



# The Quail

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

(President: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Jan. 25)

January, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Newell Case will speak on the "San Francisco Bay Conservation Study Commission".

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 17, 9 a.m. Conn Dam.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, February 1, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Charles Hotchkiss with "Wilderness Trails".

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Newell Case, a Walnut Creek Councilman and former Mayor, will be the speaker at our regular meeting on Jan. 14. For some time now he has been working on the 9-member committee which is studying the conservation of S.F. Bay. This committee, authorized by the Legislature last Spring, is scheduled to present a report to the Legislature in January. Mr. Case will discuss the work done by the Commission and will probably discuss portions of the forthcoming report. This talk should be of interest to us, since we are well aware that any large-scale filling of the Bay will have a disastrous effect on the Pacific Flyway and on migratory birds now using the Bay as a wintering ground.

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The January Field Trip, on the 17th, will be to Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey. This has been one of our more popular trips, and the area is noted for a wide variety of swans, geese, ducks, hawks, and a fine assortment of other land and water birds. Leader Lynn Farrar says, "The meeting place will be on the Silverado Trail, about 2 miles north of Napa just off Highway 37. Meet at 9 a.m. Driving time is about an hour from this area. Bring lunch, warm clothes, and hiking shoes".

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The Audubon Wildlife Films resume on February 1, with the showing of Charles T. Hotchkiss' film, "Wilderness Trails". The film features many animals in four of the National Parks.

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Let us extend a cordial welcome to our two newest members:  
Adell Barnard, 198 Via Del Sol, Walnut Creek  
Jerry L. Hunter, 2561 Oak Road, Walnut Creek

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One of our more distant members, Elsie Roemer, is on the Conservation Committee of The Alameda Woman's Civic Affairs Committee, an organization that has been trying to keep Bay Farm Island as open space. Unfortunately, developers known as Shoreline Properties were successful in November in pushing through the formation of a reclamation district at Bay Farm, despite opposition from the Alameda group and other conservationists. There is still hope, however, that this important part of the Bay can be saved by legal action. If you are interested in helping them out, send a check to The Alameda Woman's Civic Affairs Committee, c/o Mrs. Harlan Rutherford, 1714 Pearl Street, Alameda.

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Our December Field Trip was to Tomales Bay on the 12th. Lynn Farrar has summarized the trip as follows:

"On the most beautiful day I have spent in "winter" at Tomales, 15 people met at Inverness and enjoyed strolling McClure's Beach and climbing around the rocks. Then the party went to a lunch spot at Tomales State Park, following which a walk along the Jeppeson trail was taken. Then all started for "Muddy Pond" and environs, but unluckily auto trouble broke up the group. However, a very pleasant day was enjoyed by all, and while the birding was not spectacular a representative list of 91 species was compiled. I have tentatively planned a second trip to Tomales in February. Those interested should contact me soon.

"Birds observed: Common, Arctic, & Red-throated Loon; Red-necked, Horned, Western, & Pied-billed Grebe; White & Brown Pelican; Double-cr, & Pelagic Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Snowy Egret; Canada Goose; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged, Surf & Common Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Quail; Coot; Semipalmated & Snowy Plover (50-100); Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Willet; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Western Sandpiper; Godwit; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, California, Ring-billed, Mew, & Bonaparte's Gull; Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy & Downy Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black & Say's Phoebe; Steller's & Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Bushtit; White-br Nuthatch & Pigmy Nuthatch; Creeper; Wrentit; Winter & Bewick Wren; Robin; Varied & Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Golden-cr & Ruby-cr Kinglet; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Nutton's Vireo; Townsend's Warbler; Meadowlark; Redwinged Blackbird; Purple & House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-cr, Golden-cr, Fox & Song Sparrow".

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The December meeting was well attended, and our speaker, Carl Kitchen, gave us complete information on the Idaho Primitive Area. Mr. Kitchen showed a film of the area into which he takes parties of youngsters from a base camp he runs at Deadwood, an old mining town.

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Also at this meeting there was a discussion of a published proposal that the City of Concord purchase 6.7 acres of landscaped property belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Ira Markham. The area would make an ideal arboretum and nature sanctuary. We voted to endorse the proposal and to send a letter to the Concord City Council.

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Our Christmas Count was held on schedule, December 27. Considering the wet and cold weather, the group did well to find about 117 species. Expect a full report in the next quail.

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Observations:

Lynn Farrar has been conducting bird surveys at the Pinole Sewage Farm and recommends it as a place to go to find birds. Just turn west at the light in Pinole and go to the Bay.

At the December meeting, Harry Adamson reported on the Red-throated Pipit which he saw in the Tiajuana River Valley. The pipits were discovered in October by Guy McCaskie of San Diego, and scores of western birders flocked to see this Eurasian bird, which never before has been recorded in the U.S. outside of Alaska. Out of the 18 birds reported, only one was left by the time Harry got there.

Jane Nemetz found a dead Sora Rail on her street. This is an unusual bird to be found dead or alive on San Antonio Drive. It is now being mounted.

Doris Shanks, of Stockton Audubon, wrote recently to say that White-tailed Nite appear to be on the increase in the San Joaquin Delta. On a memorable Sunday recently, the Shankses saw 21 of these birds.

\* \* \* \*

Our wandering birders, Carl and Ruth Swenson, were in Dunedin, Florida, over Christmas. Recently they birded with St. Petersburg Audubon and Ruth got her picture in the paper. She has counted 57 new life birds on her trip so far. In January they move on to the Everglades and the Florida East Coast.

\* \* \* \*

Bert O'Meara says that member Mildred Carlock, of the Walnut Creek Library staff, has given her such good books to read as:

"Portrait of an Island" by Mildred and John Teal &

"Carolina Low Country" by Sandy Sprunt III.

And John Wright says you can find an article on the new Canyonlands National Park in the May, 1962, "National Geographic".

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This is the third and final installment of David Aitken's ..

Birding in Hawaii

"The Jungle Fowl, wild ancestor of the domestic chicken, is abundant at Kokee Park on Kauai; the dense wet jungle there rings at dawn with the unexpected barnyard sound of cocks crowing. Gallus gallus gallus, their name is; one feels, coming on these handsome, trim, chestnut-and-black birds on trails in the park, that one is meeting the very princes and progenitors of all Chickendom, and it is quite exciting. (We were served chicken on the jet back to San Francisco and I felt like Alice, who wouldn't eat the pudding after she had been introduced to it at the Red Queen's party; I didn't eat my chicken.) The Jungle Fowl is a bird to brag about. How many people do you know with chicken on lifelists?"

"I also flushed a pair of the very rare Hawaiian Duck (a race of the Mallard) from a tiny, high-mountain marsh at Kokee.

"At Hanalei, on the northern coast of Kauai, I saw a couple of Pueos - Hawaiian Short-eared Owls - hunting at noon, like great, tawny, flopping Hawks, over a grassy hillside. I also found the Hawaiian Stilt and Black-crowned Night Herons feeding in flooded taro fields there. "Have you seen the Cranes?" the Chinese lady who runs a general store at Hanalei asked me, pointing at the Night Herons in the wet fields across the road. "They come from China, and people there use them in love potions." "Ah," I said.

"Altogether I saw 38 of the ninety or so native, introduced, and migrant birds on the Hawaiian list. It was a good trip; the birding was quite exotic, and the islands are hot and damp and lovely."



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

(President: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Feb. 19)

February, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Phillip Pennington will give an illustrated talk on Glen Canyon.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, February 13, 9 a.m. Tomales Bay.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, February 22, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. John Bulger and his "New England Saga"

....

Most conservationists throughout the country have not been enthusiastic about the Glen Canyon project, for much of scenic value was lost when the dam was built, the gates were closed, and when the waters of newly formed Lake Powell crept up the sandstone walls of the Canyon to drown the tributary canyons of the Colorado. Our next speaker, young Phillip Pennington, is a college student who has spent much time in the Glen Canyon country before and after the Dam. His colored slides of the area are reputed to be some of the finest available, and, together with a commentary and a musical background, will hold your interest. We know you will enjoy this program ... so we'll see you on February 11.

....

Ordinarily we go to the Delta in February to see the cranes, geese, and other migratory birds, but reports indicate that this is a poor year for birds there. Lynn Farrar, Field Trip Leader, has therefore substituted a return trip to Tomales Bay, and he writes:

"We are going back to Tomales Bay (Eastshore this time). Meeting place will be at the Inverness Store on Saturday Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. We plan to proceed up the Eastshore as far as Sonoma Beaches area. Bring lunch, binocs, scopes, raingear. There will be little or no walking, but hiking shoes may be handy anyway."

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Our Wildlife Film speaker on February 22 (Washington's Birthday) will be John Bulger, former director for the National Wildlife Foundation. His "New England Saga" has beautiful pictures of the Eastern landscapes and seashores in all seasons, and also shows how the birds and animals have responded to man's arrival.

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For the past three issues, "The Quail" has featured a serialized article by David Aitkin on "Birding in Hawaii". This month we treat you to a special article by Harry Adamson, called "Year Listing", which follows:

## YEAR LISTING

(Harry C. Adamson)

Year listing of birds, like life listing, is a sport for one's own enjoyment. In some cases, two or more persons may compete to see who can see the greatest number of species within a given area, such as the State of California, in a one year period.

Some people who travel a good deal keep a year list of species identified wherever they may be, rather than keeping a State year list. If, for example, a Californian was retired and well off financially and spent some of his "vacation" time in Alaska and also took a trip to South America, he, or she, might list a fantastic number of species in one year.

To correctly identify three hundred species of birds in California in one year is not easy for the average person. It entails some knowledge of habitat, migratory routes and periods. For a person living in Northern or Central California at least one trip to the Southern California desert areas is almost mandatory; and, of course, the reverse would be true for a person living south of the Tehachapi Mountains. At least one offshore trip is also practically a "must".

Knowing of approximately 15 persons in California who had seen 300 or more species in the State in one year, and desiring to become one of this rather select little group, I embarked on the project in 1964 and, after several thousand miles in all but two of California's 58 counties, ended the year with 321 species. I really only wanted to top 300, but things went so well near the end that I felt I couldn't stop ahead of time.

The outstanding bird species of this whole period was undoubtedly the Red-throated Pipit. Guy McCaskie found approximately 18 of this species in the Tijuana River Valley in October, and by the time 6 birders from the San Francisco Bay area got there a few days later there was only one bird left! Excluding Alaska, the species had never been seen before in the United States.

Nice additions to my list were two Blue-footed Boobies that decided to come north of the border and spend time at Puddingstone Reservoir near Pomona.

Several other species among the 321 are not found except with "a little bit of luck", so I will list some of these "standouts":

|                        |                                    |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| European Widgeon       | Sabine's Gull                      | Gray Flycatcher          |
| Goshawk                | Elegant Tern                       | Vermillion Flycatcher    |
| Fulvous Tree Duck      | Ancient Murrelet                   | Pinon Jay                |
| Franklin's Gull        | Rhinoceros Auklet                  | American Redstart        |
| Chukar                 | Ground Dove                        | Tennessee Warbler        |
| Mountain Plover        | Great Gray Owl                     | Black-poll Warbler       |
| Golden Plover          | Black Swift                        | Palm Warbler             |
| Long-tailed Jaeger     | Costa Hummingbird                  | Blue Grosbeak            |
| Skua                   | Calliope Hummingbird               | Rosy Finch               |
| Pigeon Hawk            | Tropical Kingbird                  | White-throated Sparrow   |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker | Chestnut-collar Longspur |
|                        |                                    | Lapland Longspur         |

While listing is of dubious scientific value, it is a grand sport and keeps a birder in "top trim". It is no fun unless the birder is absolutely honest about each identification. Also great for getting to know your state geographically. I heartily recommend it.

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Lynn Farrar led the January field trip to Conn Dam and reports:

"Nice Day. Nice group. Too few birds, however. 11 Wood Ducks seen both a.m. and p.m. Highlight of trip was just after lunch, at East arm of lake, where Sally Steller discovered a Pygmy Owl in a tree just overhead alongside the road. We all saw it from every angle for 15-20 minutes, and it was still there when we left.

"61 birds were counted, as follows: Western & Pied-billed Grebe; Great Blue Heron; Canada & Snow Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Wood, Ring-necked, & Ruddy Duck; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed, Rough-legged, & Sparrow Hawk; (Red-shouldered Hawk, heard?); Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Pygmy Owl; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Lewis, Hairy, & Downy Woodpecker; Black & Say's Phoebe; Steller's & Scrub Jay; Crow; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wren; Bewick's & Rock Wren; Robin; Varied Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Meadowlark; Redwinged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American & Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Lark, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow; Oregon Junco."

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Lynn is sorry that he does not have the Christmas List ready for printing at this time. He hopes to have it available soon, but first he has to find a misplaced recap sheet. ... Outstanding bird on our Christmas Count this year was the male European Widgeon found on Mallard Reservoir by Harry Adamson. The Shackelfords succeeded in seeing what was apparently the same bird there about a week later.

During the Oakland Christmas Count, a pair of Barrow's Goldeneye were spotted on Lake Merritt. Harry Adamson and the Shackelfords also saw these birds there a few days later.

Monterey counters located two Black-and-White Warblers, and counters at Tomales Bay turned in a Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The record number of birds counted throughout the country was the 204 species tallied at Cocoa, Florida, by Allan Cruickshank's team. The previous record had been 200. ... Observers from Marin, Golden Gates, and other Audubon societies covered Tomales Bay and picked up 186 species.

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At our January meeting, Newell Case, from Walnut Creek, gave us a report on the work done by the Bay Area Conservation Study Commission, of which he is a member. After 18 sessions with just about every big name possible, the Commission presented a report to the Legislature, which simply stated that the S.F. Bay is the Bay Area's greatest single asset. The Commission did not recommend a moratorium on bay filling, but did propose that a Bay Conservation & Development Commission be set up.

At this meeting, Treasurer George Schad reported that we are again recipients of money from John and Alice Porterfield. This money will be converted into scholarships for presentation at a future Screen Tour. Again we thank the Porterfields for helping in the education of naturalists.

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We extend our heartiest welcome to our newest members:

Dennis Clemens, 273 Scofield Court, Concord and  
Mrs. Florence Klinger, 072 Green Street, Martinez. (She formerly belonged to Audubon in Tulare and was directed to us by Mrs. John Davis.)

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There will be no biennial Audubon Conference at Asilomar this Easter Week. Instead, the big National Convention will be held at Sacramento in November, 1966, so make your plans.

The First Bay Area Regional Conference, with delegates from each of the Bay Area societies, will be held in Berkeley on March 27. Pres. Bill Betts is busy lining up his delegates.

Also, according to Bill, the Ninth Biennial Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club, will be held April 2 - 4 at the Hilton in San Francisco. Featured will be Sec. Udall, and Dr. Haagen-Smit, the smog expert.

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### Observations:

Lynn Farrar was sent to Oregon recently to help the S.P. rebuild a bridge over the Willamette River. Lynn did some helicoptering, and on one trip over Odell Lake he looked down on 2 Bald Eagle & 1 immature.

(Perhaps you observed in the papers the story of the irate farmer near Pt. Reyes Station who observed eagles killing his lambs, whereupon he killed two Bald Eagle. These may have been the Bald Eagle reported at times from Tomales Bay. It's a Federal crime to kill this bird. Let's hope that someday there will be compensation for such loss of lambs, so that other irate farmers will leave the guns alone. There are too few Bald eagles left in this part of California.)

Jane Nemetz expressed alarm at our last meeting over the killing of hawks and owls around here. Two Great Horned Owls and a hawk were turned into her recently for stuffing.

Another sad story was reported by Joy Meagher, who had been to Carmel recently and brought back clippings, with pictures showing scores of Arctic Loons stranded on Monterey Bay beaches, unable to fly because of oil-saturated feathers. Monterey Audubon organized a "Loon Wash" to save a few birds. There are laws against the dumping of bilge waters from tankers off our Coast, but enforcement is another question.

The Adamsons had a Slate-Colored Junco, a White-throated Sparrow, and at least 3 Lincoln's Sparrows in their yard for about 3 weeks.

Sacramento Audubon reported a Wood Ibis at Woodland.

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Paso Robles Audubon reports that the State has finally bought the Montana de Oro land in San Luis Obispo county. This 4,441 acre tract has been sought for years, and is said to be a fabulous, undeveloped piece of land. It is south of Morro Bay.

Groups are trying to keep housing developments away from Skyline Boulevard south of Halfmoon Bay Gap. It is proposed that "greenbelts" be acquired on either side of the road, to keep the drive scenic.

The California Condor is threatened now by a proposed Topatopa Dam on Sespe Creek in Ventura County. Worst of all is the proposal to build a road directly across the Sespe Wildlife Refuge, which had been set up to protect the Condor. All this new activity because cities in the Santa Clara Valley and the Oxnard Plain are running short of water.

....

Harold Peterson, long time Field Trips Chairman of the Golden Gate Audubon Society died on January 18. Some members of Mt. Diablo Audubon attended his field trip to see the Condors in 1963. He was also in the combined Mt. Diablo-Golden Gate Audubon group that the Adamson's led to Southeastern Arizona in 1961. ... Emerson Scott, who showed "Pika Country" at a Screen Tour last March, died of lung cancer in December.

....

Ed Mize (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341

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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: Mar. 22)

March, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 9

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 11, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Violet Beitzel will show pictures of wild flowers.

Next Field Trips:

Sunday, March 14, 9 a.m. Audubon Canyon Ranch. Jane Nemetz (Phone: 934-3295) will be the leader.

(Tentative) Sunday, April 4. Bay Farm Island. Lynn Farrar (Phone: 283-3938) will lead. (see below)

Next Screen Tour:

Tuesday, March 16, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Robert Hermes and his "Delta of the Orinoco".

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One of our own members supplies the main course for our next meeting. Violet Beitzel plans to show us some of the wild flowers she has seen over the years between the Seashore and the Sierra. Oldtimers of the Society will tell you that a Beitzel program is one of the best, so come on out and admire the bouquets that Vi has picked for us. . . . If time permits, she may show us some slides taken in Yosemite last summer.

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Two years ago we had a very successful field trip to the new Audubon Canyon Ranch, the famous ranch which is being acquired as a nature sanctuary largely through the efforts of the Marin Audubon Society and the Golden Gate Audubon Society. On March 14 Jane Nemetz will lead us at Canyon Ranch, and here are directions relayed by Lynn Farrar:

"Meet at 9 a.m. on the 14th. Bring lunch, hiking shoes, and clothes suitable for the weather.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is about 25 miles north of San Francisco on Highway 1, between Stinson Beach and Bolinas. The entrance is marked by a sign. Drive in and park behind the house. Expect easy hiking, good birding (including heron rookeries and shorebirds), a picnic lunch, and time to take everything in.

To get there: You can wind up Highway 1 from San Francisco. Or you can go to Mill Valley, climb the hill to Panoramic Highway, skirt Mt. Tamalpais State Park to Stinson Beach, and thence north about 4 miles to the Ranch. A longer "water level" route goes through San Anselmo and Fairfax to Olema, and then south about 9 miles on Highway 1 to the Ranch on Bolinas Lagoon."

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Our Field Trip Chairman, Lynn Farrar, thinks that we might enjoy two field trips in April. Accordingly, he has scheduled one for April 4 to the Bay Farm-Dumbarton Bridge areas. If you are interested in going, contact him at 283-3938, since the meeting time and location will depend upon the tide. This is the only announcement, because the trip will be held before you get the April "Quail". ... There might also be a trip to some other spot after Easter.

\* \* \* \*

The final Wildlife Tour of the season will be on Tuesday, March 16, when Robert Hermes will return to our platform and show us his "Delta of the Orinoco". Bob Hermes spent 3 months in Venezuela recording birds, animals, insects and flowers in a spectacular jungle. He is an excellent photographer and speaker, and you will enjoy this program.

Also, the Porterfield Scholarships will be distributed at this program. Alice and John Porterfield have again given money to our Society to pass on to deserving students of nature. Included in the grants will be two half-scholarships to the San Jose Field School of Natural History.

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Lynn Farrar has been so busy chasing around the State for the Southern Pacific that he has not been able to get all his Audubon paper work done. He apologizes for the lack of a report on the Tomales Bay trip, but he promises to have this report and the Christmas Count tabulation ready for the April "Quail".

\* \* \* \*

There were two Wildlife Tours in February. First, Charles Hotchkiss took us down "Wilderness Trails" in four National Parks. Of great interest to many of us were his pictures of the Everglades - particularly his excellent views of the rare Everglade Kite. Mr. Hotchkiss says that there are about 20 Kites left, a figure encouraging larger than the dismal 6 Kites estimated to be alive a couple of years ago. This bird looks like a Marsh Hawk in flight, and it lives entirely on the Pomacea snail.

On Washington's Birthday we saw the charm of a "New England Saga", captured by the camera of John Bulger. Some of the emigrants from New England in the audience got homesick. Here in California, where a thousand new people enter our State every day, it is a little surprising to hear that in New England "millions of acres have gone back to the bunnies". Dr. Bulger has done his conservation bit by building a pond in his front yard. He calls water and air pollution in the East an example of "the selfish few taking advantage of the lazy many".

\* \* \* \*

We had a huge crowd - but many of our regular members failed to show up at our February meeting. It was their loss, though, because absentees missed one of the best programs we have had in recent years. Phil Pennington took us to Glen Canyon and showed us the many canyons, alcoves, waterfalls, and Indian paintings, which were destined to be drowned by Lake Powell formed behind Glen Canyon Dam. Most dramatic were the contrasting shots late in the showing, when Phil would show exquisitely beautiful scenes before the Dam and then follow immediately with a picture of the desert lake that covers everything today. The entire program was a lesson in the tragedy of "progress" in a scenic area that was relatively unknown to the general public. Some of the pictures captured by Pennington on film were the work of a true artist.

\* \* \* \*

We welcome the following new members to Mt. Diablo Audubon -  
 Orland and Luella Augason, 3961 Mulberry Drive, Concord  
 Mrs. Ethel Richardson, 1372 RockLedge Lane, Rossmoor Manor 5, Walnut  
 Creek.

....

Let's give a round of applause to the members who worked to set up our display in the Concord City Hall. Esther James, Wes Nunes, and Jane Nemetz were on the committee, and they did a wonderful job. Particularly impressive was the stuffed Barn Owl adjacent to a printed picture of an owl, so that people could read about the bird on display.

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#### Observations:

Joy Meagher came up with a new one - a female Bufflehead in her backyard! But it turns out that her backyard is next to Walnut Creek.

Ava Huffman was saddened to see about 50 Starlings in her backyard in Antioch.

Your Editor saw a flock of about 200 Crows out Morgan Territory Road, just beyond Curry Creek Park, on Feb. 3th.. Also, I was overwhelmed to see a White-tailed Kite perched and in flight off Cowell Road near the Canal recently.

Vi Beitzel reports many Pipits at Williams School in Concord.

Guest Jack Whittington, from the California Cactus and Succulent Society, reminded us that Hummingbirds frequent the California Botanical Garden (up Strawberry Canyon behind the Univ. of California).

Maricopa Audubon (in Phoenix, Arizona) pats the English Sparrow on the head for cleaning out cutworms in alfalfa fields near there

It's common here, we all know, but the first House Finch appeared on Cape Cod during the Christmas Count.

Remember the Audubon stamp that came out last year, with the pretty, blue Columbia Jay (Magpie Jay) on it? Ornithologists were thrilled to find these jays, never before reported from the U.S., nesting south of Tucson recently.

Oregon Audubon reported 1,045,000 birds on the Christmas count - including 1 million Starlings.

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You can kiss another nearby choice birding spot goodbye. Galindo Pond, at the intersection of Arnold Industrial Highway and Solano Way, is going to be completely destroyed. Not only is a big traffic interchange planned there, but also a drive-in movie. The Army Engineers and the Flood Control District have reached an agreement with the Water District, owners of the property, and very shortly work will start on building huge dikes along Walnut Creek, dredging the Creek, and dumping excess dirt into Galindo Pond. Both Concord and the County had wanted this area as a park, but failure of Concord citizens to pass the Park Bond measure last year meant that the land could not be purchased, and now there is no possibility of saving the Pond.

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The next Concord Park Bond election will probably be in May. The last election failed by an exasperatingly small margin.

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While I was out birding on Washington's Birthday, a horseman stopped me and told me he had some "good news" - for he had just heard that the State had acquired some right of way for extending the present Calif. Riding & Hiking Trail from the present Newhall Property out through the Pine Hollow area to Mt. Diablo State Park itself. Good news indeed, if true.

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Ed Mize (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341



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

(President: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: Apr. 24)

April, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 10

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

Next Field Trips: (Tentative) Sunday, April 4. Bay Farm Island. Call Lynn Farrar (283-3938) if interested.

Saturday, April 17. Las Trampas Ridge. Meet at 7 a.m. at San Ramon High in Danville. Leader: Lynn Farrar.

....

For the last two years we have had a Spring program emphasizing nature study by the young people in this area. Our program on April 8 this year continues this worthwhile custom. On the agenda we have:

Dorothy Couden, who will explain what she has been able to do towards the study of conservation by 3rd Graders;

Jane Nemets, who will demonstrate an evolution project by gifted students in the 5th and 6th Grades; and

Ferd Ruth, who will discuss projects under way at the Junior College. In addition, Ferd will tell us about the work he has been doing at the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley, and, if time permits, he may be able to take us through the museum on the Diablo Valley College campus.

This promises to be an interesting and educational program for all, and merits your full support.

....

You may not get this issue of "The Quail" until after it happens ... but there is a tentative field trip scheduled for April 4 in the Bay Farm-Dumbarton areas. If interested, call Lynn Farrar (283-3938) and he will give you information on the meeting time.

The regular April field trip will be on a Saturday, April 17 - the day before Easter. (Notice that this is not the weekend after the next regular meeting). On the 17th, promptly at 7 a.m., we are to meet at the San Ramon High parking lot in Danville, where we will form car pools and go into an area that is new to most of us - the Las Trampas country behind Alamo. The Park & Recreational Council is hoping that some of this beautiful country can be saved as a park. A representative from the Council will be on hand to guide us into promising areas. Bring good shoes and a lunch, because there will be some hiking. Since this will be the middle of the Spring migration, expect some interesting birds among Spring flowers. Let's have a good turnout.

....

Here is Lynn Farrar's report on the Tomales Bay-Sonoma Coast trip:

"February 13 was somewhat overcast at the beginning and turned cold by late afternoon. A group of about 20 started for Muddy Pond, but couldn't get in because of a squabble between private owners and the Government over a road payment. The Government road will be open next summer, I hope. We had sporadic, but good birding, including Redhead and Harlequin Duck, and beautiful action shots of Osprey at close range. Many strings of Brant were seen and Common Scoters were found near shore. A very tame Ferruginous Hawk was observed on a roadside power pole by Lynn & Ruth Farrar, to round out an interesting day.

"82 species were observed, including: All 3 Loons, all 5 Grebes, all 3 Cormorants; Great Blue Heron; both Egrets; Black Brant; Pintail; Shoveler; Redhead; Canvasback; Greater Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Harlequin & Ruddy Duck; all 3 Scoters; Common Merganser; TV; Kite; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered & Ferruginous Hawks; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Coot; Oystercatcher; Killdeer; Black Turnstone; Willet; Least & Western Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Mew, & Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's Tern; Common Murre; Band-tailed Pigeon; Belted Kingfisher; Flicker; Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Bushtit; Wren; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Mountain Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's & Townsend's Warblers; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Pine Siskin; Brown Towhee; White-crowned, Golden-crowned & Song Sparrows."

.....  
 Popular Robert Hermes brought our 1965 Wildlife Tours to an end on March 16 with his "Delta of the Orinoco". We saw many odd birds, including Hoatzins and strange Orioles. If you want to be confused, go to Venezuela, where they have 15 birds with yellow heads and black bodies. Venezuela has 1340 species of birds. Hermes had good pictures of the four-eyed Anableps fish and of the colorful Morpho butterflies.

.....

Also featured at this program were the Alice and John Porterfield Awards, as well as our own Mt. Diablo Audubon Award.

3 conservationists received a copy of E. Lawrence Palmer's "Fieldbook of Natural History" as their Porterfield Award, namely:

John Waugh, superintendent of the Alamo School District, who has some of the best science labs in the county;

Christa Whitfield, lab assistant, who has also worked with the handicapped; and

David Bettencourt, biological instructor at Piedmont High, and instructor at the local Jr. Museum last summer.

Two Diablo Valley college students were given half-scholarships to the San Jose Field School of Natural History, from the Porterfields, namely:

Diana Hudson, who put in many extra hours taking care of animals in the Zoo lab, and also worked with the physical handicapped; and

Richard Adams, a Wildlife Management major.

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Award, of a half-scholarship to the San Jose Field School went to

Bob Glaser, a Diablo Valley College student and a future entomologist.

.....

Here is Lynn Farrar's report on the Christmas Count, held Dec. 27, 1964:

"We saw 118 species during the actual Count on Dec. 27th, and 6 more species were seen during the count period. We could have done better with more people, so next year I'll hope to be around to hound again. But really, "thanks lots" to all who helped ...LDF.

"Birds observed, and numbers: (12/27)

Western Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 27; Great Blue Heron, 1; Common Egret, 4; Snowy Egret, 21; American Bittern, 1; Canada Goose, 122; Mallard, 92; Gadwall, 48; Pintail, 275; Green-winged Teal, 27; Shoveler, 500; European Widgeon, 1; American Widgeon, 100; Ring-necked Duck, 12; Canvasback, 116; Lesser Scaup, 13; Common Goldeneye, 17; Bufflehead, 23; Ruddy Duck, 85; Common Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 3; White-tailed Kite, 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 47; Golden Eagle, 3; Marsh Hawk, 13; Sparrow Hawk, 58; California Quail, 204; Ring-necked Pheasant, 5; Virginia Rail, 1; Common Gallinule, 2; American Coot, 1090; Killdeer, 101; Black-bellied Plover, 21; Common Snipe, 2; Long-billed Curlew, 16; Greater Yellowlegs, 6; Least Sandpiper, 25; Dunlin, 31; Western Sandpiper, 6; Avocet, 5; Glaucous-winged Gull, 11; Herring Gull, 102; California Gull, 735; Ring-billed Gull, 175; Mew Gull, 2; Bonaparte's Gull, 362; Gull, specie, 2021; Band-tailed Pigeon, 28; Mourning Dove, 47; Barn Owl, 3; Screech Owl, 3; Great Horned Owl, 5; Short-eared Owl, 5; White-throated Swift, 32; Anna's Hummingbird, 16; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Red-shafted Flicker, 63; Acorn Woodpecker, 38; Lewis' Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 12; Black Phoebe, 4; Say's Phoebe, 6; Horned Lark, 15; Violet-green Swallow, 29; Tree Swallow, 1; Cliff Swallow, 18; Steller's Jay, 33; Scrub Jay, 160; Crow, 2; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 1; Plain Titmouse, 109; Common Bushtit, 168; White-breasted Nuthatch, 40; Brown Creeper, 1; Wren-tit, 22; House Wren, 2; Bewick's Wren, 10; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Rock Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 34; California Thrasher, 3; Robin, 196; Varied Thrush, 27; Hermit Thrush, 4; Western Bluebird, 124; Townsend's Solitaire, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 31; Water Pipit, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 90; Loggerhead Shrike, 21; Starling, 1036; Audubon's Warbler, 40; Yellowthroat, 1; House Sparrow, 140; Western Meadowlark, 456; Red-winged Blackbird, 786; Tri-colored Blackbird, 3; Brewer's Blackbird, 4627; House Finch, 254; American Goldfinch, 290; Lesser Goldfinch, 355; Rufous-sided Towhee, 26; Brown Towhee, 112; Savannah Sparrow, 161; Lark Sparrow, 31; Rufous-crowned Sparrow, 8; Sage Sparrow, 1; Oregon Junco, 313; Chipping Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 250; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 152; Fox Sparrow, 3; and Song Sparrow, 40.

"Other birds observed during the count period:

Horned Grebe; Green Heron; Prairie Falcon; Willet; Lesser Yellowlegs; and Burrowing Owl.

"So the Highlights for the Count were: 18 Cliff Swallows, 1 European Widgeon, and Prairie Falcon (all firsts for the Count); and Chipping Sparrow (extremely rare). We had 24 observers.

"The Lowlight for the Count was that we missed some easy species - but better luck next year."

Violet Beitzel gave us another excellent color slide show at our March meeting, featuring wild flowers from the sea to the Sierra. Starting with the most primitive of the flowers, the buttercup, Vi worked up the scale to snapdragons and orchids, which are the most developed of the flowers. She also had time to show us Yosemite in July, primarily around Bridal Veil Campground, and included a picture of a Great Gray Owl ... For related reading, Vi recommends "Sierra Nevada Natural History",

....  
 Our membership roster continues to increase, and we are pleased to greet:  
 William & Lucille Finch, 314 Ada Drive, Martinez  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Gibson, 19 Sky Terrace, Danville  
 Mary Anne Pignolet, 17 Ocho Rios Place, Danville  
 Mr. & Mrs. Newell L. Wood, 1121 Ulfian Way, Martinez

....  
**Observations:**

Margaret & Dick Schaller recently returned from the desert and were happy to see flocks of Canada Geese heading for the Colorado River.

Joy Meagher, who reported a Bufflehead in her backyard last month, now comes up with a Green Heron and Belted Kingfisher. It helps to have a backyard on the banks of Walnut Creek!

Ferd Ruth took a gang of students over to St. Marys College on a field trip recently. They observed so much junk in the woods there that they cleaned up pounds of bottles, cans, and debris.

The hummingbirds must like the Shackelfords. Frieda reports Allen, Rufous and Anna Hummers around her place.

Bob Cornelius has repeatedly observed a pair of Golden Eagles between Clayton and Mt. Diablo.

White-tailed Kites are still being seen. Twice recently I spotted one between the Galindo Pumping Station and nearby Walnut Creek. Bill Toaspern saw two in Pleasant Hill near Buttner Road above Taylor Blvd. and also one in front of his house nearby. ... Marin Audubon reports Kites all over the place there this year.

Golden Gate Auduboners saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County.

....  
 New member Florence Klinger, 072 Green Street, Martinez, wrote us about the plight of the Tule Elk. Contact her for information about a planned excursion from Los Angeles to Owens Valley on the April 24-25 weekend to see these scarce animals.

There is a strong movement against issuing any more liquor licenses for California state parks, and Assemblyman Waldie has introduced AB 315, which would ban further permits. Locally, there is feeling that liquor might be eventually sold in Mt. Diablo State Park otherwise. If you are interested in supporting AB 315, you can contact Mrs. Helen Tousignant (682-3023) or Richard Bower (1910 Eloise Ave., Pleasant Hill).

.....  
 We had many favorable reports on our display at the Concord City Hall. The lady in charge of exhibitions there would be glad to have us set up another display in the future.

....  
 For the third time in a year, Concord will try to pass a Park Bond, with an election for a 3.2 million dollar project slated for May 25. Let us hope "third time's a charm".

....  
 Ed Mize (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

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

(President: Bill Betts  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: May 24)

May, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Jessie Falconer will show pictures and talk about Africa.

Next Field Trips: Sunday, May 9, 8 a.m. Arroyo Mocho, behind Livermore.  
Saturday & Sunday, May 22 & 23. Santa Lucia Mts.

o o o o

We travel far afield at our next meeting, May 13, when Jessie Falconer takes us on a trip from Cairo to Cape Town, showing slides she took on a trip in 1962. Miss Falconer is a teacher at Mt. Diablo High in Concord, where she is a Counselor and teaches Geography and Special Education. She has taken many trips and will be sharing a six weeks trip with us. She was able to get into some of the animal reserves in Africa to photograph some of the wildlife. One of her sidetrips took her to the famed Tree House, wherein the present queen Elizabeth was notified that her father, George VI, had died. Miss Falconer also visited native settlements, flew over Victoria Falls, and visited friends in South Africa. You will enjoy her colorful program.

o o o o

Here are Field Trip Chairman Lynn Farrar's directions on the next field trip, Sunday, May 9th:

"Meet at the S.P. depot in Livermore (L Street) at 8 a.m. sharp. Lunch for those making a day of it. It should be an interesting day of flowers and birds. Figure on about 35 miles from Walnut Creek. Take the Livermore turnoff from Highway 50 for about a mile to L Street and then about 1/2 mile to the depot."

And here are Lynn's comments on the big weekend trip May 22 & 23 to the Santa Lucia Mountains, a repeat from last year. (See Sunset magazine, April, 1965, pp. 46-50, for pictures, an article, and a map on this area):

"Rendezvous at the Santa Lucia Memorial Park (near Indians Station) Saturday morning, May 22. Hikes planned for Saturday afternoon (easy) and Sunday morning (longer, but not necessarily hard, except for those so desiring). Get there by turning west at Greenfield and continuing on through Arroyo Seco; or turn near King City to Jolon, thence via Mission Road passing Hunter Liggett headquarters to Mission San Antonio de Padua. Follow signs to Indian Station, about 16 miles beyond the Mission. Both roads unsurfaced but good. Trailers should go via Jolon. Roughly 200 miles one way.

(continued)

Camping spot have water and some wood-burning stoves. Usual outdoor sanitary facilities. Country nicely wooded, with good streams early in the year. There is trout fishing, but probably no swimming. Call me (Lynn Farrar: 283-3938) for information. Weather can be cool nites".

....

Here is a report on the Bolinas trip (3/14), sent in by Jane Nemetz: "The day, weatherwise, was one of those you dream about and don't really expect.. warm and clear - a perfect Spring day. 34 Auduboners showed up and we scanned the area about Canyon Ranch for hummers, Purple Finch, and others. We were pleased to have an Osprey put on a welcoming show as we started up the trail.

At Overlook we sat down (they have observing benches installed there now!) to watch the Great Blue Herons on the nest. The youngsters in the crowd informed us the eggs were pure white, and some of the birds were arranging the furniture (huge twigs about small tree size). It was about 3 weeks too soon for the Common Egrets to be nesting. (Incubation period is about 4 weeks). (Incidentally, any group or family group can visit the Ranch simply by phoning Mrs. Ellis, 435-1180, ahead of time to make sure that they are open to visitors).

The bird of the day for some of us who lingered was the Kittiwake - a life bird for me - seen dipping and diving near the cove by the Ranch.

"80 Species observed: Horned, Mared, Western & Pied-billed Grebe; Double-cr. & Pelagic Cormorants; Great Blue Heron; both Egrets; Black Brant; Pintail; Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Canvasback; Greater Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; White-winged & Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Hooded & Red-breasted Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawks; Osprey; Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Short-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Western, Herring, Calif., Ring-billed & Bonaparte's Gulls; Kittiwake; Band-tailed Pigeon; Anna's & Allen's Hummingbirds; Kingfisher; Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Violet-green Swallow; Steller & Scrub Jays; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Titmouse; Bushtit; Creeper; Wren-tit; House, Winter & Bewick's Wrens; Robin; Western Bluebird; both Kinglets; Hutton's Vireo; Orange-cr. & Townsend's Warblers; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; Purple & House Finch; Pine Siskin; Rufous & Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; Savannah, White-cr., Golden-cr. & Song Sparrows."

....

This is the report on the Las Trampas trip (4/17) by Lynn Farrar:

"A surprisingly good crowd showed up at 7 a.m. at Danville and were soon following our Park & Recreational Council guide up Las Trampas Ridge behind Alamo - and I mean up. Recent rains had made the footing somewhat slippery, but also brought out an abundance of flowers. We were almost too busy hiking to look for birds, but did get a casual count of about 40. Some of the plant life included: poppy, cream cup, blue eyed grass, several varieties of Ceanothus and wild currant. A bonus was a tent caterpillar colony at eye level. Also a magnificent view up on top. It is certainly worth anyone's time to explore the region, and it would be a nice place for a park someday."

....

At our April meeting we passed a letter resolution to support the McAteer Bill, which would set up a "watch dog" committee to save the Bay. The bill has since been approved by the Senate Government Efficiency Committee.

....



The traditional rains on Audubon meeting night kept our attendance low at the April meeting. That didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the children who were showing their abilities as nature scientists. Dorothy Couden's two 5th graders had interesting rock and seashore collections. Member James Bright's son, John, displayed bird feathers picked up in the Tassajara area. Jane Nemets brought along five children who presented evolution as a "tree of life", featuring plastic embedded figures hung on tree branches. Ferd Ruth then brought us up to date on the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley, which takes so much of his time these days. The Hall, which will be an outstanding service center used for training science teachers, will be open in the winter of 1967. As a final treat for a busy evening, we toured the Museum on the College campus and saw the live Horned Owl and the two iguanas.

....

We welcome the following new members:

Marjory L. Galvin, Star Rt., Blackhawk Road, Danville  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Schwarber, Jr. and Son, James, 360 Harper Lane,  
 Danville.

....

#### Observations:

Joy Meagher, who has the fabulous backyard on Walnut Creek, brought a crippled young Gallinule to our April meeting, but it was so far gone that it wound up in one of Ferd Ruth's collection bottles. ... Bill Betts reported seeing four healthier Gallinules on the banks of Keller Lake in Concord.

A letter from Engra Lusebrink was brought to the meeting and passed around. It was written at the end of March at Bentsen State Park, Mission, Texas. Engra said, "I wish I could take the group on a couple of field trips here. The beauties we see every day are: Green Jay, Lichtenstein Oriole, Kiakadee Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Cardinal, Curve-billed & Long-billed Thrashers, and Cactus Wren. It has been a very pleasant dry winter. We have had good views of the Elf Owl, and the more common Screech, Great Horned, and Barn Owls. Saw a migration of hundreds of Broadwinged Hawks recently." (Thanks, Engra ... let's have some more.)

In March I mentioned the Magpie Jay (Collie Jay), which had been living near Douglas, Arizona. This is the bird that was on the 1963 Audubon stamp and had never been seen wild before in this country. According to a recent item in the Maricopa (Phoenix) Audubon bulletin, the bird was found dead last February - apparently shot by a vandal who could not appreciate the rareness and beauty of the 24" bird.

San Diego Zoo has a new hummingbird aviary containing many South American hummers. The aviary is well worth visiting, according to San Fernando Audubon's bulletin.

Think we have a startling problem in the Delta? Dexter, Missouri, a small town in S.E. Missouri, had about 8 million starlings roosting in a 20 acre area near there last winter. A recent health survey showed that 93% of the people in Dexter reacted positively to skin tests for histoplasmosis, a lung disease caused by a fungus which finds habitat in bird droppings.

....

Bill Betts, Ann Gavanagh and I attended a gathering of Bay Area Audubon officers in Berkeley in late March. Plans were made to better the communications between the five chapters in this area. A similar workshop and training session is planned for next Spring.

....

Just in case there is still time to consider: The annual Park and Recreational Council dinner this year will be on May 7 at the Concord Inn. Will Siri, President of the Sierra Club, will speak (and he's a good speaker). Contact Jane Nemetz (934-3295) for tickets. She has volunteered Mt. Diablo Audubon to help with table decorations and a display; and she will need help.

....  
A new hiking club is being organized, to be allied with the Pleasant Hill Recreation District. If it goes over, leaders will try to start similar groups in Concord, Walnut Creek etc. Emphasis would be on hiking for families. It would be similar to the Sierra Club outings, except that the starting point would not be San Francisco. Mt. Diablo Audubon may be contacted later to assist with bird field trips.

....  
East Bay Regional Park District is buying the 1176 acre Three Lakes Ranch at the upper end of Briones reservoir.

....  
Assemblyman Waldie's bill to have East Bay Regional Park directors elected by wards has met opposition from the directors. No wonder, since incumbents have a better chance for re-election. The bill is still in an Assembly committee. ... Waldie's bill (AB 315), to prohibit the issuance or transfer of liquor licenses to facilities in State parks recently passed the Assembly.

....  
Recently our Congressman, John Baldwin, sent out a questionnaire to nearly every family voting in his district. "Would you favor a Redwoods National Park?" was one question. Over 29,000 people answered, and 83% voted in favor of a National Park in the Redwoods.

....  
Walnut Creek hopes to get rolling on a ten-year Park measure costing 2 million dollars. ... Concord's 3 million dollar Park bond election comes up on May 25, and with your help it might pass this time.

....  
We were told before the State Park bond election last June that passage would mean expansion of Mt. Diablo State Park. The bond measure passed. Now we are told that Mt. Diablo is given no priority, and the State doesn't intend to buy any land up there for a long time. What goes on in Sacramento? The emphasis seems to be on acquiring land near the Golden Gate, including a 3,200 acre expansion of Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Unfortunately, Diablo land won't last forever. Just recently a syndicate bought 787 acres adjacent to the Blackhawk Ranch, including some of the world famous fossil beds. We can expect more homes to crawl up the south side of our mountain before too long.

The State has bought the 4000 acre Rancho Montana del Oro south of Morro Bay for a park. Some feel that a portion of this area is so fragile that it should be kept as a Nature Reserve, similar to what we have at Pt. Lobos.

A step in the right direction is Nature Conservancy's purchase of 2100 acres of land at the mouth of the Big Sur River. It will be named Andrew Molera State Park, on resale to the State for park purposes. ... Incidentally, it was mentioned at the recent Wilderness Conference that some of the Big Sur country is worthy of National Park status. The Sierra Club will be putting out a glossy book on this region sometime this summer.

....  
Ed Mize (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Bill Betts 685-5119  
5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord)

(Next Deadline: June 21)

June, 1965  
Volume 11, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 8 p.m., at Lucy and Bill Betts' home. Annual Potluck Dinner. (see below)

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, June 19 & 20. Yuba Pass Area.

....

Ordinarily we wind up our Audubon year with a fun-raising, fund-raising potluck dinner and meeting. This year we will have the honor of dining with our President and his wife .. (I mean Bill and Lucy Betts, of course) .. in the new home that has kept them so well occupied these many months.

The Betts' home is located at 5131 Myrtle Drive, somewhat east of Concord. Myrtle Drive runs parallel to Clayton Road, but to the north. It extends between Bailey Road and Kirker Pass Road. All you people in Walnut Creek and Lafayette have to do is zoom out the Ygnacio Valley Freeway, continue on Kirker Pass Road about a mile beyond Clayton Road to the bottom of the hill, and turn left a short hop on Myrtle Drive. Members going through Concord can go east on Concord Blvd. or Clayton Road, turn left on Ayers Road, and then turn right on Myrtle at the school, and go almost all the way east to Kirker Pass Road. Meet about 8 p.m. on Thursday the 10th. If you have trouble enroute, call 685-5119 and lucid details will be given.

Bring food, dishes, and eating equipment. Unless you like to eat standing up, you'd better bring a card table or TV tray and chairs. In general you bring an ample-sized hot dish, salad, or dessert; but call Lucy Betts (685-5119) and make arrangements with her, so we won't be eating all salads or cakes and spoiling our figures. For this, our only fund-raising project of the year, the assessment is a dollar per adult and 50¢ per child. It's a good bargain!

The meeting will be devoted to the "election" of officers. The nominating committee has lined up the following so far:

|               |              |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| President.... | Ann Cavanagh | Secretary... | Joy Meagher  |
| Vice-Pres.... | ? ? ?        | Treasurer... | George Schad |

We usually have a showing of slides after the meeting. If you have a couple dozen on any subject, bring them along, and we will enjoy seeing them (assuming that we have a projector and a screen). Last year we went to the Santa Lucias, the Tetons, Colorado Rockies, and the Pinnacles.

....

Our expiring Field Trip Chairman, Lynn Farrar, announces that we will not have a field trip to Yosemite this year afterall. (One had been tentatively scheduled for June 12/13).

Instead, the June field trip will be on the weekend of June 19 & 20, to the Yuba Pass Area. Meet about noon Saturday, June 19, at the first campsite (Lincoln Creek?) west of the Yuba Pass summit. This campground is just below Lincoln Creek and has space for trailers and campers. We will do some birding on Saturday, some early morning birding Sunday, and then go east of Yuba Pass to Sierra Valley for some excellent birding in the marshy country there. Look out for inclement weather, bring ~~dry~~ sturdy shoes, and expect a chill at night. Best route is via Interstate 80 to Truckee, thence north on Highway 89, and cross over Yuba Pass on Highway 49. You can also get there by going up Highway 49 thru Downieville, but the winter storms wrecked that road in spots and it may be slow going. Motels available at Sierra City and other spots on Highway 49. Camping available at Lincoln Creek, and even better camping at Chapman Creek about a mile to the west.

....

Lynn reports that the Santa Lucia trip was

"quite nice, but windy. 14 people showed up. We saw about 75 species of birds, including about 20 migrating Black Swifts and a pair of unspecified falcons. Passed only 1 car going in from Soledad. There were only about 3 other families within a mile of our campground. Beautiful country, and we would have to be in there a week to really see it."

As for the Arroyo Mocho trip (May 9), Lynn said:

"This was a nice trip. About 15 showed up. Wild flowers not at their peak, but beautiful in San Antonio Valley.

"Birds observed: Mallard; Vulture; Cooper's, Red-tailed, & Sparrow Hawks; Golden Eagle; Quail; Killdeer; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Screech Owl; White-throated Swift; Anna's & Allen's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Lewis, Hairy & Nuttall's Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Ash-throated & Olive-sided Flycatchers; Black Phoebe; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-Green, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin; Steller's and Scrub Jays; Yellow-billed Magpie; Raven; Crow; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; House, Bewick's, Canyon & Rock Wrens; Mockingbird; Calif. Thrasher; Robin; Western Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Cedar Waxwing; Phainopepla; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Orange-crowned, Yellow, and Wilson's Warblers; Yellow-breasted Chat; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; Bullock's Oriole; Cowbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting; Purple and House Finches; & American, Lesser & Lawrence's Goldfinches; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; Lark, Chipping & Golden-crowned Sparrows.

....

Greetings to the following additions to our membership:

Douglas O. Claypole & Robert A. Claypole (brothers), 898 Forest Lane, Alamo.

Mr. & Mrs. James W. Schofield, 130 Richard Lane, Walnut Creek  
Henry & Eleanor Greenfield, 1955 Lucille Lane, Pleasant Hill.

....

Jessie Falconer's talk on her African trip packed the house at our May meeting. She had selected slides to emphasize the animals she saw, and included a few pictures of flamingoes and Golden-crested Cranes. She visited many animal refuges, flew over Victoria Falls, and cruised on the Zambesi. Her night at "Tree Tops" was very interesting.

....

Third time's a charm .... for the Concord Park Bond measure passed by a 77.5% vote — proving that it is possible to beat the 2/3 jinx that stumps so many bond elections. Now Concord has the financial potential to develop some excellent parks, including the Markham nature area and possibly some other nature reserves. Thanks to you who voted.

But those of us who voted for the State Park Bonds in November are beginning to wonder just what we voted for. So far, political maneuvers and sectional jealousies have almost completely blocked the acquisition of land — and, meanwhile, the price of humus goes up and up ... Not only have potential parks in Northern California been postponed, but down south developers are fast moving in on most of what might have been a large Santa Monica Mountains State Park.

....

#### Observations:

Newell Wood brought a dead male Bullock Oriole to our May meeting. It had apparently broken its neck and was found near the Wood's home.

Up at Clear Lake recently I saw scads of Tree Swallows. Also, I counted 16 White-throated Swifts clinging to a dead treetop.

Harry Couden has been chasing around the country on business again (and plans a business trip to Alaska soon, with hopes that Dorothy & Dick will help him use up some vacation time later — the lucky people). Anyhow, Harry doesn't spend all his time on business, as he says:

"Had occasion to do some birdside roading today (5/21) in New Mexico, near the Texas panhandle. It proved something more than a lark. In fact there were four at once on one occasion: a Horned, a Lark Sparrow, and two Lark Buntings, all between three fenceposts and within my binocular field — and in the background a Meadowlark singing the while! In fact I would say that for this area at this time, such a sight is not unlarkly. (My trip score: 41, not counting larks)" .... HC.

....

At our May meeting, Ann Cavanagh reported on the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, which will be responsible for all exhibits, dioramas and supplies in the Natural Science Museum being established in Walnut Creek in an old water pumping station in Larkey Park (attention: Harry Couden). Ann indicated that we may be asked to contribute books and exhibits to this worthy cause.

....

This issue of "The Quail" marks the 4th year that Editor Mize has struggled like a mouse to keep you informed monthly on Society matters and conservations and legislative news. It also marks the fourth complete year that Frieda Shackelford has rushed "Quail" to the post-office before deadlines. My sincere thanks to Frieda and her daughter, Pat, who have done so much for you. Also thanks go to some girls at Tidewater who have spun the Ditto machine faithfully. If all goes well, we will all be back to keep you informed during the next Audubon year.

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: July 23)

July, 1965  
Vol. 12, No. 1

Next Meeting: In September. Details in later quails.

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, July 10 & 11. Wright's Lake.

....

Since Summer is for vacations, we have no meetings scheduled until next September. You will be informed later as to the exact date and place for this meeting, because our regular meeting date, Sept. 9, happens to be a State and school holiday. Bob Cornelius has agreed to present a program on his summer in Colorado, where he will be working at the Rocky Mountain Research Lodge.

....

Our annual trip to Wright's Lake is scheduled for July 10 & 11 this year. This location affords opportunities for birding, camping, boating, and swimming. Judging by the lateness of the summer, though, things may be a little cooler than usual and the mosquitoes thicker.

Assuming that the road to the Lake is passable, you get there by taking U.S. 50 through Kyburz, pass "Fred's Place", and continue 5 miles to the Wright's Lake sign on the left indicating the 8-mile road up the hill. Meet on the western side of the campground in an area where there are some large rocks.

Trails are available for birding. Details of the birding trips will be worked out after the group assembles Saturday afternoon.

....

The June Potluck Dinner was gourmet's delight and a financial success. All who attended owe Lucy and Bill Betts a prolonged vote of thanks for a wonderful evening. Bill apparently calmed the winds for us, and dining inside and outside were equally pleasant. There was ample room for the subsequent meeting and slide show in the spacious family room.

The meeting was devoted largely to the election of these officers for the next year:

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Ann Cavanagh | President  |
| Joy Meagher  | Secretary  |
| George Schad | Money Bags |

Since we had no Vice President nominated at the time, we couldn't very well elect one right then and there. Subsequently, John Davis has indicated that he would accept the Vice Presidency ... and, boy, will we elect him at our September meeting!

(John Davis will have an easier time as Vice President than his predecessors did. Prior to this year, the Vice President has inherited

the job of Program Chairman, which can be a little rough at times. This year our President has put Programs in the hands of a Program Committee (John Davis, Rufus Johnson, & Ed Mize), which will try to present some outstanding meetings in the next year.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 After our Potluck Dinner and meeting, slides were shown. Bob Cornelius had some dandy ones of Yosemite, the Trinitys, and Havasu Canyon; Esther James gave a pictorial account of a trip to Iowa, with emphasis on Utah and Colorado; and your Editor shared a boat ride on Lake Chelan. Groans were heard when Esther showed pictures of the subdivisions now being built next to the "Garden of the Gods" outside Colorado Springs.

Lucy Betts says somebody left a beige loose-knit sweater and lavender scarf. If they belong to you, call her at 686-5119.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 By now, Harry Coudon and part of the Coudens are in Alaska, probably understanding why that state has rain forests. Harry was asked by Alaska's Gov. Egan to help modernize the Alaskan fishing industry, and his travels will take him from the Panhandle to Bristol Bay, plus some vacationing in the Mt. McKinley area. Dorothy and Dick will fly and boat their way up to meet Harry at various places along the way.

The papers recently reported that Mrs. Ruth Ferdinand had about \$4000 damage done to her home by fire, which started in a clothes dryer. The address given indicated that it was our Julie and Ferd Ruth who suffered the severe loss.

Glenn and Margaret Shanks are now in the mid-West, giving Glenn a chance to attend a class reunion after some 40 years. Last heard from, they were in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and had enjoyed camping at a Natural Bridge in Albany County, Wyoming, where they had seen Lark Bunting and lots of Sege Lillies.

Hats off to our Bob Cornelius, who won a National Science Foundation scholarship and will spend 6 weeks this summer at a University of Colorado camp in the mountains near Boulder studying Arctic research. We hope that Bob will have time enough to take the many pictures he hopes to show to us in September.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Observations:**

How nice it was of Bill Betts to arrange to have a Western Kingbird put on a good show for his guests at the Potluck.

Joy Meagher reported nesting tanagers at her place.

A Bittern was seen recently feasting on the aquatic life being pumped out of Galindo Pond. ... In all the years I've been at Avon, I've never seen crows there until last week, when a lonesome flock of three went slowly flying over the tank farm.

Early in June I hiked to the ocean at Pt. Reyes National Seashore and rewarded with Brandt's Cormorants in breeding plumage and two Pigeon Guillemots on the water.

Well, if you have better observations, send them in!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Attached is the membership roster for this year. If page 2 looks crowded, it's because even your Editor didn't realize that we had increased our membership so much (from 126 listed a year ago to 139 today), and I ran out of room and had to use a shoehorn to squeeze in a couple of names. My thanks to last year's Membership Chairman, Ava Huffman, who helped in this revision of the list.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Ed Mize (Editor) .. 1256 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341

Membership List July 1965

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

|                             |                        |              | Phone     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Adamson, Harry & Betty      | 995 Carol Lane         | Lafayette    | 283-2164  |
| Aitken, David               | 289 Chestnut St.       | S.F.         | YU 6-3837 |
| Atthowe, George & Olive     | 40 Iris Lane           | Walnut Creek | 934-7323  |
| Augason, Orland & Luella    | 3961 Mulberry Dr.      | Concord      | 682-0317  |
| Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth         | 1268 Redwood Lane      | Lafayette    | 284-4796  |
| Barnard, Adell              | 198 Via Del Sol        | Walnut Creek | 935-4675  |
| Beitzel, Dick & Violet      | 1713 S. 5th St.        | Concord      | 682-9588  |
| Betts, Bill & Lucy          | 5131 Myrtle Dr.        | Concord      | 685-5119  |
| Blake, Frances              | 4440 Walnut Blvd.      | Walnut Creek | 935-2884  |
| Bolender, Mrs. M. C.        | 511 Highland Dr.       | Danville     | 837-6642  |
| Bonnickson, Barbara         | Box 295                | Brentwood    | 634-4152  |
| Brackman, Mrs. Louis        | 4098 Forestview Ave.   | Concord      | 682-6210  |
| Bright, James               | Star Rt. Tassajara Rd. | Danville     | 837-9079  |
| 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  |
| Claypole, Douglas & Robert  | 898 Forest Lane        | Alamo        | 837-6572  |
| Clemens, Dennis             | 273 Scofield Ct.       | Concord      | 682-5231  |
| Couden, Harry & Dorothy     | 1491 Sunset Loop       | Walnut Creek | 934-8873  |
| Cornelius, Bob              | 3143 Wayside Lane      | Walnut Creek | 934-6873  |
| Davis, Carroll              | 52 Baylor Lane         | Pl. Hill     | 685-8960  |
| Davis, H.E. & Sharon        | 1851 Del Monte Ct.     | Walnut Creek | 934-8458  |
| Davis, John A.              | 21 Wanda Way           | Martinez     | 228-2509  |
| Farrar, Lynn & Ruth         | 955 Diablo Dr.         | Lafayette    | 283-3938  |
| Finch, Wm. & Lucille        | 314 Ada Dr.            | Martinez     |           |
| Galvin, Marjory             | Star Rt. Blackhawk Rd. | Danville     | 837-6284  |
| Gerringer, J. & Mildred     | 260 Douglas Ct.        | Concord      | 682-4842  |
| Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. H.D.     | 19 Sky Terrace         | Danville     | 837-6577  |
| Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie      | 3576 Powell Dr.        | Lafayette    | 284-4014  |
| Goren, Audrey               | 206 Santa Fe. Dr.      | Walnut Creek | 934-8144  |
| Greenfield, Henry & Eleanor | 1955 Lucille Lane      | Pl. Hill     | 682-2192  |
| 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  |
| Haward, Mrs. Richard        | 325 Del Amigo Rd.      | Danville     | 837-7608  |
| Hawkins, Mrs. Virginia L.   | 890 38th Ave. Space 18 | Santa Cruz   |           |
| Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret   | 4081 Legion Court      | Lafayette    | 254-0657  |
| Holsclaw, Mrs. Guy          | 600 Alhambra Way       | Martinez     | 228-5114  |
| Hozier, Ruth J.             | 948 Hawthorne Dr.      | Lafayette    | 284-4559  |
| Huffman, Ava                | 20 W. 16th St.         | Antioch      | 757-2923  |
| Hulse, Mrs. Anita C.        | 4831 Pacheco Bl.       | Martinez     | 228-2732  |
| Hunter, Jerry L.            | 2561 Oak Road          | Walnut Creek | 939-3732  |
| 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                         | Box 161 (2827 Concord Bl.)   | Concord            | 685-5560  |
| Kenaston, Georgia                      | 1362 Ulfonian Way            | Martinez           | 228-5846  |
| Klinger, Florence                      | 072 Green St.                | Martinez           | 228-2650  |
| Kroger, Doris; and Tom                 | 1800 Magnolia Way            | Walnut Creek       | 939-1836  |
| Lusebrink, Engra                       |                              |                    |           |
| Lynch, Jim M.D.                        | 3758 Serrano St.             | Martinez           | 228-2999  |
| Mann, Mrs. Evelyn N.                   | 120 Montecito Cres.          | Walnut Creek       | 934-2265  |
| McCarthy, Hazel & Robert               | P.O.Box 641 (1929 Dora Ave.) | Walnut Ck.         | 934-2724  |
| McGeehon, Mrs. J.C.                    | 2165 Oakvale Rd.             | Walnut Creek       | 934-2752  |
| Meagher, Mrs. John                     | 1537 N. Marta Dr.            | 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  |
| Nemetz, Frank & Jane                   | 2822 San Antonio Dr.         | Walnut Creek       | 934-3295  |
| Noble, Richard J.                      | 2131 Olympic Blvd.           | Walnut Creek       | 934-5977  |
| Nunes, Wesley & Dolores                | 3400 El Monte Dr.            | Concord            |           |
| O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth                | 2231 Overlook Dr.            | Walnut Creek       | 934-4720  |
| Paige, Harold L.                       | 1212 Monticello Rd.          | Lafayette          | 283-3408  |
| Perlman, Isadore                       | 1158 Glen Road               | Lafayette          | 283-3021  |
| Philbin, Mrs. Berna                    | 6950 Arrowwood Dr.           | Modesto            |           |
| Pignolet, Mary Anne                    | 17 Ocho Rios Place           | Danville           | 837-9410  |
| Porterfield, John & Alice              | 3053 The Alameda             | Concord            | 685-4616  |
| Pryer, Lynn                            | 926 Diablo Dr.               | Lafayette          | 284-7380  |
| Raynesford, Carolyn                    | 3058 Vessing Road            | Pl. Hill           | 932-3277  |
| Reynolds, Jack & Beth                  | 555 La Vista Road            | Walnut Creek       | 935-1813  |
| Richardson, Ethel                      | 1372 Rockledge Lane,         | Rossmoor Wal.Ck.   | 939-2794  |
| Rieser, Dick                           | 45 Tarry Lane                | Orinda             | 254-4861  |
| Robinson, Jennifer                     | 480 Arbol Via                | Walnut Creek       | 934-6404  |
| Roemer, Elsie                          | 1556 Everett St.             | Alameda            | LA 2-0941 |
| Ruth, Ferd & Juliet                    | 43 Cuesta Way                | Walnut Creek       | 934-8803  |
| Wymer, Robert & Mary                   | P.O. Box 101                 | Martinez           | 932-3357  |
| 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               | 801 North Gate Rd.           | Walnut Creek       | 939-5260  |
| Schaller, Richard & Margaret           | 330 Sunset Ave.              | Concord            | 685-7641  |
| Schwarber, Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Jr; & James | 360 Harper Lane              | Danville           | 837-5207  |
| Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. James            | 130 Richard Lane             | Walnut Creek       | 935-0359  |
| Shackelford, Clair & Frieda            | 712 Laurel Drive             | Walnut Creek       | 935-1344  |
| Shackelford, Pat                       | 712 Laurel Drive             | Walnut Creek       | 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,    | Walnut Creek       |           |
| Wright, John A.                        | 1791 Sunnyvale Ave.          | Walnut Creek       | 934-3366  |
| Thompson, Stephen                      | 2242 Hillsborough Ct.        | Concord            | 689-7826  |
| Toaspern, Mrs. W.J.                    | 1923 Buttner Road            | Pl. Hill           | 934-0749  |
| Veitch, Peter                          | 154 Camino Sobrante          | Orinda             | 254-2419  |
| Warner, Norma L.                       | 3163 Wayside Lane            | Walnut Creek       | 934-4604  |
| Watson, Chuck                          | 505 Lakewood Circle          | Walnut Creek       | 934-0522  |
| Willoughby, Janet                      | 3273 Glenside Dr.            | Lafayette          |           |
| Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Newell                | 1121 Ulfonian Way            | Martinez           | 228-1617  |



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Aug. 23)

August, 1965  
Volume 12, No. 2

Next Meeting: Probably Thursday, September 9. Details in the next "Quail".

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, Sept. 12; but no plans yet made.

o o o o

*♪♪* Summertime, and the livin' is easy *♪♪*  
so there isn't much to report on our Fall activities yet. The Program Committee, helped by President Ann Cavanagh and Field Trip Chairman Bill Betts, met at John Davis' attractive home in Alhambra Valley and got a good start on plans for programs for our forthcoming year. If all goes well, we should have a captivating series of dates for you.

o o o o

No reports on past field trips, and none planned for the immediate future. Bill Betts is rounding up a number of cooperative leaders. Bill hopes to have some trips that will accent natural sciences other than the study of birds. More details later.

o o o o

For the most part, it looks like President Cavanagh is going to "rule by committee" this year. So far Ann has lined up the following helpers:

Program Committee - John Davis; Rufus Johnson; Ed Mize.  
Field Trip Committee- Bill Betts; Lynn Farrar; Roy Glotfelty;  
Ed Mize; Clair Shackelford.  
Membership Committee- Elvira Holsclaw and Muriel Schad.  
Hospitality Comm. - Mary Wymer; Luella Augason; and ???  
Audubon & Jr. Museum- Frieda Shackelford; Carolyn Raynesford;  
Esther James.  
By-law Revisionists - Dorothy & Harry Couden  
Publicity - Beth Reynolds  
Conservation - Norma Warner  
Christmas Count - Lynn Farrar  
Quail Mail - Frieda Shackelford  
Quail Editor - Ed Mize

Let's get behind these busy people and lend a hand, when a request is made. You're sure to get a "hand" in appreciation later!

o o o o

Observations:

Bill Betts found a boy carrying a dead Black-crowned Night Heron near Keller Lake in Concord. Being a persuasive lawyer, Bill was able to talk the lad into giving up the bird, which has since found its way to Ferd Ruth's lab. These herons used to frequent the Keller and Ellis Lakes area, but road improvements drove them out a couple of years ago.

From time to time there are reports that some of our members are out on vacation and even looking for some rare birds. Thus, the Shackelfords enjoyed their vacation in Arizona, except for some trouble in the clutch near Tucson. Frieda added a number of birds to her life list.

The Cavanaghs went to the Tetons-Yellowstone area in early summer and had weather ranging from desert hot to arctic cold. They were pleased to see Wilson Phalarope, the trumpeter Swan, Os Prey, and other notables on their trip.

Carl & Ruth Swenson remarked in a letter written in Nova Scotia in early July:

"We miss you all and know that we would find many more new birds if some of your expert eyes were with us. Yesterday a fisherman took us out to several islands. We saw Leach's Petrel, guillemots, Common Eider, and cormorant rookeries. Double-crested Cormorants nest on the tops of trees, which eventually die from their droppings. We landed on the islands and walked around, seeing hundreds of Eiders, their young, and their nests. The fisherman called Eiders Sea Ducks, Cormorants Shags, and Petrels Mother Carey's Chickens. He also told us that last week one of the islands that we passed had thousands of Common and Arctic Terns. Some boys landed and broke all the eggs they could find. All of the terns left. We saw the burrows of the petrels containing the one egg they lay.

"We have seen 118 new birds since we left. Lots of birds said to be common we couldn't find, but we enjoyed looking. It is certainly an ideal hobby to have while traveling. The bird watchers we have met have certainly been nice to us. A business man in Halifax drove 20 miles out to our trailer court the night before we left and loaned his copy of Pettingill's new book, to be returned by mail later. The Boston Audubon Society was very helpful, and we found 6 new "wobblers". We'll be home for Thanksgiving and will be glad to see all of you again."

(Thanks Carl and Ruth for an excellent contribution to our Observation Department. Anyone else have a trip report?)

....

The California Legislature apparently didn't overstrain itself on conservation subjects this past session. But it did pass the McAteer Bill, setting up a commission to regulate the filling of S.F. Bay. .. Also, in the extra session, arrangements were made to purchase land for the Sugar Pine Point at Lake Tahoe, and at nine other spots (including Big Sur, Marin Headlands, and Gold Bluffs). .. The penalty for killing condors was doubled. .. Motor vehicles of all types were banned from state riding and hiking trails, except with special permission. .. Gov. Brown vetoed a proposed man-made island (for a freeway) in Santa Monica Bay. .... But a lot of worthwhile measures just didn't survive committees. One of these was Waldie's bill banning the issuance of additional alcoholic beverage licenses in state parks.

....



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh, 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Sept. 25)

September, 1965  
Volume 12, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Bob Cornelius will describe the summer he spent in the Colorado mountains.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, September 18. Eastshore Highway (Toll Plaza). Meet at the S.P. Depot in Berkeley at 9 a.m. Leader will be Carolyn Raymond.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, November 1. C.P. Lyons and "The Right to Live".

....

We will start our 1965-1966 Audubon year high in the clouds. One of our younger members, Bob Cornelius, spent ten weeks this summer at the U. of Colorado's alpine research station 25 miles south of Rocky Mountain National Park. At our meeting on September 9th, Bob will be happy to show us his slides and tell of his summer experiences. Bob was a National Science Foundation scholarship holder, and at the Mountain Field Station of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research he spent some of his time working with a scientist getting a doctorate on the study of blueberries. Later, he helped another scholar work on a study in Forest Ecology. Still later, Bob did some research work on his own. If you attended our potluck meeting last June and saw some of Bob's excellent pictures (of the Trinity, Yosemite, and Navajo Canyon), you can bet that he will have some dandy pictures of the Colorado high tundra to show us.

.....

Our field trips also get under way in September. The first trip will be a week later than usual, being on Saturday the 18th of September. This trip will feature the shore birds. The exact areas we will visit have not been selected, but there are plenty of places to choose from. We meet at 9 a.m. at the S.P. Depot at the foot of University Avenue in Berkeley and will go on to the midlands from there.

....

President Ann Cavanagh announces the following additions to her list of committee members:

Hospitality - Virginia Schaefer, Mary Wymar, and Luella Augason.  
Special Adviser - Ford Ruth.

....

We welcome a new member this summer:  
 R. MacKamey, P.O. Box 55, Walnut Creek.

....

Observations:

The Coudens returned from Alaska and reported seeing a good assortment of birds, although no vast flocks. Harry added 14 birds to his life list, and Dorothy over 20. Swallows were everywhere (even in the Red Dog Saloon, no doubt). Harry saw Gyrfalcon, Long-tailed Jaeger, Bald Eagles every mile in S.E. Alaska, but only one Redpoll, said to be a very common bird up north. (Note: When the weather is more appropriate, this winter, we expect to have a program on the Couden's trip).

Bill Betts spotted three Black-necked Stilts on Waterfront Road, between Martinez and Avon.

Too much hunting last year reduced the continental duck breeding population to the lowest level since 1947, necessitating lower bag limits in the forthcoming hunting season.

....

Personalities:

Congratulations to Rufus Johnson, married to Minnie Pollock in Reno on August 21. Dick and Vi Beitsel stood up for the couple. The bride is well known in Concord, having been a schoolmarm at Williams School for many years. At the present time the Johnsons are aboard the "Olympic" enjoying a Mediterranean cruise.

One of our former members, Eleanor Pugh, is coming back to Northern California - to Prairie Creek State Park, where husband Bob will be the Superintendent. Since leaving Mt. Diablo State Park a few years ago, the Pughs have been at Silver Strands (near San Diego) and Doheny Beach.

Harold Sharp, the octogenarian who talked to us last November on the conflict between the Highways and the Redwoods, had a stroke recently while camping at 9000 ft. near Markleeville and had to be helicoptered out.

Harry and Dorothy Couden's daughter, Penny, was listed on the Seniors Honor List at Scripps College.

Harry Couden and Ed Nize were part of a combo that furnished after-dinner dance music for food technologists and their ladies in Berkeley.

....

Parks:

Approval by the Association of Bay Area Governments makes Concord eligible for a \$365,700 Federal "open-space" grant for that city's park acquisition program. Over 5,000 acres would be acquired. Still needed is approval by the Housing & Home Finance Agency.

East Bay Regional Parks hope to add 40,000 acres within the next 5 years. The tenth parcel at Briones will be obtained next February.

The County Mayors Conference recommended that the county's share of state park funds be spent for Brooks Island, John Marsh home, and Las Juntas.

Bonds will soon go on sale to finance state parks at Sugar Pine Point (Tahoe), Huntington Beach, Malibu Lagoon, Topanga Canyon, and Pt. Mugu.

A group has been formed in Martinez seeking a park at the Marina there before all land is taken up by motels, restaurants, and other businesses.

....

(Attention Members and other Bay Area Audubon groups)

Our Program Chairman is John Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez 228-2509  
 Field Trip Chairman is Bill Betts, 5131 Myrtle Dr. Concord 685-5119

....

Ed Nize (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh, 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Oct. 22)

October, 1965  
Volume 12, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Harry and Dorothy Couden will tell us about their travels in Alaska.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, October 17. Bear Valley Trail portion of Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Meet at 9 a.m. across the road from the Park headquarters, a half-mile west of Olema. Leader: Ed Mize (686-1341)

Next Screen Tour: Monday, November 1, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. C.P. Lyons and "Nature's Plans and Puzzles".

....

Last month we were with Bob Cornelius in the tundra of Colorado mountains; this month the Coudens take us to the tundra of Alaska. During the recent summer, Harry Couden spent several weeks in Alaska with a group of food scientists studying the State's seafood canning problems. In going from Ketchikan to Bristol Bay, Harry gathered much information about the fishing industry, the country, and the people. At our next meeting we will benefit from his keen observations. Dorothy and Dick Couden also went north and met Harry at various places along the way; and then the three of them went on vacation to McKinley Park and other scenic spots. Dorothy has some colored slides to show us, with appropriate comments. (Note: Some of us have heard a preview of Harry's talk, and we can guarantee an interesting program.)

....

Our October 17 Field Trip will be a delightful walk in a new area - along Bear Valley Trail, one of the first portions of Pt. Reyes National Seashore open to the public. The "Trail" is actually a dirt road, level for the most part, serving ranches now within Park boundaries. We will leave our cars and leisurely walk 4 or 5 miles through meadows, a forested canyon of oak, bay, alder and fern, and across wooded Inverness Ridge. (More spirited hikers and birders may take off on the 9 mile roundtrip hike to the ocean cliffs.) This trip does not go near the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse area. Follow the Park sign in Olema to the headquarters, meeting at 9 a.m. across the road, and then parking 1500 ft. beyond in a spacious lot. No pets. No fees. We may see only a moderate assortment of birds, since we will be in the woods much of the way. Bring walking shoes, lunch, warm clothes, and sunshine. Camping available at Taylor State Park, 5 miles east of Olema. For more information call the leader, Ed Mize (686-1341) before October 16.

....

The new season of Audubon Wildlife Films gets under way on Monday, November 1, at the Diablo Valley College Gym. Chester P. Lyons will show "Nature's Plans and Puzzles", a picture about the wilds of British Columbia. Ches Lyons was here two years ago with a similar picture featuring the zones of life in British Columbia.

....

Our ~~September~~ September meeting brought out a full house to hear Bob Cornelius report on his summer at Colorado University's Science Lodge high in the mountains west of Boulder. Bob interspersed bits of humor in his talk about life in the hills, and showed pictures of the high country, with accent on his interest in trees. It was apparent that it wasn't all a picnic up there dodging lightning bolts and "belly counting" twigs and flowers on low-growing blueberries.

....

At this meeting Harry Couden gave a report on his study of the ByLaws, which he and Dorothy were asked to review as a first step towards a needed revision. But since there is now a movement in progress to change our organization from an affiliate to a branch of National Audubon, the Coudens didn't think it wise to revise our ByLaws until we settle the question of our relationship to National Audubon.

Apparently, many years ago we ~~we~~ started out as a bird club and a branch of National Audubon. Then we withdrew and became an affiliate, but kept the name of Mt. Diablo Audubon. Today we are Audubon in name only, as we do not represent the National Audubon Society and NAS does not represent us. NAS would like to see us back in the fold.

Some members think we should become a branch of NAS again. Their main argument is that we would then truly be part of the Audubon movement and would be supporting the many Audubon activities, Screen Tours, nature centers, educational programs, etc.

If we became a branch of NAS, dues would be paid directly to NAS and a portion returned to our Society upon request. Dues would be \$8.50 per year for a single, and \$12.50 per year for couples for all new members. It is understood that present members would not be required to pay more than the local \$2 dues. Members paying the NAS fee would receive the Audubon magazine. NAS members in this part of the County would be assigned to Mt. Diablo Audubon.

Some members think that we should stay an affiliate. Their arguments are ... The high fees for new members would discriminate against retired persons and students, which represent a good proportion of our potential membership. ... There is nothing to keep anyone from becoming a member of National Audubon, if he is in favor of supporting that group. ... We could not possibly expect to have the memberships that Golden Gate, Marin, and the Peninsula Audubon societies have, because our population is not as large or as affluent. It is not certain, then, that our membership or treasury would benefit if we were to become a branch.

This matter will be discussed again at the next meeting, and it is hoped that a vote will be taken to settle the question once and for all.

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Greetings to our newest member, who joined at the September meeting:  
Betty Nelson, 1324 Davis Avenue, Concord.

....

National Audubon's office in Berkeley recently pushed the panic button and urged strong action on these two items:

- (1) Pres. Johnson's Highway Beauty bill (S-2084) is threatened with defeat as the result of weak amendments; and
- (2) Conservationists are alarmed that the recently-formed S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission unfairly favors developers. There are only 3 conservationists on the 29-man board. The Committee will be inaugurated at a dinner-meeting at the Hotel Hilton in S.F. on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. For reservations, call SU 1-6126. If you want, you can attend the meeting and forget the dinner.

....

Here's a novel gimmick. In keeping with our Alaska theme for the next meeting, the Coudens hope to have about 20 bottles of genuine sourdough starter, complete with recipe, for sale. For 50¢ you can go back to the Days of '28. All proceeds go into our Treasury.

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#### Personals:

John & Helen Bruce are back from a year in Minnesota - same house but different phone (now 837-9554). At our January meeting, look for John to give an account of his wildlife studies last year.

Bob Cornelius was busy on Sept. 9th. He appeared as our speaker that evening, and then the next morning his picture was in the paper saying he had been elected temporary Fresh Yell Leader at U.C. on the 9th.

Lucy & Bill Betts are gluttons (for punishment). Recently they hosted over a hundred women at an afternoon tea and AAUW meeting. Our Field Trip Chairman, Bill, scientifically parked all the cars.

Former member Bill Hassler was hospitalized for 3 weeks.

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#### Observations:

Harry Adamson climbed to the top of Mt. Lassen last summer and saw a White-breasted Nuthatch wandering around without a tree in sight.

Also in Lassen Park, Joy Meagher saw nesting Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers at Summit Lake.

A fellow told me he saw four flocks (75-100 each) of "mountain pigeons" heading east over Yuba Pass on Sept. 26.

Marin Audubon reports American Redstart and Common Nighthawk at Pt. Reyes on June 18th. The first report in Marin of the Nighthawk.

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#### Parks:

(You won't get this until after the October 5th election in Walnut Creek, but ...) In case the Park Bond issue passes, Jane Nemets thinks you should contact the City Council and urge them to reserve a portion of the proposed park at Heather Pond as a nature area. There are hopes for a green belt between the proposed buildings and the Pond.

The question of priority of Las Trampas over Las Juntas in the County distribution of State Park Bond money should be settled by a hearing on Oct. 4th. Members of your Society recently attended a Supervisors meeting ready to speak for Las Trampas wildness.

I goofed in the last issue by saying that Concord was hoping to get 5,000 acres of park land. I should have said "the County hopes".

California has started condemnation suits for 822 acres of land around Mt. Diablo State Park.

Nationally we have new Park lands. The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area of 72,000 acres is a fact, and Assateague Island National Seashore awaits the Presidential signature.

....

Ed Hise (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 688-1341





# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh, 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Nov. 20)

November, 1965  
Volume 12, No. 5

- Next Meeting: Thursday, November 11, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Violet Beitzel will show new pictures on Southern Utah.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, November 14. Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma County (see below). Meet at the Ranch at 9 a.m. Mrs. Marianne Shepard will lead.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, December 6, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. D. J. Nelson and his "Inherit the Wild".

....

It seems like only yesterday — but back in September, 1962, Vi Beitzel came in as a pinch hitter at one of our meetings and showed us slides of beauty from the "Land of the Sleeping Rainbow", the canyon country of Utah. Last summer the Beitzels went back to Southern Utah. At our November 11 meeting, Vi will show color pictures taken on this more recent trip, with emphasis on Capitol Reef and Arches National Monuments. This promises to live up to the Beitzel tradition of beauty on film, and we know that you will enjoy pictures of the rainbow-hued rocks in the spectacular canyons.

....

The November Field Trip, on Sunday the 14th, will again take us into a new area. Field Trip Chairman Bill Betts has arranged for us to go into the Jack London Ranch (Shepard Ranch) near Glen Ellen, north of Sonoma. To get there, take State Highway 12 between Sonoma and Santa Rosa. About five miles beyond Agua Caliente there will be a large sign pointing west to Jack London State Park. Follow the signs, but continue on the road beyond the Park. A half-mile beyond the cattle guard you come to the main ranch house of the Jack London Ranch. Meet there at 9 a.m. Our leader, who lives on the ranch, will be Mrs. Marianne Shepard. She is an excellent birder, who has led several bird groups in recent years. The ranch offers a wide variety of habitat, from creekside to wooded slopes. Red-shouldered hawks nest on the property, and woodpeckers are common. You can expect to see many of the birds usually seen in Napa Valley on the way to Conn Dam. Bring lunch, walking shoes, and warm clothes.

....

The second Audubon Wildlife Film program, on Monday, December 6, will feature D. J. Nelson of Billings, Montana, a renowned documentary film producer, who has appeared on many television shows. Mr. Nelson will show his "Inherit the Wild", which contains several fascinating shots of rare and near-rare birds and animals. The general theme of this film is that all living things have a role in nature's master plan.

....

A successful Field Trip was held on October 17, a beautiful Fall day. 22 members met at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters and walked into Bear Valley and over Inverness Ridge. Thanks to recent rains, which had cleaned off the plants, we saw excellent displays of lush ferns, broad-leafed shrubs, trees, and several varieties of berries. Atop the Ridge, apparently the site of an abandoned farm, Amaryllis in bloom added color among the firs and pines.

36 species of birds were seen by observers. Outstanding was the number of Varied Thrush reported - several were seen in the canyon, 3 seen by Bill Betts west of the Ridge, and as many as 60 reported by the Coudens on the higher Old Pine Trail. Apparently ripe huckleberries were attracting these birds. Coudens also reported Winter Wren, Cooper Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, and Wood Pewee on the high trail. The Clotfelters tarried at the Ranger Station and spotted American Goldfinch, Sparrow Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, and Black Phoebe. The Schallers hiked all the way to the ocean cliffs to see Brown Pelicans. The main party reported many common birds as well as Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, and Audubon's Warbler.

....

A full house at our October meeting heard the Coudens discuss Alaska. Dorothy had collected a wide variety of slides showing the people, industry, flowers, and scenery of the 49th State, and Harry gave his comments on the fishing industry and life in the Far North. Adding interest were Alaskan-made artifacts and curios displayed by the Coudens and Ed Wise. Also, the Coudens brought several jars of sourdough starter, which were sold and added about five dollars to our treasury. (The recipe for Sourdough Waffles is a good one, I can attest. Harry pointed out that the fellows in the Klondike probably missed the pleasure of ever tasting a Sourdough Waffle).

....

Among several items of interest discussed at the meeting was the question of whether we should become a branch of National Audubon again or remain as an affiliate. By an overwhelming vote, the members present voted to keep our society as an affiliate of NAS; thus, there will be no change in our dues or membership policies.

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#### Personals:

Harry Adamson's bird paintings get around. "Condor Country", an 8x4 ft. joint picture by Harry Adamson and Santa Barbara artist Ray Strong, and commissioned by the City of Oakland, is now ready for the Oakland Museum Natural Science Building, which will house the Snow Museum's collection. Mr. Strong painted the background, and Harry the Condors. ... Two of Harry's paintings of Pintails in flight, commissioned by the Los Angeles Athletic Club, are now in the Gun Club's Men's Grill.

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Observations:

Off Tomales Point, Harry Adams saw Parasitic Jaegers chasing Elegant Terns.

On Oct. 25 I saw two Pygmy Nuthatches in an oak tree off Morgan Territory Road about a mile beyond Curry Creek Park. Also, well over a hundred crows in the area. Those that weren't cawing had acorns in their bills.

\* \* \* \*

Starlings arrived earlier than usual in the grape fields of the Sonoma and Napa Valleys this year and destroyed tons of grapes.

Parks:

The dispute over whether Las Trampas or Las Juntas should be selected as a park site, to come under the State Park Bond allotment, was ~~settled~~ by the Supervisors, who selected Las Juntas despite strong opposition at public hearings by conservationists (including members of our Society), horsemen, and outdoor enthusiasts. (Somehow a local paper described this opposition as a "few nature lovers and bird watchers"). Martinez hastened to annex 100 acres in the Las Juntas area, and Pleasant Hill already has the other 100 acres tied up - all valued at \$3200 per acre at least - a high price to pay for park land with hardly a tree on it. Our Society voted at the October meeting to support acquisition of the larger and wilder Las Trampas area. The Supervisors turned down the recommendation of the Park Commission. Even now there is a question as to whether Las Juntas will be large enough for a park.

Thanks to the Save-the-Redwoods League, the Gold Bluffs area has been acquired for addition to Prairie Creek State Park. Now if only the Highway Engineers will build their freeway outside the park, Prairie Creek can become one of the outstanding parks in the State.

On August 11, according to an announcement I recently saw, President Johnson signed H.R. 903, which adds 5620 acres of land to Kings Canyon National Park. This includes Cedar Grove and Tehipite Valley.

Title to the 95 acre John F. Kennedy Grove near El Sobrante has been given to the East Bay Regional Park District by the County. The park lies between San Pablo Reservoir and the San Pablo Dam Road. The park is expected to be open next year. ... East Bay Regional Park has bought a 240 acre piece of property (the Erickson property) at the upper end of Sunol Valley east of the Sunol Valley Regional Park.

Walnut Creek Park Bonds passed. It is hoped that a green belt can be set aside around a portion of Heather Pond, to save some of the wildlife.

It never became part of a park but Galindo Pond is slowly being squeezed out of existence. Bulldozers and dirt haulers are pouring in dirt by the truckload and gradually filling it up. A few ducks and geese are still using what little water remains.

\* \* \* \*

Audubon Center in Berkeley (2426 Bancroft Way) is open from Noon to 5 p.m. during the week and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday for the sale of books, records, gifts, etc. Mail orders promptly handled. Book lists and a descriptive folder will be sent by the Berkeley office upon request.

\* \* \* \*

Ed Misc (Editor) .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. Phone: 696-1341



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Ann Cavanagh, 682-5127  
1431 Barbis Way, Concord, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Dec. 24)

December, 1965  
Volume 12, No. 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Ferd Ruth will discuss the University of California's new Lawrence Hall of Science.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m. Duck Feeding Area at Lake Merritt in Oakland. For information contact Bill Betts at 685-5119.

Christmas Count: Sunday, January 2, 1966. Contact Lynn Farrar at 283-3938. Potluck dinner at 6 p.m. at the Schad home, phone 685-7897, 2906 Concord Blvd., Concord.

Next Screen Tours: Monday, December 6, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. D.J.Nelson and his "Inherit the Wild".  
Monday, January 17, 1966. DVC Gym. Walter Berlet and "Northwest to Alaska".

....

Last April, as part of a program on nature study, Ferd Ruth only had time to sketch briefly the plans for the future of the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley. This huge, outstanding science laboratory is the only institute of its kind in the U.S. and is designed to be a service center for training science teachers. It is still under construction near Grizzly Peak, behind Berkeley. When completed it will have many unique features, some of which Ferd has helped to plan and design. He is now assembling numerous portable natural history teaching kits and specimen drawers. At our December 9 meeting, we can expect Ferd Ruth to give an enthusiastic up-to-date report on the progress of the Lawrence Hall of Science.

....

It has been years since we have scheduled a field trip at Lake Merritt. This year we will have one three weeks before the Christmas Count, so that members can study a variety of birds close at hand, as an aid in bird identification for the Count. Several birds of interest are in cages. Meet at the Duck Feeding Area at 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 12. Go down Broadway into Oakland and turn east on Grand Avenue, and at Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt) take Bellevue Ave. to the Duck Feeding Area, which is just east of the Boat House.

....

The annual Christmas Count will be held on Sunday, January 2, 1966, so you won't have to worry about Christmas presents and skulking birds at the same time. Lynn Farrar will be in charge. Call him at 283-3939 for assignment, and he will try to place you where you want to count the birds - he's that anxious to have counters. By contacting him you avoid duplication of count areas. Experience not necessarily needed - you might furnish roving eyes and be a tally keeper for a birding team.

The Potluck Dinner that evening will start about 6 p.m. at the home of George and Muriel Schad, 2906 Concord Blvd., phone 685-7897. We were in their beautiful home two years ago. Please contact Muriel Schad ahead of time, so she will know how many to expect and you will know what to bring. Bring chairs, TV trays or card table, eating equipment - and food.

The Schads live at 2906 Concord Blvd, on the SE corner of that street and Parkside. The easiest way is to come into Concord on Willow Pass Road, and about 0.6 mile east of Galindo you come to Parkside, where there is a Tidewater Station and the Concord City Hall on diagonal corners. Turn right and go south two short blocks to Concord Blvd. The Schad home is set back from the street and has a tile roof.

....

In case you get this in time, there is an Audubon Wildlife Film program on Monday, December 6, at the Diablo Valley Gymnasium at 8 p.m. It features D. J. Nelson of Billings, Montana, who is famous for his nature study documentaries.

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Also, the Contra Costa Park and Recreational Council will have its Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 7, at the Elks Club in Walnut Creek. If time permits, you can contact Genevieve Sattler, 685-5315, for reservations.

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The November Field Trip to Jack London State Park and the neighboring ranch was held on November 14 despite heavy rains the previous day. The scheduled leader, Marianne Shepard, was confined to the ranch house with a broken ankle, so Field Trip Chairman Bill Betts took over. Persistent rains discouraged birders, and it turned out that only Bill and I made the walk. Despite the drippy weather, we had a good time and amassed a huge total of 22 species and hundreds of birds, including crows, juncos, and blackbirds. Deep in the woods, near the Wolf House, we saw several thrushes. At least six Hermit Thrush came out from under the drippy leaves to inspect the drippy people, and Varied Thrush posed nearby in bright plumage. About time for lunch, a flock of Cedar Waxwings swarmed in the top of a toyon and gulped down the berries.

....

The Beitzels scored again, by showing their latest collection of slides at our November meeting before a full house. Specializing in redrock country and desert arches, they showed magnificent pictures of Capitol Reef and Arches National Monuments, as well as the view from Dead Horse Point State Park near Moab, Utah. Not all of the pictures were of rocks, for Violet had captured a healthy marmot on film.

....

The Audubon Wildlife Screen Tour on November 1 featured Chet Lyons and his "Nature's Plans and Puzzles". The first reel gave a good tourist view of British Columbia, and the second reel had more to do with the animals, birds, and flowers. Mr. Lyons puns and sparkling wit enlivened the show.

....

Greetings to our newest members:

Hilary and John Stanley, Jr. of 2431 Oregon Street, Berkeley.

Mr. Stanley is Director of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek, and he attended our November meeting to explain the Museum's dreams. He expressed the hope that in time our Society would be able to help with exhibits, library, advice, and furnish leaders for nature and bird hikes. John was impressed by the fact that our President had set up an "Alexander Lindsay Museum Committee".

....

Personals:

We were glad to welcome back the Swensons at our November meeting. Carl and Ruth were away for 14 months on a fabulous trip to the East Coast, and soon will be going on another shorter trip. The Swensons added 123 new birds to their list on their Eastern trip.

Other wanderers, Rufus and Minnie Johnson, have returned from their Mediterranean cruise.

The retirement life must sound good. Dick Beitzel recently waved farewell to Tidewater Oil, and Violet will stop teaching in June. Then comes more trips - and I would be surprised if the Redrock Country didn't see them soon thereafter.

A sad note is the recent death of Maurice Johnson's wife, Charlotte, after a long illness.

....

It was good to read that 90 acres are being added to Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County. This will extend holdings along Bolinas Ridge and along 700 ft. of the Lagoon, will double the trail network, and will fully protect the watershed. The acquisition of this Ranch is nothing short of fabulous.

....

There is a movement afoot to take 800 feet off the top of San Bruno Mountain to fill tidelands (Redwood Shores).

A similar desecration was the plan to channelize 280 miles of the Colorado River between Davis Dam and the Mexican border. The bottom of the river was to have been concreted, and all vegetation along the banks removed. Fortunately the work was suspended before much damage had been done.

....

Parks:

It was good news to hear that, at the request of the Governor, the State Highway Commission will draw up plans to avoid putting that freeway through Prairie Creek State Park.

The latest additions to our National Park system are: Assateague National Seashore, off the coast of Maryland and Virginia; three National Recreation Areas, at Delaware Water Gap in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks in West Virginia, and our own 225,000 acre Whiskeytown Recreation Area in Northern California.

The city of Richmond has leased some beach at Point Molate from the Navy and Standard Oil for public use.

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Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Good Birding  
from your Editor,

*Ed Orize*

1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 94520. (688-1341)

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