... Several recreation areas are planned at Oroville Dam. ... Conservationists don't think much of Gov. Brown's recent flip-flop on the highways-through-the-redwood-parks issue. ... Mt. Diablo slopes and the Delta region may get top priority if the State Park bond issue passes this Fall. Our Assemblyman, Jerry Waldie, has been pushing the idea. ... The top redwood in the world is no longer 356 ft. high. Seems now that at least 3 trees near Orick have been found ~~to~~ to be at least 10 feet higher.

....

The National Park Service proposes to withdraw from mining entry more than 46,000 acres in Death Valley National Monument. It may be a step towards legislating the Monument into a National Park. The boric acid producers have been crying their eyes out over the proposal.

....

Well, we all lived through another year of the "Quail". I want to express my sincerest appreciation again to Frieda Shackelford and her daughter, Pat, who have faithfully addressed well over a hundred envelopes each month for the past three years, so that you could be warned of Society activities. Also a special thanks to a non-member at Tidewater, Ruby Bratsberg, who has spun the Ditto machine each month in your behalf. .... There is a strong report, from a reliable source, that your Editor will be "Mr. Quail" for another year (if Bill Betts so desires).

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord ... 686-1341 (new number)

....



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Bill Betts 685-5119  
1827 Altura Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: July 20)

July, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 1

Next Meeting: Probably Thursday, September 10. Details later.

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, July 18 & 19. Wright's Lake.  
Leader: Carroll Davis.

....

Carroll Davis is again the leader of our annual trip to Wright's Lake. He writes these instructions and notes:

"The annual Wright's Lake field trip will be Saturday and Sunday, July 18th and 19th. This trip usually proves to be good, since the area is fine for birding, camping, boating, and swimming. Past experience shows that we may also have summer thunderstorms, so come prepared.

"To get to Wright's Lake: Take U.S. 50 through Kyburz, pass "Fred's Place, and continue 5 miles to the Wright's Lake sign on the left. From there it is approximately 8 miles up to the Lake. Past experience indicates that the road is in good condition by July and we will find that campers have driven in before us. We will meet again on the western side of the campground in an area where there are some large rocks. Look for a yellow-green VW bus with a canoe on top or near by.

"Saturday's trip starts at 9:30 a.m. from the road fork (to cabin area) just north of the campground and will be to the Twin Lakes area. Bring a lunch. On Sunday there will be a short 6 a.m. dawn trip to the ridge above camp and a 9 a.m. trip west on the Windmueller Trail. We will assemble in the camp area for the early trip and meet at the road to the garbage trip for the later one. If there is interest in a botanical or geological side trip, these can be arranged on site. Saturday evening we will make music around the campfire, so bring musical instruments and your voice."

....

The only other Field Trip scheduled for the summer will be sometime in August, possibly Aug. 16, at which time Frieda Shackelford might be leading a band of birders to the banks of the San Joaquin at a place called Aden's Resort, in an effort to locate a Cuckoo. More details in the next "Quail".

....

No official report on the Yosemite trip yet, but there are rumors that about 20 birders showed up and had a wonderful time.

....

Harry Adamson sent in this graphic account of the Santa Lucia trip:

"Seventeen people turned out for the May 9 - 10 overnight camping trip to the Indians campground in the Santa Lucia Mountains part of Los Padres National Forest.

"Saturday most of the group hiked toward Cone Peak on a trail which winds through pines, firs (including the beautiful and symmetrical Santa Lucia Fir, found only in this limited area) and chaparral. Sunday's bird walk led through green meadows and scattered giant oaks, past large rock formations where Swallows were busily building giant nests and finally to steeper grades as the trail begins to mount approaches to Junipero Serra Peak, almost 6000 feet in elevation and the highest peak in this region, which begins just south of Salinas.

"Seventy four species of birds were seen between Mission San Antonio de Padua and Indians campground. Several of the group either came by way of, or returned by, the road which winds through some rather spectacular Coast Range scenery between the Indians and Arroyo Seco Canyon some 15 miles to the north. This is a beautiful drive in early May, and the tall flower stalks (7 - 8 feet) of Whipple's Yucca were outstanding among the wildflowers."

(Note: The bird list will appear next month .... no room here)

....

I have received a clever summary of some birding done in Massachusetts by a Mr. H. Couden. This, too, is postponed until next month.

....

Attached you will find a revised membership list. If you notice any errors, let Editor Ed know and corrections will be noted in future issues.

....

These names on the list are new members who have just signed up:

Molly Jane Monheit, 1107 Magnolia Lane, Lafayette  
Mrs. R. C. Morgan, 331 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill  
Mrs. Joan Soule, 33 Charles Hill Road, Orinda.

....

Election Summary: Passage of the proposal to annex most of Contra Costa County to the East Bay Regional Park District. ... Defeat, by less than 1%, of the proposed Concord Park Bond issue.

....

A smaller than usual group met for the annual Potluck Dinner and meeting at the Nemetz home on June 11. The weather permitted the dinner and the meeting to be held outside, but then we went inside and saw pictures of Diablo and Santa Lucia trips (Engra Lusebrink), backpacking in the Tetons (Joyce Meagher), Colorado Rockies (Mr. Quail), and old Audubon expeditions to Pinnacles and Bay Farm (Vi Beitzel). The meeting outside was featured by the speedy and unopposed election of the officers for next year, namely:

Bill Betts	-	President
Ann Cavanagh	-	Vice President
Esther James	-	Secretary
George Schad	-	Treasurer

Let's back up this crew. Ann, particularly, would like to have you put her on the trail of possible programs for next year.

Finally, let's give a round of applause and thanks to Frank and Jane Nemetz for a grand time in their gracious home.

....

Ed Mize (still Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord ... Phone: 686-1341

Membership List July 1964

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette	283-2164
Atthowe, George & Olive	40 Iris Lane	Wal. Ck.	934-7323
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, Bill & Lucy	1827 Altura Drive	Concord	685-5119
Blake, Frances	4440 Walnut Blvd.	Wal. Ck.	935-2884
Bolender, Mrs. M. C.	511 Highland Dr.	Danville	837-6642
Bonnickson, Barbara	Box 295	Brentwood	634-4152
Bowman, Mrs. A. W.	62 Orchard Road	Orinda	254-2592
Brackman, Mrs. Louis	4098 Forestview Ave.	Concord	682-6210
Bruce, John & Helen	348 Verona Ave.	Danville	837-2704
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
Cornelius, Bob	3143 Wayside Lane	Wal. Ck.	934-6873
Couden, Harry & Dorothy	1491 Sunset Loop	Wal. Ck.	934-8873
Crosby, Doris & Joe	4214 Walnut Blvd.	Wal. Ck.	932-1283
Culbertson, Anne S.	1131 Scotts Lane	Wal. Ck.	934-3260
Davis, Carroll	2134 McGee, Apt. D	Berkeley	
Davis, H.E. & Sharon	1851 Del Monte Ct.	Wal. Ck.	934-8458
Davis, John A.	21 Wanda Way	Martinez	228-2509
Farrar, Lynn & Ruth	955 Diablo Dr.	Lafayette	283-3938
Gerringer, J. & Mildred	260 Douglas Court	Concord	682-4842
Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie	3576 Powell Drive	Lafayette	284-4014
Goren, Audrey	206 Santa Fe. Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-8144
Gregory, Robert	5613 Likins Ave.	Martinez	228-6935
Greuner, Mrs. Wm. Jr.	877 Broadmoor	Lafayette	284-4562
Hall, Lucy A.	140 Esther Lane	Danville	837-2681
Hawkins, Mrs. Virginia L.	890 38th Ave.Space 18	Santa Cruz	
Hill, Howard	2143 Gill Drive	Concord	682-9048
Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret	4081 Legion Court	Lafayette	254-0657
Holsclaw, Mrs. Guy	600 Alhambra Way	Martinez	228-5114
Honnold, Marjie	2064 Donald Dr.	Moraga	
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
James, Mrs. L. (Esther)	605 Maureen Lane	Pl. Hill	682-0439
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
Kroger, Doris; and Tom	1800 Magnolia Way	Wal. Ck.	
Lusebrink, Engra	236 Scripps Court	Palo Alto	
Lynch, Jim M.D.	3758 Serrano St.	Martinez	228-2999

Mack, John	1711 Allston Way	Berkeley	TM 3-4899
Mann, Mrs. Evelyn N.	120 Montecito Cres.	Wal. Ck.	934-2265
McColl Carol	10 Ramona Dr.	Orinda	376-8702
McGeehon, Mrs. J. C.	2165 Oakvale Road	Wal. Ck.	934-2752
Meagher, Mrs. John	1537 N. Marta Drive	Pl. Hill	685-5702
Miller, Jessie B.	P.O. Box 26	Antioch	
Mize, Ed	1255 Mt. Diablo St.	Concord	686-1341
Mohr, Mr. & Mrs. A.C.	P.O. Box 83	Orinda	254-5026
Monheit, Molly Jane	1107 Magnolia Lane	Lafayette	284-4261
Morgan, Mrs. R.C.	331 Boyd Road	Pl. Hill	934-4249
Naviaux, Dr. James L.	1047 Kaski Lane	Concord	682-3456
Nemets, Frank & Jane	2822 San Antonio Dr.	Wal. Ck.	934-3295
Nunes, Wesley & Dolores	3400 El Monte Drive	Concord	685-1629
O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth	2231 Overlook Drive	Wal. Ck.	934-4720
Paige, Harold L.	1212 Monticello Rd.	Lafayette	283-3408
Perlman, Isadore	1158 Glen Road	Lafayette	283-3021
Porterfield, Mr. & Mrs. J.	3053 The Alameda	Concord	685-4616
Raynesford, Carolyn	3058 Vessing Road	Pl. Hill	
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	555 La Vista Road	Wal. Ck.	935-1813
Richardson, D. L.	Eagle City-10 Geneseo	Oakley	625-3391
Rieser, Dick	45 Tarry Lane	Orinda	254-4861
Rios, Mary	161 Adelaide	Concord	685-5877
Robinson, Jennifer	480 Arbol Via	Wal. Ck.	934-6404
Roemer, Elsie	1556 Everett St.	Alameda	LA 2-0941
Rust, Mrs. Ida	131 Sunset Ave.	Concord	686-6629
Ruth, Ferd & Juliet	43 Cuesta Way	Wal. Ck.	934-8803
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle	1700 El Camino Real Rue 20-10	So. S.F.	
Sattler, Wm. & Genevieve	4050 Poplar Ave.	Concord	685-5315
Schad, George & Muriel	2906 Concord Blvd.	Concord	685-7897
Schaefer, Leo & Virginia	3611 Walnut Ave.	Concord	686-1150
Schaller, Richard & Margaret	330 Sunset Ave.	Concord	685-7641
Shackelford, Clair & Frieda	712 Laurel Drive	Wal. Ck.	935-1344
Shackelford, Pat	712 Laurel Drive	Wal. Ck.	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	685-7444
Smith, Emily D.	19651 Glen Una Dr.	Saratoga	
Soulé, Mrs. Joan	33 Charles Hill Rd.	Orinda	254-5807
Steller, Mrs. Ruth (Sally)	939 Carol Lane	Lafayette	284-4370
Swenson, Carl & Ruth	c/o 1012 El Curtola Blvd.	Wal. Ck.	935-3256
Taylor, Bill	170 Easy Street	Alamo	934-3054
Toasperm, Mrs. W.J.	1923 Buttner Road	Pl. Hill	934-0749
Utz, James & Rita	12 Diana Ct.	Pl. Hill	935-3187
Veitch, Peter	154 Camino Sobrante	Orinda	254-2419
Warner, Norma L.	3163 Wayside Lane	Wal. Ck.	934-4604
Watson, Chuck	505 Lakewood Circle	Wal. Ck.	934-0522
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

(Pres: Bill Betts 685-5119  
1827 Altura Drive, Concord)

Next Deadline: August 17  
(early because of vacation)

August, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 2

Next Meetings: Probably Thursday, Sept. 10, at the Life Sciences Building, Diablo Valley College.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, August 16. Leave San Ramon High School in Danville promptly at 6:30 a.m. and go to Aden's Resort. Frieda Shackelford, Leader (phone: 955-1344).

....

As usual, there will be no meeting in August. We plan to resume them in September. Program Chairman Ann Cavanagh is busy rounding up a very interesting schedule for the forthcoming year. We may start off by having Jane Nemetz report briefly on the Audubon camp in Wyoming. Also, there might be a speaker from the State Division of Beaches and Parks discussing the November Park Bond proposal. More details in the September quail.

....

You'll have to get up early on Sunday, August 16, to participate in the field trip to Aden's Resort. The caravan of birders will leave San Ramon High School in Danville promptly at 6:30 and go down the Valley to the Resort. We leave early because cuckoos are generally most active in the early morning, and that's what we are going after. Also, an early departure will give us time to come back through Fattersen Pass. Our leader, Frieda Shackelford, was down there about a year ago, but failed to find the cuckoos, although she did see migrating Swainson's Hawks and swarms of humming birds. If you miss the group at Danville, you may find them down at Aden's Resort, located where the Stanislaus and the San Joaquin Rivers join. Take U.S. 50 and Calif. 33 (note: these numbers may be changed by now), and go about 6 miles south of the junction of 50 & 33 to Airport Way. Thence 3 1/2 miles to the San Joaquin River, continuing on 1.2 miles to Division Road and following directional signs 2.2 miles to the Resort. Bring lunches, binoculars, scopes, and fervent hopes that it won't be a boiling hot day.

....

No official report on the Wright's Lake trip yet, but they say that 22 birders enjoyed the outing on a perfect weekend.

...

Here is a list of 74 birds reported by Harry Adamson for the Santa Lucia trip between San Antonio Mission and The Indians Campground (see the July "quail" for the rest of the report:

"Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-tailed Hawk; California & Mountain Quail; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Great Horned & Pigmy Owl; White-throated Swift; Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated, Western, and Olive-sided Flycatcher; Black & Say's Phoebe; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-Green & Cliff Swallow; Steller & Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Raven; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wren-tit; House, Bewick's & Canyon Wren; California Thrasher; Robin; Western Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Phainopepla; Button's, Solitary & Warbling Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow, Audubon's, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, and Wilson's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; Purple & House Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Lark & Chipping Sparrow."

...

Welcome to our newest member:

Mrs. Berna Philbin, 6950 Arrowwood Drive, Modesto.

I understand that she met Dorothy Couden at a camp recently and was talked into joining our group.

...

Speaking of the Couden's, daughter Penny and her fiance, Tom Toland, are participating in a Shakespeare Festival at Claremont College this summer.

Also, last month I promised to give you a descriptive narrative of some birding that Harry Couden did in Massachusetts, so here goes:

"Monomoy Island, off the elbow of Cape Cod, is a nesting refuge of Massachusetts Audubon Society, and a major resting and feeding stop for migrating shore birds. I was one of a dozen privileged to take this Island Tour, via boat and beach buggy, on Sunday, May 31. There were many nesting species, in full color glory. For this old Scoutmaster it was a day full of good terns. Common and Least eggs were discovered; and these terns, together with Roseate and Arctic, were in a single close grouping, apparently attending church (Congregationalist, I believe). A Black Tern was seen, a mile later, hurrying to join the flock. Seven all white Green-winged Teal eggs were uncovered in another nest. Sooty Shearwater, Common Eider, White-rumped Sandpiper, and a Parasitic Jaeger were standouts. This would be a good trip to add to our schedule." (EC)

"6/12 .. Had a 71 count for Mass. incidentally."

"6/10 .. Had a 53 count for Wisconsin, on purpose."

...

We have lost one of our long-time members, Mrs. Laura B. Johnson, who was stricken with her final heart attack on July 2, while touring Yosemite Park with her husband, Rufus. Laura had been quite ill during the past year.

...

The Audubon movement lost a valuable supporter, when Bert Harwell, a former naturalist at Yosemite, died about July 20. Mr. Harwell showed his "Canada East" and "Canada West" to thousands of people over the years, and after each showing he would always answer requests for bird call imitations. I can recall that the first Saw-whet Owl call I ever heard was given by Bert. It must have been good, because from then on I have been able to recognize the call in the woods.

...

Thanks to the cooperation of members Pat Shackelford and Mrs. Joan Soule, of Diablo Rapid Print and Photo, an excellent reproduction of the membership list was prepared in time to enclose with your July "Quail".

...

Some bird-study groups have a rough time. Primarily for financial reasons, the Santa Cruz Bird Club has let its Audubon affiliation lapse and has suspended publication of its bulletin, "The Albatross", formerly edited by Annis Davies, a friend of some of our older members.

...

If some of our members took the Sacramento River route to or from Wright's Lake, they were detoured to the opposite bank of the river north of Courtland and saw first hand the destruction being wrought by the Army Engineers, who are busy stripping off the trees, burning the brush, scooping away the dirt, and replacing beauty with bare rock - all about as inspirational as a breakwater. Anyone who has seen the present mess can understand why our Assemblyman, Jerry Waldie, says, "The Army Corps of Engineers is again demonstrating its utter contempt for the wishes of the people of the Delta Area".

...

On the brighter side, there is a good chance that 4846 acres will be added to Mt. Diablo State Park, as a result of a Federal grant.

...

Not much news on the Wilderness Bill. A House Committee has recommended consideration of H.R. 9070 by the House, and conservationists hope some improvements will be made before the final vote. A similar bill, S. 4, has passed the Senate. ... Just recently I discovered one reason why I am in favor of a Wilderness Bill. One night my son and I camped in a recommended commercial camp near Greenville, reached by car, and it turned out to be filthy and full of noisy cars, noisy radios, and noisy people. The next night we camped entirely alone by a mountain lake in Caribou Peaks Wild Area, and the only sound was the "beep" of the Common Nighthawk. In two days we met only a dozen people on the trail. Truly, in Wilderness there is Silence.

...

National Audubon is protesting a proposal by the Federal Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife that Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge be open to public shooting this fall. This is the only important wintering refuge in the Pacific Flyway that has not been open to public hunting.

...

Have you ever seen the beautiful Kaibab squirrel, which is found only in the Kaibab National Forest on the North Rim of Grand Canyon? If you have, you will be saddened to hear that Arizona is considering classifying this very rare animal as legal game this fall, with a bag limit of 3.

...

The water has been shut off at Gray Lodge Refuge for several months, as the result of an assessment dispute. State officials got an injunction forcing the Biggs-West Gridley Water District to open the pipes and fill the ponds.

...

Ed Mize (Editor) ... 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord ... Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Bill Betts 685-5119  
1827 Altura Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Sept. 21)

September, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 3

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Jane Nemetz will give a brief report on the Audubon Wyoming Camp. There will also be a speaker on the State Park Bond issue.

**Next Field Trip:** Sunday, Sept. 13. Eastshore tide flats. Meeting place and time not definite. If interested in going, you can call Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for information.

...

Program Chairman Ann Cavanagh, promising an interesting program to start off our new season, has asked our former President, Jane Nemetz, to describe life in Wyoming to us at our first Meeting on September 10. ... Then a speaker (as yet unnamed) from "Californians for Beaches and Parks" will tell us about Proposition 1, the State Park Bond Issue, and will show a 14-minute Walt Disney sound film entitled "Golden Opportunity".

...

Well it's back to the old Mudflats again for our first field trip, scheduled for September 13. For the past several years this has been a trip featuring shore birds. The projected trip may roughly cover the areas seen last year - namely the Toll Plaza, Point Isabel, and Bay Farm Island. The meeting time is still uncertain but will be announced at the September 10 meeting. If you are interested and won't be at the meeting, call our Leader Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for more definite information.

...

The sucoos almost outnumbered the birders on the August 16 field trip to Aden's Resort. Only five cuckoo hunters showed up - namely: the leaders (Frieda & Clair Shackelford), your Editor (me), our newest member (Berna Philbin) and her husband (Paul) from Modesto. The weather was delightful in the early morning, but warmed considerably thereafter. We were successful in finding two Yellow-billed Cuckoos over our heads in the same tree and may have seen one of them a couple of hours earlier flying into the sun. We also had an excellent view of an immature Swainson's Hawk in dusky plumage as well as several soaring mature Swainson's. Two squadrons of Avocets, 7 in number, soared over our heads in perfect formation.

After birding at Aden's, the three Contra Costers tackled Del Puerto Canyon, successfully finding the Costa Hummingbird, and then came home through the Arroyo Mocho. 39 birds (+ 4 question marks) were seen at Aden's. Some of the more unusual species, aside from those listed on the previous page, were:

Belted Kingfisher; Killdeer; Downy and Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Western Wood Pewee; Yellow-billed Magpie; White-breasted Nuthatch; House and Bewick's Wren; California Thrasher; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak (but no Blue Grosbeak); and Lesser Goldfinch.

....

### Bird Observations:

Talk to Vi Beitzel if you want to know where to find the Great Gray Owl. There's a nest on the fringe of the meadow next to Bridal Veil Campground at Yosemite Park. Vi and Dick saw an owl perched about 20 ft. overhead and they were able to walk under it during the day. The second time the bird was seen, it was being pestered by other birds. Vi got good profiles of the owl. The ranger says that there are 3 owlets in the nest.

According to an item in the S.F. Chronicle, reprinted from the NY Times, Ian McMillan indicates that there are only from 40 to 50 California Condors left. For years we have been reading that there were about 60 alive. The McMillan brothers, Eben and Ian, are scheduled to release a report on Condors at the National Audubon Convention in November.

Aside from the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, possibly now extinct, the rarest bird in the U.S. appears to be the Everglade Kite. Only 9 to 14 are believed to be alive, and 9 of these are in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Florida.

Monterey Audubon's "Sanderling" reports that this has been a big year for Bald Eagle in Glacier National Park, with more than 350 spotted so far.

....

The East Bay Regional Park District has set up 7 Wards. John Bryant of Pittsburg has been appointed an interim director. He received a Porterfield Conservation Award from this Society last Spring .... Recently the District purchased 1100 acres of the 3-Lakes Ranch to add to the Briones holdings.

....

The Wilderness Bill has passed both houses of Congress and is now ready for the President's signature. At Last!

Also ready for the President's signature is H.R. 439 (introduced by John Baldwin), which would make the Muir Home in Martinez a National Historic Site of 9.2 acres.

The Outdoor Recreation Bill and the Tule Lake Bill are also doing well in Congress. This has really been a good year for Conservation.

The new campground at Crane Flat in Yosemite is now open.

Most of the funds for the Pt. Reyes National Seashore will be used for land acquisition. Some development is now taking place, and an excess road may be finished by October of this year.

The Beitzels report much damage in Glacier National Park from floods.

....

Carl and Ruth Swenson have started their long trip around the country, and we all wish them a good trip and good birding. At last report they were in a snowstorm in Grand Teton National Park. ... Dick Beitzel will be home for a few weeks recuperating from an operation.

....



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Oct. 26)

October, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. "Candidates Night", featuring aspirants for Ward 6 representative on the East Bay Regional Park board of directors ... Jane Nemetz will give a report on the Audubon Wyoming Camp.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, October 11. Southern East Bay Regional Parks. Meet in Redwood Canyon at the junction of Canyon Road and Pinehurst Road, 2 mi. S of Moraga, 9 a.m. Call Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for information not reported below.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, October 21, Diablo Valley College Gymnasium, 8 p.m. Albert Wool shows "Ranch Life and Wildlife".

....

Ann Cavanagh, Program Chairman, hopes to have some candidates for director from Ward 6 of the East Bay Regional Park District show up for self-introductions and a few words at our Oct. 8 meeting. They will be asked to stay for coffee, to meet our members informally. Ward 6 covers Central and Eastern Contra Costa (coops) County, and candidates are: Fred Blumberg, Warren Buchanen, Alvin Burton, Hazel Harrison, Ed Munne, and Bill Roddick. ... Jane Nemetz will give an illustrated report on the Wyoming Audubon Camp session she attended this summer. She will supplement her own slides with some from other participants. This part of the program was postponed from our September meeting, for lack of time.

....

There had been some talk that the field trip in October would be a special for "rock hounds", but our Field Trip Chairman, Lynn Farrar, was unable to sign up a rock expert. So, instead, Lynn has planned a trip for us to a new area, the southern portions of the Regional Park system. Says he, "We will meet at 9 a.m., October 11, at the junction of Canyon Road and Pinehurst Road (the road between Park Blvd. in Oakland and Castro Valley). Take Moraga Highway or Moraga Road to Moraga and go south on Canyon Road about 2 miles, following the old Sacramento Northern tracks, to the junction with the road that runs along San Leandro Creek through Canyon and the proposed Redwood Canyon Park. Watch for a white Ford station wagon with a red top. Bring hiking shoes and lunch."

....

This season's Audubon Wildlife Tours start Wednesday, October 21, at the Diablo College Gym. Our first speaker will be Albert J. Wool, who will show his "Ranch Life and Wildlife", photographed on his 1300 acre cattle ranch near La Honda in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Mr. Wool was with us over ten years ago with a similar ranch life film featuring birds and animals that we see on our own field trips. Active in Santa Clara Audubon Society, he leads Christmas Counts at his ranch.

....

Instead of going to the mudflats on September 13, our group went to Marin County, described glowingly in Lynn Farrar's report:

"On a nice sunny day, 10 members met at the Marin end of Golden Gate Bridge and first watched at least a thousand Sooty Shearwaters inside the Gate. We then proceeded to Rodeo Lagoon, where 2 Black-crowned Night Herons were seen. Later we parked near Pt. Bonita Light and walked through the tunnel to the Light. Here we were fortunate to find three Marbled Murrelets, a lifebird to everyone along and, I believe, the first ever seen on a MDAS outing. Views from Pt. Bonita are spectacular. In the afternoon we met at Inverness and then drove to the RCA sending station to look in vain for Eastern warblers. From RCA we went to Pt. Reyes for views of sea lions. It was quite windy, and the 304 steps down to the Light looked like 608 on the way back, but no members were lost. The group then split, the leader ending the day with 4 birders at "muddy pond" above Drake's Bay, where a Pectoral Sandpiper and American Bittern were highlights. This is a wonderful spot for birding, so see me for directions, if interested.

"67 Species were observed, including: Pied-billed Grebe; Sooty Shearwater; Brown Pelican; Double-cr. & Brandt's Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Black-crowned Night Heron; Common & Snowy Egret; American Bittern; Mallard; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Calif. Quail; Coot; Semipalmated & Snowy Plover; Killdeer; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Pectoral, Least, and Western Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher; Godwit; Sanderling; Northern Phalarope; Western, Calif., Ring-billed & Heermann's Gull; Forster's Tern; Marbled Murrelet; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Black & Say's Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Tree and Barn Swallow; Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Bushtit; Wren; Rock Wren; Western Bluebird; Loggerhead Shrike; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-crowned, Yellow & Wilson's Warblers; Redwinged, Tricolored & Brewer's Blackbirds; Western Tanager; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned & Song Sparrow."

....

Lynn also sent in a list of the birds seen at Yosemite in mid-June:

"Red-tailed Hawk; Golden Eagle; Mountain Quail; Calif. Gull; Band-tailed Pigeon; Pygmy & Great Grey Owl; Black & White-throated Swift; Rufous & Calliope Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker (heard); Acorn, Hairy, White-headed & Black-backed Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied & Williamson's Sapsucker; Hammond's or Dusky Flycatcher; Western & Olive-sided Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-green & Cliff Swallow; Steller Jay; Clark's Nutcracker; Mountain Chickadee; Bushtit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Dipper; Canyon Wren; Robin; Hermit ~~Thrush~~ Thrush; Townsend's Solitaire; Golden-crowned & Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Solitary & Warbling Vireo; Nashville, Yellow, Audubon's, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, MacGillivray's & Wilson's Warbler; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; West, Tanager;

Black-headed & Evening Grosbeak; Cassin's & Gray-crowned Rosy Finch; Pine Siskin; Oregon Junco; Chipping, White-crowned, Lincoln's & Song Sparrow.

....

Carroll Davis, leader of the mid-July trip to Wright's Lake reports:

"Approximately 20 members and guests met at Wright's Lake the weekend of July 18 & 19. 43 species of birds were seen during this period. On Saturday's trip to Twin Lakes, Fagan, Couden and Davis ventured to the ridge above, but the greatly reduced snowfields did not yield Rosy Finch. The greatest number of birds observed at one time was at the sitting spot on the Windmueller Trail trip Sunday, where 14 species (marked by ° below) were seen.

"Birds observed: Spotted Sandpiper; Band-tailed Pigeon; Great Horned Owl; Common Nighthawk; Black Swift; Anna's, Rufous, & Calliope Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Yellow-breasted & Williamson's Sapsucker; Hairy Woodpecker; Dusky°, Western°, and Olive-sided Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-green, Cliff & Tree Swallow; Stoller's Jay; Clark's Nutcracker; Mountain Chickadee°; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch° & Red-breasted Nuthatch°; House Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush°; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire°; Golden-crowned Kinglet°; Solitary Vireo; Orange-crowned, Audubon's°, Hermit°, & Wilson's Warbler; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Western Tanager°; Pine & Black-headed Grosbeak; Cassin's Finch°; Green-tailed Towhee; Oregon Junco°; Chipping, White-cr, & Fox Sparrow°; Pine Siskin."

....

A year ago the 88th Congress set a record for doing nothing, but since then the Old 88th has done a remarkable job in passing legislation, including some valuable conservation numbers. So, we now have a Wilderness Bill, wherein 9 million acres of wild country have been set aside free from governmental whims and more may be added. ... We now have a Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will be used for the purchase of recreation lands ... The Tule-Klamath bill will provide protection for four lakes on the Pacific Flyway ... The Canyon Lands National Park bill has been sent to the President, as have been the bills creating the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and the Fire Island Seashore. Truly a remarkable record.

....

Our membership list has taken a jump with the addition of the following newcomers, to whom we extend an official "quail" greeting:

David Aitken, 289 Chestnut St., San Francisco 94133  
 James Bright, Star Route, Tassajara Road, Danville  
 Hazel & Robert McCarthy, P.O. Box 641 (1929 Dora Ave.) Walnut Creek  
 Lynn E. Fryer, 926 Diablo Drive, Lafayette  
 Richard J. Noble, 2131 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek

....

We started off the new Audubon year with a bang, by having a very fine meeting in September. Ann Cavanagh had snagged William Penn Hott, General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, for speaker, and he proved to be dynamic and full of information. First we saw the Disney movie, "Golden Opportunity", which was a pitch for passage of Proposition 1, the State Park Bond Issue, on the November ballot. Then Mr. Hott spoke briefly on the importance of this Bond Issue and answered several questions from the floor. One thing he pointed out

was that passage of the bonds would benefit this area both in the county and regional park aspects.

Ferd Ruth brought up two major conservation items. One concerned the proposed shooting of Kaibab Squirrels as additional game for wild turkey hunters in Arizona. But there has been so much opposition from conservationists throughout the land that the Arizona Fish & Game has cancelled both the turkey and squirrel shoot. Our Society voted to write to the Arizona Fish & Game Commission and tell them that we are against any shooting of the rare Kaibab Squirrel any time in the future.

Ferd also mentioned that during a recent visit to Pt. Lobos he was virtually overwhelmed by a big 14-foot MGM movie truck filming background scenes in that Nature Reserve and breaking a few branches of the rare pines in doing so -- all this so that Lis Taylor and Richard Burton could have Pt. Lobos scenery in their forthcoming epic, "The Sandpiper". Ferd told us of the terrific battle a few years ago to keep movie producers out of Pt. Lobos Park, but apparently now for \$100 a day producers can come in and shoot all the film they want. Our group voted to notify the State Park authorities that we oppose any such intrusion in any State Park.

We also sent another donation to the Audubon Canyon Ranch fund.

....

Lynn Farrar wants you to know that the annual Christmas Count this year will be on Sunday, December 27, from dawn to dusk. He says, "All are asked to participate for whatever time they care to. Also, please do not hesitate to call me at home for any information about any field trip. The trips are for the members, not me, and I would welcome all comments and questions."

....

#### Bird Observations:

Engra Lusebrink reports that thousands of Northern Phalaropes have been around the Dumbarton Bridge recently.

Joyce Heagher saw Bald Eagles at Elk Lake, west of Bend, Oregon, this summer.

Bob Cornelius spotted a Great Horned Owl in the shade near Rock City on Mt. Diablo a few weeks ago.

The Glatfeltys took a trip to Maine (by car from Kennedy Field in New York). Birding was poor, although Roy collected 10 life birds. Roy and Elsie enjoyed birding at Oyster Bay on Long Island and on Cape Cod.

On a recent trip to the Northwest, I spotted Eastern Kingbird in N. Idaho, White-headed Woodpecker at Chandler State Park in SE Oregon, about 20 Common Nighthawks at one time over Lakeview, Oregon, and at least a dozen Wilson's Warblers near Reedsport, Oregon.

One of our new members, David Aitken, recently took a trip to Hawaii and has sent me a long report on his bird observations there. It will surely be of interest to many of our members, and, as space permits, I plan to serialize it in portions in future issues of "The Quail". (Now if David had seen some Swifts over there, we could have some real cliff-hangers in this serial!)

....

Don't forget that you have a "Golden Opportunity" in November!

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# The Quail

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

(Pres: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Nov. 23)

November, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 5

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Harold Sharp will discuss the Battle of the Redwoods, between freeway advocates and conservationists.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, November 14, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 9:30 a.m.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, November 16, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Earl Hilfiker and "Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands".

....

For our speaker on November 12, Program Chairman Ann Cavanagh hopes to have Mr. Harold G. Sharp, Chairman of the Speaker's Bureau of the Sierra Club. Mr. Sharp is scheduled to discuss the current battle of words between conservationists and the supporters of freeways in the Redwoods. Sure, you've heard a lot on this subject, pro and con, but come to the next meeting and get the FACTS.

....

Lynn Farrar outlines the November Field Trip as follows:

"Our next Field Trip is planned for Nov. 14 (a Saturday) to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, about 7 miles south of Willows on Highway 99W. This is an excellent opportunity to view ducks, geese, and some shorebirds, as well as White Pelican, hawks and eagles. Meeting time - 9:30 a.m. at the Refuge headquarters (1/4 mile off the highway thru the main gate). Bring lunch, binocs, scopes. Watch weather for rain gear. Driving time roughly 3 hours".

....

Our Audubon Wildlife Film speaker on November 16 will be Earl L. Hilfiker, who is new to us. He hails from Rochester, N.Y., where he was curator at the Rochester Museum of Arts & Science. Mr. Hilfiker's film is entitled, "Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands". Featured will be beavers engineering a dam, and the picture will show the dam's effect on the animals and birds attracted to the beaver pond.

....

We have added a new member to our esteemed list, and welcome --  
Steve Thompson, 2242 Hillsborough Ct., Concord

....

Lynn Farrar, having led two trips recently, reports:

"Two recent field trips were held to further acquaint members and friends with the beauties and nearness of local areas, namely, Briones (on Sept. 27) and the West Ridge Trail in East Bay Regional Park (on Oct. 11). Neither trip was well attended, although it was felt both were designed for easy hiking and quick returns home. We have some exceptionally fine areas in this county, and members would do well to familiarize themselves more with these places.

"Birds observed:

(a) at both Briones & West Ridge... Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Calif. Quail; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Steller's & Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Calif. Thrasher; Western Bluebird; Audubon Warbler; House Finch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned & Golden-crowned, & Song Sparrow.

(b) at Briones alone ... Sparrow Hawk; Say's Phoebe; Flycatcher (sp?) Western Wood Pewee; Warbling Vireo; Bewer's Blackbird; Lesser Goldfinch; Lark Sparrow;

(c) at West Ridge alone ... Sharp-shinned Hawk; Band-tailed Pigeon; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy & Downy Woodpecker; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wren-tit; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Golden-crowned & Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Black-throated Gray Warbler; Pine Siskin; Fox Sparrow.

....

Our regular meeting on October 8 brought out about 30 members and guests to hear candidates for director from Ward 6 of the East Bay Regional Park District. The 6 candidates were: Hazel Harrison, Fred Blumberg, Warren Buchanan, Al Burton (represented by Hulet Hornbeck), Ed Munns, & Bill Roddick. Each one gave a short autobiographical sketch, including accomplishments in the conservation field. Questioning by the audience followed. Chief lament by the speakers was their inability to get around to all 7 Wards. This lament, with pictures by the Concord Transcript photographer, appeared as a front page story in that paper the following night. (First time Mt. Diablo Audubon has hit the front page in years!)

....

President Bill Betts announced his Committee Chairmen for this year. The lucky people are:

Program	Ann Cavanagh
Membership	Ava Huffman
Field Trips	Lynn Farrar
Publicity	Margaret Schaller
Conservation	Ed Hize
The Quail Ed	Hize
Circulation Manager	Frieda Shackelford

....

We passed a resolution at the October meeting to back Proposition 1 on the November election. (Hope our resolution helps).

....

If you are interested in a wide variety of books and booklets on nature, you can get a 23-page catalog by writing to Naturegraph Books, Secret Valley, 5215 West Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448

....

At the June Potluck we heard that the Arboretum at Tilden Park might be moved to Grass Valley Regional Park. We learned at our October, meeting, however, that this is not exactly true. Some of the candidates for the Regional Park directorship corrected this impression by saying that it was the intention to keep the Arboretum where it is and set up a new one at Grass Valley Regional Park. The latter, with more space, would permit establishment of groves of trees of the same type, instead of the solitary specimens now at Tilden.

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The first National Park in 17 years, aside from the upgrading of the former Petrified Forest National Monument, will be Canyonlands National Park. This area of colorful rocks and erosion centers around the junction of the Colorado and the Green Rivers in Utah. Mining and grazing will be permitted in parts, but predator control has been eliminated, and there will be no hunting. (Maybe some of our members will get over there in the next couple of years and bring back pictures of what is said to be a "vast and colorful wonderland").

Marin and Golden Gate Audubon societies have paid \$139,500 of the \$337,500 necessary for the purchase of Audubon Canyon Ranch, and have pledged of more than \$100,000. Upon complete purchase, attention will be given to development of the Ranch and the educational program there.

Think all conservation problems are out here in the West? How about a plan in the wind (helped by the Corps of Engineers) to dig a channel through Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River, and improving a barge canal connection to the Hudson, so that ocean steamers can go to the Great Lakes by way of the Hudson, Lake Champlain, and the St. Lawrence. Conservationists say it would convert Lake Champlain into a giant cesspool reeking with sewage and oil pollution.

....

There will be 4 sessions of the Audubon Camp in Wyoming next summer, according to Director Bill Goodall. New Camper Cabins, a new Dining Hall, and expansion of facilities will take care of a few more people. Reservations are coming in fast, so if you are interested in full information write to Audubon Camp, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Cal., 91733

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#### Observations:

Lynn Farrar recently went with Golden Gate Audubon out of Monterey on an ocean trip, sighting numerous albatrosses, jaegers, and 4 Skua. Lynn suggests such a trip for our members, if enough interest develops. Bill Betts has a Lewis Woodpecker at his new home in Concord, and Bill will be kind to the fellow so it will be around for the Maas count. This isn't about birds .. but Virginia Schaefer says her son has been tagging Monarch butterflies locally for the U. of Toronto, and some have been found as far away as Pittsburg.

Am I dreaming? or are there more Red-shafted Flickers around this year than usual.

Marin Audubon spotted an American Redstart at Rodeo Lagoon, # 9/13.

It's a long way from here, but there has been a Black-throated Blue Warbler at the Audubon Center in El Monte, Calif. This bird is rarely seen in the West.

Another oddball, and the first record of the species on the West Coast, was the sighting in June at Newport Bay of a White-tailed Tropicbird, soaring among model gliders, which it resembles.

....

You can relax after Christmas by participating in the annual Christmas Count, set for December 27. This is always a high spot in our Audubon year. Chairman Lynn Farrar wants a good turnout so we can turn in a good count. Contact Lynn for more information.

....

The wandering Swensons are now way down south in New Orleans, having been at Mammoth Caves and Nashville. They have been dogged with plenty of rain on their trip. After wintering in Florida, the Swensons hope to migrate north with the birds.

The Shackelfords got up to Okanagan Lake in Canada in early October, but most of the birds they wanted to see had flown down here. Frieda and Clair came south along the Coast and found such "common" things as Oystercatchers, Marbled Murrelets, and Wood Ducks - almost abundant in certain areas up north but scarce here.

....

Al Wool's Wildlife Film on the Santa Cruz Mts. was shown to a good crowd on October 21. He showed many birds and animals we can see on our field trips, but not many of us have seen badgers, or been close enough to take such good pictures of a Wrentit and Golden Eagles on the nest.

....

Last month I mentioned that one of our newest members, David Aitken, had sent me an account of birding in Hawaii. Here is the first installment of his interesting summary:

### Birding in Hawaii

"I spent a week birding in Hawaii this August.

"In my first few hours in suburban Honolulu I identified ten species; among the most conspicuous and abundant of these were the Indian Nyna, the Barred and Chinese Spotted Doves, the little green Japanese White-eye, and our North American Cardinal and House Finch. All the birds I saw around the city are introduced rather than native; Hawaii's endemic landbirds have been driven into the forests by the tough, adaptable immigrants, or exterminated by immigrant avian diseases .. much as the native Polynesians were crowded from their homes by us "haoles" ("haole" means "white man") or cut down by the haole sicknesses which the early missionaries brought with them.

"In the woods on Mt. Tantalus, just above and behind Honolulu, I met two more introduced birds: the Leiophrinx, a most appealing small green bird with an orange throat and wing patches and a bright orange bill; and a pair of the rather scarce Indian Shama thrushes, and adult with a fledgling, which skulked near the floor of a dense forest.

"The height of the nesting season for most of Hawaii's seabirds is midsummer. I found six species, including two Terns and two Boobies, nesting abundantly on the twin rocks of the "Bird Islands" .. Moku Manu, off the windward shore of Oahu. Nearer shore the birding was disappointing. There were no Gulls (these are, of course, birds of northern seas), and none of the Terns from Moku Manu come near land, so the beaches seemed very oddly deserted. There were occasional Great Frigatebirds to admire from the shore, however, and there were White-capped Noddies about some of the bays; I saw my first White-capped Noddies - brown Terns with distinctively gray tails - cruising in a small flock over a submerged sandbar on a gray day at just the moment when a stray patch of sun turned the water a startling translucent green.

"I didn't see any native Hawaiian landbirds at all until I went walking in the rain forests on Mauna Loa, in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Hawaii"..... (to be continued next month)

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# The Quail

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

(President: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Dec. 24)

December, 1964  
Volume 11, No. 6

- Next Meeting: Thursday, December 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Carl Kitchen will give an illustrated lecture on the "Idaho Primitive Area".
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. Tomales Bay.
- Christmas Count: Sunday, December 27. Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938). Potluck dinner, 6 p.m., at the Farrar home, 955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, February 1, 1965. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Charles Hotchkiss with "Wilderness Trails".

....

As Program Chairman Ann Cavanagh pointed out at the November meeting, our next speaker, Carl Kitchen, lives in Concord, where he spends the winters teaching science at the Intermediate School level. He spends his summers in Central Idaho near the Idaho Primitive Area, which he knows thoroughly, because he was born there, runs a camp (Deadwood Lodge) there, and often goes into the wilderness as a guide and leader of pack and hiking trips. Mr. Kitchen has used his camera well and has brought back what are said to be outstanding pictures of some beautiful country. We hope to see some of these pictures and hear an interesting talk about this part of Idaho at our meeting on December 10. So forget your Christmas shopping for one night and remember - The Place To Go Is Idaho!

....

As for our December Field Trip, hearken to the voice of Lynn Farrar: "We plan to go to Tomales Bay on Saturday, Dec. 12. The meeting place is the store in the town of Inverness, at 9 a.m. (Saturday). We plan to visit a new area (for most members) and an old one at McClure's Beach. Walking shoes would be helpful as well as lunch, warm clothing, rain gear if necessary, etc. Trip will last all day, so come prepared to enjoy a full program." Call Lynn at 283-3938 for questions. The Tomales trip always turns in a good count of water birds as well as land birds.

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The Annual Christmas Count will be held on December 27. Lynn Farrar is in charge and reminds us that:

"Our Count will be held from 7 a.m. to dusk. If you can possibly give some of this time, please be sure to contact me (283-3938) for assignment to a specific post. I will try to place all where they can enjoy birding best. We have many different areas to cover, and I am sure that there is something for everyone, from a short stroll in a park to more rugged activity. It is essential that all participants contact me to avoid duplication and wasted effort. Thanks a million for last year. I hope this year can be as good.

"After the Count, the Potluck dinner will be held at the Farrar home in Lafayette on 955 Diablo Drive. Bring chairs, TV trays or table and dishes and utensils. Call Ruth Farrar (283-3938) as to what to bring. To get here: Come on Freeway or Pleasant Hill Road to Lafayette turnoff (under Freeway). Proceed west toward downtown Lafayette (but not on Freeway) about 1/4 mile to Carol Lane (opposite Western Sand and Brick). Turn left about 1/2 mile to Moraga Blvd (just beyond Adamson's), turn right one short block to Hawthorne. Turn left and go about 1/8 mile up hill to Diablo Drive, which is a sharp left so be careful of traffic coming down hill. 955 is the first house on the right."

....

Please note that the next Wildlife Tour will not be until February. It was a cold night for the last one, when Earl Hilfiker showed his "Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands". This informative picture varied from the ecology of the beaver to the development of fish eggs, and included good pictures of birds and views from a canoe trip in the Adirondack Mountains.

....

Our most recent Field Trip was to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on November 14. Lynn Farrar was leader, and reports:

"The trip was not so hot. The day was cold, and the Refuge was not open to visitors because of hunters in the south end. We finally talked the biologist into taking us around for about an hour. Quite a few Widgeon and White-fronted Geese were seen, and very few other species. The day was awfully cold and the turnout was exceptionally poor. Saturday was chosen to accommodate people who can't go Sundays, but only the Barcelons responded.

"Birds seen: Great Blue Heron; Common Egret; Whistling Swan; Canada, white-fronted, Snow, and Ross Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Common Goldeneye; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Golden Eagle; Ring-necked Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Greater Yellowlegs; Long-billed Dowitcher; Avocet; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Burrowing & Long-eared Owl; Red-shafted Flicker; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Crow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Oregon Junco; White-crowned & Golden-crowned Sparrow.

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Lynn has made some comments on field trips, which I pass on to you -  
 "If attendance at the Field Trips remains so poor, I suggest giving them up except on a volunteer basis. Neither local trips nor those to places farther away have been well attended. Suggestions are always welcome, but those I have taken into consideration so far have all fallen flat."

....

Let me introduce our newest member, who joined at our November meeting:  
 John Wright, 1791 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek.

....

The November meeting featured a talk by Harold Sharp, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club. Mr. Sharp presented general information on the redwoods and gave some of the background of the controversy between the conservationists and the highway engineers. One little detail he did mention was that the 80,000 acres of redwoods purchased so far for about 17 million are now worth a cool 250 million dollars - which helps to show how important was the passage of the State Park Bond Issue at the November election. Land purchase is one of the prime purposes of the new bond issue.

....

Some ill feelings were produced in the election for Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District. As mentioned last month, it was not possible for all candidates to make themselves known in all 7 wards of the District. So what happened? In every case the first name in the list of candidates on the ballot was elected by an overwhelming majority. This is not to imply that good men were not elected, but there is the published feeling that the ballot listing gave an unfair advantage to the incumbents and to persons with names beginning at the head of the alphabet. Possibly some changes in the method of selecting Directors from such districts will be considered by the next California Legislature.

....

The East Bay Regional Park District has announced that one of its first acquisitions will be Lake Chabot and 900 acres of adjacent properties. Of special interest to us is a statement that a natural rookery at the lake's edge will be preserved as a nesting place for egrets, Great Blue Heron, and night herons.

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#### Observations:

First of all, a correction: Last month I reported that the Shackelfords saw a lot of Wood Ducks on their recent trip back from Canada. What I should have said was Harlequin not Wood Ducks - which is a duck of a different color!

Bill Betts is naturally proud of his new home out on Myrtle Drive, but he didn't appreciate his son finding a rattlesnake curled up against the foundation. ... Bill recently spotted a White-tailed Kite around Galindo Reservoir.

(Your editor hasn't seen a feathered kite in that area for years, so it's good to hear they are back). I did see four white-tailed Kites, along with a dozen Swainson Hawks, between San Juan Bautista and Hollister on the 7th of November on my way down to a wet camp at the Pinnacles.

Lynn Farrar recently saw a hummingbird charging a Horned Owl in Lynn's backyard recently.

Let Lynn know if you see Starlings in your neighborhood — especially if the birds are setting up housekeeping. This *Sternus vulgaris* bird is fast moving into our area. ... Lynn would also appreciate hearing of sightings of Chestnut-backed Chickadees around here. These little birds have been moving in from Alameda County in recent years.

The papers say that there are 42 Whooping Cranes, including 10 young, at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas. This is a marvelous comeback from last year's low figure and the largest count since the United States and Canadian Governments began protecting the rare birds in 1938, at which time only 14 were alive.

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Ferd Ruth reported on his trip to the recent Tucson convention, and he told us that the number of Condors is now officially down to 40 — a drop of a third in 15 years. Most of the trouble seems to be illegal shooting by hunters with nothing else to shoot. Extinction of the birds is feared, if stronger protection is not given.

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Do you know that in California it is unlawful to possess a hawk or falcon without a license (\$15 annually), and that no one under 16 may be issued a falconer's license?

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Ferd saw Engra Lusebrink at the Tucson meeting. She has been doing a lot of travelling in Arizona and Mexico. Engra wrote Bert O'Meara that she has seen Pyrrhuloxia, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Vermillion Flycatcher, Redpoll, Inca Dove, and Gila Woodpecker in Arizona.

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Here is the second installment of David Aitken's report on Hawaiian birds. (You can find the first installment in last month's Quail)

### Birding in Hawaii

"On Mauna Loa, where the Ohia trees were in bloom, I saw my first Drepanidids — Hawaiian Honeycreepers. The commonest of these, the black-tailed, scarlet Apapanes, were abundant in some places — red birds among red flowers, in flocks at the top of the green jungle. There were occasional Iiwis — stunning crimson birds with great decurved red bills. The little green Amakihis were harder to find, in part because the White-eyes are so abundant in Hawaii's forests that they make one careless about small green birds, but they were there, solitary, working quietly over twigs and leaves like Vireos.

"The Apapane, Amakihi, and Iwi are the only three of the twenty-two or so Drepanidids which I saw on Hawaii, and the only ones a tourist on a short visit has much of a chance of seeing without help. They are worth a walk in the wet forests: they are quite movingly beautiful, among their flowers, and the agonies their fragile family has suffered (read George C. Munro's accounts of the ugly ways in which some of the species of Drepanidids died) make them touching to see and think about.

"The other common native perching bird, the Elepaio (an old-world Flycatcher) is brown, wrenlike, tame, and wholly likeable. I found it common in the same forests in which the Honeycreepers were common.

"I looked for the Nene on the grassy, cindery upper slopes of Mauna Loa but of course didn't see "this wonderful goose", as the park's booklet about its avifauna calls this almost extinct bird. I did see White-tailed Tropicbirds circling inside the smoking crater of Halemauau on Mauna Loa .. distant, drifting white crosses in a lunar wilderness of gray smoke and black lava .... (to be continued)

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