



The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

(Next Deadline: Jan. 22)

January, 1966
Volume 12, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. John Bruce will discuss his recent work in wildlife management and show pictures of his cross-country trip.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 23. We meet leader John Larson at Sabella's in Marin at 9 a.m. and then go to Rodeo Lagoon and the Audubon Richardson Bay Sanctuary.

Next Screen Tours: Monday, January 17, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Walter Berlet will show "Northwest to Alaska".

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John Bruce, our President back about 1958-59, will give us an interesting program at our meeting on January 13. John recently returned from an academic year at the University of Minnesota, where he did postgraduate studies in wildlife management. He will describe his projects there, and then will show slides of the family trip to Minnesota and back.

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Field Trip Chairman Bill Betts has lined up an excellent field trip for January 23. (NOTE: This is a week later than our usual January field trip date). We will make our first trip as a group to the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary at Richardson Bay. Our leader will be John Larson, Ornithologist-Manager at this Sanctuary in Tiburon.

But first of all, meet at the Sabella-in-Marin parking lot at 9 a.m. Going north on U.S. 101 from S.F., it will be to the left of the freeway just after you cross the Richardson Bay bridge. Coming south on U.S. 101 from San Rafael, it had better be to the right. Take the Belvedere-Tiburon-Hill Valley turnoff.

Mr. Larson will first guide us to Rodeo Lagoon, located in the Marin Headlands. After that we go to the Sanctuary. Expect to see a variety of waterfowl and other interesting items on that ol' check list.

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The next Audubon Wildlife Film will be on Monday, January 17, with Mr. Walter Berlet returning again to show us the northwest -- this time a trip to Alaska. He went out and captured many of the larger animals on film. Here is your chance to see a mass migration of thousands of caribou.

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The many who stayed home on our December meeting night missed an excellent program by Ferd Ruth. He not only gave a complete rundown on the new Lawrence Hall of Science, but also revealed that he has been active in compiling information on space biology and in setting up a fabulous natural history field school having sessions at Squaw Valley, Aillomar, and the S.F. Bay Area. (next summer)

At this meeting we voted to send folding money to the bird banding station at Ft. Reyes. Also, we voted to send a letter to the State Park Commission urging that money be appropriated for the expansion of Mt. Diablo State Park. We urged, but the Commission didn't.

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Members stayed away from our December Field Trip to Lake Merritt, too. Leaders Bill Betts and Paul Covel guided themselves and a handful around the Lake, possibly seeing Barrow's Goldeneye. Also grebes & cormorants.

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D.J. Nelson's screen tour, "Inherit the Wild", was one of the best. His personality sparkled during his lecture, and his films covered a wide variety of oddities, such as the manatees in Florida.

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We welcome our newest members,
Robert F. Buttery and son, 33 Starling Court, Walnut Creek.
Mr. Buttery is a Range Conservationist with the U. S. Forest Service.

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Personals:

Congratulations to George and Muriel Schad, who celebrated their first 50th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 20th.

Frank Hamets was in charge of tickets for a Michigan State Alumni pre-Rose Bowl dinner held recently at the Claremont. Frank and Jane probably had a better time there than at Pasadena.

As 1966 dawned, I heard a tape recorded by former member Bev Wilder addressed to a Walnut Creek folk-dancing party and played at their New Years Eve party. Bev expected to dance the New Year in. The Wilders live in the northern part of Chicago directly on Lake Michigan.

Lynn Stafford, naturalist at the Audubon Center at Richardson Bay, is leaving the Center to go to school at Sonoma State.

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Parks:

Walnut Creek is applying for federal "open space" funds to pay half the cost of acquiring 83-acre Heather Farms.

The Ford Foundation granted a million and a half cast wheels to the Save-the-Redwoods League to help purchase and preserve the Gold Bluffs seacoast area of Prairie Creek State Park.

There is talk of a plan to create a major national wildlife refuge covering the rocks and reefs off the coast of Oregon. This would help preserve important colonies of puffins, auklets, cormorants, and gulls.

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41 Whooping Cranes have returned to the Aransas Refuge this year and 3 more slowpokes were said to be on their way. This would be the highest number there in years. ... The Whoopers are not the rarest birds in the world by any means. There are said to be only 15 Japanese storks and 10 Japanese crested ibis left out of former thousands, and Japan now calls them National Monuments. Ah, so.

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

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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

(Next Deadline: Feb. 21)

February, 1966
Volume 12, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. George Coles will discuss Brooks Island and report on archaeological diggings there and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, February 13, 9 a.m. Conn Dam. Leader: Harry Couden (934-8873). Meet at the old stone bridge on the Silverado Trail, 2 miles out of Napa.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, February 21, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Clifford Carl and the "Essence of Life".

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We have heard a lot lately about Brooks Island, but it is doubtful if any one of our members has been there. This island, off Richmond, has been selected by the County Board of Supervisors and the East Bay Regional Parks District to be one of the acquisitions resulting from the successful state park bond election held last year. There has been no opposition to Brooks Island. But just what is there? At our next meeting we will find out. Our speaker will be George Coles, teacher at Contra Costa College (San Pablo), who has made many trips to the Island and other spots in the Bay Area searching for evidence of primitive Indians. Here is your chance to learn about Brooks Island from someone who knows his subject thoroughly and presents a good program.

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Almost every year we go to Conn Dam - sometimes early in the winter, and sometimes late. This year will be later in the season than usual. It should be a beautiful trip, if the winter rains bring up enough grass, and we may be fortunate in finding birds not usually seen during the colder and foggier months. We will meet at our customary place, near the old stone bridge on the Silverado Trail, at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13th. To get there, go into Napa and bear to the right for about a mile on the road going to Winters (new Highway 121; old Highway 37), and then turn north onto the Silverado Trail, which runs parallel to Highway 29. A short distance on will be the stone bridge. After birding in the grove of creekside trees near there, we will proceed to Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey. Bring lunch, warm clothes, and good shoes. The typically Couden good weather will be furnished, for your pleasure.

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Our next Audubon Wildlife Film, on Monday the 21st of February, will feature Clifford Carl, who was last here in 1960. Mr. Carl is director of the Provincial Museum at Victoria, B.C., and is a nature writer for the Victoria Times. His film, entitled "Essence of Life", shows how different plants and animals depend upon water for existence.

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One of the largest crowds ever to attend an Audubon film at DVC came out on Jan. 17th to see Walter Berlet's film, "Northwest to Alaska". The audience was not disappointed, for the excellent film showed many aspects of the 49th State. How Mr. Berlet ever got clear skies at such places as the Pribilof Islands, McKinley Park, and Haines is a mystery to anyone who knows Alaska weather. The lecturer had fabulous pictures of some of the animals and birds - especially a Jaeger, a Gyrfalcon, a loping wolverine, wolves, and caribou. (Incidentally, the cars leaving the parking lot later bore a resemblance to the caribou migration we had just seen).

....

We had a good turnout for our January meeting, too, at which time John Bruce discussed work he had done at the U. of Minnesota and also showed many slides of Minnesota and of trips across the continent. Particularly impressive were slides of dioramas at the U. of Minnesota as well as in a Swedish Museum in Minneapolis. Devastation of a tornado that came within two blocks of the Bruce home was clearly shown in other pictures, but it was surprising that nests in a heron rockery nearby remained intact during the winds. John told of telemetry studies being made at the U. of M. and cited one case of a mother fox being "tagged" and followed on an oscilloscope as she went to three of her cubs on three different farms. ... A special bonus on the program was the display of a large collection of dolls made by Helen Bruce. She explained that during the long winter days in Minnesota she was often alone for several hours and used the time profitably to make the interesting dolls.

Treasurer George Schad reported that we have again received a donation from Alice and John Porterfield for the annual conservation awards in our name. The Porterfield Awards are always well received, and Alice and John are to be commended for helping in the education of future naturalists. The Awards will be presented at the final Wildlife Screen Tour, on March 22.

We welcome our newest member, a Reading Consultant,
Mrs. Georgia Cook, 30 Broderick Drive, Apt. 8., Brentwood, Calif.

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Observations:

Joy Meagher reports a Snowy Egret in that marvellous backyard of hers, which fronts on Walnut Creek.

I saw a White-tailed Kite two days in a row over the field between Galindo Pond and Buchanan Field. Haven't seen one there for months.

During his stay in Minnesota, John Bruce had the privilege of seeing the giant size Canadian Goose. This large bird was believed extinct, and accounts of early hunters were discounted - but all of a sudden it showed up again.

44 Whooping Cranes checked in at the Aransas refuge - the highest number since the start of the refuge. 8 young ones. 1 Crane was killed enroute, when it apparently tangled with a power line.

Santa Clara Audubon spotted 3 Golden Plovers (near Alviso, and east of Zanker Road) during their Christmas Count.

....

Here is a report from one of our vagabonds -- Ingra Lusebrink. It was written at Manatee Springs State Park, Florida, on Jan. 20th:

"I enjoyed two weeks at Everglades National Park. It is lovely now, but the water level is about where it should be next Spring. The Park was in a sorry state last summer, as you may have read in the Audubon Magazine or the November Reader's Digest. Last year was the worst of five years of drought, and most of the fish were killed. The population of most of the fish-eating birds and animals is way down.

"It would help if everyone wrote to Florida's Governor and reminded him that the Park is something special. The water problem cannot be solved by the Federal Government, because all the water is within one state. If one little canal crossed a state line, it would be a different matter. There are many fields of vegetables and citrus, so naturally there is pressure to keep the water for the farmers. I heard over the radio that within 5 years the citrus acreage will be doubled, so I'm afraid the Park will suffer.

"Now I must tell you about my trip around the Anhinga Trail. It is a third of a mile long. You can see many birds, as well as alligators and turtles.

"One evening, as I was coming back, I stopped by a little bridge and really hit the jackpot. A Black-crowned Night Heron put on a show. Instead of standing frozen, this one showed his three plume feathers, preened, and shook himself. A Snowy Egret was standing in front of him with his golden slippers showing; three White Ibis were probing vigorously; a Great Blue Heron flew within 25 feet; a Purple Gallinule gingerly walked around on the grass; two Pied-billed Grebes and a couple of Coots were playing. An Anhinga had been fishing and came in to hang her wings to dry, but as the sun was behind a cloud she kept shaking her wings and tail. An American Bittern was playing hard to find not 20 feet away. To climax it all, a Limpkin came out in plain sight. The sun was behind a cloud, and I do not have a picture of the scene. This was New Years Eve -- an extra present for I'll ole me.

"Hope everybody had a wonderful Holiday Season. I will see you all before long."

(Ingra)

(How's that for real observations! I'm always glad to brighten up "The Quail" with such account from our wanderers .. so send them in.)

....

Our Christmas Count this year was quite successful -- 120 species, second high to the 123 two years ago. It was a crisp morning (28°) to start, but the sun warmed things up before long. ... Choicest find was in the early evening, when Jane Nemets was hurrying home on Marsh Creek Road within the count area and a Poorwill flew up and hit the car. Jane investigated and found that the bird was only stunned, so it can be added to our count. Another choice item was a Black-throated Gray Warbler at some Lafayette feeders. ... Lynn Farrar's report has been delayed, because he ran down to L.A., but we hope to have it by the next issue. ... All who attended the potluck and resume at the Schads home that evening were pleased with the abundance of choice foods and the warmth of the Schads' hospitality. Many thanks to Lynn, George, and Muriel for an enjoyable day. ..

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

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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

(Next Deadline: Mar. 25)

March, 1966
Volume 12, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Jack Port will discuss the San Luis Drain and its effect on wildlife.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 13, 9:30 a.m. Moss Landing. Leaders: Frieda and Clair Shackelford.

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, March 22, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Patricia Witherspoon and "Stepping Stones to Australia".

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Our speaker for the March 10 meeting will be Jack Port, engineer in the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, whose specialty is water and waste disposal. He will discuss the San Luis Drain and will bring in some of the effects it might have on wildlife.

The San Luis Drain, as you may have read, is the means by which run-off irrigation water will be removed from the San Joaquin Valley. The big problem is where to dump it, since the drain water will be contaminated with insecticides, salts, and other harmful materials. Some people think it would be just great to dump it into the river near Antioch; others think the drain should swing around the Bay and that the gunk be piped into the ocean. This subject is being actively discussed in Congress and will become increasingly important. So here is your opportunity to become more familiar with the whole deal.

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Frieda and Clair Shackelford (phone: 935-1344) will be leading the trip to Moss Landing on March 13. Here are their instructions:

"The March field trip will be to one of our favorite areas, Moss Landing, south of Watsonville on Highway 1. Make a right turn about a half mile north of Moss Landing onto Jetty Road, where we will meet at 9:30 a.m. Look for a light blue Rambler Station Wagon or a turquoise Dodge Station Wagon. Bring a lunch and wear warm clothing. We have not had a trip there for two years and it is time we went back. We will bird the lagoon, the ocean, and perhaps the slough."

o o o o

Our final Screen Tour on Tuesday, March 22, will again bring us Patricia Bailey witherspoon, daughter of Alfred Bailey, Director of the Denver Museum of Natural History. Mrs. witherspoon was here in 1960 with an excellent film on Australia. This time she will take us to the Hawaiian Islands, little Canton Island, and the Fiji Islands. We will see birds and animals we have slim chance of seeing otherwise.

A special feature of this Screen Tour program will be the awarding of the Porterfield scholarships, in our name, to meritorious students and some county residents interested in conservation and nature.

....

At our February meeting, George Coles from Contra Costa College gave us an interesting talk about Brooks Island, which is in the Bay about a thousand yards off Richmond and is being considered as a potential park. Presently under lease to a group headed by Bing Crosby and Trader Vic, the island has known other less distinguished inhabitants for about 4000 years, according to Mr. Coles, who has dug up a lot of evidence in the past 6 years. He presented slides showing how systematic excavations are being made on the island. It was particularly depressing, though, to see pictures of vandalism that took place about a year ago after the island had been opened to an outdoor club for a day. Mr. Coles also exhibited many artifacts picked up at the excavation sites.

....

Here is Harry Couden's report on the field trip to Conn Dam, Feb 13:

"We must rate this field trip a success even in mid-February and without much chance of listing Swan or Wood Duck. It's a success from the standpoints of weather (arrangements are easier in February), people (30), people comfort (12 cars), and bird turnout (70 species). We left the bridge assembling point with a list of almost 40 species, and the good omen persisted when we discovered a roadside field with groups of California, Ring-billed, and Mew Gulls. (Perhaps the high tide at Vallejo relates to this event). Of other interest were an immature Bald Eagle (by the Farrars), quite frequent sightings of Varied Thrush, and numerous Ring-necked Ducks.

"Birds observed: Western & Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; Canada Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked, and Ruddy Ducks; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bufflehead; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawks; Bald Eagle; Quail; Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; California, Ring-billed, & Mew Gulls; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black Phoebe; Steller & Scrub Jay; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wren; Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Varied Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Hutton's Vireo; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Pine Siskin; American & Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Rufous-crowned, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

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The Oregon Audubon Society reports that a lone juvenile Cattle Egret was seen in late November, 1965, on Sauvie Island, in the Columbia River. The observation was confirmed.

Here is Lynn Farrar's report on the Christmas Count, held Jan. 2, 1966:

"Considering the coolness of the day, I think it is excellent that 27 observers took part in our Count. We saw 120 species during the actual count, making this is our second best year. In addition, 6 more species were seen during the count period. 4 species were new to the list and are underlined below. Thanks lots everybody; and special thanks to the Schads for opening their home to us for the potluck and summary meeting.

"Birds observed, and numbers: (1/2/66)

Eared Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 16; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 2; Green Heron, 3; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Common Egret, 6; Snowy Egret, 26; American Bittern, 1; Whistling Swan, 1; ~~Black-necked Stilt~~; Mallard, 113; Gadwall, 15; Pintail, 2001; Green-winged Teal, 15; Cinnamon Teal, 6; Shoveler, 1045; American Widgeon, 500; Redhead, 10; Ring-necked Duck, 5; Canvasback, 10; Lesser Scaup, 1; Common Goldeneye, 12; Bufflehead, 18; Ruddy Duck, 119; Turkey Vulture, 17; White-tailed Kite, 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 25; Golden Eagle, 3; Marsh Hawk, 20; Sparrow Hawk, 35; California Quail, 131; Ring-necked Pheasant, 4; Common Gallinule, 4; American Coot, 321; Killdeer, 191; Black-bellied Plover, 6; Common Snipe, 15; Long-billed Curlew, 20; Willet, 5; Greater Yellowlegs, 31; Least Sandpiper, 25; Western Sandpiper, 175; Avocet, 13; Dunlin, 23; Long-billed Dowitcher, 4; Glaucous-winged Gull, 10; Herring Gull, 50; California Gull, 250; Ring-billed Gull, 200; Mew Gull, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 5; Unidentified Gulls, 1826; Canada Goose, 84; Band-tailed Pigeon, 160; Mourning Dove, 293; Barn Owl, 2; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 4; Poor-will, 1; White-throated Swift, 61; Anna's Hummingbird, 27; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Red-shafted Flicker, 127; Acorn Woodpecker, 49; Lewis' Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Nuttall's Woodpecker, 18; Black Phoebe, 2; Say's Phoebe, 9; Horned Lark, 2; Violet-Green Swallow, 20; Tree Swallow, 5; Steller's Jay, 27; Scrub Jay, 158; Crow, 2; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 4; Plain Titmouse, 88; Common Bushtit, 135; White-breasted Nuthatch, 37; Wrentit, 13; House Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 11; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Rock Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 42; California Thrasher, 4; Robin, 143; Varied Thrush, 52; Hermit Thrush, 28; Western Bluebird, 116; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 57; Water Pipit, 51; Cedar Wax-wing, 122; Loggerhead Shrike, 26; Starling, 127; (Varied Thrush, 82) Audubon's Warbler, 187; Black-throated Gray Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 1; House Sparrow, 178; Western Meadowlark, 455; Red-winged Blackbird, 2241; Tricolored Blackbird, 8; Brewer's Blackbird, 5255; House Finch, 5229; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 715; Lesser Goldfinch, 233; Rufous-sided Towhee, 99; Brown Towhee, 102; Savannah Sparrow, 6; Oregon Junco, 533; White-crowned Sparrow, 566; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 239; Fox Sparrow, 15; Lincoln's Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 57.

"Other birds observed during the count period:

Horned Grebe; Common Merganser; Lesser Yellowlegs; Burrowing Owl (dead); Northern Shrike; Myrtle Warbler; Purple Finch."



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(Next Deadline: Apr. 23)

April, 1966
Volume 12, No. 10

Next Meetings: Thursday, April 14, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Helen Sharsmith will discuss "Wild Flowers of the San Francisco Bay Region".

Next Field Trips: Sunday, April 17, 9 a.m. Mrs. Sharsmith will lead the group into the Livermore Hills and San Antonio Valley to view the wild flowers and birds. Meet at the Flagpole in Livermore.

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Program Chairman John Davis has lined up a special program for April 14. We will have the pleasure of having Helen Sharsmith, Director of the Herbarium at the University of California (Berkeley), discuss and show the flowers of the region. Mrs. Sharsmith is the author of the excellent, recently-published guide, "Wild Flowers of the San Francisco Bay Region".

(John Davis points out that this would be an opportunity for anyone having Mrs. Sharsmith's book to bring it to the meeting and have her autograph it. The book, by the way, is available at the Co-op's "Books Unlimited" at \$2.25 a copy.)

....

Our next field trip is synchronized with the meeting, for on Sunday the 17th we meet in Livermore and go up the Arroyo Mocho and into the San Antonio Valley to see the wild flowers and any birds that happen to be in the area. Here is one of the greatest concentrations of wild flowers within the Bay Area, and if conditions are right you can look for a truly spectacular sight.

We meet at 9 a.m. on the 17th at the Flagpole in the center of Livermore (East Main & Livermore Avenue) and then proceed out Livermore Avenue and the Mines Road and up the Arroyo Mocho. The San Antonio Valley is on the way to Mt. Hamilton. ... It has been three years since we went in there looking for birds, so it will be good to get back into this beautiful country. ... Bring lunch, shoes, plenty of gas, and warm or moderate clothing depending upon the weather.

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(Apology No. 1: "The quail" for June, 1965, states that we had a field trip into San Antonio Valley last May.)

....

At our meeting on March 10, Jack Port, Assistant Director of the County Works Department, scared us half to death with his gloomy picture of the future water conditions in the Delta. When the Peripheral Canal is built to take Sacramento River water around the delta and into the San Joaquin, our water supply near Antioch Bridge will be in jeopardy. What makes matters worse is the thought that the San Luis Drain outfall may be in the vicinity of our water supply. Mr. Port had large charts available to show us the location of the subject of his interesting talk.

....

The final Audubon Wildlife Tour was given on March 22, with attractive Patricia Witherspoon showing pictures of Oahu, Canton Island, and Viti Levu. We saw many varieties of terns ... in fact we saw her put a rock in a tern nest, where it became an undertermed stone. The Fairy Terns were beautiful against the blue sky. And let it never be said that bats are little things ... those fruit bats in the Fijis are about as big as redtailed hawks, sipping through the trees.

A feature of this program was the awarding of the Porterfield Conservation awards, as well as the field school scholarship awarded by our own Society. Recipients of the Porterfield Conservation Awards receiving a copy of E. Lawrence Palmer's "Fieldbook of Natural History" were:

"Doc" Mattison, who did so much for the County Parks before he jumped over the fence to become Director-Manager of the East Bay Water recreation parks;

Al Burton, the Past President and Director of the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council, a powerful conservation force in this area; and

Our own John Stanley, who is up to his neck working to get the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum off the ground.

Joseph Russe and Bob Reeves, DVC students planning teaching careers, were given Porterfield financial scholarships to help them attend the San Jose Field School of Natural History. A third student, Diana Hudson, was given a Mt. Diablo Audubon Society scholarship to the same school. Miss Hudson is assisting at the Jr. Museum. She won a Porterfield award last year.

During the program, Ferd Ruth announced that this would be the last Audubon Wildlife Tour that he would chair. After 16 years, Ferd is moving his headquarters into Berkeley, where he will be Associate Biological Scientist at the Lawrence Hall of Science. He had indicated as much to us at our December meeting. In appreciation of Ferd's work these many years, many of his associates teamed together to present him with a copy of the Sierra Club's album, "Last of the Redwoods". "I surely hope I won't see the last of the redwoods", Ferd remarked.

....

At our March meeting the new By-Laws were adopted in a matter of minutes, after the Coudens had worked over them for a matter of months. At the time of the adoption, we added Article VIII (next page), which you can write or attach to your copy. We also took a long first step towards incorporation as a non-profit Society - a step long overdue.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall apply to all parliamentary procedures not specifically covered in these By-Laws.

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We welcome our newest member:

A. P. Boileau, 139 Paraiso Dr., Danville 94526

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Observations:

Harry Couden took his eyes off the traffic long enough to see a Cooper's Hawk flying near the Tunnel recently.

Lynn Farrar says that the Allen's Hummingbirds have checked in, the Orange-crowned Warblers are next, and other migrants are due. So keep thine eyes open.

Golden Gate Audubon's "The Gull" reports conclusive sightings Feb. 21 by 6 birders of a Bald Eagle out the Marsh Creek Road near the junction with Camino Diablo.

Stockton Audubon's Doris Shanks reported in "The Hoot Owl" that between 600 and 700 Long-billed Curlews were seen near Stockton Jan. 2.

The Beitzels, Shackelfords, & Schads recently trailered at Uvas Meadows, at the eastern foot of Hecker Pass, and quickly counted about 45 species of birds, including Horned Owls.

Our expedition to Moss Landing on March 13 produced Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, and White Pelicans at least.

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Parks:

Good news: Pt. Reyes Seashore Park will be enlarged by 1120 acres on the Drakes Bay coast, directly south of the Bear Valley Ranch.

The proposed U.S. Redwood National Park has been shrunked about half, to 45,000 acres; but if Rep. Wayne Aspinall sits on the measure in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, like he says he will, the proposed park may shrink down to 0 acres. Aspinall is the guy who single-handedly delayed enactment of the Wilderness Bill for several years.

...

According to our brand new By-Laws, a nominating committee is to present a slate of new officers at the April meeting for voting thereupon. So far the current nominating committee (Bill Betts, Carolyn Raynesford, and me) ~~has~~ lined up the following:

Proposed President ...	John Davis
Proposed V. President...	John Stanley
Proposed Treasurer ...	John George Schad

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You might be interested in Leavitt McQuesten's "Albatross Expedition" offshore from Santa Cruz on Monday, June 13. Tickets \$1.50. Contact V. Anderson, 227 Linden St., Santa Cruz, Calif. ... Or Golden Gate's circling of the Farallons on Saturday, April 23. Fee \$9.50 per person. Contact Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., SF 94109. Deadline 4/15.

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(Next Deadline: May 21)

May, 1966
Volume 12, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Don Protzman will discuss the "Geology of Contra Costa County".

Thursday, June 9, 6 p.m. Annual Potluck dinner and meeting, to be held at Lucy and Bill Bett's home, 5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord. Details in next "Quail".

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, May 7th & 8th. Pinnacles National Monument. Leader: Harry Adamson (283-2164). See below.

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Last month our Program Chairman, John Davis, presented Helen Sharsmith, an authority on Bay Area wild flowers. This month John has again arranged for an expert in the field - Don Protzman, science instructor at Diablo Valley College, who will discuss the geology of our county. Mr. Protzman is well known for his column on geology which frequently appears in the "Contra Costa Times". Thus, our next meeting sounds like another interesting program for our education and enjoyment. (We had hoped that Mr. Protzman would be able to lead us on a field trip soon, but he has informed us that his schedule is completely filled for the next several months.)

....

The May field trip will be the weekend before our next meeting. It will be a camping trip. On May 7th & 8th, Harry Adamson will lead us at Pinnacles National Monument, which we have not visited for three years. Harry's directions are as follows:

"Meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday the 7th at the west end of the old CCC camp at the bottom of the hill. (Note: This is now called Chalons Creek Campground and is reached by the paved road continuing on from the entrance road. The pavement ends at the campground. Do not meet at the Park headquarters) We will do general birding Saturday. Sunday at 6 a.m. we walk down the road before breakfast. Then at 8:30 we hike up the Four Mile Trail. Pinnacles National Monument is about 135 miles from Walnut Creek. Come early, if possible, because it's a popular place in May and may be a little crowded. Bring camping gear, food, flashlight, and sturdy shoes. The nearest motels are in Kings City and Hollister."

....

Circle June 9th on your calendar and plan to attend our annual Potluck dinner-meeting. Those who attended last year will be pleased to hear that Lucy and Bill Betts have again offered their beautiful and spacious home for our enjoyment. Directions and food instructions will be in the next "Quail".

....

Anyone who thinks our Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is strictly for the birds should have tried to squeeze into our April meeting. Probably the largest crowd we have ever had came out to hear. Dr. Helen Sharsmith talk on flowers. There were some of our members there who had not been to a meeting in years, if ever, and the number of guests showed that people in the area are reading Beth Reynold's excellent publicity in the papers. Mrs. Sharsmith did not let us down either, for she gave a commendable and illustrated talk on flowers of the Bay Area. We learned that there are 16 biotic communities within the Bay Area. Mrs. Sharsmith introduced each of these communities with a general slide and then showed some of the flowers that could be found therein. The slides were from the Chas. Weber collection owned by the Sierra Club.

....

The following Sunday, Mrs. Sharsmith led a field trip into the Livermore Hills, to seek some of the flowers she had discussed at our meeting. Again she attracted a large audience (about 50 people in 15 cars). It was a beautiful day in the hills - slightly windy at times, but not uncomfortable. The party met in Livermore and then took the Mines Road into San Antone Valley, stopping enroute at the Colorado Creek Divide, where nearly everyone climbed some of the "serpentine barrens" on Red Mountain for the view and to see uncommon plants struggling to live in the talus. Some of us also saw horned toads and even a rattlesnake curled in the chaparral near the road. San Antone Valley did not have massive displays of flowers, probably because there have been no recent rains. Further, as John Davis writes -

"All those who were able to stay to the end of the trip were rewarded by seeing Streptanthus callistus, a small, very rare red-purple flower which only grows in a restricted area south of San Antone Valley and which had been discovered and named by Mrs. Sharsmith. The Golden Blazing Star, one of the most beautiful of wild flowers, was also found and photographed".

At our lunch spot, with its view of the hillsides covered with blooming white buckbrush (*Ceanothus*), Harry Adamson spotted a Gnatcatcher.

Here is a list of plants seen, as compiled by Florence Klinger:

"Calif. Poppy; Mustard; Horehound; Wild Radish; Filaree; Dwarf, Blue, Lavender, Yellow & White Lupines; Ithuriel's Spear; Bush Monkey Flower; Blue Brodiaea; Wild Cucumber; Fiddleneck; Mallow; Yarrow; Buttercup; Cream Cups; Naked Buckwheat; Owl's Clover; Purple Nightshade; Miner's Lettuce; Pineapple Weed; Indian Paint Brush; Mule Ears; Shrubby Yellow Aster; Goldfield; Western Wallflower; Phlox; Burr Clover; White Forget-me-not; Popcorn Flower; Blow Wives; Phacelia; Dandelion; Woodland Star; Tidy Tips; Evening Primrose; Cotton Weed; Wood Violet; Bird's Eye; Aquatic Buttercup; Meadow Foam; Indian Clover; *Montia Gypsophiloides*; Golden Blazing Star; Jewel Flower; Checker Lily; Sickie-leaved Onion; Fringspod; Chia; Yerba Santa; Calif. Sagebrush; Morning glory; Red Maids; Bitterroot; Red Larkspur; Meadow Rue; Varied-leaved *Collomia*; *Streptanthus callistus*; *Navarretia abramsii*; Milk thistle; Galium; *Acanthomintha*; *Chaenactus*; Pepper Grass; Oregon Grape; Coffee Berry; Yellow Currant; Great-berried Manzanita; Buckbrush; Silk Tassel Bush; Elderberry; Blue Oak; Live Oak; Digger Pine; Willow; Tree of Heaven; Buckeye; Chamise. 13

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At our April meeting, a panel of proposed officers for the 1966-67 year was presented by Carolyn Raynesford, for the Nominating Committee, and was swiftly approved by the members. The winners, who will be installed at our June meeting, are:

President	John Davis
Vice President	John Stanley
Secretary	Luella Augason
Treasurer	George Schad

Some of these officers will attend an Audubon Workshop in Berkeley on May 14th. Future Pres. Davis will soon be lining up his committees, and he hopes for unanimous affirmative response from contacted members.

....

Observations:

Isabel McGeehon phoned to say that for the first time she has seen flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons on the hill behind her place.

Bill Betts says that a couple of Golden Eagles have his house on their flight pattern and are occasionally overhead. Closer to the earth are his Western Kingbirds, which have returned for our June meeting.

Once upon a time, on April 12, Frieda Shackelford looked out her window and saw four hummingbird species: Anna, Allen, Rufous, and Calliope. Other Calliopes have been seen since. Recently, Frieda observed 9 hummers (mostly Anna's) at a feeder at one time. ... At Linnatour Spit (in Pt. Reyes Seashore), the Shackelfords saw hundreds of Black Brant wearing a "green necktie", apparently a banding identification.

Elizabeth O'Meara reported seeing a Red Crossbill sometime back, and also what she says could only have been a Yellow-throat and a Lawrence Goldfinch.

....

It is not too early to think about attending the 62nd National Audubon Convention, which will be held Nov. 11-16 this year in Sacramento. The program will consist of two days of reports and discussions (Saturday & Monday) and two days of field trips and special events. Featured on programs will be Nathaniel Owings, Margaret Owings, Jeffery Cohelan, Edwin Z'berg, Martin Litton, and many others. You don't have to be an Audubon member to attend. To register and receive full information about hotel accommodations, the prices of field trips, and other events, send five dollars to Mrs. Duryea Norton, Audubon Convention, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830.

....

John Stanley phones to say that

"The City of Walnut Creek has apparently hired architects for the Heather Farm project, and preliminary plans will be presented to the Recreation & Park Commission at their next meeting (Monday, May 9) in the City Council Chambers. It is hoped that some of our members will show up at this meeting and urge that a portion of the Pond be retained as a waterfowl preserve."

(Sounds like a good idea, folks.)

....

The Conservation Workshop at Diablo Valley College on March 26 was well attended by a huge crowd (but unfortunately not by many of our members). There were several informative speakers. Two of our members, Ferd Ruth and Jane Nemetz, participated in the panel discussion on Conservation Education, and your bloomin' editor acted as reporter for this panel.

....

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

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

(Next Deadline: June 23)

June, 1966
Volume 12, No. ¹⁷ 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 9, about 6 p.m. Annual Potluck Dinner and Meeting, at Lucy and Bill Betts' home in Concord, 5131 Myrtle Drive. Contact Mrs. John Davis at 228-2509 as to what to bring.

Next Field Trip: None scheduled at this time.

....

Our June meeting will follow our annual Potluck Dinner, on June 9. This year we again meet at the home of Lucy and Bill Betts, 5131 Myrtle Drive, Concord, shortly after 6 p.m. Members who attended last year will testify that it was a wonderful evening of fun and eats; and this year should be no exception. As this is partially a fund-raising event, the low fee of a dollar an adult and 50¢ per child will be collected during the evening.

The Betts home is east of Concord on Myrtle Drive, which runs between Bailey Road and Kirker Pass Road at the base of the hill and about a mile north of Clayton Road. You can't miss. If you drive out the Ignacio Valley Freeway, continue onto Kirker Pass Road until Myrtle Drive crosses it at the bottom of the hill. A short distance to the left (west) will place you at the 5131 Myrtle Drive sign, and then drive up the hill to the house and ample parking. You can't miss. If you come from Concord or Martinez, you can go out Concord Blvd. or Clayton Road, turn left on Ayers Road, and turn right at Myrtle Drive, at the school, and go almost all the way to Kirker Pass Road. You can't ... well, if you do miss, you can always call Bill Betts at 685-5119 and get better directions.

Bring food, dishes, utensils, chairs, and TV trays or a card table. Bring sufficient of a hot dish, salad, or dessert to fill several people. Contact Mrs. John (Tammy) Davis at 228-2509 ahead of time and arrange with her as to what to bring, so we don't all bring the same thing.

After a short business meeting, including installation of officers for the forthcoming year, there will be a showing of colored slides by the well-fed volunteers. Bring a couple dozen slides on any subject. Last year we went to the Trinitys, Yosemite, Havasu Canyon, Iowa, Colorado, and Washington. Only you know where our armchair travels will take us this year.

....

So far, no field trip has been planned for June. The busy schedules of potential leaders, and poor attendance on previous June trips, are prime reasons for not making the effort this year.

....

As an example of poor attendance, consider the recent trip to Pinnacles National Monument. The weather was ideal - sunny on Saturday, and cool on Sunday for the High Peaks trail. But aside from the leaders (the Adamsons), exactly 3 members showed up for the Saturday hike and only 3 members and 2 guests on Sunday. Harry spotted a Golden Eagle on the way back from Old Pinnacles on Saturday. The Sunday trip up cool Bear Gulch, to the tune of a Warbling Vireo, featured an abundance of swifts, flycatchers, and Violet-green Swallows.

....

Our May meeting featured Don Protzman, geology instructor at Diablo Valley College. He described rock formations in the County and then showed slides of familiar areas to illustrate these formations. We learned that Mt. Diablo is practically surrounded by faults. There are also faults along Franklin Canyon Road, Pleasant Hill Road, and many other spots in this area. The only volcanic rocks appear to be near Bailey Road. Mr. Protzman brought along some fossils to show us. All in all it was an interesting evening.

....

Observations:

Band-tailed Pigeons have been reported from several areas in recent months. Harry Adamson had about 30 at a feeder and was able to take pictures. Elvyra Holsclaw has seen pigeons in the hills behind her home on Alhambra Way.

Elizabeth O'Meara says she had a Hooded Oriole in her garden a few weeks ago.

Lynn Farrar hit the jackpot at Rockport, Texas, with 173 species in 3 days of birding.

Ferd Ruth told of witnessing a Thrasher attack an immature Jay in his backyard. In the ensuing battle, four Brown Towhees formed a square boxing ring around the combatants. Ferd thinks the Towhees were acting as guards to make sure the Jay didn't get away.

Frieda and Clair Shackelford went to Mexico, beyond Masatlan, and reported good birding.

....

Personals:

John Davis, Luella Augason, Ann Cavanagh, Engra Lusebrink, and Ed Mize attended a Northern California Audubon conference in Berkeley.

Former member Eleanor Pugh is closer to us. Her husband, Bob, is now ranger in charge at the Hearst San Simeon State Park.

It will be farewell to teaching for Vi Beitzel this June.

We welcome our newest members:

Don and Dottie Millen, 3206 Dover Way, Concord.

....

This copy of "The Quail" marks the end of my 5th year as Editor. I have been asked to continue for yet another year and plan to do so. I'd like at this time to express my appreciation again to Frieda Shackelford and daughter, Pat, who for the last 5 years have faithfully given freely of their time to mail "The Quail" to you several days before each meeting. It's a job that has been well done.

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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: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: July 25)

July, 1966
Volume 13, No. 1

Next Meeting: None scheduled until next September.

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10. Wrights Lake. (See below) Lynn Farrar, leader. (Phone: 283-3938)

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Lynn and Ruth Farrar plan to be at Wright's Lake the second weekend in July, and Lynn has volunteered to lead bird hikes for any of our members who happen to be there that weekend. If you think you might be at Wright's Lake on July 9 & 10, please call him at 283-3938.

To get there: Take U.S. 50 through Kyburz, pass "Fred's Place", and continue on to the Wright's Lake sign on the left, which points to the 8-mile road up the hill. There have been some changes in camping regulations at the Lake recently, so camp where you can and meet Lynn at a spot he designates. The Lake offers opportunities for birding, camping, boating, and swimming. Considering the earlier summer this year, it is hoped that the road will be in better shape than usual. And the mosquitoes may be hungry, so bring the repellent, Ma.

....

Again, we thank Lucy and Bill Betts for loaning us their comfortable home for our June Potluck Dinner and Meeting. It was a pleasant evening in every way. Tammy Davis, in charge of the food schedule, had things so arranged that there was just the right amount of everything for everybody. 36 Members and guests attended and left \$33.50 to swell our bank account. A non-paying guest was a skunk, whose name I don't recall, who came in with John Stanley. John explained that his friend was a choice, live, museum exhibit from the Jr. Museum.

Our officers for the next year were installed at the meeting which came after the dinner. We voted 25 dollars to a Hiking and Riding Trail Fund, set up my citizens in Lafayette to raise money to start a survey of trails in this area. John Davis submitted a letter to the Regional Park District saying that we favored purchase of 480 acres of Las Trampas land. ... We also voted written support to advocates who want to preserve Buena Vista Lagoon, near Oceanside. This is one of the last marshes in Southern California - highly coveted by bulldozer owners down there.

Ferd Ruth was presented with a Letter of Commendation and Thanks from our members. Ferd has now moved his lab bench to Berkeley (Lawrence Hall of Science), but plans to continue to live in Walnut Creek.

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As usual, slides were shown after the dinner and the meeting. From the dessert we went to the desert, for Vi Beitzel and Newell Wood showed fine pictures of Joshua Tree and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monuments respectively. Harry Adamson proved that he is an artist with the camera, as well as with the brush, with excellent close-up pictures of birds taken from a blind. Engra Lusebrink showed several pictures from Florida and the Okefenokee, and Ed Mize showed what he claimed were his "30 Best".

We signed up a new member that night. Heartiest greetings go to -
Paul E. Schulz, 4451 Canyon Way, Martinez.

"Ernie" Schulz has attended some of our recent meetings and field trips. He is Superintendent at the John Muir National Historic Site. He is a veteran of 25 years with the Park Service, with tours of duty at Hawaii, Lassen, and Grand Canyon National Parks. He's the fellow who wrote the guide to the Lassen Highway, which has helped so many of us enjoy a car trip through the Park. We are glad to have him in our group.

Attached to this issue of "The Quail" is the annual membership list. I've tried to be as accurate as possible, with the help of Frieda Shackelford, who mails quails, and George Schad, who collects your money. If you know of errors, let me know, and a correction will appear in the next issue. There are 140 names on this list, compared with 139 on last year's list - a gain of 0.72%.

John Stanley reports that Mr. Ames of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at U.C. (Berkeley) is beginning a ten year study on White-tailed Kites and would be interested in reports of sightings of this bird in this area.

President John Davis has initiated a policy this year for Field Trips, as follows: On trips away from this area, it is essential that the leader be notified by those who plan to make the trip, since trips may be cancelled if lack of interest is evident. It is not right to ask someone to lead a trip a hundred miles away from here and then have only a couple of members show up. This has happened too many times in the last few years.

Those anti-park-bond advocates, who say that we have too many parks, should note the huge crowds that overwhelmed opening day activities at Lafayette Reservoir and Lake Chabot. Our Society helped to overwhelm Lafayette, with a hike around the Reservoir scheduled for the warm night of June 13th.

It was good to read that Morro Rock is now safe from nibbling. If you have seen The Rock in recent years, you have noticed that chunks of it have been eaten away - by the Army Engineers - for the purpose of building breakwaters. Congress has just passed a bill turning The Rock over to California for park use only, and we can expect this scenic attraction to remain as it should be from now on.

The House has passed bills to establish the Oregon Dunes National Seashore and the Guadalupe Mountain National Park (in West Texas). Now if the Senate can do its work before adjournment, there may be some excellent additions to our Park system soon. Hearings were held recently at Crescent City on the controversial Redwood National Park, and the statement was made that if we keep on "we might talk this Park to death".

Membership List July 1966

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette	283-2164
Aitken, David	289 Chestnut St.	S.F.	YU 6-3837
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
Boileau, A. P.	139 Paraiso Dr.	Danville 94526	837-2353
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	325 La Tierra Buena	Danville	837-9554
Burde, Virginia	34 La Campana	Orinda	254-5500
Buttery, Robert & Douglas	33 Starling Court	Walnut Creek	934-6253
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 Schofield Ct.	Concord	682-5231
Cook, Mrs. Georgia	30 Broderick Dr. Apt. 8	Brentwood	
Couden, Harry & Dorothy	1491 Sunset Loop	Walnut Ck. 94598	934-8873
Cornelius, Bob	3143 Wayside Lane	Walnut Creek	934-6873
Davis, Carroll	2134 McGee	Berkeley	
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
Greenfield, Henry & Eleanor	1955 Lucille Road	Pl. Hill	682-2192
Greuner, Mrs. Wm., Jr.	877 Broadmoor	Lafayette	284-4562
Hall, Lucy A.	140 Esther Lane	Danville	837-2681
Haward, Mrs. Richard	Box 435 South Gate Farms	Diablo	
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
Hoxler, Ruth J.	948 Hawthorne Dr.	Lafayette	284-4559
Huffman, Ava	20 W. 16th St.	Antioch	757-2923
Hulse, Mrs. Anita C.	4831 Pacheco Blvd.	Martinez	228-2732
James, Mrs. L. (Esther)	1931 Altura Drive	Concord	682-0439
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. C.E.	Apt. 1, 1388 Rockledge Ln.	Walnut Ck.	939-2922
Johnson, Maurice W.	3630 Serrano St.	Martinez	228-5347
Johnson, Rufus	Box 161 (2827 Concord Bl.)	Concord	685-5560

Kalivoda, Mr. & Mrs. John	1861 Polk St.	Concord 94521	689-5587
Kenaston, Georgia	1362 Ulfonian Way	Martinez	228-5846
Klinger, Florence	072 Green St.	Martinez 94553	228-2650
Lusebrink, Engra	140 The Trees Drive	Concord 94520	
Lynch, Jim M.D.	3758 Serrano St.	Martinez	228-2999
Mackamey, Rhodus & Bessie	P.O. Box 55	Walnut Creek	934-3014
Mann, Mrs. Evelyn B.	1707 McKean Place	Concord	682-0305
McCarthy, Robert & Hazel	P.O. Box 641 (1929 Dora Ave.)	Wal.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
Millen, Don & Dottie	3206 Dover Way	Concord	685-6518
Miller, Jessie B.	P.O. Box 26	Antioch	
Mize, Ed	1255 Mt. Diablo St.	Concord 94520	686-1341
Mohr, Mr. & Mrs. A.C.	P.O. Box 83	Orinda	254-5026
Monheit, Molly Jane	1107 Magnolia Lane	Lafayette	284-4261
Nelson, Betty	1324 Davis Ave.	Concord	686-2435
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
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	Walnut Creek	939-2794
Rieser, Dick	45 Tarry Lane	Orinda	254-4861
Roemer, Elsie	1556 Everett St.	Alameda	LA 2-0941
Ruth, Ferd & Juliet	43 Cuesta Way	Walnut Creek	934-8803
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle	1700 El Camino Real, Rue 20-10	So. S.F.	
Schad, George & Muriel	2906 Concord Blvd.	Concord	685-7897
Sattler, Wm. & Genevieve	4050 Poplar Ave.	Concord	685-5315
Schaefer, Leo & Virginia	801 North Gate Rd.	Walnut Creek	939-5260
Schaller, Richard & Margaret	330 Sunset Ave.	Concord	685-7641
Schulz, Paul E.	4451 Canyon Way	Martinez 94553	
Schwarber, Mr. & Mrs. A.J.Jr.	& James 30 Appianz Court	Danville	837-5207
Schlotter, Jack W.	Mt. Diablo State Park, Box 258	Diablo	837-2521
Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. James	130 Richard Lane	Walnut Creek	935-0359
Shackelford, Clair & Frieda	712 Laurel Drive	Walnut Creek 94596	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	685-7444
Smith, Emily D.	19651 Glen Una Dr.	Saratoga	
Soulé, Mrs. J. Brill	33 Charles Hill Rd.	Orinda	254-5807
Stanley, John, Jr. & Hilary	298A Lester	Oakland	
Steller, Mrs. Sally	939 Carol Lane	Lafayette	284-4370
Swenson, Carl & Ruth	c/o 1012 El Curtola Bl.	Walnut Creek	
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
Wood, Newell & Ella	1121 Ulfonian Way	Martinez	228-1617
Wright, John A.	1791 Sunnyvale Ave.	Walnut Creek	934-3366
Wymer, Robert & Mary	P.O. Box 101	Martinez	932-3357



The Quail

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

(Pres: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Aug. 15)

August, 1966
Vol. 13, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. The program will be announced in the next issue of "The Quail".

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, Sept. 11. Details next month.

....

Summer is here, and our meetings and field trips are in estivation. They spring into action in September. There is nothing definite yet on the September program, but we are thinking of one dealing with the East Bay Regional Parks, to be followed a few days later with a field trip to the Sunol Water Temple and Sunol Regional Park. More information next month.

....

Some of your Board members got together at John Davis' home recently and succeeded in hammering out a rough draft of potential program subjects for the next season, as follows:

September	Regional Parks
October	National Parks
November	Nature Photography
December	Audubon Convention Reports & Christmas Count Discussion
January	Travels
February	Bird Studies
March	Delta Problems
April	Wild Flowers
May	Wild Rivers

The Management reserves the right to change this list almost without notice. If you have any suggestions to offer, call John Stanley, our Vice President and Programme Committee Chairman. He can be reached at the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, phone 935-1978.

The January meeting will be held a week later than usual. We have word that there will be an Audubon Wildlife Film at the DVC Gym on our regular meeting night, the second Thursday of the month.

....

Field Trips were also discussed at this Board meeting. Tentative trips discussed but awaiting definite plans are:

September	Sunol Water Temple & Regional Park
October	Geology of Contra Costa County
November	<u>Hollinger Canyon (St. Marys) & Fossils</u>
December	Annual Christmas Count
January	Kennedy Grove & San Pablo Reservoir
February	Strawberry Canyon, U.C. (Berkeley)
March	The Delta
April	Wild Flower Trip
May	Possibly an overnight camp

The November trip will be the first Sunday in that month, so as not to conflict with the National Audubon Convention in Sacramento the following weekend. ... The Christmas Count will be the only Field Trip in Dec. ... The trip in mid-May might be an overnight camp in a park where group reservations can be secured, followed by a Sunday bird walk.

John Davis had difficulty in lining up a Field Trip Chairman, so he has decided to be one himself. If you have helpful suggestions, contact him at 228-2509. He will be calling on some of us to be leaders.

....

President John Davis and the Board hope to initiate certain ~~plans~~ policies this year, such as:

1. Meeting will start promptly at 8 p.m. for Minutes and brief reports. At 8:15 the speaker will take over. The rest of the business meeting will be conducted after the speaker is through.
2. For all Field Trips there will be someone for you to call, if you plan to go. Then if the trip is cancelled, because of lack of interest or dirty weather, you will be notified.
3. Members proposing that our Society take action by letter on problems are asked to bring a suggested letter to the meeting. If the letter is approved by the Society, it can be given to the Secretary for transmittal to the proper organization.

....

A communication recently received indicates that the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory will begin a training program for potential banders on Aug. 15, to be taught by Marianne Shepard of the Jack London Ranch. The training program will run concurrently with Operation Transient, the banding of birds in the area during the fall migration. The Observatory has just moved to a new site, on the ocean, just north of Bolinas. Operation Transient begins at the new location on Aug. 1 and runs through Oct. 31. There are several places open in the schedule for volunteers who can help out in recording and observing during this period. No banding experience needed. Limited accommodations available at a modest nightly fee. If interested, write promptly to:

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell
c/o Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Mesa Road
Bolinas, California

....

We welcome our newest member —
 Mrs. Mabel B. Farrer, 2401 Pine Knoll Drive, No. 2, Walnut Creek
 Mrs. Farrer is a secretary for Montgomery Ward in Oakland.

....

Observations:

One of our younger members, Dennis Clemens, in his Junior year at U.C., has switched from an Eeon major to a Forestry major. This summer he has been at Cal's Forestry camp in the Sierra. According to information relayed by the Coudens, he says:

"Having classes 6 days a week leaves little time for bird watching, but I've gotten up on all three Sundays instead of sleeping-in late so that I could see a few things. It has been worth it. I go by myself to spend the whole morning hiking and looking in a logged area, along creeks lined with alders, dogwood, or willow, and in a meadow with a few willow thickets bordered by a mixed conifer forest. These are some of the birds I have positively identified:

"Canada Goose; Mallard; Red-tailed Hawk; Mountain Quail; Ruffed Grouse; Mourning Dove; Spotted Sandpiper; Calliope Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Hairy, White-headed, and Pileated Woodpecker; Red-breasted Sapsucker; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Rough-winged, Tree, and Cliff Swallow; Steller's Jay; Mountain Chickadee; Bushtit; Brown Creeper; Red-breasted Nuthatch; House Wren; Dipper; Robin; Swainson's Thrush; Audubon, Yellow, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warbler; Brewer's Blackbird; Western Tanager; Purple and Cassin Finch; Evening and Black-headed Grosbeak; Green-backed Goldfinch; Lazuli Bunting; Oregon Junco; Fox, Song, and Chipping Sparrow; Common Nighthawk; Turkey Vulture; Rufous-sided Towhee; Townsend's Solitaire."

That list should make you hungry to get into the Sierra and see a few birds yourself. No report has been received from the Wright's Lake expedition this year, but it is safe to say that many of the birds on the above list were also seen at Wright's Lake.

....

The Concord City Council has approved purchase of the 6.25 acre Markham Nature Area. About a year and a half ago our Society went on record as favoring purchase of this arboretum and nature area.

Heather Pond, in Ignacio Valley, is threatened by "improvements" which would fill one end of the pond and see some of the trees chopped down. Audubon members, especially those living in Walnut Creek, should check on this and make their wishes known to the City Council and Recreation Department.

The special session of the California Legislature held a long session but did little in the way of conservation. We do have the promise of the screening of some junkyards, and possibility of a redwood scenic ~~xx~~ road and trail system.

The House has passed the Guadalupe Mountains National Park bill, which would cover 77,500 acres of Texas, including the highest point in the State. The measure now goes to the Senate for committee action.

Conservation lost a great booster, by the death of C. M. Goeths of Sacramento. He was a strong advocate for the preservation of park lands, especially in the redwoods, and gave the Jedediah Smith Grove of big trees in Del Norte County.

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23



The Quail

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

(Pres: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.)

(Next Deadline: Sept. 26)

September, 1966
Vol. 13, No. 3

Next Meeting:

Thursday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. A representative of the East Bay Regional Park District will speak about present development of the parks and future plans for the District.

Next Field Trip:

Sunday, Sept. 11. We meet at the Sunol Water Temple at 8:30 a.m. and then go to the Sunol Valley Regional Park.

....

This issue of "The Quail" is being prepared several days earlier than usual, so as not to conflict with vacation plans. But it's just a little too early to have definite statements about our next program. We have been assured, however, that the East Bay Regional Park District will have a speaker for us for our September 8th meeting. We can expect a good run-down on the status of the Park District and plans that are being made for future developments. It has been several years since an EBRPD official has talked to us, so this is our chance to be brought up to date on Park matters. Let's have a good turnout.

....

The Park District has also said that a ranger will be available to lead us into Sunol Valley Regional Park on the following Sunday morning, Sept. 11. In order to avoid confusion in finding the place, we are asking you to meet at the Sunol Water Temple, which is directly on Cal. 21 about 9 miles south of Dublin. (If the gate is open, we can have an excellent few minutes of birding at the Temple, but it is possible that the area will be closed because of the walnut harvesting. In such a case, meet at the gate and we will go on from there).

Sunol Valley Regional Park, of 3,870 acres, has been open only a few years. It is but a few miles from the Water Temple and off of Calaveras Road. A portion of this park is being kept undeveloped, and the birds love it. Our group will arrive at Sunol Park about 9:30 and probably leave about 3 hours later, so lunches may come in handy.

If you plan to go on this trip, you are asked to notify the Coördinator, John Davis, at 228-2509. He might be able to give you more definite information, and he will also be able to contact you in case there are changes in plans at the last minute. Please contact him no later than Friday evening, September 9th.

....

Observations:

None reported. (Surely you have seen something thrilling and unusual this summer, and the rest of us would like to hear about it. But your Editor hasn't yet received the note you were thinking of writing!)

I took the NWP rail trip between Willits & Eureka in late July and was amazed at the number of Great Blue Heron seen along the Middle Isl.

....

Member Florence Klinger suggests that you be given the wording of that section of the California Fish & Wildlife Plan concerned with proposed hunting in National, State, and Local Government Parks, i.e.:

"Hunting is restricted in these parks. When hunting does not threaten the public safety, it should be allowed and encouraged. Legislation at the appropriate level of government should be promoted and enacted."

There is evidence that some of the officials in our State government are in favor of permitting hunting in some parks. At a Berkeley meeting of Audubon representatives of the Bay Area in May, there was considerable discussion of this California Plan with Fish & Game representatives who presented it to the group. I asked the spokesman how you could have hunting in a park without threatening public safety, and the reply was that the simplest means would be to close off a portion of a park for a couple of weeks and just let hunters in! The Plan is to be brought up again at the National Audubon Convention in Sacramento in November, and undoubtedly there will be a lot of discussion then. So far the Plan is but a plan, and there will be many hearings before any action is taken.

....

Bay Area Audubon Societies have been asked to distribute brochures from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, which has now moved from its former location at the Heims Ranch near Inverness to the old Palomar Rancho near Bolinas. Here they now occupy an old school and service buildings adjacent to the Point Reyes National Seashore. Here they band birds and run bird censuses under the direction of Howard Cogswell, Marie Mans, Marianne Shepard, and Jack Whetstone. Volunteers are needed to band, record, and prepare and process the records. If interested, contact Dr. Howard Cogswell, c/o Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, California.

....

Special notice to Members and to Bay Area Audubon Societies:

For the next year, our

Program Chairman is John Stanley, c/o Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, 1901 - 1st Ave., Walnut Creek, Calif. 94596 ; and

Field Trip Chairman is John A. Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif. 94553.

....

(not to mention the struggling editor, who is still

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

....



The Quail

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

(Pres: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.
94563)

(Next Deadline: Oct. 21)

October, 1966
Volume 13, No. 4

Next Meetings: Thursday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Paul "Ernie" Schulz will talk about the National Parks in Hawaii.

Next Field Trips: Sunday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m. Lafayette Reservoir. Leaders: Harry Couden (934-8873)

Sunday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. Bollinger Canyon Road (at St. Marys College). Leaders: Ed Nise and John Stanley.

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley Gymnasium. Mary Jane Deckeray in "These Things Are Ours".

....

A special treat is in store for us at our next meeting, Oct. 13. "Ernie" Schulz, one of our newer members and Superintendent of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, will give an illustrated talk on the National Parks found in the Hawaiian Islands. Ernie, long with the National Park Service, was stationed in the Islands for a number of years. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is famous for its active volcanoes, and Haleakala National Park for the plant life found in this ancient crater. Scenery abounds. We can look forward to a very interesting evening.

....

The Oktober Field Trip, on the 16th, will almost be in our backyard. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Lafayette Reservoir parking lot, where 50¢ will be extracted from each driver for a parking fee. To get to the Reservoir, get off the Freeway and go through the town of Lafayette, and you will find it on the west end of town. Leader Couden will saunter us around the Lake, meanwhile observing the birds. Picnic tables are available, so go ahead and bring a lunch. Typical Couden good weather is almost guaranteed. Since the bird walk will be held locally, it will not be necessary to call a coordinator; but Harry's phone number is 934-8873 in case you have any questions.

....

Incidentally, the November Field Trip will be held on November 6, the Sunday before our November meeting. The date has been advanced a week in order to avoid a conflict with the National Audubon Convention, being held at Sacramento the following weekend. We will explore the Bollinger Canyon Road area adjacent to St. Marys College, and we can expect a good assortment of birds. Editor Wize will head the search for birds, while John Stanley will point out some of the fossils he found in the area during his school years. (And I don't mean the professors John didn't go to college there!)

....

The first Audubon Wildlife Tour of the season will be on Tuesday, Oct. 25th, at the DVC Gym. Mary Jane Dockeray will present a film entitled "These Things Are Ours". Actually the picture was taken by veteran Audubon photographer Walter Berlet, who showed a film on Alaska during the Audubon series last year. Miss Dockeray, geologist and nature lecturer with the Grand Rapids Museum, will narrate the film. She has been on the staff of Audubon camps in Maine and Wisconsin, and for years produced a weekly radio program on natural history. The film will present much spectacular natural beauty and will include scenes of birds and animals to be found in the north woods.

....

Elizabeth O'Meara informed me that a former Mt. Diablo Audubon member, John Irving, died of cancer in mid-September. John and his wife, Erna, will be remembered by many of the older members of our Society - for it was the Irvings who opened their cabin at Columbia to Mt. Diablo members on some field trips several years ago.

....

John Davis has announced the following Committee members:

Hospitality - Joy Meagher, Engra Lusebrink, and Tammy Davis.
 Membership - Elvira Holsclaw.
 Publicity - Norma Warner

....

Our first meeting of the new season, on September 8, brought out a smaller crowd than usual - in part probably due to the forthcoming long weekend for some members and to the fact that other members were still on vacation. But the 20 or so who did attend heard a very interesting duet of talks by two East Bay Regional Park District officials.

Christian Nelson, head of the District's Interpretive studies, started out by saying that "99 and 44/100% of today's public has failed to do its job in the out of doors by not keeping the young people in contact with nature." He thinks that EBRPD lands should be "lands for learning". Much of his talk was about the work done at Tilden Park with pupils from five local school districts.

Rulet Hornbeck, in charge of land and water acquisitions, came supplied with charts and maps showing the parcels now owned or considered by the District. He was especially enthusiastic about the prospects at Coyote Hills, near the Dumbarton Bridge, and at Clifton Court Forebay, near Byron. The latter will amount to 4000 acres. Closer to home, the EBRPD is trying to obtain verbal agreements to easements for a hiking and riding trail from Mt. Diablo to Las Trampas.

Since the meeting, the District has arranged for the purchase of 480 acres in the Las Trampas region and has been ~~reassured~~ assured of funds for over a thousand acres on top of the ridge - all the nucleus of an outstanding wilderness park close to our homes. Also, the Federal Government has granted EBRPD almost \$100,000 towards the purchase of 266 acres at Lake Chabot.

....

Observations:

Not much locally - except that Joy Meagher's gallinules produced four little gallinules during the summer.

On Sept. 22 I saw a White-tailed Kite fluttering and perched in the field across from what used to be Galinde Pond. I'm sure he found no food in that desolation area!

At San Simeon, former member Eleanor Pugh observed a Yellow-throated Vireo - the second state record.

An estimated three-quarters of a million Sooty Shearwaters are said to have been observed one day in August at the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory.

....

Richard Bower, active in the Diablo Hiking Club, has asked me to state that that club would sure appreciate donations of nature interpretative books and maps you may no longer need, to augment the volumes of outdoor subjects in a library the club is starting. If donations are made to the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park Department, sponsors of the Diablo Hiking Club, you can deduct the value from your income tax. If you are interested, call Mr. Bower at 686-6543.

....

A pygmy opossum has been found in the Victorian Alps of Australia. The beast is only 4" long, with a 6" tail. The find is considered of great importance, because up until now the pygmy opossum has been considered extinct and known only from Pleistocene Age fossils.

A couple of years ago eight Arabian oryx - a very rare type of antelope - were established on a desert refuge near Phoenix. The climate agrees with them, and so far seven males and one female have been born. There is hope that the animal, which faces extinction in Arabia, can be saved in Arizona for the world.

....

Members who have birded at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge these past few years will be interested in learning that Sanford Wilbur, the naturalist there, has been transferred to Portland, Oregon, where he will study and inventory possible wilderness areas in the western National Wildlife Refuges.

Carl Buchheister's talk at the National Audubon Convention in Sacramento will be his swans song, for he has announced his forthcoming retirement.

....

Ed Mize, Editor
1255 Mt. Diablo Street,
Concord, Ca. 94520
(phone: 686-1341)



The Quail

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

(Pres: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.
94553)

(Next Deadline: Nov. 21)

November, 1966
Volume 13, No. 5

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. Meet at the junction of St. Marys Road and Bollinger Canyon Road. Leaders: Ed Mize (686-1341) and John Stanley.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Newell Wood will show some of his Nature Photography.

Next Screen Tour: wednesday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley Gymnasium. Eben McMillan showing "The Shandon Hills".

....

Newell Wood, a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon, will show a variety of color slides on nature subjects at our meeting on November 10. Many of his pictures were taken in National Parks of the west. Those of us who attended the Potluck dinner last June will recall the fine pictures of Organ Pipes Cactus National Monument shown by Newell. But this area is only one of the many reserves that he has visited in recent years searching for pictures of natural beauty. Come and enjoy his selection.

....

Please note that the next Field Trip will be a week earlier than usual and will be held on Sunday, Nov. 6th. We will meet at the junction of St. Marys Road and Bollinger Canyon Road, adjacent to St. Marys College, and where abundant parking is available. To get there, drive into Lafayette and follow the signs to St. Marys College for about 4 miles. Just beyond the green MORAGA sign, Bollinger Canyon Road comes in from the left. We will walk up the surfaced Bollinger Canyon Road, which gradually climbs. It can be enjoyable there in good Fall weather, and there could be an assortment of birds at the old reservoir and in the woodlands. Ed Mize will be a leader for the birds, and John Stanley will point out the geology of the ancient lake bed cliffs and some fossils. It is hoped that the weather will cooperate, but if it raining cats and dogs you can roll over and go back to sleep. If you have questions about the trip, call Ed Mize at 686-1341. We should be back to the cars shortly after noon, so lunches are optional.

....

The next Audubon Wildlife Film is scheduled to be "The Shandon Hills", presented by Eben McMillan on November 23. This would be a repeat performance, since this same film was shown in February 1963. But it is an excellent picture and well worth seeing again. It has many excellent views of birds of our area and features a conversation with "Old Tuck", pioneer rancher of the Shandon Hills (near Cholame, east of Paso Robles). Mr. McMillan is an outstanding California rancher and conservationist, and is justly famous for the study of the condor he helped with two years ago.

....

Another film to be shown at the Junior College in the near future will be the Sierra Club's "Glen Canyon", which will be presented by the Diablo Hiking Club on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 8 p.m. in Room 101 of the Music Bldg. Narrator will be the Sierra Club's Robin Way. You can see the canyon that was destroyed by a dam before the people realized what was lost.

....

We had an excellent turnout for our October meeting, and fellow-member Ernie Schulz didn't let us down. He started off his slides with a tourist view of Hawaii, and then went into areas that most tourists never see - the thrilling sights of the national parks in Hawaii. Ernie was a ranger in the Islands before World War II, so some of his pictures were somewhat dated, but they were still of interest. He was extremely fortunate to be present during an eruption of Mauna Loa in April 1940, and his slides of this eruption were some of the most spectacular shown to our group in many years. Starting with a 20-mile-distant night shot of a red sky illuminated by earth's fires along a huge crack in the mountain, successive pictures showed how the rift gradually sealed itself and left lava fountains to spew red hot rocks into the air for hundreds of feet.

At this meeting, too, Florence Klinger told us of a proposal to withdraw 960 acres of public land about 8 miles northeast of Desert Center on the Parker Dam Highway in Riverside County for the purpose of establishing a "Desert Lily and Wildflower Natural Area". But the Bureau of Land Management cannot set aside the land until the people ask for it, so at Florence's suggestion we voted to send a letter of endorsement. Individual letters of support will also be of value and should be sent to Mr. Hall McClain, Bureau of Land Management District and Land Office, 1414 8th St., Box 723, Riverside, Calif. 92502. No land needs to be purchased - it is already public land. All it will cost you will be a 5¢ stamp and some of your time. Now that's a real bargain.

John Stanley presented a short talk on woodpeckers, aided by a mounted collection (of 1900 vintage) of slightly worn woodpeckers that had been given to the Lindsay Junior Museum. Included in the collection was an Ivory-billed Woodpecker - a bird which today is considered practically, if not completely, extinct.

We also voted to incorporate. The last I heard, Bill Betts said that everything was ready awaiting a few signatures.

Your editor expects to attend the National Audubon Convention at Sacramento (Nov. 11 - 16) and was asked to serve as Mt. Diablo Audubon's official delegate.

....

Typically beautiful Couden weather prevailed for the October field trip at Lafayette Reservoir. 22 members and guests showed up bright and early on a sunny morning and were pleased to find tranquility and excellent birding so close to home. At least 42 species of birds observed the group, which leisurely strolled up and down the wide path around the Lake. In the last quarter mile, Lynn Farrar was seen — for the first time in months by many of the members, since Lynn now often lives out of a suitcase. Easily the bird sighting of the day was a swarm of 18 Wood Ducks, which zoomed around the reservoir a few times before plopping onto the water, to be confirmed by the 'scopes. A migrating flock of Cedar Waxwings went for the berries. The birders were treated to the sight of a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker during the lunch stop.

Birds observed: Hared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Mallard; Wood, and Ruddy Ducks; Red-tailed Hawk; Quail; Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Gulls; Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummer; Red-shafted Flicker; Lewis, and Nuttall Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Black, and Say's Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted, and Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wren; Bewick's Wren; Western Bluebird; Golden-crowned & Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Starling; Audubon Warbler; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox, and ~~King~~ Song Sparrow.

....

No bird list is available for the September field trip to the Water Temple and Sunol Regional Park, but those who went were enthusiastic. 12 birders showed up. Praise was given to Dick Angel, the Ranger at Sunol Park, who led the group into a beautiful, isolated area.

....

We welcome our newest member:

Margaret Lacrampe, 8 Mariposa Lane, Orinda;
And Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mohr have moved to 3301 Golden Rain Manor 1,
Walnut Creek.

....

Two additions to the National Park Service were approved recently by Congress before it quit work ...

Painted Rocks National Lakeshore, 67,000 acres of picturesque wildness on the Lake Superior shore of Upper Michigan; and
Guadalupe Mountains National Park, a 77,000 acre slice of the highest mountains in West Texas.

....

Well, the Beitzels ought to be home about the time you get this, after a summer of gamboling around the most scenic parts of Europe. They did some gambling on the weather, too, and lost most of the time during the wet summer over yonder. In the meantime, Violet and Dick boosted Eastman Kodak stock by taking about 50 rolls of color pictures — some of which we hope to see at a later meeting.

....

Carlyle Sather has an eye for the birds, having seen a Black Rail at Inverness, Parula and Blackpoll Warblers at Rodeo Lagoon, and Tropical Kingbird at Monterey Bay. Not bad, not bad at all.

....

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: John A. Davis, 228-2509
21 Wanda Way, Martinez, Calif.
94553)

(Next Deadline: Dec. 23)

December, 1966
Volume 13, No. 6

Next Meetings:

Thursday, December 8, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. John Stanley and Ed Mize will report on the National Audubon Convention. Lynn Farrar will discuss the Christmas Count. And John Davis will give a short program on John Muir and the Muir Trail.

Thursday, January 19, 1967. The Beitzels will show pictures taken on their recent European Tour.

Christmas Count:

Monday, December 26 (a holiday). Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for assignments. ... Potluck Dinner and Summary at the home of John Davis (see below).

Next Field Trip:

Sunday, January 15, 1967. Tomales Bay - Pt. Reyes Peninsula. Leaders: Frieda & Clair Shackelford.

Next Screen Tour:

Thursday, January 12, 1967. Diablo Valley College Gym. E. T. Jones in "Canada's Mountain Wilderness".

....

Although it sounds like a long program for December, I can assure you that one portion, at least, will be short.

John Stanley and I will briefly comment on the National Audubon Convention, which we recently attended in Sacramento.

Lynn Farrar plans to be at the December meeting to tell us about the Annual Christmas Count, which this year will be held on December 26, the day after Christmas.

The frosting on the evening's cake will be provided by our President, John Davis, who has a half-hour program entitled "A Journey with John Muir". John Davis has taken portions of the Muir Trail year after year. His beautiful pictures will make you wish you'd spent more time in the High Country.

....

Our January program will be on Jan. 19, a week later than usual, so as not to conflict with a Screen Tour on the 12th. Violet & Dick Beitzel recently spent four months in the most spectacular portions of Europe, and will share their pictures with us on Jan. 19th.

....

Lynn Farrar again heads the Annual Christmas Count, which this year will be held on Monday, Dec. 26th (a holiday). Herewith is Lynn's plea for your cooperation:

"All those wishing to participate should contact me at once so that I can assign territories. Please don't wait until the last minute. It is most important that everyone be instructed ahead of time so that no counts will be made outside of our area. We have a great deal of wonderful habitat to cover, and I am sure that there is something for everyone. If a person cannot actively join a party in the field, he can perhaps take a count at or near his home. Remember, it is best to be a part of a group, so that any rare birds can be verified by more than one observer. Those who feel that they are not too experienced can always be placed with an experienced person or group. We most sincerely welcome and want newcomers, because once out on a hunt we feel that we can prove to them how much fun a count can be. Feel free to spend as much time as possible from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation can usually be provided. We have a fine tradition to uphold and past support for our Christmas counts has always been most gratifying. Please feel free to call me or my wife, Ruth, at 283-3938 at any time (preferably after 6 p.m.) for full particulars. I will be at the December 8th meeting to answer any questions."

The Traditional Potluck Dinner, followed by a summary of the Count, will be held this year at the home of our President, John A. Davis. His home is out Alhambra Valley, at 21 Wanda Way. You can get there from the Arnold Highway, by turning south at Alhambra Avenue and then bearing right on Alhambra Valley Road and going less than a mile to where Wanda Way enters on the left at the second big bend. Turn back north on Wanda Way and go almost to the end of the straight stretch and you will find the Davis home, Number 21, on the right. From Lafayette you can go out Reliez Valley Road and thence on Alhambra Valley Road to Wanda Way, which takes off at the first big bend. Call Tammy Davis (228-2509) ahead of time and let her know how many to expect and what food you plan to bring. Along with food and a chair, bring things to eat with and on. We generally start eating about 6 p.m. and wind up the summary about 9 p.m.

o o o o

There will be no regular field trip in December, since people are too busy with Santa Clausian activities and the weather could be foggy or drippy. Of course, sunny skies will prevail on Christmas and continue on through the Count the next day. Our next regular field trip will be on January 15, when we go to Marin County. Details will appear in the next "quail".

o o o o

About 20 people showed up for the November meeting. Those who didn't get there missed a wonderful display of beautiful pictures shown by Newell Wood. Newell started his program off by making us drool over the camera equipment he uses, and then he gave us tips on how to get better pictures - such as casting shadows in the background to make the subject stand out better, and by making your subject fill as much of the picture as possible. Following this discussion of technics, Newell showed slides illustrating "America, The Beautiful" - primarily of the National Parks in the West, but also with many shots of Autumn in the East. It was truly an inspirational group of slides, and some of us were ready to go home and start packing for a trip right then and there.

o o o o

President Davis reported that the incorporation papers have been signed, so in all probability we are incorporated by now.

....

Observations:

John Stanley reports that he and his Museum youngsters were within 15 ft. of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in Larkey Park recently.

Cedar Waxwings galore were seen migrating through Concord on the weekend of Nov. 5/6.

Correction: The bird list for the Lafayette Reservoir trip, which appeared in the November "Quail" was in error. White-crowned Sparrows, and not White-throated Sparrows, were seen at the Reservoir.

4 times in 7 weeks I saw a White-tailed Kite in the field across Solano Road from what used to be Galindo Reservoir.

....

Personals:

Harry Adamson is now exhibiting 18 of his waterfowl paintings at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

John Stanley, head of the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum, recently hosted a host of Museum heads.

Rosalyn Phillips, formerly a member of our group, shook my hand at the Audubon Convention and passed greetings on to those who remember her. I believe she now lives in Sherman Oaks.

Nice to see John Wright at our November meeting. He's been attending college at Susanville recently, but now is headed for service at Fort Lewis.

....

The National Audubon Convention was attended by about 1500, including John Stanley, Jane Nemetz, and myself from Mt. Diablo Audubon. Two days of interesting speeches were given by outstanding authorities, only a few of whom induced narcolepsy. Field trips, which John and I did not attend, were held under cloudy skies or in the rain.

These are some interesting facts I heard at the Convention:

Condors have been seen as far north as Hollister within the last couple of years. The range of the big birds is a lopsided U, from Hollister down to Ventura County and back up again to Kings Canyon.

National Audubon has received \$968,500 from anonymous donors (not me) to buy 613 acres of prime habitat for Key Deer in Florida. NAS owns the land but will lease it to the Dept. of Interior.

Out of 70 native birds in Hawaii when Capt. Cook landed, 27 are now extinct and 23 more are disappearing. Habitat is being ruined by wild bulldozers.

The Maumee River in Ohio is sometimes so polluted with oil and wastes that it catches on fire.

Captured falcons are shipped east from California through Utah, which does not protect such birds. We need stronger Federal laws prohibiting traffic in hawks and owls.

15,000 acres of redwood fell to the ax this year, and cutting within the proposed national park still goes on. In 2 or 3 years hardly an area worthy of preservation will remain. Rep. Cohelan scolded National Audubon for switching its support from a park in the Redwood Creek area to the Mill Creek area, where half the trees have been logged off.

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I recommend that you read an article entitled "Recovery of the White-Tailed Kite", by Don Fry (of Sacramento Audubon), which appears in the Nov./Dec. issue of Calif. Acad. of Science's "Pacific Discovery".

The November trip to Bollinger Canyon coincided with the first real rain of the season, naturally. For once we had too much publicity. Sunset Magazine listed this field trip, along with others in the Bay Area, so we had visitors from Stockton, Santa Rosa, and Lafayette. The rains came too late to call the whole thing off. Ten adults and 5 children met at St. Marys Road, and we managed to shuffle around a little between showers, during which time John Stanley pointed out ripple marks on the sandstone cliffs, and Tammy Davis spotted the California Fuchsia, last of the summer flowers. Not many birds were seen — most outstanding was a flock of intelligent, unidentified geese scrambling out of the area before the rains resumed. Soon the showers started, our hiking enthusiasm stopped, and we all went home.

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Bob Buttery, one of our members from Walnut Creek, participated in the California Condor Census, Oct. 18 and 19. Bob's observation post was located on 6704-ft. Hines Peak on the west side of the Sespe Condor Refuge. The census consisted of 2 days of intensive observation by 130 observers located at 63 points in Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties. Cooperators in the census were the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Audubon, and several interested independent observers. After 2 days of observation, all sightings were compiled by bird numbers, age, location and time of sightings, direction of flight, etc., and obvious duplications eliminated. This year's compilation boils down to 51 known Condors, as compared to 40 in 1965. (Only 21 were seen the first day this year, however). Bob saw 27 other species of birds, including Golden Eagles, from his post.

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In this regard, I sat next to John Borneman, the Audubon Condor Warden ("The Buzzard Man", he calls himself) at a luncheon at the Sacramento Convention, and I asked him where and when a person could see Condors. He said to wait until a few days after the opening of the Coastal deer season, in August, and then go down to Mt. Pinos, reached by a paved road through Frazier Park, west of Gorman. Many wounded deer wander off into the wild country to die, and then you might see as many as 20 of the big birds swooping in to feast on the carcasses.

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The first Audubon Wildlife Tour of the season featured Mary Jane Dockeray in "This Land is Ours", filmed by Walter Berlet. Miss Dockeray proved to be a very capable lecturer — especially to the children — and she threw in a few vocal sound effects to add emphasis. The pictures, mostly filmed in Michigan, warmed the hearts of the many guests who were from the Middle West. ... One sad scene portrayed the heavy slaughter of birds on TV towers.

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A casualty in the recent election was the defeat of Sen. Fred Farr, from Carmel, who has repeatedly sponsored worthwhile conservation legislation, such as: removing the bounty on mountain lions; making Highway 1 a scenic road below Carmel; getting Prop. 3, the "green belt" proposition on the ballot; anti-billboard legislation; and much more.

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

Ed Mize

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