



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: Jan. 23)

January, 1967
Volume 13, No. 7

- Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 1967. The Beitzels will show pictures of Southern Norway.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 15, 1967. Tomales Bay & Pt. Reyes Peninsula. Meet at Inverness Store at 9 a.m. Leaders: Frieda & Clair Shackelford.
- Next Screen Tour: Thursday, January 12, 1967. 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. E.T. Jones in "Canada's Mountain Wilderness".

....

"Ja vi elsker detter landet"

That's what the Norwegians sing in their National Anthem, and it probably means, "Yes, we love this land". I am sure that Dick and Violet Beitzel feel that same way, after spending part of last August in the southern part of Norway. Aided by good weather, they came away with gorgeous pictures, which they will show at our next meeting, January 19th. Time did not permit them to get into the northern half of the nation, so you won't see pictures of the glaciers or the Lapps milking reindeer. Instead, you will see Oslo, Bergen, Sogne Fjord, and points in between, plus a few pictures taken from the S.S. "Statendam", which carried them across the Atlantic. If you haven't seen pictures taken by the Beitzels, you have a thrill awaiting you. If you have seen some of their pictures, there's no point in my saying any more ... just come out and see the new ones. Remember, the date is the 19th, one week later than our usual schedule, since there will be a screen tour on the 12th.

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The January Field Trip will be held on the 15th, the Sunday before the meeting. It's back to Tomales Bay and the Pt. Reyes Peninsula, so meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot by the store in the town of Inverness. Depending upon the weather and the interest of the people who show up, Frieda & Clair Shackelford will guide us from there. It is possible that we may try Limnatour Spit (excellent for birds) in Pt. Reyes National Seashore, as well as other parts of the Peninsula. Bring scopes, glasses, lunch, sturdy shoes, warm clothes, lunch, etc. Tomales Bay always scores high in the Christmas Count, so there should be birds all over the place.



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(Pres: John A. Davis, 228-2509
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(Next Deadline: Feb. 20)

February, 1967
Volume 13, No. 8

- Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 1967. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Phyllis Lindley will speak.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, February 12, 1967. 9 a.m. Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley.
- Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, February 15, 1967. 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Howard Orans in "For Generations to Come".

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Phyllis Lindley, connected with the Audubon Nature Training Program at the Aquatic Park in Berkeley, and well known for her column, "Wild Things", in the S.F. Bay Chapter Sierra Club bulletin, "The Yodeler", is scheduled to speak at our next meeting, Thursday, February 9th. At this writing I cannot give you the exact title of her talk, but it has been said that it might deal with the structure of birds and relationship to flight. If you have ever read any of Miss Lindley's columns, you know that she is well versed on a wide variety of natural subjects. You can therefore expect a very interesting February meeting. Be sure to be there.

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The February Field Trip will be into an area that we have not birded for many years, if at all - Strawberry Canyon, behind the University of California Berkeley campus. Meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, at the parking lot in front of the Strawberry Canyon swimming pool, right behind the U.C. football stadium. Expect a good variety of birds, because the many different kinds of plants found in the botanical gardens in the Canyon furnish variable habitat. Other Audubon Societies have birded the region with good results. John Stanley will lead the expedition, unless he is able to find a member of the U.C. staff who has the time and is willing to lead us around. John can be reached during the day at 935-1978, in case you want more information.

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Our next Audubon Wildlife Tour speaker, Howard Orians, of Madison, Wisconsin, was here a few years ago with a picture on Wisconsin showing a region untouched by the ice ages. Mr. Orians returns on February 15 with another picture on Wisconsin, "For Generations to Come". He will show how his state probably looked before white man appeared, and results — good or bad — since that time. We will see some sanctuaries, with emphasis on wild animals and birds.

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It took extra chairs to provide seating space for all who attended our January meeting, when the Beitzels took us to the lower part of Norway. Actually, I shouldn't say "the lower part", because many of the pictures were taken above timberline in the Hardangervidda, the high, barren plateau between Oslo and Bergen. And many of these pictures were taken at 1/250 of a second, so that telephone poles wouldn't blur the shots from a moving train. We also saw flowers, waterfalls, blondes, and little houses perched all alone on mountainsides. A boat trip through Sogne Fjord and Aurland Fjord helped to make this a wonderful travelog. We enjoyed watching the fjords go by. Some of us would like to know how the Beitzels arranged for perfect weather in an area that averages over 80 inches of rain a year.

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Just a week before, those who attended Edgar T. Jones' Screen Tour on the Canadian Rockies were treated to an excellent blend of scenery, animals, and birds. On some of his trips, Mr. Jones hauled along a portable tower that looked like it would tip over if a bird landed on it sideways, but Jones climbed the thing and took spectacular pictures of nesting birds, such as the Western Tanager, high in the tree tops. Other fine pictures showed Harlequin Ducks, Osprey, Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, and Rufous Hummingbird.

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The January Field Trip to Tomales Bay and the Pt. Reyes Peninsula began in the fog on this side of the Bay, but the weather was beautiful over there. The Shackelfords first led the group around to the east side of Tomales Bay, and then the birders went to Limantour Spit in Pt. Reyes Seashore. 16 people and 70 birds showed up. It took the birders all day to see a blackbird. A Gyrfalcon may have been seen.

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Lynn Farrar, Christmas Count Commandant, writes this summary: "The total number of single species was 118, or 5 below the 1963 record and tied 1964 for 4th highest. Total number of birds about 11,680 — a surprisingly low number, in fact the lowest since 1959, when 9244 were seen. There was a big drop in ducks this year, because of the work being done on Mallard Reservoir (usually 3000-5000 there; this year, 200). Blackbirds were way down, too. Two Orange-crowned Warblers were seen. Adamson had a female Bullock's Oriole at his cake feeder the day after the count. Again, no Burrowing Owl was found. Also no Barn Owl seen or heard (for an unforgiveable miss). This year every field party had at least one bird that no other party reported. This is why we like to have as many people come out as possible. This year 29 helpers were out in 9 parties, and I want to thank each and every one of them. Maybe we can even do better next year, with experience. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Thanks also to John and Tammy Davis for sharing their beautiful home with the hungry and happy birders."

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Member Dennis Clemens reports on some birding after Count Day:

"We missed the Golden Eagles on the Christmas Count, but on Jan. 2 I was on Mt. Diablo near "Jane Nemetz Ridge" and got a look at two of the eagles. While I watched them, a White-tailed Kite flew towards them and then around them. Of course the eagles were flying higher than I don't know if anyone reported eagles during the count period, but they were around."

(Note: The remark that "the eagles were flying higher than" stems from the classic comment that Harry Couden made at the potluck dinner:

"We didn't see any Golden Eagles on Mt. Diablo this time, but if we had seen one it's safe to say that it would have been higher than a kite."

In other words, folks, Harry Couden isn't slowing down any.)

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The Sierra Club announces that its Tenth Biennial Wilderness Conference will be held at the S.F. Hilton on April 7 & 8. On Sunday the 9th there will be a field trip by chartered bus to Big Basin State Park, with a picnic. Some of the conference speakers will be Roderick Nash, Edward P. Morgan, Albert Burke, and Sen. Frank Moss. Registration Fee \$5 (students, \$2.50); Friday banquet, \$6.50; Saturday lunch, \$4.75; Field Trip, \$5.) Further details from Mrs. Maxine McCloskey, 93 Florada Avenue, Piedmont, Calif. 94610.

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Here are a few items about Emperor Geese ... The Paso Robles Audubon "Thrasher" informs us that Eben McMillan & John Taft observed two of the birds for several days at Morro Bay -- "the first scientifically recorded Emperor Geese ever to journey as far south as San Luis Obispo County" Marin Audubon's "Redwood Log" reports that an Emperor was sighted at Limantour Spit in early December. They may be rare in California, but the February "Alaska Sportsman" devotes four color pages to the joys of Emperor Goose hunting in the far north, where the bag limit is 12. 73 hunters chartered a DC-6 to fly them into a remote area on the Alaska Peninsula, and, judging by the pictures, the hunters really needed a DC-8 to haul all the geese back home.

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The biennial Audubon Asilomar Conferences will be resumed in April, 1968, a little over a year from now. None was held last year, because the National Convention was held in California.

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Thanks to the Save-the-Redwoods League, 815 more acres of prime redwoods will be added to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. A land exchange was involved, but the STRL came up with \$700,000 additionally, thanks to a Ford Foundation matching grant and other grants.

At the last minute in 1966, a fund-transfer in the National Park Service books enabled the Federal Government to buy another 1567 acres (the Gallagher Tract) to add to Pt. Reyes Seashore.

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Audubon Canyon Ranch picked up a cool \$40,000 gift from the L. H. Lewis Foundation of Los Angeles. The money will be used for the final payments on the Ranch's 569 acres.

....

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



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(Next Deadline: Mar. 23)

March, 1967
Vol. 13, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 9th. ^{8 p.m.} Room 211, Life Science Building,
Diablo Valley College. Grant Burton will discuss
Delta water pollution problems.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 12th. 8:45 a.m. San Pablo Dam.
Meet at Kennedy Grove (see next page)

Next Screen Tour: Monday, March 27th, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.
Harry Pederson in "Village Beneath the Sea".

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A year ago, in March, we heard Jack Port of the County Works Department discuss the San Luis Drain. At our next meeting, on March 9, our subject is again the Delta and Suisun Bay and a discussion of the water problems there. Our speaker, Grant Burton, is a civic leader and owner-manager of the Burton Farm Service nursery. In addition, he is Chairman of the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Board. His years of service on this Board makes him an expert in the field of water pollution. Since the water supply in our area is of vital importance, you are urged to attend our March meeting and hear Mr. Burton's comments.

In this connection, you may have read of a hearing held on Feb. 17 in Martinez, at which time the proposed Delta Peripheral Canal was discussed. At this meeting, Congressman Waldie, State Senator Miller, and others, questioned an official of the U.S. Board of Reclamation about the Canal. Ann Cavanagh, who attended the hearing, reports that the Peripheral Canal is primarily designed to transport water from the Sacramento River around the Delta and down to Southern Calif. and could very well result in the degradation of the water quality in our area. Removal of water from the River could allow salt water and other contaminants from the Bay to move into the Delta. Our own drinking water could be affected, unless additional water storage facilities were constructed in eastern Contra Costa County. Proposed legislation contains no requirement for releases from Shasta Dam in dry years. To sum it up, there are many potential dangers ahead in the Delta. We can be sure that Mr. Burton will touch on some of them at our next meeting.

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We had thought of making a Field Trip to the Delta in March, but plans seemed to have gone down the (San Luis) drain. Instead, we are going to the San Pablo Reservoir, which is controlled by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. It is hoped that this trip will be as fruitful and birdful as the one we took to East Bay MUD's Lafayette Reservoir last Fall. Meet at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, at the new Kennedy Grove Regional Park. To get there, go out the San Pablo Dam Road from Orinda almost all the way to El Sobrante, turn right on Castro Ranch Road, and then another right on Hillside Drive. Follow Hillside to Kennedy Grove.

We have permission to go into the adjacent San Pablo Reservoir land, but just in case nobody is there to open the gate we have to climb over the fence, so wear slacks and leave the high heels at home. Also, there are no restroom facilities on the Reservoir land. Since we expect to finish the bird walk about noon, lunch is optional. Pres. John Davis has made the arrangements for the trip, and you can contact him at the March meeting or at 228-2509 in case you have questions.

Our final Screen Tour of the year will be on Monday, March 27, at the Diablo Valley College Gym, at which time Harry Pederson will show us his "Village Beneath the Sea", centered around an isolated coral reef. This is a most unusual and colorful undersea adventure. Incidentally, our most recent Screen Tour speaker, Howard Orians, said that Pederson's picture was one of the best he had ever seen. That should be a good enough recommendation!

Mr. Orian's own picture, "For Generations to Come", was itself one of the best-balanced pictures we have had. Filmed almost entirely in Wisconsin, it was a touch of home to the many Mid-Westerners in the audience. Mr. Orians showed at least two dozen remarkable closeups of colorful birds at maximum plumage. His pictures of the various warblers left no doubts as to why these birds had such distinctive names. The scenes in the various nature sanctuaries made us want to take a field trip in them some day, when the magic carpets are given out.

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No official report on the February Field Trip, to Strawberry Canyon, but the grapevine says that about 11 people and 30 birds showed up.

A most unusual February meeting! We went back to school and had a quiz on bird identification by song and silhouette, and even the experts were stumped! Phyllis Lindley cooked up this novelty and did an excellent job. All we have to do now is to get out into the field and we can expect to identify the flycatchers and vireos she introduced us to.

John Stanley hauled in a cage containing a live American Bittern. The poor bird was found "cruising the Main" on one of Walnut Creek's streets the night before the meeting. The police, probably wondering what on earth this crazy bird was, notified John's secretary at 2 a.m. and that's how John and the Lindsay Museum got to care for the bird for a few days. It was the first time many of us had even seen a Bittern, let alone get close to one. Too bad the cage wasn't high enough for it to go into its "pose" among the cat-tails, which weren't there either.

....

We are happy to welcome three new members to our group:

Ann Ellerman,	2076 Donald Drive,	Moraga
Joe DeMello,	4032 Burbank Drive,	Concord
Christian Nelson,	RFD Box 294-A,	Martinez

....

Observations:

Nothing local, but how about a little Portugese number on ~~roosting~~ roosting birds. Violet Beitzel wrote this little essay while she was in Portugal at the Hotel Cibra in Estoril, about 20 miles west of Lisbon, last September.

"The Sparrows of Estoril"

"As regular as a Swiss train, the English sparrows arrive for roosting at 7 p.m. and depart next morning at 7 a.m. A sight to see!

We were here in Estoril and in our room always at these times and watched this happen for six nights and mornings.

Whilst sitting on a westerly-facing balcony of our third-floor room, we began to observe large groups of sparrows flying into a certain tree below us. As our interest grew, we became aware that enormous flocks were approaching from all points of the compass! They were flying to one large tree and the palm beside it. We watched and our amazement became greater and greater as flock after flock alighted, amid much chirping, to settle down for the night. By 7:15, just 15 minutes later, the tree and palm were all quiet with sleeping birds.

We roughly estimated that over a thousand birds perched there. Later we bravely walked under and around this large tree and could see all the birds clinging to twigs, perched body to body, all over the inside and top of the tree. We, who have seen the "Butterfly Trees" in Pacific Grove, likened the sparrows clinging so closely together to the famous Monarch butterflies.

Just as if an alarm had sounded, at 7 a.m. a chirping began and the sound increased as waking birds stretched their wings and again started taking off in groups. Flock after flock of sparrows left the tree and palm in continuous flight, each going its particular direction, bodies looming dark in the morning sky. In 15 minutes the trees were deserted. Just where all these birds went during the day and why they returned to the same trees remained a mystery to us.

One evening an extremely strong wind was blowing. It took the sparrows until 8 p.m. to get attached to their special places. The air currents drew them up and away, but they would swoop down on the tree from another direction. It took them longer, but they made it."

What can one person do for Conservation? Glenn Shaeks was telling me that he recently received a "come on" subscription offer from the Reader's Digest, but he sent it all back and told them he wouldn't even take the magazine if they gave it to him, because last December they published a strongly-biased article against the proposed Redwood National Park. Glenn was later surprised to get an answer from the Digest indicating that they were thinking of publishing an article that would give a Conservationist's opinion of the Park. Just in case they do, Glenn sent them some factual material to help them along.

Think we have Starlings around here? Oregon Audubon (Portland) reported 1,228,988 birds on the Christmas Count, with 1,100,000 of them being Starlings. That's a 10% increase in the dirty bird, since last year they only reported a million Starlings! They also report that this is the year of the Snowy Owls - the largest flight on the West Coast since 1916. ... These owls were seen in several places in Oregon, and on the Yolo Bypass in California.

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(Next Deadline: April 22)

April, 1967
Vol. 13, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 8 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Wildflower program, with slides, by Richard Angel and Gene Lagel.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, April 16, 9 a.m. Sunol Valley Regional Park. Wildflower and birding hike.

Looking Ahead: Thursday, May 11. Eleanor Nickerson relating a trip down the MacKenzie River in Northwest Canada.

Sat. & Sun. May 13-14. (Tentative) Camping at Armstrong Redwoods State Park, and birding there and at Austin Creek (Russian River country)

Thursday, June 8. Annual Potluck Dinner, Meeting, & Social Evening, at the John Davis home.

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No question about it - our largest attendance last year at a meeting and at a field trip came in April, when we had a wildflower program by Helen Sharsmith and a trip the following weekend to the Livermore Hills. This year we are having a similar wildflower program and trip combination, beginning with a talk and slides by Dick Angel, Ranger-Naturalist at Sunol Valley Regional Park, and Gene Lagel, also from the Park, at our regular meeting on April 13th. We know that you will be pleased with Mr. Lagel's pictures.

The following Sunday, April 16th, we go to Sunol Valley Regional Park for a wildflower trip, and should see some birds as well. To get there: Take State Highway 21 (U.S. 680) south through Dublin to the Sunol Water Temple, 25 miles from Walnut Creek. Turn left 0.8 mile, go under the Freeway, and keep going on Calaveras Road (also marked Paloma Way). Beyond the Freeway 4.1 miles, turn left on Geary Road and drive another 1.8 miles right into the Park. Meet at 9 a.m. in front of the Headquarters Building, which is well marked on the left as you enter the main section of the Park.

It is scheduled that one of the rangers will lead us on a wildflower trip. You can get more information at our next meeting.

It just so happens that Golden Gate Audubon will be down at Sunol Park the same weekend. As a matter of fact, they're camping there and meeting at the Old Green Barn next to the Headquarters at 9 a.m. on Saturday. The Sunday meeting time and place was not announced in their latest bulletin, "The Gull".

I was down there recently to look things over and saw birds all over the place - especially the yellow-billed magpies, which know a sanctuary when they see one. Lots of wildflowers in bloom, and recent rains should keep them in bloom and make this a better year than last year for flowers. Picnic tables are available for those bringing a lunch.

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Rains have washed out our Field Trips this year. March was no exception, as John Davis indicates in this report:

"Bill Betts and I were the only ones who showed up. There was no possibility, of course, of going on the walk, because of the rain. The fire trails were a sea of mud.

While waiting at the entrance to Kennedy Grove, to tell anyone else who might have driven over that the trip was cancelled, we saw (between showers) -

Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Junco, Audubon Warbler,
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Allen's Hummingbird, Brown Towhee,
Rufous-sided Towhee, Steller's Jay, & Red-shafted Flicker.
This should be a good place for future bird walks."

Our program night on March 9th conflicted with Golden Gate Audubon's program on "The Great Gray Owl", as well as a Sierra Club film at DVC on the Redwoodsquabble. Even so, we had a room full to hear Grant Burton tell us about some of the problems faced by the many committees he is on. We learned such things as -

... The big problems in water pollution in the Bay Area are from municipalities and not from industry. ... Nowhere in the world have people been able to irrigate very long without destroying the land, except along the Nile, which restores land every year by flood. The only thing that saves the Imperial Valley is having the Salton Sea to act as a sump. ... The San Luis Drain will be built someday, but nitrates in its waters will create algae problems. ... One benefit of a peripheral Canal will be to stop the silting of the Bay. ...

We had a request from Tim McKay of Benicia asking us to protest to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission a proposal to fill 200 acres of the Bay as part of an industrial project. Well we had a member of BCDC right there at our meeting, and Mr. Burton said that the letter probably referred to Humble Oil's plan to dredge the Bay for a turning basin for tankers. He assured us that the problem had been virtually settled and that Humble was going to dump the silt on some marsh that it owns and that none of the Bay would be filled.

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We have picked up some more members, so we extend greetings to:

Alyce and David Bowman, 148 Sylvan Road, Walnut Creek
R. Judson Dowell, M.D. 127 E. 18th St., Antioch
Douglas A. Bell, 3276 Walnut Lane, Lafayette.

Doug Bell is but eleven years old, but already he is an observant birder, and he told of seeing numerous Red-tailed Hawks circling over his home one day recently.

Quail Clucks:

Mrs. Isabella McGeehon, a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon for 13 years, has been an active member of the Red Cross a few years longer than that. As a matter of fact, she was honored on March 7th for her 50 years of service with the Red Cross and was presented with an album of messages from her many friends. Mrs. McGeehon was editor of "The Quail" for many years before passing the typewriter ribbon over to a guy named Mize six years ago.

Many members of MDAS were horrified to hear that John Stanley, our Vice-President, was dismissed from his job as director of the Alexander Lindsay Museum. All I know is what I see in the papers, but I feel that his departure will be the Museum's loss. It is my recollection that John spent many an extra hour helping to convert an old pump house into a museum, and countless extra hours more helping the kids. Who could have done more for a Junior Museum?

Newell and Ella Wood motored to Arizona recently and met Dick and Vi Beitzel at Tucson on schedule. Then the four Auduboners spent a week near Tucson and another week in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. What an Audubon Field Trip that must have been!

Ann Cavanagh and family also went to Arizona, during Easter Week. They roasted in Phoenix and froze at Grand Canyon.

Harry and Betty Adamson are back from their trip to South America. We hope to see their pictures next Fall at one of our meetings.

It was announced at the last Audubon Screen Tour that Alice and John Porterfield would be giving scholarships to enable two DVC nature study students to attend summer camps in natural history.

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A nominating committee has come up with this slate of officers for next year, subject to election at the next meeting, of course:

President	...	Ed Mize
Vice-Pres	...	Newell Wood
Secretary	...	Sally Steller
Treasurer	...	George Schad

Yep, they nailed me for President — said it was about time! I'll probably be moonlighting the job as Editor of "The Quail", too.

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You probably read in the paper that Conservationists struck a blow for freedom recently, when the Nature Conservancy bought Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon, near Canyon Ranch, and presented it to Marin County for use as a wildlife refuge. This sunk the "Gilroy Plan" that would have had a hotel and a high-rise apartment on the island and a thousand boat marina in Bolinas Lagoon. Now somebody has to pay \$90,000 back to Nature Conservancy. If that somebody is you, send the money to:

Save Kent Island Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, Box 7776, Rincon Annex,
San Francisco, 94119.

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If you are interested in the Walnut Creek Beautification movement, contact Mrs. Robert Ramelli at 934-5438. A group meets monthly at noon on the third Thursday.

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Harry Pederson's "Village Beneath the Sea" was a most unique picture, not having a bird in it. Plenty of fish, though, and excellent photography with a flavor of Disney in the narration.

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A friend of mine in Martinez tells of a toyon bush loaded with berries and hungrily eyed by swarms of Cedar Waxwings. But as long as a Mockingbird was in the bush, they stayed away. This went on for a couple of days. Until the Mocker flew away a minute, the Waxers descended, and the berries vanished.

....

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(Next Deadline: May 20)

May, 1967
Vol. 13, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11, 3 p.m. Room 211, Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Mrs. Eleanor Nickerson will show slides and talk about a kayak trip down the MacKenzie River in Northwest Canada.

Next Field Trip: Saturday & Sunday, May 13-14. Camping at Armstrong Redwood State Park, and birding there and nearby.

Looking Ahead: Thursday, June 8. Annual Potluck Dinner, Meeting and Social Evening, at the John Davis home.

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Would you like to float and paddle down a thousand miles of a wilderness river? Come to our meeting on May 11 and see how an Alamo family, the Nickersons, did this for 8 weeks last summer. This family of five (Eleanor & Richard + Devon, Lincoln & Bryan) "put in" three kayaks at Fort Providence, Northwest Territories of Canada, at the mouth of Great Slave Lake, and went all the way down the mighty MacKenzie to the new settlement of Inuvik.

You will enjoy their pictures showing the friendliness of the few people they met, the immensity of a river as much as 20 miles wide, the clouds, the sunsets (when the sun set), and sidetrips to the old Canal project, to old Aklavik, and even to the Eskimo whaling village of Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea (Arctic Ocean).

Member John Bruce gets credits for arranging this outstanding program. He formerly taught at San Ramon High, where Mrs. Nickerson has been a P.E. teacher for many years. Just recently John and I attended a showing of movies taken by the Nickersons, so we feel sure that you will enjoy the slides that Eleanor will show. Son Devon, who told us of a similar trip down the Yukon in 1963, may be on hand to explain interesting nature observations made last summer.

This program will be a fitting climax to the excellent series of programs we have had this Audubon year.

We are planning a Field Trip to Armstrong Redwoods State Park (3 miles north of Guerneville), in the Russian River country, for the weekend of May 13 - 14. (If the rains don't stop pretty soon, we could be looking at pond ducks in the redwood groves!) Hopefully, everything will be o.k. by the middle of May. John Stanley & Ed Mize definitely plan to be there. We advise you to be there early Saturday morning, if the weather is decent, because there is no way to reserve any space. Limited trailer space is available, but no hookups. We would do some birding on Saturday afternoon, and also Sunday morning, and hope to get into the Austin Creek area on Sunday with Ranger Hank Warren. We'll play it by ear, depending on how many show up. Campers should bring wood. So that we will have some idea of whom to expect, see us at the next meeting, or call Ed Mize at 686-1341. We'll meet about 9:15 Sunday morning at the checking station for those who just come up for the day.

Our well-attended April meeting featured slides by Gene Lagel of Sunol Valley Regional Park and was narrated by Dick Angel, Ranger-Naturalist at the Park. It was amazing how many different flowers were to be seen at the park, and Mr. Lagel is to be thanked for putting so many of them on film for our enjoyment.

The April meeting was followed by a Field Trip to Sunol Valley Park the following Sunday. For once our Audubon group got a break in the weather, since it had rained hard on Saturday and Monday. But Sunday was a beautiful day for the 3-hour walk. About 40 people showed up - proving once again that wild flower trips draw the crowds. The group, led by Ranger Dick Angel, walked up Alameda Creek and saw many of the flowers shown at the meeting. The Coudens looked at birds as well as flowers and spotted two Golden Eagles.

After all that Ranger Angel and the East Bay Regional Park did for us in April, it is only fair to "plug" a project dear to their hearts. The California Legislature now has a bill before it (introduced by Dent, Knox and others) which would retain the present tax rate of 10¢ per \$100 assessed valuation for the East Bay Regional Parks. Otherwise the rate drops back to the old 1934 rate of 5¢. In view of the rise in the cost of doing things, a lower rate would guarantee no more land purchases, non-development of sites, closing of some recreational sites, increase in user fees, and the loss of federal and state funds. If we return to the 5¢ rate, the average homeowner would save about 14¢ per month. Ranger Angel asks you to send letters to Assemblyman, and particularly Don Mulford and Carlos Bee, who favor a low rate. You have enclosed a current list of legislators, to help you on this and other projects you may hear about later.

o o o o

A brief item in one of the Bay papers - not in all of them - said that the State Park Commission has approved an increase in park usage fees. Thus, the fee for camping in Class A (hot shower) parks would jump from \$2 to \$3, and trailer hookups to \$3.50. No date was given for this to go into effect. Some of our retired members are pretty unhappy about this increase.

At the April meeting we elected the officers for next year:

President	...	Ed Mize
Vice-Pres.	...	Newell Wood
Secretary	...	Sally Steller
Treasurer	...	George Schad

This sterling team will be installed at our June Potluck meeting.

o-o-

We welcome our newest member:

Colleen Lane (Mrs. K.A.), 12 Rader Court, Walnut Creek

As you are aware, if you read last month's "Quail", a portion of Bolinas Lagoon was saved by the purchase of Kent Island. The Nature Conservancy put up the \$87,000 to arrange for this purposeful purchase, and now the Conservancy has to be paid back. We have been asked to enclose some literature on this project, and we ask you to read it.

Observations:

Frieda Shackelford says that you might see Sea Otter by the dozens next year if you go down to Pt. Lobos State Reserve about April 10th. She and Clair were down there at that time this year, and there were young and old bobbing otter close to shore on both sides of the Point - feeding, yapping, yipping, and yawning.

Your Editor glances out the window at the oil refinery now and then, and recently thinks he has seen White-throated Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, and Black-necked Stilt.

While on a business trip to Southern Arizona in early April, Bob Buttery was able to work in a couple of days of excellent birding in the Sierra Ancha (north of Globe) and the Mazatzal Mountains (NE of Phoenix). Bob did not keep a record of the total species seen, but he added 30 new species to his annual list, 7 of which were lifers. Bob says,

"particularly rewarding was Sycamore Creek in the Mazatzals near Sunflower. For awhile I was seeing new species almost faster than I could record them. New birds for 1967 (lifers underlined) were: Inca Dove; Cowbird; Gila Woodpecker; Western Kingbird; Lark Bunting; Phainopepla; Cliff Swallow; Hooded Oriole; Cardinal; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ladder-backed Woodpecker; Audubon's Warbler; Canyon Wren; Gray Vireo; Song Sparrow; Black Phoebe; Turkey Buzzard; Costa's Hummingbird; Black Hawk; Mexican Jay; Hutton's Vireo; Townsend's Solitaire; Wilson's Warbler; Magnolia Warbler; Bridled Titmouse; Raven; Roadrunner; White-throated Swift; Gambel's Quail; and Bendire's Thrasher. My life list now stands at 304.

"After a very dry winter, the Sonoran Desert produced few wildflowers, but Ocotillo and some cacti were blooming. Two days of birding under deep blue skies and puffy white cumulus clouds, with breathtaking sunsets, made this a memorable trip."

Bill Goodall, Audubon's Western Representative, announces that after five years there will be an Asilomar Conference on April 6, 7, 8 & 9, 1968, with the theme "Playing Russian Roulette with Nature". If you want to receive priority program information and Registration and Trip Reservation Forms, mail a postcard NOW with your name, address & Zip to: AUDUBON CONFERENCE, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif, 91733. Material will be sent to you early in the Fall ahead of general mailings.

Also, Bill gives the sad news that, after 15 years, the Conservation Resource Center in Berkeley will close out completely effective June 9, 1967. Any requests for merchandise after that date will be returned to the sender, and requests for information will be referred to other Audubon representatives. So if you want anything from Audubon's Center in Berkeley, get there before June 9, 1967.

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: June 24)

June, 1967
Vol. 13, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 8, about 6:15 p.m. Annual Potluck
Dinner, Meeting, and Social Evening, at the home of
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Davis, 21 Wanda Way, Martinez.

In the Future: Thursday, Sept. 14 ... First Fall Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 17 ... First Fall Field Trip
.....

Well, it's Potluck Dinner time again! This year, on June 8, our genial hosts will be John and Tammy Davis in their beautiful Alhambra Valley home at 21 Wanda Way (Martinez). 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 the Davis home is on the right, at No. 21. From Lafayette or Pleasant Hill, you can go out Reliez Valley Road and thence on Alhambra Valley Road to Wanda Way, which takes off at the first big bend. Please call Tammy Davis (228-2509) a few days ahead, so she will know how many to expect and whether you will be bringing a meat dish, salad, or dessert. Put a couple chairs and a card table or TV trays in the car, in case you need them; and don't forget to bring eating tools, plates, etc. We plan to gather about 6:15 and should eat soon thereafter.

This is our fun-raising and fund-raising event of the year. The cost is a dollar an adult and half that much for a youngster ... but for that you get the best Smorgasbord this side of Stockholm.

We will have a short business meeting, including the installation of the new officers. Then, traditionally, some members show a few slides; so if you have a few bring them along. (Last year, for instance, we went to Joshua Tree and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monuments, as well as Florida, and peeked at Lafayette birds from a blind.)

After this festival, you can relax and really enjoy the summer's hot air. We take up again, with renewed viggor, in September with our regular meeting and field trip.
.....

A big crowd of members and guests came to our May meeting to see and hear an excellent account of a kayak trip down the MacKenzie River by the Nickerson family of Alamo. It was a family presentation, with Mr. Nick giving an introduction to kayaking, son Devon giving natural observations, and Eleanor Nickerson narrating during the slide show. This was a trip through virtual wilderness, with only occasional glimpses of the few settlers along the river. In the natural scene we saw many arctic flowers, as well as the mysterious "pingos", those sudden uplifts of tundra-covered ice found nowhere else in the world. Many said it was one of our best programs.

Mrs. Nickerson announced that her book, "Kayaks to the Arctic", will be published by Howell-North in the Fall. We hope that some of her humor will come forth in the book, so we can read about the "armor" used against mosquitos and also about her "Camp Dismals".

....

Too bad more members didn't participate in the May Field Trip to the Russian River. The weather was ideal for camping, and there was plenty of room. Lots of wild posies. Three of us camped, and 7 were present for the Sunday bird hike, which took us up the road leading to the new Austin Creek State Park. There were few birds in the redwoods, of course, but more in the oak woodlands and even many in the abandoned homesites. 29 species were seen, including Golden Eagle, Brown Creeper, "Pink-sided" Oregon Junco, and Bullock's Oriole.

We did not climb up into the Austin Creek drainage basin, where the State has acquired land and is now readying it for use. We hear that our narrow, steep road ends at a reservoir, where there will be a campground, with trails going into the remote regions of the new park.

Armstrong Redwoods State Park is now called Armstrong Redwood Nature Reserve - a sort of parallel with the Reserve at Pt. Lobos. The present campground will be ~~eliminated~~ eliminated in time.

Speaking of State Parks, it's definite that the increase in rates will become effective on June 1st (\$3 for hot-water camps; \$3.50 trailer fees; \$1 day-use fee). In addition, I found by experience that if you stop on a State Highway going through a State Park (i.e. Taylor Park in Marin) and do some birding, you may later find a tag on your car asking you to stop at the checking station and pay the day-use fee. (I think I'll agitate for parking meters - it would be a lot cheaper!) Also, don't expect to park a car outside of a place like Pt. Lobos and walk in free .. ol' debbil Ranger will be there to collect that \$ 'day-use fee'. All this, I guess, because 90% of the State Park operating funds were diverted to other State uses.

There are signs that the State Park system has seen the folly of waiting too long to make land acquisitions, in view of the escalating land values. New Director, Wm. Penn Mott, hopes to use up the 60 million dollars left from the '64 bond issue. For once, Northern California is favored, with the nod going to a 3000 acre Salt Point Ranch Park in Sonoma County, the Marin Headlands, Pfeiffer-Big Sur, Delta Meadows in Sacramento County, and Mendocino Woods in Mendocino County. Not a word about Mt. Diablo. Mott also wants to get us out of the Squaw Valley mess we skied into in the 1960 Olympics.

Kennedy Grove, near San Pablo Reservoir, and Briones Regional Park are scheduled to be opened this summer for public use.

Ann Cavanagh reported on a phone call from Manfred Lindner of Danville, who says that the County Park money destined for the purchase of Las Trampas acreage is still tied up in Sacramento. Meanwhile, prices are going higher than Las Trampas Peak, and the area that could be purchased is getting smaller. Already the entrance from Alamo (the Miller Ranch) is practically unobtainable.

....

We welcome our newest members:

Neal J. Collins, 571 Pershing Drive, Walnut Creek
 Judy (Mrs. Harry) Goldberg, 2325 St. George, Concord
 John & Marian Schieffelin, 3579 Powell Drive, Lafayette

....

Observations:

From Harry Couden, who says, "Had to bring my own weather" .. and..
 "The Minneapolis birders have some great field trips this time of the year. I joined them on the weekend of May 20-21, at the conclusion of a convention in Minneapolis. Thanks to Mr. Boyd Lien, his wife, and many others, I got a nice list of 92 species, including 18 warblers, which were then migrating up the Mississippi, and 13 lifers. They have an equally great hawk migration near there in September. Must return."

A report in the "Wall Street Journal" (of all places!) says that next week U.S. and Canadian biologists will fly by helicopter into Wood Buffalo National Park in Northern Canada and steal about six Whooping Crane eggs, which will then be flown to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and hopefully hatched. (Authorities think that predators might steal the eggs anyway.) It's all part of a plan to save some of these and other endangered birds and animals, by growing them at the Maryland site.

....

Don't shoot any Ringtailed cats! The present California Legislature passed a bill giving this relative of the raccoon full protection. ... Also, I think both houses have passed a bill permanently removing the bounty on mountain lions here. If so, Arizona would be the only state paying bounty on the lions.

Times have certainly changed! When we were young, the kids counted: 1 - 2 - 3 - GO. Today I heard some little ones count: 3 - 2 - 1 - BLASTOFF.

....

At the recent Sierra Club Wilderness Conference, it was pointed out that Kennecott Copper may soon do some open pit mining for copper in the heart of the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. By the Wilderness Act of 1964, mining companies can continue mining activities in wilderness areas, and Kennecott has a small claim on Miner's Ridge. The pit would be served by a road - all in what should be a North Cascades National Park.

Well, this is the end of my 6th year as Editor of "The Quail", and it looks as though next year's President (Ed Mize) has appointed a fellow named Ed Mize to be Editor for next year. Once more I express appreciation to Frieda Shackelford and daughter, Pat, who have done such a wonderful job of mailing these bulletins to you each month. It is not an easy job, but means a lot to our members.

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

ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSEMBLYMEN:

Honorable Carlos Bee, 13th District, State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-7380
(Area: Part of San Lorenzo, Hayward, Pleasanton, Livermore, Union
City, San Ramon Village, Dublin, Fremont, and all southern
Alameda County)

Honorable Robert W. Crown, 14th District, State Capitol, Room 2140
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-8160
(Area: All of San Leandro, part of San Lorenzo, part of East Oakland
below S. 14th St., and west of S.P. tracks, including Bay
Farm Island and City of Alameda)

Honorable March K. Fong, 15th District, State Capitol, Room 3113
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-7632
(Area: Fruitvale, Melrose, Oakmore, Diamond, Millsmont, Oak Knoll,
Seminary & Sheffield Village)

Honorable Don Kulford, 16th District, State Capitol, Room 3143
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-7554
(Area: all of Berkeley above Shattuck Avenue & Central Oakland,
east of Telegraph to Park & Fruitvale and Piedmont)

Honorable John J. Miller, 17th District, State Capitol, Room 5126
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-7442
(Area: Emeryville, Berkeley (below Shattuck Ave.) & Albany. Thousand
Oaks & portions of Oakland west of Telegraph & N. of Estuary)

ALAMEDA COUNTY STATE SENATORS:

Honorable Lewis F. Sherman, 8th District, State Capitol, Room 4057
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-6671
(Area: All Alameda County, except Castro Valley, Livermore & Pleasanton)

Honorable Nicholas C. Petris, 11th District, State Capitol, Room 2062
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-6577
(Area: All of Alameda County, exc. Castro V., Livermore & Pleasanton)

Honorable Clark Bradley, 14th District, State Capitol, Room 5095
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-454-3104
(Area: Castro Valley, Livermore, Pleasanton & section of Santa Clara Co.)

CONTRA COSTA CO. ASSEMBLYMEN:

Honorable James W. Dent, 10th District, State Capitol, Room 4121B
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-8528
(Area: Moraga, Concord, Martinez, Pittsburg, Brentwood, 445
Oakley, Clayton, Pt. Chicago, Antioch, Byron, Danville,
Lafayette & eastern part of Walnut Creek)

Honorable John T. Knox, 11th District, State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-7890
(Area: Crockett, Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, Pleasant Hill,
Port Costa, Rodeo, El Cerrito, San Pablo, Orinda & W. Walnut Ck.)

CONTRA COSTA CO. STATE SENATOR:

Honorable George Miller, Jr., 17th District, State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, Calif. 95814 Phone: 916-445-3576
(Area: All of Contra Costa County)



The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: July 24)

July, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 1

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14. (To be announced later)
Next Field Trip: Sunday, Sept. 17. Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

No Audubon activities for a few months. A Program Committee, consisting of Newell Wood, John Davis and Wes Nunes, is lining up a list of super attractions for the forthcoming year, ranging all the way from African animals to Contra Costa wild flowers. Likewise, a Field Trip Committee, consisting of Bill Betts, Harry Couden and Roy Glotfelty, is dreaming up some field trips of interest; and with Couden's control of the weather we should have some good times.
.....

But if you really want to go birding during the summer, Lynn Farrar says that he and the family hope to go back to Wright's Lake (off U.S. 50) the weekend of July 8/9, and he invites you to come along and meet them there. He says that there have been changes in the camping spots at the Lake. One big complication may be the deep snows that fell last winter, which might leave the road to the Lake in less than A-1 shape. If you are interested in Auduboning with him that weekend, call Lynn at 283-3938.

Our annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting on June 8 was a success in every way. 46 members and guests attended, giving us the best attendance we have ever had. Our treasury was fattened with 42 dollars, thanks to you. It looked like the weather would be cool and blustery, as it was in Concord and Walnut Creek, but in the Davis' backyard in Alhambra Valley conditions were much milder. The serving table was loaded with delicious food at the start, but hungry Auduboners made sure that the table was not overloaded very long.

Inside we went for installation of officers for the next year. Then we saw slides of a family week in the Marble Mt. Wilderness, by Joy Meagher; travelled with Engra Lusebrink from Livermore to Florida, seeing many bizarre lighthouses on the way; watched the Chris Nelson family camp at Hart Mt. Antelope Refuge; saw spectacular closeups of animals and birds by Newell Wood; and enjoyed beautiful wildflowers pictured by John Davis.

Our thanks go to Tammy and John Davis, who gave us such a delightful place for the Potluck, and who may have been a little slow getting around to their own dinners in their eagerness to make sure that the rest of us were taken care of. A few days later the Davis family relaxed by going to the Grand Canyon, where they tried their hand at running the Colorado River - which many other notables are also doing this summer.

.....
I've fixed up a revised roster of Mt. Diablo Audubon members and hope it will be printed in time to attach to this issue of "The Quail". If you happen to find an error or two, be sure to let me know by card or phone and corrections will be made in the future. Looks like we now have 133 members - a drop of 7 from the 140 of a year ago.

.....
It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Ava Huffman, from Antioch, who has served our Society well on Membership and Hospitality committees in the recent past. Mrs. Huffman wrote that she lost her husband two months ago, and, furthermore, is forbidden by the doctors to drive at night.

National Audubon announces that popular Bill Goodall, its Western Representative since 1953, will retire next year. Bill's place will be taken - if its possible to do so - by Paul Howard, Jr., whom some of you know from the Audubon Center in So. Calif. and as director of the Audubon Camp in Wyoming.

Last month I mentioned that the Fish & Wildlife Service theft of Whooping Crane eggs in Canada. Of the 5 eggs taken, one hatched on the way to Maryland and the bird died; another hatched and the bird is doing well; one more was pipping in the egg ... and that leaves two more in the dark.

We hear that the Alice and John Porterfield awards were given recently to two Diablo Valley College students, Sallie Stockton and Michael Wheable, to aid in their nature studies this summer. The awards were given in the name of Mt. Diablo Audubon. Our thanks go to the Porterfields for their continued interest in this important phase of nature education.

Two local papers recently featured a story, complete with picture, about one of our young members: Dennis Clemens. It seems that Dennis has won three honors in his Junior year at U.C.(Berkeley): a Forest Industry Award, election to the Xi Sigma Phi Forestry Honor Fraternity; and a monetary award for an essay which won the Charles Lathrop Pack Prize in Forestry. Congratulations, Dennis!

.....
Considerably older than Dennis was a Herring Gull, banded in 1930 by Olin Pettingill in Maine and found dead recently by Girl Scouts near Petosky, Michigan. This is a ~~Sagehen~~ longevity record for a wild bird.

You may have heard otters, but do you know how to herd otters? Down in Morro Bay the sea otters have moved in and have been having abalone feeds, and that's no baloney. The State Fish & Game is trying to figure out a way to shoos the otters back north so they will leave the red abalone alone.

Membership List July 1967

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette 94549	283-2164
Aitken, David	289 Chestnut St.	S.F. 94133	YU 6-3837
Augason, Orland & Luella	3961 Mulberry Dr.	Concord 94520	682-0317
Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth	1268 Redwood Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-4796
Barnard, Adell	198 Via Del Sol	Wal.Creek 94596	935-4675
Beitzel, Dick & Violet	1713 S. 5th St.	Concord 94520	682-9588
Bell, Douglas A.	3276 Walnut Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-7613
Betts, Bill & Lucy	5131 Myrtle Dr.	Concord 94521	682-5119
Blake, Frances	4440 Walnut Blvd.	Wal.Creek 94596	935-2884
Boileau, A. P.	139 Paraiso Dr.	Danville 94526	837-3353
Bolender, Mrs. M. C.	511 Highland Dr.	Danville 94526	837-6642
Bonnickson, Barbara	Box 295	Brentwood 94513	634-4152
Bowman, David & Alice	148 Sylvan Rd.	Wal.Creek 94596	939-8592
Bright, James	Star Rt. Tassajara Rd.	Danville 94526	837-9079
Bruce, John & Helen	325 La Tierra Buena	Danville 94526	837-9554
Burde, Virginia	34 La Campana	Orinda 94563	254-5500
Buttery, Robert & Douglas	33 Starling Court	Wal.Creek 94596	934-6253
Cavanagh, Ann	1431 Barbis Way	Concord 94520	682-5127
Clemens, Dennis	273 Schofield Ct.	Concord 94520	682-5231
Collins, Neal J.	571 Pershing Dr.	Wal.Creek 94596	
Cook, Mrs. Georgia	30 Broderick Dr. Apt. 8	Brentwood 94513	634-4195
Cornelius, Bob	3143 Wayside Lane	Wal.Creek 94596	934-6873
Couden, Harry & Dorothy	1491 Sunset Loop	Wal.Creek 94529	934-8873
Davis, H.E. & Helen	1851 Del Monte Ct.	Wal.Creek 94529	934-8458
Davis, John A.	21 Wanda Way	Martinez 94553	228-2509
DeMello, Joe	4032 Burbank Dr.	Concord 94521	682-1727
Dowell, D. Judson, M.D.	127 E. 18th St.	Antioch 94509	757-5700
Ellerman, Ann	2076 Donald Dr.	Moraga 94556	376-7778
Farrar, Lynn & Ruth	955 Diablo Dr.	Lafayette 94549	283-3938
Farrar, Mabel B.	2401 Pine Knoll Dr. No. 2	W.Ck 94529	939-1541
Finch, Wm. & Lucille	314 Ada Dr.	Martinez 94553	
Galvin, Marjory	Star Rt. Blackhawk Rd.	Danville 94526	837-6284
Gerringer, J. & Mildred	260 Douglas Ct.	Concord 94520	682-4842
Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. H.D.	19 Sky Terrace	Danville 94526	837-6577
Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie	3576 Powell Dr.	Lafayette 94549	284-4014
Goldberg, Mrs. Harry (Judy)	2325 St. George	Concord	687-8759
Goren, Audrey	206 Santa Fe Dr.	Wal.Creek 94598	932-3369
Greenfield, Henry & Eleanor	1955 Lucille Road	Pl. Hill 94523	682-2192
Greuner, Mrs. Wm. Jr.	877 Broadmoor	Lafayette 94549	284-4562
Hall, Lucy A.	140 Esther Lane	Danville 94526	837-2681
Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret	4081 Legion Court	Lafayette 94549	254-0657
Holsclaw, Mrs. Guy	600 Alhambra Way	Martinez 94553	228-5114
Hozier, Ruth J.	948 Hawthorne Dr.	Lafayette 94549	284-4559
Hulse, Mrs. Anita G.	4831 Pacheco Blvd.	Martinez 94553	228-2732
James, Mrs. L. (Esther)	1931 Altura Drive	Concord 94520	682-0439
Johnson, Rufus	Box 161 (2227 Concord Bl)	Conc. 94522	685-5560

Klinger, Florence	072 Green St.	Martinez 94553	228-2650
Lacrampe, Margaret Lane, Mrs. K. A.	8 Mariposa Lane 12 Rider Court	Orinda 94563 Walnut Creek	254-0968 935-0947
Lusebrink, Engra Lynch, Jim, M.D.	140 The Trees Drive 3758 Serrano St.	Concord 94520 Martinez 94553	228-2999
MacKamey, Rhodus & Bessie Mann, Mrs. Evelyn B.	P.O. Box 55 1707 McKean Place	Wal.Creek 94597 Concord 94520	934-3014 682-0305
McCarthy, Robert & Hazel McGeehon, Mrs. J.C.	P.O.Box 641 (1929 Dora Ave) 2165 Oakvale Rd.	W.Ck 94597 Wal.Creek 94596	934-2724 934-2752
Meagher, Mrs. John	1537 N. Marta Dr.	Pl. Hill 94523	685-5702
Millen, Don & Dottie Miller, Jessie B.	3206 Dover Way P.O. Box 26	Concord 94520 Antioch 94509	685-6518
Mize, Ed Mohr, Mr. & Mrs. A.C.	1255 Mt. Diablo St. 3301 Golden Rain Manor 1	Concord 94520 W.Ck.94529	686-1341
Monheit, Molly Jane	1107 Magnolia Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-4261
Nelson, Betty Nelson, Christian	603 West Grand River RFD Box 294-A	East Lansing Mich.48823 Martinez 94553	228-9369
Nemetz, Frank & Jane Noble, Richard J.	2822 San Antonio Dr. 2131 Olympic Blvd.	Waln.Creek 94598 Wal. Creek 94529	934-3295 934-5977
Nunes, Wesley & Dolores	3400 El Monte Dr.	Concord 94520	
O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth	2231 Overlook Dr.	Wal. Creek 94596	934-4720
Paige, Harold L. Perlman, Isadore	1212 Monticello Rd. 1158 Glen Road	Lafayette 94549 Lafayette 94529	283-3408 283-3021
Philbin, Mrs. Berna Pignolet, Mary Anne	6950 Arrowwood Dr. 17 Ocho Rios Place	Modesto 95350 Danville 94526	837-9410
Porterfield, John & Alice	3053 The Alameda	Concord 94520	685-4616
Reynolds, Jack & Beth Richardson, Ethel	555 La Vista Road 1372 Rockledge Lane	Wal. Creek 94598 Wal. Creek 94529	935-1813 939-2794
Roemer, Elsie Ruth, Ferd & Juliet	1556 Everett St. 43 Cuesta Way	Alameda 94501 Wal. Creek 94596	LA 2-0941 934-8803
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Sattler, Wm. & Genevieve	1700 El Camino Real, 4050 Poplar Ave.	Rue 20-10 So. S.F. 94080 Concord 94520	685-5315
Schad, George & Muriel Schaefer, Leo & Virginia	2906 Concord Blvd. 801 North Gate Rd.	Concord 94520 Wal. Creek 94598	685-7897 939-5260
Schaller, Richard & Margaret Schieffelin, John & Marian	330 Sunset Ave. 3579 Powell Drive	Concord 94520 Lafayette 94549	685-7641 283-3943
Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. James Schreider, Jay	130 Richard Lane 449 Crest Ave.	Wal. Creek 94529 Wal. Creek 94529	935-0359 934-8820
Schulz, Paul E.	4451 Canyon Way	Martinez 94553	228-8860
Shackelford, Clair & Frieda Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	712 Laurel Drive 3849 Maplewood Ct.	Walnut Cr. 94596 Concord 94520	935-1344 685-7444
Soule, Mrs. J. Brill Stanley, John Jr. & Hilary	33 Charles Hill Rd. 298A Lester	Orinda 94563 Oakland 94606	254-5807
Steller, Mrs. Sally Swenson, Carl & Ruth	939 Carol Lane c/o 1012 El Curtola Bl.	Lafayette 94549 Wal.Ck.94529	284-4370
Toaspern, Mrs. W.J. Veitch, Peter	1923 Buttner Road 154 Camino Sobrante	Pl. Hill 94523 Orinda 94563	934-0749 254-2419
Warner, Norma L. Wood, Newell & Ella	3163 Wayside Lane 1121 Ulfianian Way	Wal. Creek 94596 Martinez 94553	934-4604 228-1617
Wright, John A.	1791 Sunnyvale Ave.	Wal. Creek 94596	935-1290



The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: Aug. 18)

August, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14. Chris Nelson will discuss the Sage Grouse.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Sept. 17. Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

The Program and the Field Trip Committees recently held a joint meeting and worked out some of the details for the schedules beginning in September. It is too early to have everything lined up, but perhaps there will be a listing of the year's activities in the next "Quail".

Our programs start again in September, with new member Chris Nelson discussing the Sage Grouse - a bird he chased all over the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Oregon as part of his college work.

Also, our field trips resume in September, with a trip planned to a part of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Hopefully we will be there during some of the annual bird migration. (More details in the next "Quail").

Other field trips are still being planned. We are working on a reciprocal agreement with Stockton Audubon this year, whereby our members will go near there in October, to be led by a member of Stockton Audubon, and Stockton birders will be invited to join our expedition into Briones Regional Park in March. We also hope this forthcoming year to return to Willows-Gridley, Conn Dam, the Delta, and Pine Canyon. Also, if arrangements can be made with a private campground, we plan to have an overnight trip in the vicinity of Columbia State Park in May (a week after Mother's Day).

Please correct your new Membership List, as follows:

Change the address of Richard & Margaret Schaller from 330 Sunset Avenue to 1736 Clayton Road, Concord;

Change Bill & Lucy Betts' phone number from 682-5119 to 685-5119.

The Farrars, the Shackelfords, and Engra Lusebrink and Elizabeth O'Meara tried to get into Wright's Lake on the weekend after the Fourth, but were turned back by snow and high water. They then detoured to Ice House Reservoir, at a lower elevation, and tried unsuccessfully to get to the Lake by hoofing up the Windmueller Trail. They did meet the daughter of the original Windmueller, however. About 36 species of birds were seen. Ice House was a new location for our birders, and Lynn Farrar says it's very nice.

Members of the John Davis family are now full-fledged river rats, having completed a wonderful raft trip down a portion of the Colorado.

Margaret Schaller recently returned from a few weeks in England. She says, "They're a bunch of fresh-air fiends over there! On all trains and buses they're always opening the windows!" Margaret has been thawing out during our recent summer weather.

***o

At our May meeting, Mrs. Eleanor Nickerson of Alamo showed pictures of a family river trip down the MacKenzie River of Canada and announced that her book, "Kayaks to the Arctic", would be on sale in the Fall. It isn't Fall yet, but I understand that the book is now on sale at your friendly book store.

Further proof that we are a non-profit institution is shown in a financial report recently compiled by Treasurer George Schad for submittal to Sacramento, now that we are a corporation. Receipts for the fiscal year (7/1/66 - 6/30/67) for dues and potluck were \$285, whereas expenditures amounted to \$315. Over half the money spent (\$163) went for printing and mailing "The Quail". Donations amounted to \$115 (other than the Porterfield scholarships, for which we acted as transferal agent). Other expenses were for Incorporation, Convention, Christmas Count, and Miss Cellaneous.

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory personnel banded Western Gulls, Cassin Auklets, and a dozen Ashy Petrels on the Farallone Islands in early June. The Farallone Islands National Forest (all two trees of it) yielded Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Kingbird, and a few other out-of-place birds.

The Observatory is conducting a Banding Training Program on Saturday mornings this summer and fall, at 9 a.m. Also, thousands of shore-birds will be marked with varying bright colors the fall and winter, so later on you may see a few odd-ball colors flitting around. Persons interested in helping to keep track of these marked birds at several locations in Marin are asked to contact the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas for details and instructions.

***o

The Nature Conservancy, which played such a vital part in keeping a marina development out of Bolinas Lagoon, is holding a convention at the Sheraton Palace in S.F. Sept. 8 thru 10th. Conservationist friends are invited to attend, even though not members. Fieldtrips by chartered bus are available to Marin, Napa, & Monterey Counties and to the Northwest, and by private cars to the Northern California Coast Range Preserve. Information is available from The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 534, Mill Valley, Calif. 94943.



The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: Sept. 21)

September, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Chris Nelson will talk about the Sage Grouse.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Sept. 17. Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Meet at the Information Center, across from the Headquarters near Olema, at 9 a.m. Ed Mize (phone: 686-1341) will be the leader.

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Our new Audubon season gets under way at the same meeting place on Sept. 14, with a discussion of an interesting bird - the Sage Grouse. Member Chris Nelson, who studied this bird in the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge in Oregon, says:

"I'd like to share with you my two summers in the sage brush - through snow storms, dust storms, blizzards, chill, and heat - and bring you a study of this little known bird. The crux of the study was an attempt to determine why the Sage Grouse, even under limited hunting, was not doing too well in Oregon."

Come to the meeting and see whether Chris found out the reason why the birds didn't have a population explosion in normal habitat. Our speaker plans to show some slides of this habitat. This promises to be an interesting opener for our 1967-68 season.

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The following Sunday, Sept. 17, we resume our field trips by going back to the Bear Valley section of Pt. Reyes National Seashore for an easy walking trip. The leader happens to be your President & Editor (Ed Mize), who two years ago led a similar trip there. We meet at 9 a.m. at the Information Center across the road from the Headquarters, and then we will drive a short distance to the parking lot at the head of Bear Valley Trail and start our walk. To get to the Information Center, find your way to Olema, west of San Anselmo on the Sir Francis Drake Highway, and at Olema there is a sign pointing to the Pt. Reyes Seashore Headquarters 1/4 mile to the west. First we will look for birds in the open on the new Woodpecker Trail, and then we will walk a couple miles through the woods, gradually climbing

a couple hundred feet to Inverness Ridge. More hardy souls can walk on to the Ocean about 3 miles away, or can climb the Old Pine Trail to one of the higher points in the Seashore. There are benches & tables now at Inverness Ridge, so bring your lunch. Bring sturdy shoes, too ... but no pets. On our return, if there are birders with time, we could drop down to Bolinas Lagoon and check the birds there. For more information, see me at the Sept. meeting or call me at 686-1341 thru Friday the 15th.

 What with people going on vacation, being on vacation, or recuperating from vacation ... it's been a little difficult to finalize the program schedule for next year - but maybe I'll have it for the next "Quail". In the meantime, I go on vacation as soon as this issue is printed.

Field Trip Chairman Bill Betts (5131 Myrtle Dr., Concord; phone 685-5119) has been more successful and indicates the following schedule:

	Sept. 17	...	Pt. Reyes National Seashore
+	Oct. 15	...	with Stockton Audubon near there
++	Nov. 11/12	...	Willows-Gridley
	Dec. —	...	Christmas Count
+ Probable	Jan. 14	...	Conn Dam
	Feb. 11	...	The Delta
++ Possible	Mar. 17	...	Briones Regional Park
	April 21	...	Wildflower Trip (possibly Mt. Diablo)
++	May 18/19	...	Columbia State Park
+	June 16	...	Pine Canyon

We welcome as new members this summer:

Mrs. Maxine G. LeBon, 1270 El Curtola Blvd., Walnut Creek
 C. Russ & Elsie Epley, 1118 Glen Road, Lafayette

On your membership list, change these addresses:

Ingra Lusebrink to Rt. 5, Box 272B, Escondido, Calif. 92025
 Jack & Beth Reynolds to 496 Mohr Lane, Concord 94520
 George & Muriel Schad to 1850 2nd St., Concord 94520

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Now that we are a Corporation, our official paper work has increased. For instance, Bill Betts just finished getting off a bunch of official documents to Sacramento, and, to give you an indication of the work involved, it took three 5¢ stamps to mail the darn thing. The least we owe Bill is our sincere thanks and appreciation for helping Mt. Diablo Audubon through the red tape.

Observations:

About a month ago the Shackelfords and the Swensons were birding from the cliffs and beaches south of Santa Cruz and swear that they saw a million Sooty Shearwaters milling around fishing for anchovies.

I only saw a couple hundred Willets, I think, scooping up bugs in a bog at Morro Bay one evening recently.

Harry Couden sighted Peregrine Falcons at Glacier Park. The Coudens were at Granite Park Chalet the night a grizzly killed a girl nearby.

Aside from removing bounties on crows and blackbilled magpies, the Calif. Legislature did little for Conservation .. except .. that the Regional Parks got the raise in tax extended to 1975, and land acquisition can now go on.

:::::

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: Ed Mize, 686-1341
1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Cal.
94520)

(Next Deadline: Oct. 19)

October, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. William Shortall will speak on "The World Jamboree of Scouting as Seen from the Inside".

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m. Joint trip with Stockton Audubon at Caswell State Park (see below).

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. G. Stuart Keith and "Sights and Sounds of the African Wilds".

Our next meeting, on Oct. 12, will feature the Boy Scout's 12th World Jamboree - the first held in this country. This event took place the first nine days in August at Farragut State Park, on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille in Northern Idaho. Presenting a program on this subject to us will be Bill Shortall, of Alamo, who accompanied 66 Bay Area boys as a unit leader. His slides will picture various activities at the Jamboree, along with glimpses of the outstanding Idaho scenery. This program will appeal to many of our members - especially to those who have been connected with Scouting in any way. Feel free to bring along Scouts who might like to see what went on at the '67 Jamboree.

An outstanding field trip is scheduled for Sunday the 15th, which should be a beautiful Fall day. During the summer, arrangements were completed to hold two joint field trips with Stockton Audubon. On October 15 we will be their guests at Caswell Memorial State Park, which is on the Stanislaus River about midway between Stockton and Modesto. Drive through the park to the picnic area at the end of the paved road, where we will meet at 9:30 a.m. Since this is a State Park, there will be a car fee (probably 50¢). Considering the driving involved, you may want to pool transportation. Bring your walking shoes and a lunch.

I am told that "Part of the park is developed - picnic sites, some barbecue pits, clean rest rooms, and drinking fountains. But a large section has been left as it was, a streamside natural growth of oak trees, shrubs, and vines. There is a nature trail through this area."

To get there: You can take Highway 4 to Stockton, thence down Highway 99 to Austin Road, and west and south on Austin Road 5 miles to the park. Or you can go out through Byron, Tracy, and Manteca to 99 and go down to Austin Road. I will have a marked map at the October meeting.

Our leader will be Mr. D. E. Costa of Stockton Audubon. I will act as coordinator for Mt. Diablo Audubon and can be contacted at the next meeting or at 686-1341 if you have questions.

The Audubon Wildlife Films resume on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. G. Stuart Keith will show "Sights and Sounds of the African Wilds", complete with natural sound recordings. He will show lots of ~~birds~~ birds and animals in this interesting film.

There was a full house at our September meeting to hear Chris Nelson's amusing and scholarly discussion of the Sage Grouse. We marvelled at the patience required to study a bird in such detail (and surely not many of us would care to get up at 3 a.m. and go out to a cold blind and "sit" with a nesting bird all day!) Chris was trying to find a reason why the Sage Grouse population did not increase in good habitat, but could never pin it down. All in all, it was a very interesting program and well received.

Members were pleased to see displayed at our meeting a new painting of White-fronted Geese by Harry Adamson. Harry explained that the scene was near Delevan Refuge looking towards the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, where we are planning a field trip for Nov. 12 & 13.

Our newest members joined at this meeting. We welcome:
Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Hazen, 2525 Golden Rain Rd. #2, Walnut Creek.

.....

Sixteen members and guests took part in the field trip the following Sunday to the Bear Valley portion of Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Unfortunately we had a drippy fog for the first few hours, and the birds were smarter than we were and stayed under cover. After the sun came out, so did the birds. Only 24 species were counted, but these included Townsend's, Yellow, Wilson's, and Audubon's Warblers. Prize find was the flock of Pygmy Nuthatches that Bill Betts found feeding on thistles, but later the birds switched to a more normal conifer habitat. Other finds were: Winter Wren & Starling (by Carlyle Sather), both Kinglets, and Brown Creeper. We were also puzzled by a sparrow with an unusual white throat.

Enclosed is a flyer on the Audubon Western Conference, which will be held at Asilomar April 6 - 9 next Spring. This conference has been popular in the past and is being resumed after a 4 year lapse. No fees are given yet, but if interested send in your name and you will get the vital statistics.

.....

Your editor will be attending an Audubon Workshop in Tiburon on Oct. 28, attending a morning session of Bulletin Editors and an afternoon meeting with the Presidents.

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Here is a program schedule for the remaining meetings of the year:

- Nov. 9 - "Geology and Rock-Hounding" with Jim Bright.
- Dec. 14 - "The Grand Canyon", with John Davis showing pictures of his family's raft trip down the Colorado last summer.
- Jan. 11 (1968) - Harry Adamson showing slides of the trip that he and Betty took to the Caribbean and the northern shores of South America.
- Feb. 8 - Dr. John Schieffelin's illustrated talk on an African safari.
- Mar. 14 - "Air Pollution", discussed by an authority.
- * Apr. 18 - Wild Flower pictures.
- May 9 - (probably) Travel Pictures.
- June 13 - Annual Pot Luck dinner.

* Please note that the April meeting will be a week later than usual, to avoid a conflict with Easter Week.

Observations:

Al Boileau wrote that on 8/30/67 at Moss Landing lagoon he saw Parasitic Jaeger (dark phase) chasing Forster's and Elegant Terns, but leaving Caspian Terns alone. The previous day, at the pond of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, he had good views of downy orange-colored young Coots just being shoved out of the nest. Al remarked (sadly) that a number of coast ducks were seen on the beaches trying to pluck the oil from their plumage. Some of the good bird spots of 10 years ago are pretty well dried up.

After years of going to places "where they always are", Dorothy Couden finally saw her first Water Ouzel, in Glacier Park, and also found the nest hidden under a tongue of overhanging moss-covered rock.

And after years of going to places where they ain't, I finally saw my first Pileated Woodpecker, on 8/31/67 at Camas Mt. Wayside Park, about 20 miles SW of Roseburg, Oregon. The bird was feeding on green elderberries, and for several minutes was little more than ten feet from me.

Bob McCarthy reports a white blackbird (Brewer) near Reno.

The Newell Woods and the Dick Beitzels recently camped together at Tualo State park in Oregon and saw dozens of Common Nighthawks.

Golden Gate Audubon reports a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the RCA Station on Pt. Reyes Peninsula, and two Flamingos on the salt ponds at Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing.

The albatross photographed at The Sea Ranch in Sonoma County, and first thought to be a Short-tailed Albatross has been identified as a Wandering Albatross. It sure was wandering.

It's great to hear that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is not extinct. Three pairs were seen in the Neches River Valley in East Texas.

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Although the Audubon Conservation Resource Center in Berkeley is no longer in business, the B. W. Lucas College Book Company now carries much of the same material. The address is the same: 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Telephone number: 848-3311.

.....

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: Ed Mize, 686-1341
1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Cal.
94520)

(Next Deadline: Nov. 24)

November, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 5

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building, Diablo Valley College. Jim Bright will speak on "Geology and Rock-Hounding".

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 & 12. Sacramento Valley Bird Refuges. Meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, and Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (details below).

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. C. P. Lyons and his "Mexican Adventure".

Member Jim Bright, who lives out Tassajara Road beyond Danville, will lug a few rocks to our meeting on Nov. 9th to help illustrate his talk on "Geology and Rock-Hounding". Jim's presentation will be similar to one he has given at Scoutmaster Training Sessions, and in it he will emphasize the character of rocks, the means of identification, and the composition of some rocks and minerals. He will also touch on the geology of the Bay Area. Now Jim could take a whole year on these subjects, but he's condensed his knowledge down to the more interesting aspects. This should be an excellent program - especially appealing to the many members interested in the rocks around us.

In response to requests, we are going back to the Willows-Gridley areas for our November field trips, Nov. 11th & 12th. You are strongly urged to make this trip, if only for one of the days. Of all our birding trips, this is one of the most rewarding, both in the number of birds and the number of species. Bring food, hiking clothes, rain gear (if necessary), and 'scopes if you have them.

Roy Glotfelty (284-4014) and Ed Mize (686-1341) are the scheduled co-leaders. It might be well to check with one of us, so we will know who is coming and whom to call in case there are changes. Roy continues his discussion of the trips, as follows:

"At 9 a.m. on Saturday we will meet at Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, west of Gridley. To get there, take 99B to Live Oak, 10 miles above Yuba City, and turn west at the light onto Pennington Road. Drive about 10 miles on Pennington Road, following signs directing traffic to the Refuge. Or from Gridley, on 99B, you can drive west on the Colusa Road about 6 miles and then south on Pennington Road to the Refuge. On Sunday we meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 7 miles south of Willows on 99W, at 9 a.m. Drive right in. Allow 2½ to 3 hours driving from here.

"If you plan to stay overnight, you can make reservations at:
 Blue Gum Motel, 5 mi. N. of Willows (Phone: 916-934-5401)
 Willows Motel, 725 S. Tehama St. Willows (916-934-4778)
 Western Motel, 601 N. Tehama St. Willows (916-934-3856)
 Safari Motel, 251 S. Tehama St., Willows (916-934-5923)
 (Rates run about 6 to \$7 single, and \$7 to \$9 double)

"You can also make reservations at two trailer courts:
 Kanawha Village Mobile Home Park, about 2 mi. W. of
 Willows on County Road 50 (Phone: 916-934-3193) or
 ---- (John P. Nelson owner) 905 N. Tehama St., Willows
 (Phone: 916-934-3937)

.....

Our October Field Trip to Caswell State Park was a great success. The weather, though slightly warm in the open, was perfect in the shade of the groves found at Caswell. 20 of our members showed up and were greeted by our hosts, the Stockton Audubon Society. We were initiated to the wonders of the area by having several formations of Sandhill Cranes fly not too high above us, meanwhile croaking their greeting. In the woods we probably scared away more birds than we saw, but counted 37 species even so. Carlyle Sather pointed out a Red-shouldered Hawk circling in the blue, and we could see why it was formerly called Red-bellied Hawk. Bill Betts spotted a White-tailed Kite along the river. Other interesting birds were: Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

After the birding, we had a picnic lunch with our hosts in an excellent shady spot. Then back home, after an excellent day.

In return for being guests of Stockton Audubon at Caswell, we have invited them to be our guests on a trip into Briones Regional Park on Sunday, March 17, 1968.

An interested audience was present at our October meeting to hear Bill Shortall of Alamo discuss and show pictures of the Scout's World Jamboree at Farragut, held last August. Bill started his pictures by showing a pre-trip practice session held in cold, foggy San Bruno. Then he followed the scouts on a tour through Washington, Vancouver, and Vancouver Island on the way to Farragut, Idaho. We saw much of the color of the camp and the activities at the Jamboree. The spirit of "Friendship" was quite evident.

+++++

Ches Lyons, an Audubon lecturer for many years and last seen here two years ago, will be back on Tuesday, November 21, to show "Mexican Adventure". In a land of beauty and startling contrasts, Mr. Lyons has found many interesting bits of nature to show us.

ATTENTION

NOTICE

REQUEST

Your President's house isn't big enough to squeeze in members and have a potluck dinner too. So I, Ed Mize, would appreciate a volunteer for the Christmas Count potluck and another for the June 13th annual Potluck Dinner Meeting. Call me, or see me at the meeting. Thanks.

Among those who made the Caswell Park field trip and promptly joined as members were -

Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Atkinson, Jr. 41 West Lake Drive, Antioch.

We welcome Ernie and his wife, and also extend our greetings to another new member -

Ida Jean Fleming, 230 Bancroft Road, Concord.

The local papers listed the death on Oct. 8th of Mrs. Mabel B. Farrer, of 2401 Pine Knoll Drive, Walnut Creek. Mrs. Farrer had been a member of our group for a little over a year.

George Schad recently received a membership renewal from Betty Nelson of East Lansing, Michigan. Betty says that she is glad to read about our activities, and she hopes to return to California and become more of an active member after she gets her Masters degree.

John Wright, one of our younger members, was home on Army leave and attended our October meeting. John is on his way to some Alaska duty, tentatively at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks.

John Stanley is now working as staff naturalist for National Audubon at the Audubon Center of Southern California at El Monte. We wish him well, but will miss his enthusiasm and humor at our meetings. At a recent Audubon workshop in Tiburon, Bill Goodall spoke very highly of the work that John was doing for them down south.

Stuart Keith's screen tour, "Sights and Sounds of the African Wilds", packed the DVC gymnasium on October 18th. We saw many more birds than usual, but Mr. Keith managed to squeeze some animals into the second reel. Probably most dramatic were pictures showing a drought in Kenya, followed by the healthy appearance of the animals and vegetation after a few downpours. Also amazing was the beautiful color of the several starlings shown. How come we had to get stuck with such a drab Starling in this country?

+++++

Conservation Chairman Joy Meagher reported at our October meeting that a 5-year study showed that those trees on the Sacramento River levees were not damaging the banks! It makes us sad (and mad) to think that the Army Engineers destroyed mile after mile of beautiful river scenery before such a study was completed.

o o o o o

Observation:

Bob Buttery again participated in the annual Condor census conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, University of California and National Audubon Society. Bob's observation post during the 2-day count was on Hopper Mountain Ridge, which is located on the West edge of the Hopper Canyon nesting area in the Sespe Condor Refuge.

Forty-six Condors were spotted this year, as compared with 51 in 1966 and 38 in 1965. The annual count does not amount to a complete census, so the lower count does not mean that there are five less Condors this year.

Many of the Forest Service observers scheduled for the count were unable to participate because of the 11,000 acre Timber Mountain Fire, which started the day before the count and burned to the edge of the refuge.

Bob saw 2 Condors as well as 24 other species during his two days on the ridge.



The Quail

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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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

(Next Deadline: Dec. 20)

December, 1967
Vol. 14, No. 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building) Diablo Valley College. John Davis and Paul E. Schulz will present a program on the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

Next Field Trip: None until Jan. 14, 1968, when we go to Conn Dam.

Christmas Count: If we have one, it will be on Saturday, Dec. 30.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, Jan. 8, 1968. William Ferguson's "High Horizons", which deal with the Rockies.

Our program on Dec. 14 will be a duet, with Members John Davis and Ernie Schulz singing the praises of the Grand Canyon. First we will hear from Ernie, who will show slides of the Grand Canyon country, with emphasis on the geology. He was stationed at Grand Canyon National Park for several years and knows the country well. After this background introduction, John Davis will then show us what it's like to be a river rat and float 83 miles in 4 days down the Colorado, between Lee's Ferry and Phantom Ranch. The Davis family took this trip with the Mt. Diablo YMCA group in the latter part of June and had a wonderful time - as you will see.

.....

In view of the generally poor weather in December and the Christmas rush, we have not scheduled a field trip this month. Save your energy and come out in January, when Bill Betts and Ed Mize will find you lotsa birds at Conn Dam.

A Christmas Count this year is uncertain. If we have one, it will be on Saturday, Dec. 30 - after Christmas and before New Year's Eve.

As you know, Lynn Farrar has headed our Christmas Counts for many years and has done an outstanding job. But he now finds that he is swamped by the demands of his regular job, which often takes him out of town for weeks at a time. Therefore, Lynn says that this year, although he may be able to help a little, he cannot take all the responsibility of the Count.

What we need, therefore, is someone to volunteer to help organize the Count and to help compile the data. If you are interested in going out this year, pick out the area in the 15-mile circle you want to cover, and contact either Lynn Farrar (283-3938) or Ed Mize (686-1341). If you feel that you can help organize the Count or help with the compilation work, be sure to let us know. A final decision will be announced at the Dec. 14 meeting. If by then we are not able to get the necessary help, the Christmas Count will be reluctantly dropped.

Also, we do not yet have a volunteer for a Christmas Count potluck location. If you would care to volunteer your home for the evening of Dec. 30, contact Ed Mize. Your offer will be accepted, if we have a Christmas Count, and you will be kept informed of developments.

Our overnight field trips to the Sacramento Valley bird refuges went along smoothly and were well attended. 13 members showed up Saturday, Nov. 11, at Gray Lodge, and an additional 6 more came to the refuge near Willows on Sunday. Some members camped and others moteled.

Birding was excellent at Gray Lodge, and 54 species were seen there. There were spectacular displays of geese. Harry Adamson was able to point out to us the differences between the Snow Goose and the Ross Goose. Other choice shows were: Sandhill Cranes (some dancing), lots of ducks, Bittern, a Barn Owl, and two Burrowing Owls. The only bad feature of the hikes was an abundance of gnats and mosquitos.

The sighting of 3 European Widgeon was the primary observation at the Sacramento National Refuge. On walks there we also saw White Pelican, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Virginia Rail, Green Heron, and Bared Grebe among the 23 species not seen the day before. The total of 77 species in the two days was a commendable showing. We were lucky on the weather ... threatening storm clouds did not break until we were on our way home.

.....

About 40 members and guests jammed our November meeting room to hear Member Jim Bright give a clear introductory course in geology in an hour and then display many rocks and fossils from his collection. It was a good turnout and a good program, and it further showed that Mt. Diablo Audubon is not just for the birds.

Responding to my plea for potluck locations, Beth Reynolds called and said that now that she and Jack have moved to Concord (496 Mohr Lane) they have more space, including an enclosed patio, and would be delighted to have us as their guests on June 13th for the annual meeting. Thanks, Beth and Jack ... we'll be delighted to be there.

We heartily welcome our newest members:

Barbara Colvin, 3565 Ridgewood Court, Concord

Edward and Ruth Eichstedt, 3117 Golden Rain, Apt. 1, Walnut Creek

Joan Mize, 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord

Barbara is the wife of a Chemist at Phillip's Avon refinery, and she formerly taught at San Ramon and Mt. Diablo High Schools. ... The Eichstedts went on the Sacramento Valley field trips. They come to us from Michigan, and Ed is an honorary life member of Detroit Audubon. ... You editor's wife, Joan, who has helped Mt. Diablo Audubon in many ways these past several years, is now officially a member.

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Mrs. Guy Holsclaw recently resigned because she cannot drive at night. She has served on many committees; and we will miss Elvira's company.

Joy Meagher recently participated in a Girl Scout Camping workshop held at Twin Canyon Day Camp near Lafayette. Joy presented the workshop on Conservation - which figures, because she is our excellent Conservation Chairman.

Rufus Johnson has joined the exodus to Rossmoor and now lives at 2576 ~~Tree~~ Tice Creek Drive, Apt. 5, Walnut Creek.

Engra Lusebrink's name recently appeared in San Diego Audubon's bulletin, indicating that she is continuing her Audubon interests.

Since becoming your President, I have heard complaints about our meeting room, which admittedly is not as attractive now as when Ferd Ruth had charge of it. During a recent vacation I spent several hours checking other locations, but the results were disappointing. We are not the only group around here looking for a better room, and space is at a premium. At Diablo Valley College, for instance, enrollments at night sessions are so large that little empty space is left. An excellent room in East Hall might be available on certain Friday nights, but that's a bad night for a meeting - especially during Daylight Saving months, when many people start weekend trips early. So if you know of a possible permanent meeting place, please appoint yourself a Committee of One and check it for size (to seat about 60 maximum), location (central to our members), availability (the 2nd Thurs.), comfort, and free to non-profit organizations (as we definitely are). You can let me know your findings or bring it up at a meeting.

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Ches Lyon's film, "Mexican Adventure", shown at DVC Gym on Nov. 21, was an excellent summary of the contrasts in Mexico. Filled with scenic shots and birds found south of here, it was presented with some of Mr. Lyon's Canadian humor.

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Roy Glotfelty passes on a clipping from "Fishing and Hunting News", which says a crackdown in National Forest Recreation Areas will ban loose dogs and cats, wild motorbike races, and crazy driving in these areas. Motorbikes will be restricted to areas provided for their entry, exit, and parking. Surely these new regulations will correct some of the present abuses.

The only bird observation: a Water Pipit on the lawn at Avon on Nov. 9 is the earliest record I have of their arrival at that location. 49 Whooping Cranes flew back to Aransas this year (44 in 1966).

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Ann Cavanagh attended a recent meeting of the Bay Area Water Problems Committee. Her report to us at our last meeting summarized our water problem in a nut shell. Attached is her concise written report, which may be of interest to you.

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Audubon Camp of the West (P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif. 91733) has four 2 week sessions scheduled for 1968 between June 23 and Aug. 16 at the camp near Dubois, Wyoming. A camp fee of \$135 includes board and lodging, instruction, and all field trip transportation. Write them for details, if you are interested.

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That's all for this year - except to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you from your President and Bulletin Editor,

Ed Mize

WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEE MEETING
October 27, 1967 Concord Inn

The meeting was addressed by Jack Port of the County Water District, County District Attorney Nejedly, State Senator Miller, and Congressman Waldie. At lunch I sat with some Delta farmers, who will lose their livelihood if the California Water Plan is carried out, and I listened to their righteous indignation at ruining perfectly good Delta farmland to bring inferior land in the S.W. San Joaquin Valley into production. (It seems that only half the water being transported south in the first stage will go to slake the thirst of the Los Angeles people and fill their swimming pools; the other half is intended to irrigate this side of the Tehachapis.

Highlights of the Speeches

As it stands now, the California Water Plan will benefit only Southern California at the expense of our area. Oroville Dam will supply but one-fourth of the new water committed to the South.

Propoganda to the contrary, the purpose of the Peripheral Canal is to transport high-quality water around the east side of the Delta, to be shipped southward. Meanwhile the Delta will be contaminated by salt-water intrusion, by Bay Area wastes, and by the effluent from the proposed San Luis Drain terminating at Antioch.

The State has already attempted to abandon the salinity control standards, which have protected the Delta since Shasta Dam was constructed. The situation is complicated by the number of State and Federal agencies involved, all of which seem subject to the weightier political pressure of Southern California.

Remedies Proposed

Legal recourse through the courts is available but offers many difficulties. Legislative remedies should be attempted first. Time is of the essence, because Southern California holds the majority vote, and once the water is turned on they will do nothing to help us.

The Water Plan is already short of money, and such fringe benefits as wildlife habitat protection and recreation facilities are to be eliminated. Senator Miller proposes a \$2 billion bond issue to finish the job properly, including diversion of the Bel River to replace water moved southward.

There was also some talk of a salt-water barrier. Sen. Miller said further that it is time for the Bay Area to think seriously about piping its wastes out into the ocean before the problem becomes critical.

Later Developments

As part of the Water Plan, the Kellogg Reservoir was to be built in Eastern Contra Costa County to provide storage for the Contra Costa Canal, which supplies drinking water to Concord and other cities, as well as water for industry and agriculture. On Nov. 3, Commissioner Dominy of the Bureau of Reclamation said that Kellogg may become another casualty of the Viet Nam War.

Mr. Nejedly is to join Mr. Waldie in an attempt to persuade the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration to insist on maintaining present water quality standards in the Delta. State Water Resources Director Gianelli calls these standards "wasteful".

Ann Cavanagh