



# 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: Jan. 19)

January, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 7

- Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Harry and Betty Adamson will show slides of their trip to Venezuela and some of the Caribbean Islands.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m. Meet at Conn Dam.  
Leaders: Bill Betts (685-5119) and Ed Mize (686-1341).
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, Jan. 8, 8 p.m. DVC Gym. William Ferguson presenting "High Horizons".  
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Almost a year ago, Harry and Betty Adamson took a superlative Sierra Club trip to Northern South America and to some of the islands of the Caribbean. They found a multitude of birds in a great variety of habitat. At our Jan. 11 meeting, the Adamsons will show slides and share with us some of the scenery and wild life they were fortunate to capture on film. We will see Angel Falls, highest in the world, and visit such places as Venezuela, Surinam, Guyana, Trinidad, and Guatemala. So it promises to be a colorful and memorable evening.  
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Our Field Trips resume on Jan 14, with a return to a favorite birding area: Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey. This time meet at the foot of the Dam. In other years we have met at a stone bridge along the way, but we have had difficulty birding from cars along the Silverado Trail, and our convoys on this road have constituted a traffic hazard. There's nothing to stop you from starting earlier, however, and birding along the way; but try to be at the picnic area at the foot of the Dam at 9:30.

To get there: Take State Highway 29 between Napa & Calistoga, and turn off at Rutherford and go east about 5 miles. A slower but more scenic route is to turn at Napa towards Winters about 3 miles and then take the Silverado Trail north 13 miles and turn east to the Dam.

After some birding at the meeting place and at the top of the Dam, we will drive to various spots around the Lake and see what we can see. We do little hiking on this trip. Birding is generally good, with excellent views of water birds as well as birds of the fields and forests. Bring war clothing, 'scopes, a hearty lunch, and sunny weather.

The next Audubon Wildlife Film will be shown on Monday, Jan. 6th, at the DVC Gym and will feature William Ferguson and his film, "High Horizons". This picture deals primarily with the Colorado Rockies and the birds, animals, and flowers found in the various zones there.

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Despite the bitterly cold weather, conflicting Christmas programs, and shopping demands, we had a full house at our December meeting to hear a joint program on the Grand Canyon presented by Ernie Schulz and John Davis. We were moved to a room down the hall, which proved better than our old haunts except that a screen was missing. Special thanks therefore go to Ernie Schulz, who dashed back to Martinez to get a screen so that the show could go on.

Ernie then gave us an excellent geological history of the Canyon, stressing that some geological eras of rock are no longer visible in the Canyon. He followed his talk with a showing of slides featuring scenic wonders not only within Grand Canyon National Park but in some of the adjacent areas. ... After this splendid introduction, John Davis showed his colorful slides of the float trip down the river from Lee's Ferry to Phantom Ranch — the only way some of us will ever see that stretch of the river. His pictures were strikingly beautiful and made us feel that we were on a raft, with hardly a worry about the rapids ahead.

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Our genial Treasurer, George Schad, was absent from this meeting and has since undergone kidney surgery. At last report, he had returned home before Christmas and is getting along fine.

The name of Ingra Lusebrink appeared in a recent bulletin of the Buena Vista Audubon Society (Vista, Calif.) under "New Members". Ingra writes that she had hopes of going on both the San Diego and Buena Vista Christmas Counts. Birding is good in the bays and lagoons, she says.

John Stanley writes that he hopes to spend next summer in Wyoming, presumably at the Audubon Camp. He also thanks us by saying,

"The warm welcome I received from members of the Diablo

Audubon led to my interest in working for National Audubon." If you travel in Southern California, you are invited to stop in at the Audubon Center of Southern California, 1000 Durfee Avenue, South El Monte, and see John.

Ferd Ruth has invited us to hold a meeting in his lab at the Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, and tour the facilities after they open. (I presume that this will be next Fall or later).

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#### Observations:

John Stanley sent a list of 55 species he has seen in the last two months at Audubon Center of Southern Cal. Many of the birds are common here, but he also lists: Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Spotted Dove; Roadrunner; Barn Owl; Screech Owl; Black-chinned Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Black-throated Gray Warbler; and Cardinal. This indicates pretty good birding in S. El Monte.

Larry Couden reported Snow Geese over his home in Walnut Creek. Some were also reported at Avon during the recent cold spell.

Dave Bowman had Chestnut-backed ~~Chickadee~~ Chickadee in his backyard, off Rudgear Road in Walnut Creek. So this species continues to spread throughout our area.

Larry Adamson said he went over to Inverness to see the Yellow-billed Loon, which dropped in there Dec. 1.

Joy Weather sent an article from the Monterey paper telling of a Brown Thrasher seen in Carmel Highlands — only the third record of the bird in California.

The new Jan/Feb issue of "Pacific Discovery" has an interesting article on the Peregrine Falcon. The bird nests in greatest concentration in the remote Queen Charlotte Islands, west of the coast of British Columbia, where it lives on marine life washed ashore. But even on wild, isolated cliffs, the Peregrine is not free from pressure from man and insecticides.

If you thought the Maui Nukupuu was extinct, you can think again. For the first time in 71 years, it has been seen roaming the Kipahulu Valley of Maui, near the Haleakala area.

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Acquisition of the Brazil-Sousa acreage for addition to Tamalpais State Park has been side-tracked for the present and possibly forever. The land is owned by a church, believed by many to be a front for a land speculation outfit, and their asking price is \$3.3 million as opposed to the State's offer of \$3.0 million. The real tragedy is that 10 years ago the State could have bought the 2100 acres for a paltry \$300,000.

The State recently bought 320 acres of Forts Baker and Harry and hopes to add it to a 3000 acre Golden Gate Headlands State Park. Before this, 130 acres in Fort Baker and 183 acres in Fort Cronkhite were bought.

About 5 years ago, conservationists tried to prevent construction of an aerial tramway up Mt. San Jacinto near Palm Springs. Now we hear that the tramway is doing only 1/3 the business promised and bonds are defaulted.

While a new compromise Redwood National park lies idle in Congress, Georgia-Pacific Corporation is whacking away at the redwoods just outside the proposed Park boundaries.

House and Senate members have settled their differences over the proposed San Rafael Wilderness Area, north of Santa Barbara, but so far no further action has been taken on this wilderness legislation.

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The program for the Audubon Western Conference, being held at Asilomar (Pacific Grove) April 6 - 9, 1968, has been released. Speakers will be: George Treichel, Dr. Richard Warner, Mrs. Elizabeth Gatov, Samuel Wood, Norman Livermore, Charles Callison, and Roland Clement. Field trips will be held Monday morning, April 8. Further information available at our next meeting, or write to National Audubon Western Conference, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif, 91733, for reservation information.

Your President-Editor hopes to attend some of the conference. At the December meeting the Society voted to help defray some of his expenses.

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Despite uncertainties a month ago, we did hold a successful Christmas Count on Dec. 30, with about 25 birders in the field. Approximately 108 bird species were seen - down 10 from last year because of the drier conditions. (I hope to have a complete tally in the next "Quail".) The weather was perfect; and we were lucky, because the next two days were cold and foggy.

Counters gathered at the Couden home for a potluck and tally. There was some discussion over how increased assessments by National Audubon should be paid - a matter which will have to be resolved by next Christmas, if we are to continue official Counts.

Our special thanks go to Dorothy and Harry Couden for their warm home and hospitality, and to Ruth and Lynn Farrar, who agreed to handle the official compilation.

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

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

(Next Deadline: Feb. 22)

February, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Dr. John Schieffelin will show a movie on Africa.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m. To the Delta. Meet at the Bradford Island ferry landing (see below). Leader: John Bruce (837-9554) or Ed Mize (686-1341).

Next Screen Tour: Monday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. DVC Gym. Walter Berlet in "The Untamed Olympics".  
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How would you like to go on an African safari and see a few lions, cheetahs, rhinos, leopard, and elephants? Then come to our meeting on Feb. 8 and thrill to an hour-long 16 mm. movie shown by one of our newer members, Dr. John Schieffelin of Lafayette, presently a pediatrician at Kaiser's. Dr. Schieffelin took this picture on a trip he made to Africa a couple of years ago. It promises to be a very unusual and interesting evening.  
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Since we haven't been on a field trip to the Delta for a few years, the Committee thought maybe this would be a good year to go back to the asparagus patch. So this year, on Saturday, Feb. 10, we are going to an area we haven't been in before - to Bradford Island, in the San Joaquin delta. We have been invited by Mr. William Atkinson of Bradford Island to bird on his 200 acre farm. Please note that the trip will be on Saturday. The reason for the change from Sunday is that the ferry to Bradford Island runs hourly on Saturday, but is suspended on Sunday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

To get to the free ferry: Take Highway 4 thru Oakley, turn left onto Cypress Road, go 2 miles and turn left on Jersey Island Road. Then 3 miles on Jersey Island Road you will see the green sign pointing to the Bradford Island Ferry and Webb Tract. Turn right and take the levee road about 4 miles to the landing. Try to be there a little before 10 a.m., as the ferry leaves about 10:15, by the latest schedule.

Bring sturdy shoes, appropriate weather gear, and a lunch. The Birding will be varied, but interesting. Most spectacular will probably be White-tailed Kites, possibly Burrowing Owls, a variety of water birds, and birds that enjoy the thickets and the rushes. As a bonus, you will ride one of the few ferries left in California.

The next Screen Tour will be on Monday, Feb. 12, and will feature Walter Berlet and "The Untamed Olympics". Any recommendation I might make will be completely biased - for I'm an enthusiast about the Olympics, which are described as "the finest remnant of wilderness in the Pacific Northwest", ranging from the Pacific shore to glaciated Mt. Olympus itself. Mr. Berlet's film will show the animals and flowers, the beaches, the rain forests, and many other special attractions in this national park. He has been at DVC several times before with excellent pictures of Alaska and the Yukon; and I'm sure that his Olympic picture will be another masterpiece.

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Any time Harry and Betty Adamson show pictures we have a full house. Our January meeting was no exception to this rule. Many members and 13 guests came out to see the Adamson's pictures of the trip they took a year ago to northern South America and the Caribbean. It was as though we were seeing several "National Geographic" articles in living color film, for so many of the Adamson's side trips had been featured articles in that magazine. Thus, we saw: Angel Falls (highest in the world), a voyage on the river between Surinam and French Guiana, the brilliant Cock-of-the-Rock, Kaieteur Falls, and such exotic places as Tobago, Panama, and Guatemala. (How nice it was a couple of weeks later to see a TV travelog featuring the diamond miners of the Potaro River and a trip to Kaieteur Falls ... very similar to Harry's descriptions!). Harry also inserted many slides of bird pictures taken from books, so we would have an idea of what birds they saw but could not photograph. It was an outstanding show.

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Although our January Field Trip to Conn Dam had to compete with the Super-Bowl football game and inclement weather, 12 birders showed up and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We drove around one side of Lake Hennessey and walked around the other. Despite overcast skies, which made some identification difficult, we bagged 57 species. Outstanding were: Bared Grebe, a dirty Whistling Swan, two Canada Geese, an unidentified Loon, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, American Goldfinch, several Say's Phoebes, Mountain Bluebird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln Sparrow.

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We welcome our newest member:

Miss Marjory Reu, 2401 Lake Street, San Francisco.

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At last report, our Treasurer, George Schad, is home and doing well. He can handle your membership renewal, so don't hesitate to send it in. His address is 1850 - 2nd St. Concord, 94520. George appreciated the many "get well" cards you sent to him recently.

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William Ferguson's "High Horizons" at the Audubon Wildlife Tour on Jan. 8 was well attended. He started high on a ridge in Rocky Mt. National Park and followed streams of water down to lower levels, showing the life in the various zones. There were excellent shots of birds, the silk moth, and wapiti featured in the film.

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Another reminder from Paul Howard, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Cal. 91733, that registrations are still being taken for any of the four two-week sessions of the Audubon Camp of the West (in Wyoming), 6/23-7/5; 7/7 - 7/19; 7/21 - 8/2; and 8/4 - 8/16. Write him for more information, if you want.

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It has frequently been suggested that we change our meeting date, so as not to conflict with Golden Gate Audubon, which also meets on the second Thursday. Several of our members also belong to Golden Gate and sometimes are faced with a horrible decision - trying to choose between two good programs. A proposal was made at our January meeting that, beginning in September, we start meeting on the first Thursday. The first Thursday was recommended, so as to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. It was voted at our January meeting that a proposed change in the by-laws be printed in the February "Quail", as follows:

Article II, paragraph 1, would be changed to read ...

"The regular meetings of this Society shall be on the first Thursday of each month between September and June."

Underlined portions represent a change from "second" to "first" and the addition of "between September and June". Our by-laws state that changes can be approved by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting. A vote will be taken at the February meeting.

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Observations:

Jane Nemetz reports that the first Violet-green Swallow of the season arrived at Heather Pond on Jan. 18. Also seen there or nearby recently were: Redhead, Common Egret, Green Heron, and Goldeneye.

Joy Meagher welcomed a Green Heron to her backyard recently.

Frieda Shackelford looked out the window on Jan. 9, and by golly there was a Western Tanager at the feeder. This, along with the Bullock's Oriole she saw during the Christmas Count period, makes it seem like summer is here.

Santa Clara Audubon reports an Eastern phoebe at the Carmel River on Nov. 28 and a Prothonotary Warbler at Willow Creek, 60 miles south of Monterey, on Dec. 3.

The first record of a Wood Thrush in California was spotted by Guy McCaskie and crew in the San Diego area.

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Secretary of Interior Udall has made two decisions recently on the building of highways through National Parks. Approval was given for a 2-lane limited access highway across Sequoia National Park to take traffic to and from the proposed Mineral King development by Walt Disney Productions. ... On the other hand, Udall has turned down North Carolina's request to build another road across the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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Attached <sup>is</sup> ~~in~~ Compiler Lynn Farrar's summary of the recent Christmas Count. The 110 species seen was 8 less than last year and somewhat less than San Diego's record of 209 or Tomales Bay's 194. As you see, we are not in the same ballpark with San Diego and Tomales and therefore do not participate in the "World Series" aspect of the Christmas Count ... we just have the fun, and that's the way it should be.

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Total Species ... 110 Total Individuals .. 63,714

Horned Grebe	1	Dunlin	339	Longbill Marsh Wren	4
Eared Grebe	2	West. Sandpiper	120	Rock Wren	6
Pied-billed Grebe	15	Sandpipers, sp.	400	Mockingbird	42
Great Blue Heron	1	American Avocet	4	Calif. Thrasher	8
Common Egret	4	Glaucous-w. Gull	58	Robin	169
Snowy Egret	25	Herring Gull	40	Varied Thrush	17
American Bittern	3	California Gull	205	Hermit Thrush	34
Canada Goose	48	Ringbilled Gull	412	Western Bluebird	50
Mallard	102	Mew Gull	4	Rubycrowned Kinglet	46
Gadwall	16	Bonaparte's Gull	26	Water Pipit	13
Pintail	400	Gulls, sp.	5208	Cedar Waxwing	111
Green-winged Teal	34	Bandtail Pigeon	58	Loggerhead Shrike	15
American Widgeon	186	Mourning Dove	29	Starling	624
Shoveler	138	Barn Owl	5	Myrtle Warbler	3
Canvasback	10	Screech Owl	1	Audubon's Warbler	95
Lesser Scaup	32	Great Horned Owl	9	Yellowthroat	1
Common Goldeneye	13	White-thr. Swift	30	House Sparrow	168
Bufflehead	8	Anna's Hummingb.	25	Western Meadowlark	214
Ruddy Duck	74	Redshaft. Flicker	56	Redwinged Blackbird	4190
Duck, sp.	300	Acorn Woodpecker	67	Tricolored Blackbird	104
Turkey Vulture	24	Lewis Woodpecker	3	Brewer Blackbird	10411
White-tailed Kite	7	Yellow-bel. Saps.	14	Blackbird, sp.	35000
Sharpshinned Hawk	2	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Purple Finch	6
Cooper's Hawk	3	Downy Woodpecker	5	House Finch	168
Red-tailed Hawk	38	Nuttall's Woodp.	4	Pine Siskin	30
Marsh Hawk	16	Black Phoebe	7	American Goldfinch	550
Sparrow Hawk	39	Say's Phoebe	14	Lesser Goldfinch	205
California Quail	56	Horned Lark	113	Rufous-sided Towhee	46
Ring-neck Pheasant	2	Violetgr. Swallow	1	Brown Towhee	68
Common Gallinule	12	Steller's Jay	21	Savannah Sparrow	109
American Coot	488	Scrub Jay	109	Lark Sparrow	24
Killdeer	179	Chestnutbk. Chick.	6	Rufous-crown Sparrow	6
Blackbellied Plover	47	Plain Titmouse	72	Oregon Junco	369
Common Snipe	29	Common Bushtit	22	White-crowned Sparrow	483
Longbilled Curlew	46	White-br. Nuthat.	20	Golden-crown Sparrow	252
Willet	10	Wrentit	16	Fox Sparrow	16
Greater Yellowlegs	41	House Wren	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Least Sandpiper	47	Bewick's Wren	7	Song Sparrow	25

Also seen in Count Period: Belted Kingfisher; Bullock's Oriole

"This year we had a good turnout of birders, and I thank all concerned. Surprisingly, we had several high counts, although total number of species dropped. An unfortunate illness prevented a survey of Pine Canyon. We need more experience within designated areas, to use time effectively. I wish to particularly welcome Betty and Ernie Atkinson and David and Alyce Bowman, who had birds no one else saw, on their first count. We have such a wonderful area that it would be a shame to drop it for lack of a leader. Things should get started in September. Anyone interested in our area can arrange to go over it with me or look at the maps.

"Participants this year were: the Adamsons, the Atkinsons, the Bowmans, Bob Buttery and Son, Ann Cavanagh, Dennis Clemens, the Coudens, the Farrars, Jim Harrison, Ruth Hozier, Ed Mize, Bert O'Meara, Ferd Ruth, the Schaefer's, the Shackelfords, the Stellers, and Caroline Raynesford.

"Finally, thanks go to the Coudens for hosting a delightful potluck."



# 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: March 25)

March, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Tom Brennan and Calvin Watterson of the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District will present a program on Air Pollution.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 17. Briones Regional Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the John Muir National Historic Site, or a little later at the home of the leader, Christian Nelson, at the head of Briones Road.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, April 1, 8 p.m. DVC Gym. John Bulger in "Wild Rivers of America".

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In recent years we have had a program each year dealing with a local problem. Thus, the last two years we have heard discussions about local water pollution and the bleak future of the Delta water supply. At our next meeting, on March 14, we leave the water for awhile and take a gulp of air, which, incidentally, might be a little polluted.

Our program will be presented by two men from the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District: Tom Brennan, Supervising Air Pollution Inspector, and Calvin Watterson, Air Pollution Inspector. They will show a 10 min. 16 mm. sound/color movie, "Cleaner Air: A Progress Report" and then carry on from there. It will be an interesting and informative meeting.

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We read a lot about our new Briones Regional Park, acquired over the past ten years, but few of us have spent much time in the area. In the last five years our Society has held two field trips there, going in from the Briones Reservoir side. This year, on March 17, we will have the great pleasure of going in from the Alhambra Valley side. Our leader will be Christian Nelson, who knows the area well, since he lives right on the border of the Park.

We are hosting some members of the Stockton Audubon Society, as a gesture of appreciation for the wonderful time they gave us at Caswell State Park last October. To make it easier for our guests, we are going to meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot of the John Muir home, which is close by the junction of State Highway 4 (Arnold Industrial Highway) and Alhambra Avenue (the main entrance to Martinez).



Shortly after 9:30 we will form a caravan and take you to your leader, Chris Nelson, who lives in the last house up Briones Road. If you go there directly, go south on Alhambra Valley Road to Reliez Valley Road, jog slightly to the west, and then take Briones Road to the last house.

Our cheerful host will meet us at his home and conduct a walk into the Park. Birding should be interesting, since there are a couple of ponds in the area. A good selection of hawks, songbirds, and birds of the open woodlands can be expected. Bring sturdy shoes and a lunch. Upon our return to the cars, we have been invited to coffee and refreshments at the Nelson's. If you want, you can return to the Muir home and take the regular tour through the home at 3 or 4 p.m.

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The final Audubon Wildlife Film of the season will be presented on Monday, April 1st - no fooling - at the Diablo Valley College Gym, with John D. ~~Rocke~~ Bulger taking us down some of the "Wild Rivers of North America" - specifically the Allagash, St. Lawrence, Hudson, and Buffalo. Maybe some of these streams aren't so wild in spots, but Mr. Bulger went thousands of miles down them to capture several wild animals on film.

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We had a room full of members and guests ~~to~~ on Feb. 8 to see Dr. John Schieffelin's movies on the animals and some birds in Kenya and Tanzania. Jack's projector was a little noisy, but, as he pointed out, his pictures hardly needed any commentary. We started out with a close-up of a grazing rhino, with its shadows the Cattle Egrets nearby, and in the three reels we were treated to excellent pictures of elephants, leopard, giraffes, lions, cheetah, impala, and fords - the latter being in the reel dealing primarily with safari life. It was an outstanding series of films in sparkling clarity, in precise focus, and well-edited.

At this February meeting, members unanimously approved a proposed change in the by-laws to move our meeting date from the second Thursday to the first Thursday, beginning September 5.

Lynn Farrar also brought up a good point. He thinks we should start informing people - particularly youths with guns - just which birds are protected and which are not protected. It is possible that we might develop this project in the future and pass out information at schools.

For your information, the birds which are not protected in California at present are: House Sparrows, Crows, Black-billed Magpies, Yellow-billed Magpies (in some counties), Scrub Jays, Steller's Jays, and Starlings.

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Boy, we've been lucky on the field trips this year! The rains held off for our February trip to Bradford Island, and we had a beautiful day. The narrow levee road around the Island was such that nobody got stuck in the mud. A week later and some of our cars might still be there!

The turnout was tremendous, with at least 11 cars, so that the ferry had to make two trips. Although invited to the Wm. Atkinson place, we couldn't find him, but we did find a half-dozen Burrowing Owls. Some of the group continued across the Island. At least 45 species were tallied, including several White-tailed Kites, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross Goose (and even Tule Goose), plus phoebes, ducks, and songbirds. Special thanks go to Leader John Bruce for arranging this very interesting trip.

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A hearty welcome to our newest members:

Leslie and Dorene Running, 1826 Noemi Drive, Concord. Les is a Storekeeper at the Radiation Lab, where he has worked for 20 years. Every chance possible, the family, including Kristi and Matthew, is out hiking and camping.

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Mt. Diablo Audubon old-timers will recall Bill Adams, one of the early active members of our group. We hear that Bill was killed on Feb. 10 on the highway near his home on the outskirts of Sebastopol, when a tractor he was riding went out of control and hit a car.

John Wright, one of our young members, hasn't been active in our club recently, because he has been active with Uncle Sam at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, he has found time to write a column (and a good one, too!) on nature subjects for the college paper at the University of Alaska.

Our faithful publicity Chairman, Luella Augason, has her problems. Despite her earnest efforts last month, one paper said that the Mt. Diablo Association Society was holding a meeting in S-211, and another paper said the meeting would be on Friday (instead of Thursday)!

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### Observations:

Bob McCarthy tipped us off at the February meeting that there were excellent displays of swans and cranes in some of the fields adjacent to the Borden Highway, near some of the bridges on the way to Stockton. After the Bradford Island field trip on Feb. 10, several members went over and witnessed the display of these beautiful birds.

Ernie Atkinson happened to be in S.F. on Feb. 13 and went out to Stowe Lake in Golden Gate Park, and there about 8 feet away was a European Widgeon mixed with 30 Americans. When he told the news to the first chap he saw with field glasses, the latter got so excited that he almost dropped the glasses into the Lake.

Frieda Shackelford reported a Western Tanager in her yard in early February.

Virginia Schaefer told of seeing a Rufous Hummingbird in early February - about a month earlier than any previous record she has.

The Adamsons described the "Robin's Roost", back of Joaquin Miller Park, where it seems that as many as a hundred thousand robins collect every night. Betty and Harry went there again after our Feb. 10 trip and saw huge flocks. Maybe next year we should plan a field trip into this area during the day and stay around long enough to see this most unusual display.

Scratch that Ladder-backed Woodpecker - I mean the one reported on the Conn Jam trip. Actually a Nuttall's Woodpecker was seen, since Ladder-backs are about 300 miles away in the cactus.

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Mt. Diablo Audubon cooperated with the Kennedy University League, which presented "A Program with the Sierra Club" on Feb. 20 at the new De La Salle High School auditorium. A large crowd of about 300 came to see a film on the Grand Canyon, but many left when a Sierra Club chairman began to preach about the Land & Water Conservation Act. The departees missed a showing of colorful slides of the Redwood Country.

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Walter Berlet's Wildlife Tour film Feb. 12 started out with a lengthy sermon on conservation before getting down to the advertised subject - Olympic National Park. Considering that the sun didn't cooperate too well, Mr. Berlet did quite well with the camera. We explored the Ocean Strip and took pack trips into the interior of the Park. At the end came the celebrated protest march led by Justice Douglas.

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(Pres: Ed Mize, 686-1341  
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94520)

(Next Deadline: April 21)

April, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 10

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 18, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. George Whitney will give an illustrated talk on Mt. Diablo's wild flowers.

Next Field Trips: Sunday, April 21, 9 a.m. Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at Rock City. A Park ranger will lead us on a search for wild flowers.

Sat. & Sun., May 4 - 5. Possible overnite to Columbia.

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Please note that our April meeting will be a week later than usual. It will be on April 18, so as not to conflict with Easter Week activities.

This April meeting will essentially be a repeat of a program held six years ago. George Whitney, of Stauffer Chemical and a resident of our area for over 20 years, will show and discuss his outstanding slides of the flowers growing on Mt. Diablo. Mr. Whitney has studied his subject for many years and will bring in some geology and history of the area. Although our mountain looks like an island, it surprisingly does have flowers that really belong hundreds of miles away. Mr. Whitney's show six years ago was well received by an appreciative audience. We urge you to be with us on April 18th.

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Please note, also, that our April field trip will be a week later than usual. It will be April 21, the Sunday after Easter.

For the past several years we have been making our April field trip a wild flower trip. Attendance has been excellent, showing that many of our members and friends are interested in this form of nature study.

This year, arrangements have been made to view the wild flowers on Mt. Diablo. 'The Man on the Mountain', Ranger Stewart, will have a member of his staff guide us to some of the wild flower areas. Meet at Rock City area at 9 a.m. To get there from the north, drive up North Gate Road to the Admission Station and go down the Danville road about a mile to Rock City, near the Park Headquarters. From Danville, just head up towards the Park Headquarters. There will be a Day Use Fee. Bring sturdy shoes and lunch, and also binocs if you care to see some birds, too.

.....

Mark on your calendar a possible field trip to Columbia State Park for the weekend of May 4 - 5. This will be the weekend before our May meeting, so as to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day and to see the area under optimum conditions. The Coudens will lead - and that in itself guarantees perfect weather. They will be up at Columbia soon to check out motel and camping spots, and this information will appear in the May Quail, which will be issued a little earlier than usual.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our March field trip, to Briones Regional Park, was exceptionally well attended. Nearly half of the 40+ people who showed up were our guests from Stockton Audubon. Everybody found his way to the John Muir Home, but after that problems developed. We had such a long convoy that part of it got separated and followed the wrong car, which meant that the Stockton guests roamed roads going all around the Briones Hills for the next hour. A chance meeting at a strategic junction with one of our members corraled everybody, and all eventually got up on the hill at the Chris Nelson home.

Meanwhile Leader Chris and the first delegation had started out on the hike into the park. Heavy rains in previous days had left somewhat muddy walking conditions. Fortunately, it was a beautiful day, and we could see for miles instead of 4 miles. Some of us had lunch near one of the ponds, while others went back to the cars. Birding wasn't too good on the hike, but three Golden Eagles were seen, as well as Bufflehead on a pond, a variety of hawks, and several birds of the woods and open spaces. Among the animals were several deer, a bobcat, and three elephants. The bobcat was a semi-tame friend of the Nelsons, and the elephants were at a carnival wintering ground at the foot of the hill.

After the hike we gathered at the Nelson's and sampled coffee and a dessert prepared by Ann Nelson, who had courage enough to try a Pillsbury 'bake-off' cake. We also sampled the extraordinary view of the Diablo Valley and the sparkling mountain. Despite the confusions of the day, it was a very enjoyable outing, and our guests appreciated the new scenery and friendships.

.....

Nearly a room full, including several students, attended our March meeting, at which time Tom Brennan and Calvin Watterson of the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District presented a program on our Air Pollution. We first saw a movie, taken in the Bay Area, which showed the sources of pollution. Then Mr. Brennan discussed the organization of the BAAPCD, its problems, and many aspects of its functions.

Mr. Brennan predicted that things would get worse before they got better around here, despite the three regulations now in effect. The Livermore Valley area was pointed out as being particularly vulnerable and is now rapidly approaching Los Angeles' degree of pollution. The air pollution potential here in the Bay Area is greater than in Los Angeles, and the only thing saving us so far is the smaller number of people. Did you know that the inversion layer here is actually lower than the layer in Southern California?

\*\*\*\*\*

Because woodpeckers have made telephone poles near Clayton look like Swiss Cheese, five poles were put out of commission in a recent gusty wind and caused a power failure that upset several hundred homes.

.....

Observations:

Lynn Farrar and Harry Adamson were out near St. Marys Road and Bollinger Canyon Road recently, checking on some reported hummingbirds, and saw two Rufous-crowned Sparrows - the first time in 8 years that such birds have been seen there.

The Adamsons had their first oriole of the season on May 22.  
Orange-crowned warblers are reported all over the place.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are interested in a boat trip around the Farallons, Golden Gate Audubon has such a trip planned for Sunday, April 28. This is a trip for hardy seafarers - it's not a little jaunt on a palatial yacht. Boats leave Sausalito at 7 a.m. Daylight Saving Time and return about 4 p.m. Fare: \$10 per person. If interested, send a check payable to Golden Gate Audubon, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope, to Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, 94109. Her phone is 931-5257. Details will be sent with acknowledgement. Reservations will close April 15, or earlier if the boats are filled. Leaders will be Rich Stallcup and Ted Chandik.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recently, President Johnson signed the bill creating the 143,000 acre San Rafael Wilderness Area in the rugged mountains north of Santa Barbara. The reservation does not contain the 2200 acres having Indian pictographs, but it is 32,000 acres larger than the original Forest Service proposal. This is the first addition to the Wilderness Preservation System since passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964.

Meanwhile the House is considering a bill which would put Hooker Dam on the Gila River and back water as much as 9 miles into the Gila River Wilderness Area. Reports are that a single private corporation would use most of the water so impounded.

In November 1966, at the suggestion of Florence Klinger, we passed a resolution in favor of creating a wild flower refuge in Riverside County. An item in San Bernardino Valley Audubon's 'The Western Meadowlark' indicates that this 960 acre plot has been withdrawn from public land by the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of establishing a 'Desert Lily and Wildflower Natural Area', which will be dedicated on Easter Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some hunters must think we have too many Desert Bighorn Sheep! As a result, Sen. Richardson of Pasadena introduced a bill (S.B. 210) in the California Legislature which would have removed sheep from the protected list and permitted the killing of about 25 rams of this endangered species. Fortunately, the bill died in committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Nominating Committee is at work getting a slate of officers for next year, to be presented and voted upon at the April meeting. In this connection, you are requested to help out as an officer or a committee member when asked, because our list of participating members is small and lately only a few members have been carrying the load. We have had excellent attendance at meetings and field trips this year, indicating a definite need for an organization such as ours. Let's hope we stay in business!

\*\*\*\*\*

Starting May 1, the Day Use Fee for State Parks will be 75¢ a car, instead of varying between 50¢ and a dollar with the season.

\*\*\*\*\*

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, Ca  
94520)

(Next Deadline: May 20)

May, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 8 p.m. Room S-211 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Paul E. Schulz will give an illustrated talk on Tahiti and Hawaii.

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, May 4th & 5th. Overniter to Columbia State Park and environs. Leaders: Harry & Dorothy Couden (934-8873). (See page 2 for details).

June Potluck: Thursday, June 13, at the home of Jack and Beth Reynolds, 496 Mohr Lane, Concord.

.....

'Bali Hai is calling you'. The island of Moorea, said to be the Bali Hai of Mitchener's "South Pacific", will be our destination at our May 9th meeting. Paul E. Schulz, Director of the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez, will take us to the South Pacific, when he shows slides of the interesting trip he and his wife took late last Fall. Differing from the usual tourists, the Schulzes were there on a 'Club Mediterranee' package tour and spent three weeks in a camp on Moorea, a few miles across the sea from Tahiti. They flew from Los Angeles to Papeete on Tahiti, and returned home through Hawaii. Ernie says that his pictures are not the best he's ever taken, because the weather was dark and gloomy most of the time they were there; but he does say that the pictures should be of interest. So come and relax and enjoy the tropical islands.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note that our May Field Trip, on the 4th and 5th, is the weekend before the regular meeting. This will avoid any Mother's Day conflicts.

We are returning to Columbia after a lapse of eight years. In the olden days we were there as guests of the Irving's, but this time we will be on our own in motels and camps. Our leaders, Harry and Dorothy Couden, have scouted the area recently and have written a detailed account of the events and accommodations, as shown on the next page. We have permission to walk on private quarry land on an 'at your own risk' basis. The weather should be salubrious, the hills verdant, the plants floriated, and the birds myriad. In other words, it should be a wonderful weekend.

.....

FIELD TRIP TO COLUMBIA STATE HISTORIC PARK  
May 4 and 5, 1968

Leaders: Harry and Dorothy Couden (Phone: 934-8873)

Travel Routes: Reached by taking Highways 120, 108, and 49 through Manteca, Escalon, Oakdale, and Sonora. Approx. 3 hours from our area, not counting a stop at the Escalon Bakery for home-made ice cream and bakery goods.

Events: Saturday the 4th -- explore Columbia from the completely restored brick school house on the hill to the Wells Fargo Office and Fallon Theatre. The whole town is a State Park, with restoration and preservation more complete than when we were last there as a group in April, 1960.

(Sat) 2:30 p.m. Meet at the Columbia Coffee House, south end of town, for a trip to an "active gold mine open to the public". If 10 or so of us show up, we get a group rate of 60¢; otherwise, \$1.50 adults and 75¢ children. Trip takes 1½ hours. Transportation by bus. Mine temperature, 54°.

(Sat) 6:30 p.m. Meet for "no host" dinner at the Columbia House, Main Street. '49er food'; AAA recommended.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Meet at the parking lot, south end of Columbia. Birding in vicinity. Convoy to old quarry. Three-quarter-mile easy hike to promontory above forks of Stanislaus River, birding the while. This will be a 'travel at your own risk' outing on private lands. We've permission to enter this property on our promise to do no rock collecting and - naturally - no littering. No water, so bring liquid with lunch.

(Sun) p.m. Firemen's Muster in Columbia. Competition among fire wagons and crews from nearby towns.

Accommodations: Short supply in May. Since you might not have time to write, confirm reservations by phone if you want to be sure.

Motels in Sonora are good. We checked out two:

Gunn House, 286 S. Washington (Phone: 209/532-3421)

\$10 to 20 for double; \$16 to 20 for four.

Modern Manor Motel, 300 S. Washington (Phone: 209/532-3647)

with Sonora Towne House, 350 S. Washington (209/532-3633)

\$10 to 12 for double; \$14 to 16 for four.

Other possibilities:

Sonora Inn & Motel, 160 S. Washington (Phone: 209/532-7468)

\$7.50 to 12 for double; \$16 for 4.

Sonora, 480 W. Stockton (Phone: 209/532-9938)

\$7.50 to 8.50 for double; \$10.50 for four.

Camping ... just outside of Columbia (East on Jackson ½ mile or so) to K.O.A. Camp. Grass and shade. \$2.50 per couple, 50¢ each additional. Showers, swim pool, electric hookups. Tents or trailers. Address: P.O. Box 850, Columbia, 95310. If you write for reservations in name of Audubon, manager may reserve an area for us.

Good Weather Guaranteed.

We Coudens will be 'roughing it' at the Gunn House.

(Dorothy & Harry)

At our April meeting George Whitney showed pictures of Mt. Diablo's wild flowers. His colored slides were outstandingly beautiful and a joy to the many members and guests who filled the room. Many of his pictures were closeups revealing the infinite detail in some of the smaller flowers. It was an excellent program.

Mr. Whitney was also on hand the following Sunday, when we held a field trip on Diablo to see some of the flowers in bloom. Dr. Mary Bowerman, an expert on Diablo's flowers, was also present to share her knowledge with the 35 members and guests. One of the Park rangers guided us to three areas of flowers. The day was clear, but with a crisp wind. A list of the flowers seen is being prepared for the next 'Quail'.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our April <sup>meeting</sup> we unanimously elected the following officers for 1968-69:

President	...	Ernie Schulz
Vice-Pres.	...	Joy Meagher
Secretary	...	Joan Mize
Treasurer	...	Orland Augason

This sterling list of officers will be installed at our annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting, scheduled for June 13th at the home of Jack and Beth Reynolds.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our April meeting, our attention was also directed at some of the important measures before Congress and the State Legislature.

We voted to file a statement with the House Interior Commission in favor of at least the minimum acreage proposed in S. 2515, which would create a Redwood National Park.

Another important bill in Congress is Sen. Bible's bill, S. 2951, which would grant States the control over wildlife within the State - even within National Parks.

Here in California, S.B. 231, introduced by our Sen. Geo. Miller, is of importance to us because it would extend the authority of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. If the measure is not passed at this session, the BCDG will be unable to limit Bay fill after January 8, 1969.

Several members of Mt. Diablo Audubon <sup>.....</sup> attended the Audubon Western Conference at Asilomar early in April. The Conference was planned for about 500, but 700 were registered. Featured were several excellent talks, motion pictures, and field trips to Pt. Lobos, the Hatton Ranch, and an ocean trip.

Former member John Stanley, now with the Audubon Center of Southern California, was at the Conference helping to keep things running smoothly. John expects to be at the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming for 9 weeks this summer. The Conference was also the last gathering chairmanned by genial Bill Goodall, who retires in June.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ferd Ruth, John Bruce, and Dave Mertes (of U.C.) wrote a letter last month to the State Fish and Game urging them to take steps to convince schools that collecting tidepool life does more harm than good. The letter must have had some effect, because Ed Dolder of Norman Livermore's staff said at Asilomar that State officials are now studying the problem and that 1200 letters recently went out to high schools asking them to stop collecting specimens at several beaches in the state.

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# The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: June 20)

June, 1968  
Vol. 14, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 13, about 6:30 p.m. Annual Potluck-dinner, meeting, and social evening; at the home of Beth & Jack Reynolds, 496 Mohr Lane, Concord (689-2980).

Next Field Trip: Sunday, June 16, 8:30 a.m. Pine Canyon. Meet at Castle Rock Park. Leader: Jane Nemetz (687-8873)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Are you ready for another Potluck Dinner? A good time is in store for you. This year we have been invited to share the home and enclosed patio of the Reynolds' at 496 Mohr Lane, Concord.

Beth and Jack Reynolds live near the corner of Bancroft Road and Treat Lane. You can get there in many ways. Concord members can go down Oak Grove to Treat and west on Treat to Bancroft; Walnut Creekers and Lafayettes can take either the Geary Road (Treat Blvd) ramp off the Freeway, or can go out Ygnacio Valley Road and turn north on Bancroft. Martinezites can also turn off the Freeway onto Geary.

From the light at Bancroft and Treat, you then go north on Bancroft, pass Minert and the BART tracks and turn right (east) on David Ave. Two blocks brings you to Mohr Lane, and the Reynolds live at the far end of the first block, on the right - name on the mailbox. Park on Mohr Court, around the corner, where there is more room.

Plan to be there by 6:30, fully supplied with money, food, eatin' tools, plates, chairs, card table or TV trays, etc. Please call the Food Chairman, Ann Cavanagh (682-5127) right away and arrange to bring a meat dish, salad, or dessert. Remember, this is our only fund-raising event of the year ... so slip a dollar an adult or 50¢ per youngster into your purse.

We will have a short business meeting, including the installation of our new officers:

President	...	Ernie Schulz
Vice-Pres.	...	Joy Meagher
Secretary	...	Joan Mize
Treasurer	...	Orland Augason

After this we will have a little slide show, so bring along a handful.

Last year we went to the Marble Mountains and Hart Mountain, saw the lighthouses on the East Coast, and had excellent closeups of animals, birds, and flowers in various parts of the West. No telling what we see this year!

\*\*\*\*\*

It has been six years since we have been in the Pine Canyon area of Mt. Diablo as a group. On Sunday, June 16, our leader will be Jane Nemetz, who knows every rock in the Canyon. This is outstanding bird country. We will meet at 8:30 at Castle Rock Park. To get there, head for the North Gate Entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park, by going south on Oak Grove Road, but take Castle Rock Road at the junction with North Gate Road. Follow Castle Rock into Castle Rock Park and drive in to the third gate and look for Jane's red Ford bus. Bring sturdy shoes and, optionally, a lunch, and expect to do some hiking. If you care to descend Pine Canyon, by driving to Barbecue Terrace in Mt. Diablo State Park, contact Jane at 687-8873 for clearance confirmation and transportation arrangements. Expect a mild morning in the Canyon, but it warms in the afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our well-planned May field trip to Columbia was excellent. Sorry more of you didn't find that out in person! Those who went had a wonderful time taking an interesting trip through a gold mine, having a savory dinner at the Columbia House, successfully birding on Sunday, and watching the colorful Firemen's Muster parade in Columbia Sunday afternoon. The weather was absolutely perfect.

Eleven members took part in the Sunday trip to the quarries. The Coudens must have planted a Canyon Wren in one of the quarries, so we could hear the bird's tumbling call, while White-throated Swifts and Cliff Swallows in vast numbers fanned the air. Tanagers were seen on the way to the quarries. The most unusual bird sighted was Blue-grey Gnatcatcher - a life bird for some of us. Violet-green Swallows were numerous at the Stanislaus overlook. About 50 species were seen on the trip, including Lark and Chipping Sparrows, Cowbird, Warbling Vireo, several Flycatchers and Woodpeckers.

Special thanks go to Dorothy and Harry Couden, who thoroughly scouted the area for us, gave us clear directions and a schedule, and arranged for our entry into private lands. Harry even brought along his clarinet and, aided by Editor Ed at the piano, wafted melodic strains into the many levels of the Gunn House Saturday night.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our final meeting of the season at DVC was very colorful, although somewhat delayed by an overflowing fish tank. When order was restored, Ernie Schulz gave an interesting history of the South Pacific before taking us to Tahiti and Moorea, by showing pictures that the average tourist would never see. Ernie and Grace Schulz had been on Moorea for three weeks in a camp, and, despite some cloudy weather and tropical mist, Ernie was able to capture the spirit of the islands. Beautiful cloths were shown, but Ernie declined to model them or perform a Tahitian Hula.

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcome our newest members ....

Mrs. D. R. Holm, 615 Paso Nogal, Pleasant Hill

Lucy S. Urbain, 3559 Herman Drive, Lafayette

Robert and Mary Wymer, P.O. Box 101, Martinez.

Mrs. Holm was brought into our group by Mrs. William Toasperm ... Mrs. Urbain had such a good time on our flower trips to Briones and Mt. Diablo that she anxiously joined our group. She is a Social Worker. ... Bob and Mary Wymer have rejoined us, after being off our membership list for awhile. We are glad to have them back.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the benefit of those who attended the Mt. Diablo Wildflower Hike on April 21, Florence Klinger has compiled a list of the common names of the plants seen on that trip, as follows:

"Fiddleneck, Western Wallflower, Calif. Poppy, Golden Bush, Clematis, Sun Cup, Yellow Owl's Clover, Bur Clover, Smooth Cat's-ear, Spurge, Hop Tree, Poison Oak, Golden Lantern, Star Zygadene, Blue Witch, Bush Monkey Flower, Mt. Diablo Sunflower, Calif. Soap Plant, Valaea, Blow Wives, Oregon Sunshine, Godetia, Red Larkspur, Royal Larkspur, Purple Sanicle, Gamble Weed, Linanthus, Pilaree, Calif. Dwarf Plantain, Bedstraw, Andrews Galium, Micropus californicus, Meadow Rue, Calif. Buttercup, Pitcher Sage, Woolly Painted Cup, Indian Warrior, Chia, Coyote Mint, Common Wood-rush, Western Hound's Tongue, Streptanthus hispidus, Pale Montia, Miner's Lettuce, White Nemophila, Tomcat Clover, Wild Cucumber, Douglas Sandwort, White Forget-Me-Not, Popcorn Flower, Brewer Phacelia, Lotus, Fringe Pod, Sickle-leaved Onion, Gold Fields;  
Coast Live Oak, Canon Oak, Bay, Pea Chaparral, Buck-brush, Chamise, Manzanita, and a pink thistle".

\*\*\*\*\*

We regret the resignation of our good friends, Carl and Ruth Swenson, who have moved to a trailer court at 70 Colonial Park Drive, Santa Rosa, 95401. Drop in and see them, if you're up that way.

Ferd Ruth has been elected Vice President of the Alexander Lindsay Museum.

John Wright, now with the Army at Fort Wainwright in Alaska, has sent some more of his interesting columns that he writes for the Univ. of Alaska paper and also a list of birds he has seen, among which the more unusual are:

Goshawk, Snowy Owl, Gray Jay, Gray-headed Chickadee, Northern Shrike, Common Redpoll, White-winged Crossbill, Snow Bunting, Robin (1 so far), and Common Goldeneye.

So, "Join the Army and See the Birds".

+++++++

At our May meeting, attention was once more directed to Sen. Bible's bill (S. 2951) in Congress, which, if passed, could lead to serious problems in our National Parks, Monuments, and Refuges, since it could conceivably give control (i.e. hunting) of wildlife in these Federal areas to the states. The bill would also nullify much of the Endangered Species Act of 1966 and repeal the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 and the Golden Eagle Act of 1962. If you feel like writing to a Congressman or a Senator regarding this measure, the Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee is Edward O. Garmatz, and the Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee is Warren G. Magnusson.

o o o o o

The final Wildlife Tour of the season was held on April 1, with John Bulger and his 'Wild Rivers of America', which took us along the upper Hudson, the Alleghash, into British Columbia, and finally to the Ungava Peninsula of Quebec. After seeing all these beautiful streams, Mr. Bulger then shocked us by ending his presentation with a showing of rivers that were no longer wild -- just polluted.

At this Screen Tour, Alice and John Porterfield scholarships (copies of E. Lawrence Palmer's 'Fieldbook of Natural History') were given to three students, selected by the Biology Department as being outstanding in their field. These bright scholars were:

John Ceballos, Mike Day, and Pat McKenna.

+++

At the Audubon Western Conference in Asilomar, early in April, Dr. Richard Warner of U.C. showed some beautiful slides of the Kipahulu Valley on the Island of Maui. It was in this valley that Dr. Warner and his party made the first recorded sighting in 71 years of a bird considered extinct, the Maui Nukupuu. An article in the 'S.F. Chronicle' recently stated that Nature Conservancy is now raising money to buy 500 acres of this lush valley. If they are successful, Laurance Rockefeller has offered to toss in an extra 58 acres of oceanside, and other owners of the valley will donate 8500 acres more. The 9000+ acres would be added to the Haleakala National Park.

\*\*\*

A new East Bay Regional Park, at Contra Loma Reservoir near Antioch, will be open for limited public use in July.

The EBRPD has also announced plans for the development of the Coyote Hills Park, near the Dumbarton Bridge. Conservationists, led by the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter, have been able to raise enough money pledges to buy 382.5 acres of privately held land within Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

+++++

Jane Nemetz recently looked out the window of her apartment overlooking Ellis Lake (Concord) and spotted six Western Tanagers (male) in brilliant plumage. The tanagerines were apparently part of a migration. ... Late in May Jane was also somewhat startled to see a Snow Goose and a White-fronted Goose on the Lake. After a two day visit in Concord, the geese had their compasses fixed and headed north.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Seattle Audubon Society, 806 Joshua Green Bldg, Seattle, Wash. 98101, would be very happy to send you a new book called 'Washington Birds' for \$4.20, which includes postage.

+++++

This issue marks the end of my 7th year as Editor of 'The Quail'. Our next President, Ernie Schulz, was glad to hear that I would continue to serve again next year as Editor and Quail Mailer; and I hope that you will also approve this rash action on my part.

### The President's Swan Song

I think that you will agree that this has been a very successful year for our Society. Our programs have taken us to Africa, South America, Tahiti, the Grand Canyon, and Idaho - thanks to 'Doc' Schieffelin, the Adamsons, Ernie Schulz, and John Davis. In addition, Chris Nelson and James Bright taught us something about the Sage Grouse and about Rocks. We had wonderful field trips to the Sacramento Refuges, Columbia, Briones, Diablo, Conn Dam, the Delta, and to Caswell Park - thanks to the Glotfeltys, the Coudens, John Bruce, Chris Nelson, John Davis, and Bill Betts. Also, Bill Betts helped us thru a legal swamp early in the year, and Ruth & Lynn Farrar waded thru statistics of our Christmas Count, after the delicious potluck at the Coudens's. Let's not forget George Schad, who retires now after ten years as Faithful Treasurer. Also, there's Sally Steller, who again was our efficient Secretary. I call your attention to Luella Augason, who silently sent in the publicity to the papers and indirectly brought in new members. .. and to Joy Meagher, Conservation Chairman.

Now all of these people I've mentioned are your fellow members. To all of them, and the many other helpful members (including a patient Joan Mize), I offer my Sincerest Thanks.

*Ed Mize*

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz,  
4202 Alhambra Way, Martinez, Ca 94553  
Office Phone: 28-8860  
Home Phone: 28-8560)

(Next Deadline: July 15)

July, 1968  
Vol. 15, No. 1

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 5. Ferd Ruth will lead us through the new Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley.

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, Sept. 8. To be announced later.

o o o o

In case you haven't heard, summer is here. As usual, Mt. Diablo Audubon has gone into estivation, as far as programs and field trips are concerned. We spring to action in the Fall - on Sept. 5th, the first Thursday of the month, when Ferd Ruth will conduct a tour of the brand new Lawrence Hall of Science in the Berkeley Hills. The time and the place of meeting will be announced in a forthcoming 'Quail'. You'd better mark your calendar right now for this date, so you won't miss an exciting revaluation of the latest in teaching methods in this newly-dedicated science center in Berkeley. Ferd warns that we will have to be on time, because once he lets us in with a modern electronic key nobody else is going to get in. If you are late, you might have to park up on Grizzly Peak and watch the lights go on, while Ferd leads us through the building.

\*\*\*\*

No word on field trips yet. A new Field Trip Committee will meet soon and figure out some tantalizing trips for the forthcoming Audubon year.

++++

Our 1967/68 year came to a close on June 13th, with a highly successful Potluck Dinner and Meeting held at Jack and Beth Reynolds' spacious home. Lady Luck smiled and called off the cold evening winds, so we had a beautiful, balmy evening. An even larger crowd than last year attended, adding \$45 to our Treasury; and even teen-agers didn't go hungry. After we ate to satiation, we gathered in the Reynolds' enclosed patio and held a short meeting, in which new officers were installed by John Davis. Then came the slides ... Chris Nelson leading off with a glimpse of the new Coyote Hills Regional Park; Ed Nize showing Crater Lake and some Audubon trips; Harry Adamson showing 7 extraordinary pictures of Cedar Waxwings and Snow Geese; Joy Meagher backpacking us into Three Sisters Wilderness Area; Engra Lusebrink taking us to Anza-Borrego; Jane Nemetz previewing a trip into Pine Canyon; and Hostess Beth Reynolds ending the program with flowers and cute Siamese kittens.

Our special thanks go to Jack and Beth Reynolds for all they did to make this a memorable evening for all. While Beth was busy in the kitchen and patio getting the food and tables in order, Jack was out in front helping with the placing of the cars. Their good neighbors helped to provide room for our many cars.

\*\*\*\*

The following Sunday, Jane Nemetz led an expedition of 11 members into the wilds of Pine Canyon, on a beautiful but warm day. Scribe Ernie Atkinson reports that 52 species of birds were seen, including Hutton's & Warbling Vireo, a male Lawrence Goldfinch, and a faded Western Tanager. Other more common species included:

White-throated Swift; Hairy, Downy, & Nuttall's Woodpecker; Ash-throated & Western Flycatcher; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-green, Barn, & Cliff Swallow; Wren-tit; House & Bewick's Wren; Calif. Thrasher; Swainson's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Bullock's Oriole; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lark & Fox Sparrow.

++++

Joy Meagher reported at the Potluck meeting that the Land & Water Conservation Fund Bill passed the House, adding \$700 million over the next five years to the Fund for financing new national parks and recreation areas. The Senate had previously cut out all the money to be added. The future of the bill still remains in doubt.

Latest word is that a House Subcommittee slashed the Senate-approved Redwood National Park from 66,000 acres to 25,286 acres. If they don't hurry up and settle on a Park, and if they don't quit cutting down on its dimensions, it might not even be large enough to show on future road maps!

o o o o

At the Potluck meeting, Chris Nelson augmented his remarks about Coyote Hills by saying that it was hoped that a Wildlife Refuge would be established in the area. A meeting was held in San Jose on June 24, at which the South San Francisco Baylands Planning Conservation & Wildlife Refuge Committee presented such a proposal to Sanford Wilbur of the Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Sports, Fishing & Wildlife.

\*\*\*\*

Over the years, your Editor has been scrounging in various files in an effort to fill a complete, master set of 'The Quail', which first appeared in November 1954. I now have all but the issue of July 1957. If you happen to have a copy of this missing issue, please give me a call (686/1341) and we can make arrangements to get a Xerox copy, so we can have a complete set of our bulletins.

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I have prepared our annual Membership List, which is attached to this issue of 'The Quail'. If you detect any errors, please let me know by card or phone, and I will list corrections in future issues. We have 135 members on this list - two more than a year ago.

Just a reminder... Our new Treasurer is O. S. Augason, 3961 Mulberry Drive, Concord. If you forget and send your renewals to George Schad, there will be no acknowledgement for a couple of months, because George and Muriel are vacationing in the Southwest.

\*\*\*\*

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

Membership List July 1968

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

			Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette 94549	283-2164
Atkinson, E.R. & Betty	41 West Lake Dr.	Antioch 94509	757-1979
Augason, Orland & Luella	3961 Mulberry Dr.	Concord 94520	682-0317
Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth	1268 Redwood Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-4796
Bell, Douglas A.	3276 Walnut Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-7613
Betts, Bill & Lucy	5131 Myrtle Dr.	Concord 94521	685-5119
Blake, Frances	4440 Walnut Blvd.	Wal.Creek 94596	935-2884
Boileau, A.P.	139 Paraiso Dr.	Danville 94526	837-2353
Bolender, Mrs. M.C.	511 Highland Dr.	Danville 94526	837-6642
Bonnickson, Barbara	Box 295	Brentwood 94513	634-4152
Bowman, David & Alyce	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
Colvin, Barbara	3565 Ridgewood Ct.	Concord 94520	682-0392
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 & Tammy	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
Eichstedt, Ed & Ruth	3117 Golden Rain Rd.1	Wal.Creek 94529	933-0663
Epley, Russell & Elsie	1118 Glen Rd.	Lafayette 94549	284-1917
Farrar, Lynn & Ruth	955 Diablo Dr.	Lafayette 94549	283-3938
Finch, Wm. & Lucille	314 Ada Dr.	Martinez 94553	
Fleming, Ida Jean	230 Bancroft Rd.	Concord 94520	939-3889
Galvin, Marjory	Star Rt. Blackhawk Rd.	Danville 94526	837-6284
Gerringer, J. & Mildred	260 Douglas Ct.	Concord 94520	682-4842
Gibson, Howard & Frances	19 Sky Terrace	Danville 94526	837-6577
Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie	3576 Powell Dr.	Lafayette 94549	284-4014
Goldberg, Mrs. Harry (Judy)	2325 St. George Dr.	Concord 94520	687-8759
Goren, Audrey	206 Santa Fe Dr.	Wal.Creek 94598	932-3369
Greenfield, Henry & Eleanor	1955 Lucille Rd.	Pl. Hill 94523	682-2192
Greuner, Mrs. Wm. Jr.	877 Broadmoor	Lafayette 94549	284-4562
Hazen, Harold & Beatrice	2525 Golden Rain Rd.2	Wal.Creek 94529	939-4735
Hall, Lucy A.	140 Esther Lane	Danville 94526	837-2681
Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret	4081 Legion Court	Lafayette 94549	254-0657
Holm, Mrs. D. R.	615 Paso Nogal	Pl. Hill 94523	935-1592
Hozier, Ruth J.	948 Hawthorne Dr.	Lafayette 94549	284-4559
Hulse, Mrs. Anita C.	4831 Pacheco Blvd.	Martinez 94553	228-2732
James, Mrs. L. (Esther)	1931 Altura Dr.	Concord 94520	682-0439
Johnson, Rufus	2756 Tice Creek Dr.Apt.5	W.Cr. 94529	939-5236
Klinger, Florence	072 Green St.	Martinez 94553	228-2650

Lane, Mrs. K. A.	12 Rider Court	Wal.Creek 94529	935-0947
LeBon, Mrs. Maxine	1270 El Curtola Blvd.	Wal.Creek 94598	934-2805
Lusebrink, Engra			
Lynch, Jim M.D.	3758 Serrano St.	Martinez 94553	228-2999
MacKamey, Rhodus & Bessie	P.O. Box 55	Wal.Creek 94597	934-3014
Mann, Mrs. Evelyn B.	1707 McKean Place	Concord 94520	682-0305
McCarthy, Robert & Hazel	P.O. Box 641 (1929 Dora Ave)	W.Ck 94597	934-2724
McGeehon, Mrs. J.C.	2165 Oakvale Rd.	Wal.Creek 94596	934-2752
Meagher, Mrs. John	1537 N. Marta Dr.	Pl. Hill 94523	685-5702
Millen, Don & Dottie	3206 Dover Way	Concord 94520	685-6518
Miller, Jessie B.	P.O. Box 26	Antioch 94509	
Mize, Ed & Joan	1255 Mt. Diablo St.	Concord 94520	686-1341
Mohr, Mr. & Mrs. A.C.	3301 Golden Rain Manor	1 W.Ck. 94529	939-8344
Monheit, Molly Jane	1107 Magnolia Lane	Lafayette 94549	284-4261
Nelson, Betty	400 Gunson, Apt. 2	East Lansing Mich. 48823	
Nelson, Christian	RFD Box 294-A	Martinez 94553	228-9369
Nemetz, Jane	1818 Laguna, J-2	Concord 94520	687-8873
Nunes, Wesley	3400 El Monte Dr.	Concord 94520	
O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth	2231 Overlook Dr.	Wal.Creek 94596	934-4720
Paige, Harold L.	1212 Monticello Rd.	Lafayette 94549	283-3408
Perlman, Isadore	1158 Glen Rd.	Lafayette 94549	283-3021
Philbin, Mrs. Berna	6950 Arrowwood Dr.	Modesto 95350	
Porterfield, John & Alice	3053 The Alameda	Concord 94520	685-4616
Reu, Marjory	2012 Mezes Ave.	Belmont 94002	
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	496 Mohr Lane	Concord 94520	689-2980
Richardson, Ethel	1372 Rockledge Lane	Wal.Creek 94529	939-2794
Roemer, Elsie	1556 Everett St.	Alameda 94501	522-0941
Running, Les & Doryne	1826 Noemi Dr.	Concord 94520	685-3443
Ruth, Ferd & Juliet	43 Cuesta Way	Wal.Creek 94596	934-8803
Sather, Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle	1700 El Camino Real,	Rue 20-10, So. S.F. 94080	
Sattler, Wm. & Genevieve	4050 Poplar Ave.	Concord 94521	685-5315
Schad, George & Muriel	1850 2nd St.	Concord 94520	685-7897
Schaefer, Leo & Virginia	801 North Gate Rd.	Wal.Creek 94598	939-5260
Schaller, Richard & Margaret	1736 Clayton Rd.	Concord 94520	685-7641
Schieffelin, John & Marion	3579 Powell Drive	Lafayette 94549	283-3943
Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. James	130 Richard Lane	Wal.Creek 94529	935-0359
Schreider, Jay	449 Crest Ave.	Wal.Creek 94529	934-8820
Schulz, Paul B.	4202 Alhambra Ave.	Martinez 94553	228-8860
(home)	5432 Degnan Dr.	Martinez 94553	228-8560
Shackelford, Frieda	712 Laurel Dr.	Wal.Creek 94596	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord 94520	685-7444
Soulé, Mrs. J. Brill	33 Charles Hill Rd.	Orinda 94563	254-5807
Steller, Sally	591 Fulton Way	Danville 94526	
Toaspern, Mrs. W.J.	1923 Buttner Rd.	Pl. Hill 94523	934-0749
Urbain, Lucy	3559 Herman Dr.	Lafayette 94549	283-2499
Veitch, Peter	154 Camino Sobrante	Orinda 94563	254-2419
Warner, Norma L.	3163 Wayside Lane	Wal.Creek 94596	934-4604
Wood, Newell & Ella	1121 Ulfianin Way	Martinez 94553	228-1617
Wright, John A.	1791 Sunnyvale Ave.	Wal.Creek 94596	935-1290
Wymer, Robert & Mary	P.O. Box 101	Martinez 94553	283-0440





# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
4202 Alhambra Way, Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Office Phone: 228-8860  
Home Phone: 228-8560)

(Next Deadline: Aug. 15)

August, 1968  
Vol. 15, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 5th. Meet at the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley at 7:45 p.m. Ferd Ruth will guide us through this outstanding building.

Next Field Trip: Probably Sunday, Sept. 8th, and probably to the new Coyote Hills Regional Park.

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Although our next meeting is weeks away, it isn't too early to circle Sept. 5th on your calendar, at which time we will depart from our usual routine and meet in Berkeley. Ferd Ruth, now Staff Biologist at the modern Lawrence Hall of Science, will conduct us through LHS, where we will see the latest in scientific equipment and teaching methods. People who have already seen Lawrence Hall rave about it; and so will you! We've moved up the meeting time to 7:45, to take advantage of the daylight for driving and also to get you home before it's too late at night. You must be on time for this event, if you expect to be admitted to the science complex. Car pools may be an advantage, for those who live in the same neighborhood. Full details on routes and what we will see will appear in your next 'Quail'.

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It is highly probable that we will go to the new Coyote Hills Regional Park, near Dumbarton Bridge, for our first field trip in the Fall, the first weekend after our September meeting. In addition to lots of shore birds, we may see such interesting things as Indian burial mounds, a fascinating sonar lab using seals and sea lions, and the Bay on one side and a wonderful marsh on the other. Full details next month.

+++++

Several committee and board members for the 1968-69 year were invited to the home of Pres. Ernie Schulz in mid-July. The possibility of changing our meeting place was again discussed, but with no definite decision being reached. A joint program-field trip committee is planning a meeting soon to line up some mighty interesting evenings and weekends ahead.

.....

Members of Mt. Diablo Audubon have been getting around this summer:

Bob & Hazel McCarthy just returned from a trip to Alaska, utilizing almost all means of transportation except dogteam. They went up the Inside Passage by ship, to Whitehorse by train, thence to Fairbanks by bus, by train and bus to Mt. McKinley Park and Anchorage, and home by plane.

The back-packing Meaghers spent 4th of July week in the Trinity Alps.

Dave & Alyce Bowman went to Henny Woods in Mendocino County over the 4th and reported good birding on a ridge near there.

The John Bruces were all set to go to the Mendocino backwoods over the 4th and had the car just about packed ... and then John wrenched his back on the last load. The Bruces stayed home.

Glenn & Margaret Shanks travelled more distantly, going thru Colorado to Webber, Kansas, where they visited Glenn's sister and family. They enjoyed such birds as Mourning Dove, Cardinal, Bobwhite, Brown Thrush, and real Blue Jays.

.....

### Observations:

Lynn Farrar found Grasshopper Sparrows at San Gregorio Beach, below Half Moon Bay. He also spotted some roughnecks who blew up an oil-begrimed Brandt Cormorant with giant firecrackers.

Joy Meagher is positive that an immature Hooded Oriole has been sampling her hummingbird feeder recently.

The Fox Sparrow reported on the Pine Canyon trip in June probably wasn't! This sparrow haunts the higher mountains in June.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ann Cavanagh is spearheading the 'Eugene O'Neill National Monument Association', which hopes to see the playwright's former home near Danville become part of a park in his honor. Theoretically it could be adjacent to Las Trampas Regional Park. Congressman Waldie might introduce legislation, if local residents show enough interest.

Maxine LeBon and her husband, Leo, have been active in getting underprivileged children out into the mountains this summer. Leo won national recognition by receiving Honorable Mention in a photography contest sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. His sombre view of a winter mountain scene appears in the June-July issue of 'Natural History'.

Gerhard Burde of Orinda writes that an ex-bird photographer would appreciate my announcing that a Telephoto Camera is for sale at the Berkeley Photo Shop, 2311 Telegraph, Berkeley.

+++++

The House has passed a Redwood National Park bill calling for a 28,000 acre park, as contrasted with the 60,000 acre park approved by the Senate. Compromises may possibly enlarge the park. Wish I could picture here a cartoon in a recent Reno paper showing 'Deadwood National Park', with redwood stumps as picnic tables 'courtesy of the House Interior Committee'. Rep. Wayne Aspinall, head of this Committee, has once again thrown his monkeywrench. What a shame that in 1952 he was elected to Congress by a margin of only 29 votes!

On the other hand, a Land and Water Conservation bill has been signed by Pres. Johnson. It will guarantee \$200 million a year of oil lease revenue for acquisition of park land.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our annual 'Report of Charitable Trust' has been filed in Sacramento and shows that in the 1967/68 year we came out \$50 ahead!

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# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
4202 Alhambra Ave, Martinez, Ca 94553  
Office phone: 228-8860  
Home phone: 228-8560)

(Next Deadline: Sept. 15)

September, 1968  
(Vol. 15, No. 3)

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 5, at 7:45 p.m. sharp. A tour of the new Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley. Ferd Ruth will be our guide. (Phone: 934-8803)

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m. Coyote Hills Regional Park.  
Leader: Chris Nelson (228-9369)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Right off the bat in this new Audubon season, we have a very interesting meeting scheduled. On Sept. 5th we hold a meeting in Berkeley for a change, for we have been invited to tour the new Lawrence Hall of Science, the most modern educational science building in this country. Dedicated as a memorial to Ernest Orlando Lawrence, inventor of the Cyclotron, this unique structure is in the shape of an octagon, each segment for the eight major sciences in its program: Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Math, Physics, Nuclear Science, and Space Science.

Our genial guide, Ferd Ruth, has been active in Mt. Diablo Audubon for many years. Now he is staff biologist at Lawrence Hall and is director of its model high school science laboratory for the teaching of life sciences. He is also in charge of the biology loan kit program, the coordinator of the summer institute of field biology methods and technics, and has served as consultant for proposed science centers elsewhere.

To get to Lawrence Hall of Science: Find your way to the Univ. of Calif. Stadium and take the road curving around behind the Stadium and go up the hill about a mile and a half. To get to the Stadium: Take Highway 24 and its branch into Berkeley. You go down Ashby, pass the Claremont Hotel, and turn right at the second light and go north ~~on Derby~~ to Derby. Turn left on Derby and go down a few blocks to Warring. Turn right on Warring, which merges into Piedmont, and continue on Piedmont to the Stadium. Go a block beyond the Stadium and make a sharp right turn onto Rim Drive, which curves around behind the Stadium. Turn left on N. Canyon Road and go up the hill and pass the tennis courts, swimming pools, and Botanical Garden. 0.7 mile later you will come to a sign pointing to the Lawrence Radiation Lab to the right and Lawrence Hall of Science to the left. Continue up the hill a half-mile to where the

road levels off. Lawrence Hall is the big building to the left, with a turnaround in front of it. Parking is available across the street or in the turnaround at the main entrance. Meet on the upper level plaza, which is the roof of the lower floor.

It is important that you be there at 7:45 p.m. The only way we can get into the building is with Ferd Ruth, and once he is inside there will be no way for tardy guests to get in. Thus, allow yourself plenty of time for driving, allowing for delays in traffic here and there.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our first field trip of the new season will be the following Sunday, Sept. 8th, when we go to the new Coyote Hills Regional Park, near the Dumbarton Bridge. Chris Nelson will be our leader, and he will guide us through Stanford's Biosonar Lab, show us the Indian Mounds, and lead us on a walk around the salt ponds and by the marshes.

We are meeting at 1 p.m. in the picnic grounds. Of course, if you want to get there earlier and have a picnic lunch before the field trip, feel free to do so.

To get to Coyote Hills

Go south on Nimitz Freeway and turn off at Jarvis Road, the main road to Dumbarton Bridge. Drive west to Newark Blvd., the first signal light, turn right and go over the railroad tracks. Continue on a mile to Patterson Ranch Road, and turn left into the Park. There will be a water tank platform and a Stanford Research sign. Pass the parking area and Lab and go to the top of the hill.

Coyote Hills Regional Park is your new acquisition of 1,000 acres. We will be there before it is 'developed', since 50 year plans call for large scale recreation. You will see lots of shorebirds in the sloughs, ponds, and marshes all day long. Seals and walrus are in the Lab.

+++++

A joint meeting of the Program & Field Trip Committees was held at Vice-President Joy Meagher's home recently. Vacations kept the attendance down, but those present got started on the programs and trips for this coming year. It looks interesting. Most of the field trips will be within the Bay Counties. One change in the programs - our January program will feature vacation slides from members, instead of waiting until the June Potluck.

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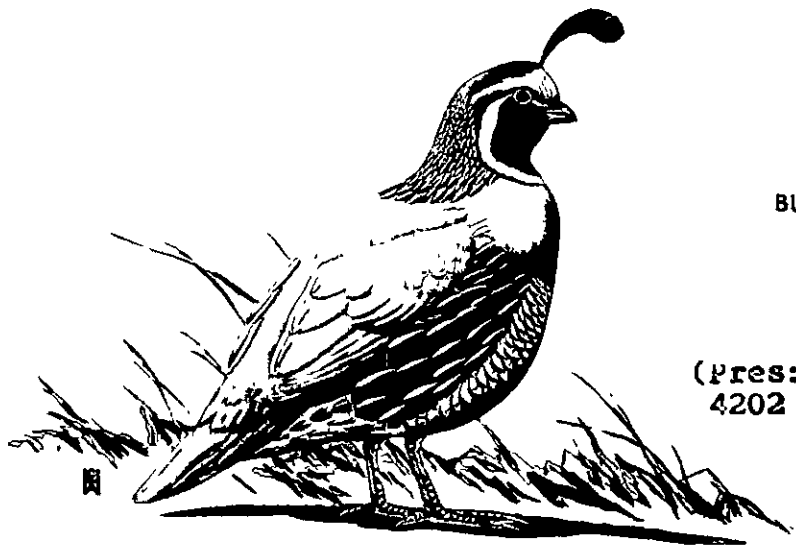
No bird observations have been turned into me recently. Members must be having dull, ornithological trips. .... I was in Yosemite Park recently and saw several White-headed Woodpeckers at Hodgdon Meadows campground, near the new entrance on the Big Oak Flat Road.

\*\*\*\*\*

Little conservation activity in the Calif. Legislature or in Congress. ... President Johnson recently signed a bill enlarging the boundaries of the Badlands National Monument in So. Dakota. ... Lt. Gov. Finch signed a bill that makes the State Highway Commission "more responsive to the desires of people", when it comes to route recommendations.

+++++

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



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
4202 Alhambra Ave. Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Office phone: 228-8860  
Home Phone: 228-8560)

(Next Deadline: Oct. 15)

October, 1968  
Vol. 15, No. 4

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
Wilfred E. Gray will show his 'Four Seasons'.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Sun Valley Shopping Center. Warren Larson will show his film on the Great Gray Owl.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Oct. 6, 8:30 a.m. Lafayette Reservoir.  
Leader: Harry Couden (934-8873).

.....

Instead of meeting at Diablo Valley College, as in years past, our next meeting, on October 3, will be held in a new place - Meeting Room B in the Sun Valley Shopping Center, downstairs. We are trying out this centrally-located spot for the next two months it is available to us, since many of our members have hinted that they would prefer a more pleasant room than a biology lab. I'm sure you all know where Sun Valley Shopping Center is, on Contra Costa Blvd. Inside the Mall, go down the escalator and keep heading for Walnut Creek. Meeting Room B is at the end of the corridor, opposite the new Postal Station.

Our speaker will be Warren Larson, of Kensington, who will show us his film on the Great Gray Owl. Mr. Larson, a Director of Golden Gate Audubon and its former President, has studied the life history of owls for years, and his film has been well received by other Audubon units in the Bay Area. We are sure that you will find this an interesting and outstanding program, complete with Mr. Larson's personal touch.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two years ago this month Harry Couden led us on a very enjoyable trip around newly opened Lafayette Reservoir. Along with beautiful weather, Harry arranged for a flight of 18 Wood Ducks to greet us. Well, Harry has agreed to try to duplicate the hike again this October 6th - at least in weather, if not in ducks. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area. We will meander around the lake for about 3 hours, and then we will munch a lunch in the picnic grounds near the cars. It's easy to find the Reservoir - just head west thru Lafayette, and the entrance is on the west end of town. Drive up the hill to the parking lot. The fee used to be 50¢, and probably still is, so bringum wampum.

.....

The Audubon Wildlife Tours start rolling a little earlier than usual this year, for on Tuesday, October 1st, Wilfred Gray will show his film, entitled 'Four Seasons', which deals with British Columbia. Mr. Gray starts on the B.C. Coast in the Spring and ends the picture in the Rockies in winter. Along the way we see many birds, fish, and animals.

o o o o o

A record turnout of about 70 members and guests drove all the way to Berkeley on Sept. 5th to attend our opening meeting of the season, held at Lawrence Hall of Science. Our guide, Ferd Ruth, was there to let us in at the appointed hour. He started with a history of LIS and then pointed out various rooms honoring the Lawrence family. Soon he took us into a room containing the most fascinating educational exhibits and gadgets, mostly illustrating scientific and mathematical principles. With justifiable pride, Ferd then showed us his biological lab, which showed ample evidence of his exceptional planning and scrounging abilities. The lab featured peripheral plumbing, open-face desks, magnetic blackboards and novel projection equipment. We ended our tour in the Gunda and Carl Lawrence Amphitheater - a perfect place to have a meeting, especially helped along by refreshments furnished and served by Ferd and Juliet. No wonder the first thing the members did was to give our hosts loud approval with our applause.

During the meeting, we voted unanimously to let Rep. Waldie know that we favored the Scenic Rivers bill, even though it had been mauled by the House in the pre-Convention rush. Also, a committee of three was appointed to review a proposed tree ordinance in Walnut Creek and offer comments and suggestions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Perfect weather the following Sunday helped to bring out over 50 members and guests to the new Coyote Hills Regional Park, near Dumbarton Bridge. We followed the leader, Chris Nelson, on a leisurely mostly-level walk around the hills. Saline habitat on one side and marsh on the other were not crowded with birds, but we did get good views of Avocet, Phalarope, Marsh Hawk, Sanderling, Plover, Sandpiper, White-tailed Kite, Kingfisher, Caspian Tern, and other more common birds. After the hike we visited the Stanford Research BioSonar lab, where an enterprising young veterinarian tried to outshout a bull sealion, in telling us of the work being done at the lab. He introduced us to a pair of baby walrus, born last May and flown from St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. Our guide claimed that he knew five 'words' of Walrusese, and he proved that a series of the right grunts meant 'come here!' We also saw another older walrus that had been at the lab only three days. It had been found practically starved to death on an Arctic beach and had been flown to the BioSonar Lab for treatment. Apparently it was doing o.k. on a diet of whipping cream and clams. Our tour ended with a trip to some nearby Indian mounds, where we found a tooth.

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#### Observations:

(from Harry Adamson, Sept. 17): "First Fall arrival of White-crowned Sparrow observed today. Western Tanagers have been passing through here for approximately a month. Yesterday had a migrating Warbling Vireo. In August we had a Prairie Falcon and a Brewer Sparrow in the Owens Valley, N.E. of Bishop". The following day Harry spotted his first Lincoln Sparrow of the Fall.

(from Ingra Lusebrink, Aug. 18): "I went north into Oregon and Washington with two good birding companions - grandchildren. We saw thousands of Black Tern on Tule Lake National Refuge. I had to ask

to be sure I wasn't seeing things, and when I got to Lava Beds National Monument a Ramper said, 'You might not see one some day and thousands the next day'."

(from Isabella McGeehon, Sept. 3): "A bird that has appeared three times in 55 years can hardly be called a frequent visitant. That is the record of the California Thrasher in the McGeehon garden in Walnut Creek, quite removed from its chaparral habitat. This year one stayed two or three days about the garden, which now resembles an unkempt jungle, but still is not chaparral. First indication was the harsh clack of its beak. When the bird flew to overhead wires, the curved bill confirmed the identification."

\*\*\*\*\*

These are your Committee Members this year, as announced by Pres. Ernie Schulz, who is happy so many members answered his requests affirmatively:

Programs: Joy Meagher (Vice-Pres.), Dave Bowman, John Bruce.  
Field Trips: Chris Nelson, Lynn Farrar, Bill Betts, John Davis.  
Hospitality: Sally Steller, Elsie & Roy Glotfelty, Hazel & Bob McCarthy.

Conservation: Ann Cavanagh

Publicity: Florence Klinger

'Quail' & Mailer: Ed Mize

The Program and Field Trips Committees have combined forces this year. The Hospitality Girls furnished 'stickum' name tags at the Berkeley meeting so we could tell who's who.

+++++

Nice to see two young Coudens at the Berkeley meeting .. Penny, just back from Inner Tanzania in Africa, and Dick, soon to return to Cal Poly in Outer San Luis Obispo.

The John Bruces finally got away on a vacation, with John's back holding up under the strain. They toured Utah, the Four Corners Country, and Grand Canyon. An unusual cold spell in early August dumped about 6 inches of snow on them in the Uinta Mts. in northern Utah.

Other travelers to Utah were John & Alice Porterfield, who had a relaxing time on a ranch on the Kolob Plateau, not far from Zion.

The Morro Coast Audubon bulletin reports that the Robert Pughs have been transferred to Oroville. Some years ago Eleanor Pugh was active in our Society, and she since has catalyzed San Diego and Morro Coast Audubon.

.....

Looks like we have a Redwood National Park after all. Congress has agreed to a Park covering 58,000 acres, counting three State Parks (Jedediah Smith, Del Norte, & Prairie Creek). A narrow corridor, with 33 miles of beach, will connect holdings in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. (Eureka papers headlined the announcement by stressing the potential tax loss, but you can be sure some lumber officials are crying all the way to the bank, since they will be exchanging some of their holdings for nearly all of the richly-wooded National Redwood Purchase Unit).

Some weeks ago, Governor Reagan signed the bill which extends the power of the Bay Area Conservation & Development Commission to regulate the filling of S.F. Bay for another year.

Madrone Audubon (Santa Rosa) reports that several ranches between Coleman Valley Road and Juncan Mills have been purchased by organizations intending to strip off the lumber and ship it to Japan. It seems that Japan frowns on its own trees being cut!

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# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
4202 Alhambra Ave. Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Office Phone: 228-8860  
Home Phone: 228-8560)

(Next Deadline: Nov. 15)

November, 1968  
Vol. 15, No. 5

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Nov. 6, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Robert Davison will show 'The Vanishing Sea', a film about the Great Salt Lake.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 7, 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Sun Valley Shopping Center. Arthur Ogilvie will speak about the proposed establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Nov. 9. Meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot near the Dumbarton Bridge toll station. A joint trip with Ohlone Audubon Society (Hayward) into the proposed South Bay Wildlife Refuge.

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The location of our November 7th meeting will again be Meeting Room B, on the lower floor of the Sun Valley Shopping Center. Assuming you know the Shopping Center on Contra Costa Blvd., go down the escalator and keep going in the same direction on the lower floor. Meeting Room B is at the end of the corridor, opposite the Postal Station.

Chris Nelson has lined up the program for the evening. These are his comments:

"Our speaker will be Mr. Arthur Ogilvie, who is with the Planning Department of Santa Clara County. He has been spearheading efforts to promote the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay. He will be showing slides and charts indicating the necessity of preserving mud flats, marshlands, and salt pond areas of the South Bay. He will also tell us how we might assist in establishing such a wildlife refuge".

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The field trip the following Saturday, Nov. 9th, has also been arranged by Chris Nelson and will be to the very areas that Mr. Ogilvie will be discussing. Chris has this to say:

"The field trip will be sponsored by the Ohlone Audubon Society (Hayward), which will be our host and guide.



"For a number of years the Audubon Society has had a lease arrangement with Leslie Salt Co. to visit and afford some protection to some of the critical wildlife area just south of the Dumbarton Bridge. We will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 9th, in the parking lot just short of the bridge toll station. We will leave in car caravans from that lot. Lunch and drinking water will be required, as we are not expected to return to our cars until about 3 p.m. Mr. John Luther, Ohlone's Field Trip Chairman, hopes to arrange for Dr. Cogswell, ornithologist at Cal State at Hayward, to participate in what could be one of the most dramatic displays of bird life we will see this year".

.....

At the Audubon Wildlife Tour on Wednesday, Nov. 6th, at DVC Gym, there will be a presentation by Robert Davison of 'The Vanishing Sea'. This 'sea' is the Great Salt Lake. We will see pictures of the animals and birds found in that part of the Great Basin.

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A sizable crowd of 55, including a delegation of school children, were at Sun Valley B on October 3 to hear A. Warren Larson present his film on the Great Gray Owl. Despite balkiness on the part of the projector, we saw a very interesting movie on what can be regarded as a rarely seen bird. Mr. Larson's infinite patience was in evidence throughout the film. Some of us will never see this bird in Yosemite Park, but at least we are now familiar with its appearances and habits. There were many pictures of young birds in the nest, but seldom was Mr. Larson able to photograph the father.

Our new meeting place met with mixed response. The scientific atmosphere of the DVC labs was gone, but the convenience of undercover parking and central location was an asset. Our November 7th meeting will be in the same room, but we will not have the room in December. The next 'Quail' will tell you where to meet on Dec. 5th.

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We welcome our newest members to Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Most of these newcomers were present at the October meeting:

Frank and Helene Beyer, Vallejo (temporarily 301 Dryden Drive)  
Floyd and Marjorie Bartley, 1142 El Curtola Blvd., Walnut Creek  
Nancy and Lorne Swanson, 2436 Cherry Hills Drive, Lafayette.

.....

Harry Adamson, who designed the letterhead for 'The Quail' as well as for 'The Avocet' (Santa Clara County Audubon), has recently designed a beautiful picture of a White-tailed Kite, for use on the letterhead of Ohlone Audubon's 'The Kite Call'. A sample of the latter was on display at our October meeting. ... On that same night, Harry and Betty were at a Ducks Unlimited dinner at the Fairmont. Harry had donated a painting of Mallards, which was auctioned off for a considerable sum 'to help bring many more ducks winging south some year'.

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Effective Oct. 14, the new President of National Audubon is Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, who has been President of Indiana University the last 6 years. .... The Western Regional Office of National Audubon is now open at 555 Audubon Place (Pulton near Fair Oaks) in Sacramento. Drop around sometime!

.....

Lucky ol' Harry Couden led another field trip in good weather again - this time at Lafayette Reservoir on October 6th. (A week later and he would have had a cold drizzle!) This is his report:

"The Lafayette Reservoir trip was marked by good weather, naturally, as well as sightings by most of our group of an albino Red-tailed Hawk, Snow Goose (he's free flying but lives there), a furtive Green Heron, and a Spotted Sandpiper. Our old friend, Pete Vietch, who birds the place frequently, showed up and was nominated leader pro-tem. The birding was really good, as the following list of 45 species shows:

"Pied-billed Grebe; Green Heron; Snow Goose; Mallard; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Quail; Coot; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Calif. Gull; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummer; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Nuttall's Woodpecker; Black & Say's Phoebe; Violet-green & Cliff Swallows; Steller & Scrub Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; Wren; Bewick's & Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Calif. Thrasher; Western Bluebird; Ruby-cr. Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Audubon's Warbler; Redwinged Blackbird; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhees; Ore. Junco; White-crowned, Fox & Song Sparrow".

.....

"Here's an observation worthy of the name", says Harry Adamson, who continues:

"Oct. 11, 1968 - in our backyard, foraging for a moment on the ground before moving on, one male Black-throated Blue Warbler in adult plumage. The breeding range in the Eastern U.S. includes as far west as northern Minnesota, and the bird winters in the West Indies and Cuba. So it is strictly accidental in California, except possibly on the Parallon's, where it might be a more regular vagrant. Needless to say, it was a new yard bird for us - number 123!"

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Well, Congress finally went to work. Maybe because it was election year, it acted favorably on a host of conservation measures, so that now we have:

- (a) A Redwood National Park of 58,000 acres (if you count the three State Parks that might be withheld). It was a compromise, but 33 miles of beach link the desirable areas. Appropriations are still up in the air, but the Park is a fact;
- (b) A North Cascade National Park, a primitive area of 505,000 acres of prime wilderness, along with 700,000 acres of wilderness and recreational areas - potentially one of our greatest National Park areas;
- (c) A Scenic River System and a National Scenic Trails System. We favored the river system in a vote two months ago;
- (d) Other Wilderness Areas, including The Great Swamp, Mt. Jefferson, and others; and
- (e) A National Monument in lower Biscayne Bay and the upper Florida Keys.

(Loud Applause)

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About three years ago we printed an interesting report by Harry Adamson on 'Year Birding'. Now we have another interesting discussion by Harry to give you, as follows:

**BACKYARD BIRDING**  
by Harry Adamson

"Bird listing is primarily a sport, and, as an aid to Ornithology, probably has little value; nevertheless, many ornithologists go in for it. Yard-birding is perhaps one of the lower forms of listing, but it sharpens the birder's power of observation and thus serves as a function of some value.

"Like many of the bird watchers, I indulge in this pastime occasionally, and did so on October 16th. Larger lists can be accumulated at certain times of the year - notably in the Spring migratory period - but the following list is good for mid-October from an average-sized yard (approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre) in the suburbs. Approximately 6 hours of observation were spent in accumulating the total of 38 species. The rules are, of course, that the birds must be seen in, or from, one's yard. Anything flying over, at any distance, may be included, provided identification is certain. Providing feeders of two or three types, having brushy cover available, etc., all help in attracting more species. While not flinging any gauntlets, I invite any of the members to try for a larger yard list in October. This will help to prepare them for the Christmas Count period, or, for that matter, field trips all year long.

"List of species observed from our yard in Lafayette, Oct. 16, 1968:

'Red-tailed Hawk; Calif. Quail; Ring-billed Gull; Band-tailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Barn Owl; Anna Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Downy Woodpecker; Nuttall Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Steller's Jay; Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wrenit; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Red-winged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned Sparrow; Golden-crowned Sparrow; Song Sparrow.'

"While disliking ugly comparisons, I think it interesting that this list is much larger than that accumulated in a similar number of hours by Mt. Diablo Audubon on some of their earlier field trips to areas hundreds of times larger than a backyard. Or, as the Chevrolet billboard ad says this year - Match this you other 69s!"

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(Thanks, Harry, for this report. There are times when I have been asked for a list of birds that might benefit beginning birders in this area. As a matter of fact, just the other day I had such a call from a friendly lady, who is confined to bed and does her birding by mirror. I am sure that she will appreciate my sending her the above list. ... Ed.)

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Ed Nize, Editor .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Ca. 94520 .. Phone 686-1341



# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
4202 Alhambra Ave. Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Office phone: 228-8860  
Home Phone: 228-8560)

(Next Deadline: Dec. 15)

December, 1968  
Vol. 15, No. 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m. Room S-132 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Ron Russo will present a program entitled, 'BEAUTY UNDERFOOT - The Bizarre Ways of Our Fungus Friends'.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Dec. 8. Meet at Conn Dam about 9:30 a.m. (No official leader yet)

Christmas Count: Tentatively set for Saturday, Dec. 28. Ernie Schulz (see phones above) will probably be coordinator.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, January 6, 1969, with Walter Breckenridge presenting 'Island Treasure'.

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Please note that our next meeting, on Dec. 5th, will be back at Diablo Valley College in the Science Building, but in a different room than usual. Actually, S-132 is on the same floor as the biology labs we have met in before, but it's way down the hall, in the southwest corner. Parking is available nearby ... instead of using the parking lot on the north side of the Science Building, drive around the building and park on the south side. Or you can enter the parking lot from Viking Drive, higher up than where you park for the Screen Tours.

We will meet in S-132 for the next two months, December and January. What follows then depends upon whether a DVC room is available or whether Sun Valley will have a room available.

Our December meeting will deal with Mycology, the study of Fungi (mushrooms, toadstools, etc.). Our speaker will be Ronald A. Russo, Naturalist for the East Bay Regional Park District the last couple of years. Chris Nelson lined up the program and says,

"The Brown Creeper, Wrentit, and Chickadee are fascinating to watch as they move through the trees searching for food. But these birds and their world depend upon the activity of the lowly fungi that thrive on the forest floor.

"The story of mushrooms is the story of trees, birds, flies, and slugs. What they are, what they do, and how they relate to other plants and animals within a forest will be the topic of a slide presentation on mushrooms and other fungi. There will also be fresh specimens for your viewing pleasure."

.....

Our next Field Trip will be on Sunday, Dec. 8, to Conn Dam, one of our favorite birding areas. Marin Audubon has also scheduled a trip to Conn Dam for that day, with Stan Picher leading, so maybe we might have a joint trip. Anyhow, it is suggested that we meet at 9:30 a.m. at the foot of the Dam. Come prepared for a wee bit of winter, possible showers or fog, and probable wet grounds. Bring a hearty lunch and Hope - hope for sunshine, that is.

How do you get there? Easy ... take State Highway 29 between Napa & Calistoga, but turn off at Rutherford. Follow the signs and go east about 5 miles to the Dam. If you've got more time, take the scenic route, by turning at Napa towards Winters, going about 3 miles, and then taking the Silverado Trail north 13 miles before turning east to the Dam.

This is mainly a "birding by car" trip. We do little hiking, unless we decide to go to the north end of the Lake and walk along the north shore. Birding can be excellent ... last year we nailed 57 species.

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Saturday, December 28, has been selected as the best time to have the Christmas Count. Details are being worked out and will be presented at our December meeting and in the January "Quail". Our President, Ernie Schulz, says that he's a better coordinator than a birder, so he will handle much of the paperwork - with help, he hopes. Contact Ernie (228-8860, office, or 228-8560, work), if you can participate in the Count, either by birding or tabulating. If you have certain areas you want to bird, let Ernie know, so we don't have too many in one area and not enough in others.

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At our November meeting in Sun Valley Shopping Center, we heard Art Ogilvie of Santa Clara County report on efforts to create a National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay. First outlining the history of the project, he then showed an excellent series of colored slides of the areas and the birds and animals found there. This enabled us to visualize the heron rookery and harbor seal hauling ground recently discovered on isolated islands down there. Some of the slides were borrowed from Bill Anderson of Calif. Fish & Game.

Our Hospitality Committee, headed by Sally Steller, had colorful name tags neatly arranged for us on a felt board at this November meeting. Sally deserves our thanks, too, for refreshments provided at the brief social which followed the meeting.

Pres. Schulz created a Legal & Legislative Committee, consisting of Dave Bowman, Ann Cavanagh, John Davis, Joy Meagher, and Ed Mize. This group will consider proposed legislation and plans in the future and cut down on the time we spend at meetings hashing out reactions to such proposals. Members of this Committee held a long meeting one night composing a letter and statement of comments on the Calif. State Park System Plan. A copy of the letter will be available at our next meeting.

At our November meeting we also adopted a resolution to be sent to Secretary Udall asking that he continue to stand for higher quality of water in the Delta. . . . Glenn Shanks reported that he had sent a letter to Gov. Reagan protesting the threatened lower quality of water. Later he got a form letter in reply saying that 'the State Government has, for many years, recognized the Delta region as an important segment of California's economy . . . one that must be protected and enhanced.' Oh, would that it were so!

.....  
 Robert Davison's showing of 'The Vanishing Sea' at a Wildlife Tour program in early November prompted many of our members to remark that it was one of the finest films in recent years. Davison showed detailed studies of many of the birds near Great Salt Lake, often with a Disneyish flavor. His grebes standing up and scooting across the water furnished moments of genuine natural humor.

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As yet, no word about how the field trip to Dumbarton Bridge turned out. Many of our members were out of town on the three-day weekend or were otherwise committed. It was a beautiful day for a field trip.

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 No bird observations submitted recently. My eyes at the Water Pipit Observatory at Avon detected the first pipits of the season there on Nov. 20 - much later than the Nov. 9 date in 1967.

The fourth annual Condor survey was held in mid October. A minimum of 52 condors were seen, which compares with the 51 observed two years ago.

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National Audubon (Sacramento) informs us that on Oct. 4 Fish & Game Code regulations were amended to give greater protection to California Prairie Falcons and Peregrine Falcons. If you have one in your possession, you have 50 days to notify Fish & Game. Revised regulations also prevent taking yearling birds. There is no prohibition on the importation or possession of imported falcons.

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U.S. Bureau of Land Management is drafting a Public Land Order to change South Farallon Island from a Coast Guard Base into a National Wildlife Refuge.

Active in bird studies on the Farallons is the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, near Bolinas. For the last two years this non-profit organization has been studying migrants passing through the Farallons and Point Reyes. We have been asked to enclose a brochure on PRBO, with return envelopes, in this issue of 'The Quail', in its search for members, workers, and contributions.

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The Ford Foundation has given Nature Conservancy a \$6 million credit guarantee, which will enable the latter to buy up and hold land earmarked for later federal purchase. This will protect land from the sort of speculation that blighted formation of the Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore. Nature Conservancy helped to win Kent Island in Bolinas Bay and also the Marks property for the state park near Soquel.

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Again, it's cool enough to hear sleigh bells ring and time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the ol' Editor,

Ed Mize