



# The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: Jan. 15)

January, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 7

- Christmas Count: Saturday, Dec. 28. Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938) or Dennis Clemens (682-5231) for assignments. Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Jack and Sally Steller's, 591 Fulton Way, Danville (837-9061).
- Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 2, 1969. Room S-132 (Life Science Building), Diablo Valley College. Bob and Hazel McCarthy's program will a trip to Alaska be.
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, Jan. 4. Combination mushroom & bird trip in Tilden Park, led by Ron Russo (533-9122). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the 'Little Farm' area of Tilden Regional Park.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. Walter Breckenridge and his 'Island Treasure'.  
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Our first meeting in 1969 will be held in Room S-132 of the Science Building at Diablo Valley College, January 2nd, the day after New Years. To get there: Either go up Viking Drive to the last parking lot, or come in from Golf Club Road and swing around the Science Building. Room S-132 is near the southwest corner of the building. Now that we've located the thermostat, the room shouldn't be quite as cool as during our December meeting.

Bob and Hazel McCarthy took an interesting trip to Alaska last summer, and Bob will show some of their slides and some they purchased. They went by all means of travel (except dog team): the steamer 'Polar Star' to Skagway; W.P. & Y.R. (White Pass & Yukon R.R. 'Wait Patiently & You'll Ride') to Whitehorse; bus to Fairbanks; train and bus to McKinley Park & Anchorage; and home by plane. Featured will be slides of Stanley Park in Vancouver, Inside Passage icebergs, totem poles, the St. Elias Range, Mt. McKinley National Park, and the Chugach Range from atop a ski lift near Anchorage. Real light and bubbly stuff .... just right for the day after New Years.

Ron Russo's program on mushrooms was so well received at our December meeting that he was asked to lead a foray into the field to help us find some. He has agreed to lead our next field trip, on Saturday January 4th, when we will look for mushrooms and birds in the Nature Area section of Tilden Park. Meet at 9:30 at the "Little Farm". From Grizzly Peak Blvd take Golf Course Drive or Shasta Road downhill to the Brazilian Room and then go north on Wildcat Canyon Road and Central Park Road, pass Lake Anza and the Merry Go Round, and go as far north as you can to the "Little Farm". Mushrooms like the damp areas, you know, so come prepared for some sloppy walking in chilly weather. We'll probably be back to the cars by noon.

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Before the January meeting and the January field trip, however, we have the annual Christmas Count - on Saturday, December 28th. Lynn Farrar and Dennis Clemens are handling the arrangements and should be contacted, if you plan to take part. Call Lynn at 283-3938 or Dennis at 682-5231. Express your preference for area, if you wish, and you will be assigned to a group. The more volunteers, the more eyes to see with, and the better the count.

The Potluck Dinner this year, the evening of the Count, will be held at the home of Jack and Sally Steller, 591 Fulton Way, Danville. Phone Sally ahead of time at 837-9061 and arrange for the food to bring, so we don't all show up with standing rib roasts. Also bring eating tools, plates, cups, etc., and have a couple chairs, TV trays, or a card table in the car, in case they are needed.

To get to the Steller's (from Walnut Creek and points west and north): Take the Freeway (680) south of Walnut Creek, pass Alamo, and turn off at El Cerro Blvd. Go under the Freeway and head north a half-mile or so to Enterprise, turn left one block, then right on Dolphin one block, left on Farragut one block, and then right on Fulton Way to its end. You can't miss, unless you miss all those turns.

We'll meet about 6:30, have a luscious meal soon after, and then compare notes on the birding. You'll enjoy it.

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No word on how the trip to Conn Dam came out, Dec. 8th, other than it was held on a cold and rainy day - probably good weather for ducks.

About 15 members showed up for the November trip to Dunbarton Bridge, outnumbering the Ohlone Auduboners. Birding was poor, partly due to fog. The party walked the planks into the proposed Wildlife Refuge and saw the furtive Clapper Rail.

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We had a letter from Mr. Crawford of the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife in Portland saying that he was "pleased to receive our letter of support for the National Wildlife Refuge in South S.F. Bay", and that he agrees that "preservation of this great body of water and its ecosystem is extremely important". Signers of the petition also received notes from Rep. Jerome Waldie, saying that he is "in full support of the effort".

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The next Wildlife Tour will be on Monday, January 6th, in the DVC Gym. Dr. Walter Breckenridge of Minneapolis will present his "Island Treasure", dealing with the wildlife on an island far up the Mississippi River (in Minnesota?). The picture is full of birds and animals, they say.

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Some 40 members and guests turned out for our December meeting at DVC to become quickly educated in the science of Mycology (the study of mushrooms, lichens, etc.) The lecture table was covered with specimens of fungi collected by our speaker, Ron Russo, as well as by John Bruce and Bill Heinkel, science teachers at Monte Vista High School, and Ed Bichstedt. Mr. Russo gave a very interesting talk on the part that mushrooms have played in history, related some legends, and followed with beautiful slides of the various kinds of fungi. Along with the slides he gave interesting anecdotes or some historical lore, which added to our enjoyment. Ron left us with the thought that 'People have to learn to see'. Many of us in the future will heed his advice and examine mushrooms more closely.

In her Conservation report, Ann Cavanagh pointed out that there is the possibility of oil drilling in the San Joaquin River near some of our County's water supply. It might have a deleterious effect on the water quality. We voted to send a letter of protest to the State Lands Commission.

Refreshments were provided and served by Hazel McCarthy and Sally Steller. No mushrooms were used.

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#### Observations:

Jane Nemetz, now living in an apartment overlooking Ellis Lake Park in Concord, was somewhat startled to see a Northern Phalarope from her window recently.

Harry and Betty Adamson went to Gray Lodge Refuge with Madrone Audubon and saw 150 swans and a Wood Duck.

Bob McCarthy says that the Cedar Waxwings stripped his toyons in late November - the earliest this has happened.

Ron Russo thought he was in Africa, on seeing a Scrub Jay land on a deer's back and start picking off the ticks.

Dave and Alyce Bowman went to Joyce Island Sanctuary on Thanksgiving and saw 30 species of birds ... but no turkeys.

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Audubon Canyon Ranch in Western Marin will be expanded by purchase of 232 acres just to the south. This, plus the present 569 acres, means over 800 acres of protected land plus 368 acres of leased lagoon water. The purchase price of \$210,000 must be met by private donations, which can be sent to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Stinson Beach, Calif. 94970.

Save-The-Redwoods League has acquired 57 more acres in the upper Bull Creek watershed above Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The League hopes to acquire enough land to prevent floods, such as the one in 1955 that ruined portions of Rockefeller Grove.

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Sunol Valley Regional Park, where we have had field trips, may be unblest by an adjacent two square mile quarry, which would be on Apperson's Ridge, where Utah Construction Co. has leased 1000 acres.

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Remember the young walrus we saw down at Coyote Hills Regional Park in September? The poor thing was practically dead on arrival from the Arctic, where it had been found on a beach, but its keeper at the Stanford BioSonar Lab was trying to nurse it back to health with a yummy diet of whipping cream and clams. The diet must have worked, for now the walrus, 'Igor', has been added to the S.F. Zoo.

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(Pres: Paul B. Schulz  
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Office phone: 228-8860  
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(Next Deadline: Feb. 15)

February, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 8

- Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium.  
Eben McMillan and his 'Outback Australia'.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Sun Valley  
Shopping Center. Frank Beyer's program, 'Down East',  
will take us along the Maine Coast.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m. Meet across from the Mobil  
station near Benicia Beach State Park. After birding  
this area, we will head for Joyce Island.  
Leader: Dennis Clemens (682-5231).  
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Frank Beyer, one of our newer members, will show us part of the East Coast at our next regular meeting, which will be held at Sun Valley Meeting Room B on Feb. 6. Mr. Beyer, Professor Emeritus of Forestry at the University of Maine, has been active in Audubon work in the East and has traveled extensively back there. His program, which he titles 'Down East', will show us the Maine Coast as well as the Gaspé Peninsula and Bonaventure Island. We will see a variety of sea birds, land birds, animals, and flowering plants, along with the labeled Maine scenery.

Note that with this meeting we are returning to Sun Valley Shopping Area and will meet in Room B, which is on the downstairs Mall. Go down the escalator and keep heading for Walnut Creek. The meeting room is at the end of the corridor, across from the branch postoffice.

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Dennis Clemens, who did such a wonderful job with our Christmas Count, will lead our next field trip on Sunday, Feb. 9, to the Benicia Beach State Park and Joyce Island areas in Solano County.

We are asked to meet at 9 a.m. near the new Benicia Beach State Park, which is between Benicia and Vallejo. Cross the Martinez-Benicia Bridge (toll) and go towards Vallejo. On the far side of Benicia take the L Street turnoff, go under the Freeway, and turn right towards the Mobil station. Across the street will be a little parking area, in which we will meet.

We will look over the cove to see what the tide has brought in. Then we'll head for Fairfield via the Freeways or via Highway 21, Cordelia & Suisun City. From Fairfield we take Highway 12 towards Rio Vista, but turn right 1 mile east of Fairfield onto the Grizzly Island-Joyce Island Road. About 8 miles south of this junction we will come to Joyce Island and will meet in the parking area outside the Joyce Island entrance. Joyce Island is about 40 miles from Walnut Creek. Bring hiking boots or heavy shoes, warm clothes, binocs or scope, and lunch.

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 The January Field Trip in Tilden Park was held in beautiful, but chilly, weather. Ernie Schulz reports that,

"Ron Russo did a nice job leading the group in its search for mushrooms, and he showed well his versatility in natural history interpretation. All who attended felt well rewarded and enlightened. 23 Species of birds were seen. Although many were commonly-seen varieties, we did have good shows put on by a male Anna Hummer, a Bewick's Wren, and a Cooper's Hawk."

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On Feb. 5th, the night before our next meeting, there will an Audubon Wildlife Film at 8 p.m. in the Diablo Valley College Gymnasium. Eben McMillan will present a film entitled "Outback Australia", which will show many birds and animals of that distant land. Mr. McMillan has shown films at DVC in recent years (and you may recall his excellent picture of life on his Shandon Hills ranch, east of Paso Robles). His new picture should be very interesting ... so grab Waltzing Matilda and go!

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Our January meeting at DVC was well attended. Fortunately, Ernie Schulz was able to find a custodian to let us in before we turned into icicles. We'd forgotten that the college was closed for the Christmas break. At our program, Bob McCarthy presented a fine assortment of slides showing the scenery that he and Hazel saw between Vancouver, B.C. and Anchorage, by way of the Inside Passage, Yukon Territory, Alaska Highway, and Mt. McKinley Park.

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The Concord paper went a little overboard in reporting that a rare Trumpeter Swan had plopped into Ellis Lake. Turns out that it was a Whistling Swan that a hunter had found wounded near Isleton and had brought home and released into the Lake. At last report it is still there, according to Jane Nemetz, whose apartment is nearby.

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Despite some atrocious weather, our 1968 Christmas Count on December 28 was a success. Chairman Dennis Clemens reports,

"A drizzly, cloudy and foggy day literally dampened more than 20 birders, but we still managed to achieve a respectable species score. In the evening we found the end of a rainbow at the home of Jack and Sally Steller, where there was warm hospitality, a delicious potluck dinner, and lots of talk for all.

"Special thanks go to Lynn Farrar for taking so much of his time to explain the mechanics of the count to me. Thanks to all of you, too, for cooperating so wonderfully in seeking out the elusive species in the rain.

"If new housing developments haven't covered all of our County by the end of the year, we will have a count in 1969. We should make arrangements in October or early November."

## 1968 Christmas Count ... Dec. 28, 1968

Total Species ... 113 Total Individuals ... 145,767

Western Grebe	8	Long-bill Dowitcher	3	Bewick's Wren	18
Pied-billed Grebe	19	Western Sandpiper	175	Long-bill Marsh Wr.	6
Dbl. Crst. Cormorant	2	Sandpiper, sp.	40	Rock Wren	2
Great Blue Heron	4	American Avocet	20	Mockingbird	64
Green Heron	3	Glaucous-wing Gull	11	Calif. Thrasher	12
Common Egret	1	Herring Gull	10	Robin	2216
Snowy Egret	17	California Gull	550	Varied Thrush	85
American Bittern	5	Ring-bill Gull	260	Hermit Thrush	26
White-fronted Goose	11	Mew Gull	1	West. Bluebird	77
Goose, sp.	16	Bonaparte's Gull	4	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	36
Mallard	185	Gull, sp.	992	Water Pipit	46
Gadwall	2	Band-tail Pigeon	740	Cedar Waxwing	122
Pintail	1020	Mourning Dove	136	Loggerhead Shrike	38
Green-wing Teal	100	Screech Owl	1	Starling	969
Shoveler	752	Great Horned Owl <sup>+</sup>	1	Hutton's Vireo	6
American Widgeon	200	Long-eared Owl	1	Audubon's Warbler	114
Ring-neck Duck	18	Short-eared Owl	4	Yellowthroat	7
Canvasback	18	White-throat Swift	43	House Sparrow	106
Common Goldeneye	2	Anna's Hummingbird	31	West. Meadowlark	283
Bufflehead	6	Belted Kingfisher	2	Red-wing Blackb.	2585
Ruddy Duck	8	Red-shaft Flicker	112	Brewer's Blackb.	3653
Turkey Vulture	3	Acorn Woodpecker	58	Blackbird, sp.	125,000
White-tailed Kite	15	Yellow-bld. Sapskr	2	Purple Finch	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Hairy Woodpecker	2	House Finch	153
Cooper's Hawk	3	Downy Woodpecker	4	Pine Siskin	2
Red-tailed Hawk	16	Nuttall's Woodpecker	9	Amer. Goldfinch	369
Marsh Hawk	32	Black Phoebe	10	Lesser Goldfinch	544
Peregrine Falcon <sup>+</sup>	1	Say's Phoebe	10	Rufous-side Towhee	71
Sparrow Hawk	51	Horned Lark	32	Brown Towhee	98
Calif. Quail	314	Steller's Jay	33	Savannah Sparrow	10
Ring-neck Pheasant	7	Scrub Jay	271	Lark Sparrow	37
Common Gallinule	15	Common Crow	4	Rufous-cr Sparrow	5
American Coot	555	Chestnut-bk Chick.	5	Sage Sparrow	2
Killdeer	76	Plain Titmouse	119	Oregon Junco	327
Black-bellied Plover	5	Common Bushtit	202	White-crn Sparrow	705
Common Snipe	35	White-br. Nuthatch	39	Gold-crnd Sparrow	429
Greater Yellowlegs	9	Red-brst. Nuthatch	1	Fox Sparrow	10
Least Sandpiper	67	Brown Creeper	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Dunlin	7	Wrentit	7	Song Sparrow	31

Also seen during count period: Canada Goose, Sora Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Barn Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Slate-colored Junco.

+ Seen by Harry Couden & Ernie Schulz on Mt. Diablo. Observed thru spotting scope. Large size, gray back, "mustache", rapid, direct flight. A Sparrow Hawk seen shortly after, and the difference was striking. First time seen on day of count.

++ Seen by Jane Nemetz and Kevin Kaufmann in a canyon on Mt. Diablo. Seen thru binocs. Low "hooo", lengthwise streaks, ear tufts near center of head, and large size. Another first time for count day.

Participants this year: the Atkinsons, the Bowmans, Ann Cavanagh & son, Harry Couden, the Farrars, John Hafner, Kevin Kaufmann, Joy Meagher, Ed Mize, Molly Jane Monheit, Bert O'Meara, Jane Nemetz, the Schaefers, Ernie Schulz, the Shackelfords, and Tom Steller

(and Dennis Clemens, Compiler)



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Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
5432 Degnan Drive,  
Martinez, Calif. 94553  
Phone: 228-8560

(Next Deadline: Mar. 12)

March, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 9

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, March 5, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. Kent Durden showing 'Death Valley - Land of Contrast'.

Next Meetings: Thursday, March 6, 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Sun Valley Shopping Center. Pres. Ernie Schulz will show a National Park film.

Thursday, March 27, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Auditorium. John Bryant will present a program on wild flowers.

Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Sun Valley Shopping Center. Dr. Howard Cogswell will discuss the 'Ecology of Water Birds'.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m. (?) Nortonville Area. John Bryant will lead a wildflower trip.

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For our next meeting, we have shoulder-tapped our popular President, Ernie Schulz, who will show us a National Park Service film entitled 'Let's Talk About Wildlife'. Ernie has shown this film elsewhere, and he says that it has been well received. He will also talk about the Park Service's wildlife policies and environmental education.

This meeting will be Thursday, March 6, at 8 p.m. in Room B of Sun Valley Shopping Center. You'll find it on the downstairs Mall opposite the postoffice. We've had several meetings there this year.

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In view of the soggy weather and generally poor birding in March, our next field trip will not be until the end of the month, on March 30, when we meet in the Nortonville area and will be led on a wildflower trip by John Bryant, from the Pittsburg School District. He is an expert on wildflowers of this part of the county. With all the rain this winter, there should be plenty of flowers ... and, hopefully, some birds.

Mr. Bryant will also be our speaker at a special meeting on March 27, the Thursday before his wildflower field trip. We will be meeting at the Sun Valley Auditorium, just across the hall from Room B. It is a large room, so bring along a lot of friends, so we can fill the place. Our annual wildflower programs are always colorful and well worth attending.

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We are having our regular April meeting the following Thursday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in Sun Valley Room B. We will be honored by the presence of Dr. Howard Cogswell, of California State College at Hayward, who will talk on the "Ecology of Water Birds". Dr. Cogswell is a well-known Western ornithologist and one of the pillars of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Although his speech will be during Easter Week, we hope you will be in the area at that time and take advantage of the opportunity to hear this expert on birds.

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Your attention is called to the last Audubon Wildlife Screen Tour of this season, which will be shown Wednesday, March 5 (the night before our next meeting) at the Diablo Valley Gym at 8 p.m. Young Kent Durden will show the varied plant and animal life found in Death Valley.

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Mark April 21 on your calendar right now. That evening, Mt. Diablo Audubon is joining with the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council in presenting William Penn Mott, Director of the California State Park System. There will be a dinner at 6:30 at the Holiday Inn in Concord, with tickets at 5. Mr. Mott will speak about 8 p.m. If you don't care to eat, you can still drop in about 8 o'clock - for free - and hear the talk. This will be a rare opportunity to hear about the State Park program from the "boss" and to ask some pertinent questions.

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Here's some other meetings that may interest you:

On April 10th, Golden Gate Audubon will present at its meeting in San Francisco the celebrated ornithologist, Peter Alden, who will talk on "Wildlife and Conservation in Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, and New Caledonia". According to Beth Snyder (571 Dwight Place, Berkeley, 94704), Mr. Alden will illustrate the lecture and give the latest information on the plight of the emu, Koalas, kangaroos, Birds-of-Paradise, etc., and stress the discovery of 4 pairs of Kagu on New Caledonia. For further information, contact Mrs. Snyder, or Program Chairman Mrs. Zweigart (526-7295).

Mr. Alden will be speaking before the Marin Audubon on April 4th on "Wildlife and Conservation in Mexico and Central America". Their Program Chairman William Pursell at 456-0248 (San Rafael).

The Sierra Club's 11th Biennial Wilderness Conference will be held March 14 and 15 at the Hilton Hotel in S.F. It's subject is "Wilderness, the Edge of Knowledge". Half the program will deal with Alaskan wilderness and wildlife. If interested, write the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, S.F. 94104, or phone 981-8634.

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Well, after all that talk about future meetings, let's review our own February meeting:

New member Frank Beyer, of Vallejo, gave an excellent program on "Down East" at this meeting. Dr. Beyer, Professor Emeritus of the University of Maine, showed many colorful and educational slides of the scenery, birds, trees, and flowers of the Eastern



Seaboard, meanwhile giving us much information. We had a good turnout, and all were pleased with the fine program.

A special visitor at this meeting was Curt Parker of the California Horsemen's Association, who gave us details of the proposed riding trail between the East Bay Regional Parks and Mt. Diablo. At his suggestion we passed a motion notifying the Association that we were in favor of their trail and would give what support we could to the project.

According to Ed Richstedt, a Las Trampas Wilderness Committee has been formed and held its first meeting, at Rossmoor.

Pres. Schulz said that he recently attended a hearing of the California Land Commission and presented a letter in our behalf protesting the proposed drilling for oil in San Pablo Bay. The overwhelming objections to the drilling, plus the Santa Barbara oil slick disaster, prompted the Board of Supervisors to postpone action on such proposed drilling.

According to Chris Nelson, the East Bay Regional Park District has scored two major victories in the last month - purchase of a thousand acres of Wildcat Canyon and purchase of Brooks Island.

.....

We welcome our two newest members:

Mrs. Doris Eckstrom, 1440 Oakland Blvd., Walnut Creek, 94956  
& Mrs. Ann Lea, 2628 Oak Road, Walnut Creek, 94596

.....

Leader Dennis Clemens has written the following report on the Feb. 9th field trip to Solano County:

"The trip was threatened by soggy skies, but the trip from Benicia to Cordelia, Suisun City, and Joice Island was rewarding anyway. An afternoon trip to Grizzly Island increased the total species count to 65. Despite the bad weather, a gratifying turnout of 20 birders showed up. Would this make them fowl weather friends?

"Here is a partial list of birds seen: Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Common and Snowy Egrets, American Bittern, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, White-tailed Kite, Pheasant, Black-bellied Plover, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Avocet, Burrowing Owl, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Long-bill Marsh Wren, Water Pipit, Yellowthroat, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crown & Song Sparrow.

"In addition, Grizzly Island produced: Double-crested Cormorant, Green-winged Teal, Gallinule, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-eared Owl, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

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#### Observations:

Jane Nemetz, who gets around, reports a Black-legged Kittiwake at Lafayette Reservoir, flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons at San Leandro Reservoir, a Ross Goose for 3 days at Ellis Pond, and a Sora Rail at Heather Pond.

Ernie Schulz says an unnamed gentleman, who seemed to know his birds, reported a Bohemian Waxwing in Concord.

Harry and Betty Adamson came home from a trip to Florida with a count of 223 species, including Yellow Rail and Masked Duck in Texas.

.....

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

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Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
2038 Donald Drive  
Moraga, Calif. 94556

(Next Deadline: April 15)

April, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 10

Next Meetings: Thursday, March 27, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Auditorium.  
A program on wildflowers, presented by John Bryant.

Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Dr. Howard Cogswell will discuss 'The Ecology of Water Birds'.

Thursday, May 1, 8 p.m. San Ramon High School,  
Danville. Eleanor Nickerson will describe a kayak trip down the Thelon River in northern Canada.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 30, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the end of the Nortonville Road, off Kirker Pass Road. John Bryant will lead a wildflower trip.

Buffet Dinner: Monday, April 21, 7 p.m. Holiday Inn. Joint dinner meeting with Contra Costa Park & Rec. Council members. Speaker will be William Penn Mott, director of California's Parks and Recreation Department.

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For the last four or five years, we have been having a wildflower program and field trip in the Spring and have consistently drawn large attendances at these functions. This year our wildflower program will be held on Thursday, March 27, in the Sun Valley Auditorium, which is on the lower mall at Sun Valley across the hall from Meeting Room B and the postoffice. This room is larger than the one we generally meet in, so we hope to have a good turnout to fill the room. This will not be a business meeting. We've invited other organizations to attend, and, in addition, we hope you will bring along some friends to see John Bryant's slides of the beautiful wildflowers of this area.

Mr. Bryant, a teacher at Heights Elementary School in Pittsburg, knows his flowers. He will follow up his talk by leading a wildflower trip the following Sunday, March 30, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the end of the Nortonville Road.

You can get to the meeting place, off the Kirker Pass Road, by taking Clayton Road or Ignacio Valley Road to Kirker Pass Road and heading for Pittsburg ... or by going to Pittsburg by Highway 4 and taking Railroad Avenue south 2 or 3 miles (it changes to Kirker Pass Road at the city limits). Either way, turn off Kirker Pass Road onto Nortonville-Somersville Road, which is on the Pittsburg side of the hill, and drive 2.1 miles to what used to be Nortonville. There ain't no town no mo' - all that's left is an old loading bunker. Meet there at 1:30 p.m. (and not at the "9 a.m. (?)<sup>m</sup>" reported in last month's "Quail<sup>m</sup>"). Look for good weather, lots of flowers (considering the wet winter), and some birds.

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One week after this special wildflower meeting we will be having our regular April meeting, on Thursday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Dr. Howard Cogswell of California State College in Hayward will be speaking on "The Ecology of Water Birds". Dr. Cogswell is a well-known ornithologist of this area and has done considerable work getting the Point Reyes Bird Observatory off the ground. We are fortunate to have him, and we hope that a good crowd will be on hand to hear his presentation.

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You are urged to attend a special Buffet Dinner Meeting on April 21 at the Holiday Inn in Concord. Mt. Diablo Audubon and the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council are jointly sponsoring this affair. Speaker will be William Penn Mott, Jr., State Director of Parks and Recreation, who will discuss current state park plans, hiking and riding trails, and other items of special interest to Bay Area residents. There will be a cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The buffet table will be loaded with Chicken a la King, beef, potatoes au gratin, vegetables, salads, pies, coffee and T. The price will be 5 dollars, including tax and tip, and you may pay at the door.

Reservations are required. There will be signup sheets at our March 27 & April 3 meetings, or you can call or write to:

Christian Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Briones Valley Road  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

or

Mrs. William Sattler  
4050 Poplar Street  
Concord, Ca. 94521  
Phone: 685-5315

You'll find the new Holiday Inn at Diamond Way and Burnett, just a couple blocks off the Freeway (Highway 680). Going north, take the Concord-Pacheco turnoff and go east one block to Diamond. The Inn is near Sun Valley Ford and Freeway Chrysler/Plymouth.

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Our May meeting is scheduled for May 1, in Danville, where we meet at San Ramon High School to hear Mrs. Eleanor Nickerson of Alamo describe another family kayak trip - this time down the Thelon River to Hudson Bay. Mrs. Nickerson, author of "Kayaks to the Arctic", described this family trip down the MacKenzie at a meeting two years ago. Her new program should be equally entertaining and informative.

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We welcome our newest member:

Mrs. L. R. Clason, 337 Del Amigo Road, Danville, 94526

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On March 6, President Ernie Schulz presented an interesting program featuring two National Park films, "This Land" and "Let's Talk About Wildlife". Both were colorful collections of the best scenes in many National Parks. Ernie also gave a review of current Park Service policies and showed how there has been a noticeable change in conservation ethics in recent years and how important environmental education is.

Ernie has just retired from his 32 years with the Park Service. He and Grace have been going through the throes of moving to their new address in the Rheem section of Moraga.

We're thinking of spending money for a telescope and for a projector stand. We could use a telescope on our field trips and a stand at our meetings. Ernie has been borrowing a stand from the NPSve so far this year, but he suggests that, now that he is no longer connected with the Park Service, maybe we should have one of our own.

.....

The final Wildlife Tour of the season, on March 5, was well attended. Young Kent Durden presented a polished program on Death Valley. Several novel Disneyish stagings by the photographer added interest to the film, which showed all portions of the desert reserve. His moonlight pictures of a Ring-tailed Cat and a Kangaroo Rat were very effective.

At this program, the annual Alice and John Porterfield awards were made to three outstanding nature students at Diablo Valley College:

Judy Van Mehr, Bruce Blosser, and Bill Lowe.

These winners received copies of Pimental's "Natural History".

+++++

At the recent Sierra Club Wilderness Conference in S.F., I saw John Stanley, a former member of Mt. Diablo Audubon. He was hidden behind a luxuriant reddish beard. John told me that he is now teaching courses in Conservation and Ecology at San Jose State and living in Boulder Creek. He tried Southern California for awhile, working for Audubon, but now he and Hilary are living in the redwood country, where winter rains have been washing the smog out of his system.

I went to the Friday session of the Wilderness Conference, but was disappointed at the excessive length of dry speeches dealing primarily with generalities. It took recorded wolf howls to really wake up the audience at one point. The emphasis was on Alaska, but the great land was smothered in words and statistics, which could just as easily have been mimeographed and passed around. The pictures were beautiful, though.

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### Observations:

Lynn Farrar reports an Eastern Phoebe seen in western Bollinger Canyon.

Frank Beyer said he saw 11 turkey vultures at one time around Vallejo recently. A friend of mine told me he saw a couple dozen around Dillon Beach two weeks ago.

Harry Adamson saw a Red-shouldered Hawk from his place in Lafayette. Harry says this is only about 6 in the last 18 years. On March 12 he also noticed his first Rufous Hummingbird of the season.

I didn't know a bald eagle cared a hoot for a coot, but a recent issue of the Sandpoint (Idaho) News-Bulletin says that blizzards and ice forced coots up onto the "long bridge" leading into that city, where they were struck by cars in the snowstorm. Later, bald eagles came in and feasted on the coots. Incidentally, it is estimated that there are about 75 bald eagles at Lake Pend Oreille.

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# The Quail

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

Pres: Paul E. Schulz  
2038 Donald Drive  
Moraga, Calif. 94556  
Phone: 376-7329

(Next Deadline: May 15)

May, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 11

Next Meeting:

Thursday, May 1, 8 p.m. San Ramon High School  
Little Theater, Danville. Elinor Nickerson will  
give an illustrated talk on a family kayak trip  
down the Thelon River in northern Canada.

Next Field Trip:

Saturday, May 3. To the Arroyo Mocho in the  
Livermore Hills. Meet at 8 a.m. at the S.P.  
Depot in Livermore. Leader: Lynn Farrag  
(Phone: 283-3938)

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It was just two years ago this month that we had the pleasure of hearing the Nickersons of Alamo describe a family kayak trip down the MacKenzie River in Northwestern Canada. This long voyage later became the subject of a book, 'Kayaks to the Arctic', written by Elinor Nickerson. At the time of our meeting in 1967, Elinor expressed the hope that the family would be able to kayak down another river - the Thelon - which flows east into Hudson Bay.

The hopes of the Nickersons were realized, and they did traverse the Thelon. In the party were Richard and Elinor Nickerson, sons Linc and Brian, and niece Joanne Barkley. Another family, the Greens (Jack, Louise, and 3 children) also went along, so it was a real flotilla.

They started on the Thelon some 350 miles east of Yellowknife, N.W.T., and ended 400 miles and 40 days later at Baker Lake, on the Chesterfield Inlet indentation of Hudson Bay. It was a trip through the famous Barren Lands and the Laurentian Shield - a voyage into a remote but very interesting area, as you will see from the pictures.

Please note that this meeting is in Danville, in the Little Theater at San Ramon High School. You'll find the high school on Hartz Avenue (the main street of Danville) at the north end of town. The easiest way to get there is to take the El Cerro Turnoff from the Highway 680 Freeway, for it leads you right into the parking lot at the school.

\*\*\*\*\*

For our May Field Trip, Lynn Farrar has agreed to lead our return to the Arroyo Mocho in the Livermore Hills. Meet at the Southern Pacific depot in Livermore at 8 a.m. on Saturday the 3rd of May. To get there: Take the Freeway 680 south to Highway 50 (at Dublin) and thence east to the Livermore exit (L Street?), which they say crosses the S.P. tracks going into town. The depot is near this crossing. Bring lunch, clothes for the weather - especially a sweater if it is overcast. We always have good birding, including *Phainopepla*, on this trip. And there might be some flowers. Call Lynn at 283-3938 for more details.

.....

One more item about the May ~~3rd~~ meeting in Danville ... at our business meeting we will be electing the officers for the 1969-1970 year. The Nominating Committee (Joy Meagher, Sally Steller, and Ed Wise) appreciates the cooperation given by the following members, who have approved that their names be placed before you for election:

President	Chris Nelson
Vice-Pres.	Dave Bowman
Secretary	Beth Reynolds
Treasurer	Bob McCarthy

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Our two meetings within the last month were well attended. It was truly unfortunate that at the April 3rd meeting we had to compete with a rock & roll band, which was "playing" in the Auditorium across the hall. But this did not lessen the excellence of the bird pictures shown by our speaker, Dr. Howard Cogswell. The bird expert limited his discussion to the waterfowl of the Bay Area and showed slides from the Cal State - Hayward collection. From his talk, we learned that some day there may be a North San Francisco Bay Refuge. .... At the business meeting we depleted our treasury somewhat by authorizing the purchase of a projector stand and two telescopes.

One week earlier, on March 27, about 60 members and guests came out to see John Bryant's program on Wildflowers of the Hortonville Area. John opened his talk with a historical summary. His slides not only covered the wildflowers but also some of the scenery in the coal mine areas.

The following Sunday there was a field trip, led by Mr. Bryant, to this Hortonville country. About 60 showed up, including a good delegation from Ohlone Audubon at Hayward.

Joy Meagher reports on this trip, as follows:

"We took the old road up hill past old mine dumps to the top of the ridge. Grasslands on south slope; woodland on north slope along the trail. Woodland consisted of Coast Live Oak, Blue Oak, Interior Live Oak, Hop Tree (*Ptelea*), Buckeye, Cottonwood, Toyon, Poison Oak.

"Flowering plants observed: Red Maids, Miner's Lettuce, Chickweed, Buttercup (2 sp.), Lace-pod, Fringe-pod, Saxifrage, Woodland Star, Straggling Gilia, Small White Nemophila, California Sage, Purple Nightshade, Chinese Houses, Small Collinsia, Bush Monkey Flower, Wild Cucumber, Goldfields, White Yarrow, Blue Dicks, Indian Warrior.

"At the top of the ridge is a grove of Coulter Pine, with a mixture of Digger Pine. In the nearby chaparral areas were found Yerba Santa, Buckbrush, Chamise, Black Sage, Chaparral Curreant, Chaparral Pea, Common Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*) and Mt. Diablo Manzanita (*A. Auricula*). The pine grove represents the northernmost occurrence of the Coulter Pine.

"A rest at a small pond was accompanied by the music of the many Tree Frogs. Flowers on the return route were: Indian Soap, Fiddleneck, Indian Paint Brush, Mule ears, Narrow Leaf Sunflower, Wall Flower, Lupine, Wild Pea, Yellow Sanicle, Dudleya, Woodland Star, Bee Plant, Bedstraw, and Blue Elder.

"We also observed a large spreading liverwort with numerous archegonial stalks, Maidenhair, Polypody, and Goldback Ferns."

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Important Request

We expect to have our annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting the evening of Thursday, June 5th. At this time the new officers will take over. We've got the officers (after their election) — what we need is for some member to volunteer a home and patio for the evening. If you can handle a crowd of 35 - 40, and wish to do so, kindly contact our President Ernie Schulz (376-7229) or, in his absence, our Program Chairman, Joy Meagher (685-5702). 1,000,000 Thanks.

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Russ and Elsie Spley sent in this little report from Southeastern California:

"There is good birding here in Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree N.M., Salton Sea, and Imperial Dam. Among the birds we have seen are: Vermillion Flycatcher, many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Gray-headed Junco, Ground Dove, Stilt, Sandpipers, Mountain Plover, Common Tern, Gambel Quail, Gila Woodpecker, Wied's Flycatcher, and a Boat-tailed Grackle that came within 10 ft. of us at Imperial Dam. We fed a Ringed Turtle Dove in a L.A. Park. As we left a spot on the lower Colorado River, there in a treetop was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, calling loud and clear.

"If you are interested in exact locations, call us at 284-1917."  
 ooooo

You may be interested in obtaining a copy of a new book, "Marin Trails", by Ida Geary. This is a natural history guide to Marin County, and nine Marin Audubon trips are described in it. You can order copies at a pre-publication price of \$2.50 per copy from

The Tamal Land Press, 39 Merwin Avenue, Fairfax, Calif. 94930. Ida Geary has been editor of Marin Audubon's bulletin, "The Redwood Log", for about 10 years. The book is illustrated with her plant prints of native trees, shrubs, and flowers.

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We welcome our newest members:

William & Terrye Brophy, 686 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, 94549  
 Ted & Janet Schulenberg, and son Tom, 27 Bel Air Drive, Orinda  
 Hersch Bayes, 1248 Grant Street, Fairfield, Calif. 94533.

The Brophys have attended several meetings. Bill is a student majoring in botany at Cal. State - Hayward. .... The Schulenbergs have also been at recent meetings. Ted is a geologist. ... Mr. Bayes is in the Solano County Probation Department and a friend of our Probationer, John Davis.

.....

Ed Mize, Editor .. 1256 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Ca. 94520.. Ph: 686-1341





# The Quail

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

(Pres: Paul R. Schulz  
2038 Donald Drive  
Moraga, Calif. 94556  
Phone: 376-7229)

(Next Deadline: June 15)

June, 1969  
Vol. 15, No. 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 5, 6:30 p.m. Potluck=Dinner & Meeting  
at Jack and Sally Steller's home, 591 Fulton Way,  
Danville. Phone: 837-9061.

Next Field Trip: (none scheduled)

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It's time for our annual Potluck Dinner-Meeting, which this year will be held at the Steller home in Danville on June 5th about 6:30 p.m. If you plan to go, please call Sally Steller at 837-9061 right away and arrange for food to bring. You will need eating tools, plates, cups, etc., and maybe should have a few chairs, TV trays, or card tables in the trunk of the car, in case there is a need.

The Stellers have a beautiful home at 591 Fulton Way overlooking Danville. We had our Christmas Count Potluck there. Since those who attended that gathering were able to find the place, the directions are repeated, i.e.:

'Take the Freeway (680) south of Walnut Creek, go beyond Alamo, and turn off at El Cerro Blvd. Go under the Freeway and continue on a half-mile or so to Enterprise, turn left one block, then right on Dolphin one block, left on Farragut one block, and then right on Fulton to its end.'

You found the way there in December in the dark, so you surely ought to be able to find it while the sun shines!

We'll meet about 6:30, have a balanced meal, and then have a brief meeting, which will include installation of our new officers:

President	...	Chris Nelson
Vice-Pres.	...	Dave Bowman
Secretary	...	Hazel McCarthy
Treasurer	...	Bob McCarthy

Remember that this is our only fund-raising event of the year, so bring 50¢ for each child and a dollar for each adult.

After the brief business meeting, we will probably have a short slide presentation by a foreign exchange student, Fabrice Le Quintrec, who will show pictures of Spain and France. Fabrice is an AFS student this year at Mt. Diablo High in Concord and has been staying at the Mize home since January. He comes from Meaux, France, about 25 miles east of Paris. We think you will enjoy his presentation and his accented English.

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 Note that we will not be having our usual potluck of several slides from several members. Experience has shown that such shows can run into a time problem. It has been suggested that we start our Fall programs with a vacation slide program by members.

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 No field trip has been planned for June or the summer. Recent June field trips have been poorly attended - thanks to vacations, hot weather, school activities, etc.

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 Only 13 members and guests showed up at Livermore at 8 a.m. on May 3rd for the trip into the Arroyo Mocho. Here is Lynn Farrar's report:

"The day was sunny but cool. Wildflowers were in some areas but gone in others. Birds were not abundant in number, but a satisfactory list of 63 was obtained.

"Best bird of the trip was a Sage Sparrow of the rare (for this area) canescens race (light colored). Not all members saw it, but it was a real treat for those who did. Very pleasing views were had of Lazuli Bunting, Lawrence Goldfinch, Lewis Woodpecker, and Phainopepla. Four kinds of swallows were seen from the same spot within a few minutes, also Western Kingbird on the nest. Last winter's rains made the stream through the Mocho impressive to those familiar with its ordinary intermittent nature. It is unfortunate more birders were unable to attend this Saturday trip.

"The other birds seen were: Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed & Sparrow; Hawks; Quail; Killdeer; Band-tailed Pigeon; Rock and Mourning Doves; Anna's Hummer; Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, & Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Pewee; Violet-green, Rough-winged, Barn & Cliff Swallows; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Crow; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Wren; House & Bewick's Wrens; Mockingbird; Calif. Thrasher; Robin; Sawinon's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Shrike; Starling; Warbling Vireo; Yellow & Wilson's Warblers; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Bullock's Oriole; Brewer's Blackbird; Cowbird; Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Purple Finch; House Finch; American and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhees; Lark, Chipping, Golden-crown & Song Sparrows."

#### Observations:

Frank Beyer reported seeing about 200 Bohemian Waxwings in Vallejo April 22 & 23.

Lynn Farrar had his peak migration about the same time. He had 75 species in his yard by April 22, including Gnatcatcher, Swainson Hawk, Calliope Hummer & Phainopepla. 49 birds on 2 separate days.

Ralph Hodgson may have seen the same Phainopepla in Walnut Creek April 20.

The last, fat White-crowned Sparrows left Avon on April 7, according to Ed Mize

Russ Epley noticed 2 Least Terns feeding a single young on

Alameda's South Shore, where he saw some until June last year. Russ recommends Tilden Park for birding right now. Call him at 284-1917 for information about the best trails.

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We extend a hearty welcome to our newest member:

Mary Bowerman, 970 Second Street, Lafayette, 94549.

She has attended several of our meetings recently and is recognized as an authority on plants of this area - especially those on Mt. Diablo.

At our May meeting she displayed a map of the mountain showing proposed additions to the State Park. We passed a motion asking the County Supervisors to recommend to the State that monies be appropriated to buy more land on Mt. Diablo. Their reply states that such a resolution, No. 69/269, was unanimously approved recently by the Supervisors.

Our May meeting in Danville attracted a good crowd to hear Elinor and "Nick" Nickerson discuss their family kayak trip down the Thelon River in N.E. Canada. Boy, it's cold up there - even in mid-summer! The Nickersons followed thousands of waterfowl down the river and also saw a few wild musk ox. Elinor and "Nick" displayed several Canadian Eskimo garments and answered a hundred questions, to help make a very pleasant evening.

We voted to send a letter in support of retaining the natural appearance of Apperson Ridge, near Sunol. Also, we voted to buy a thousand copies of Sequoia Audubon's leaflet supporting a wildlife refuge in South S.F. Bay.

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On April 21 several members of our group attended the Conservation Dinner jointly held with the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council. Wm. Penn Mott, Jr., director of California's Parks and Recreation, gave a stimulating and factual speech.

We learned that Mt. Diablo State Park is low on the totem pole, for any funds the Park Commission might get will first go for acquisition of Southern California beaches, where the greatest population pressure happens to be. ... Our first "State Recreation Area" will be 6500 acres at Pt. Mugu and will have everything (primitive camping; cabins; motor-cycle trails). ... Eventually, all roads thru Jedediah Smith State Park will be eliminated. ... The Federal Government has been fooling the public into believing that Uncle Sam is buying a large Redwood National Park. Actually, of the 58,000 acres claimed, 30,000 belong to our State Parks, and there are only 320 acres of "cathedral" redwoods in the Government's 28,000 acre portion. ... Since 18,000 acres of the prime National Purchase Unit are being turned over to the lumber companies, they aren't suffering as much as they claim. ... The State Park Reservation system is working - 50,000 last year and an expected 150,000 this year. ... The first "Wayside Campground" will be near Soledad. ... Vandalism is increasing horribly in State Parks.

Golden Gate Audubon welcomes members of Mt. Diablo Audubon to its annual dinner, June 12, 6:45 p.m. at the Helmet Club at the foot of Addison St. in Berkeley. Cost: \$4.00. Joy Parkinson, Pres. of Santa Barbara Audubon will discuss the oil slick. Reservation deadline, June 9. Contact Mrs. Walter Olds, 131 Bret Harte Road, Berkeley, 94708.

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So ends your Editor's 8th year as creator, typist, and, lately, mailer of "The Quail". Thanks go to the many members who have sent in stories. And thanks to the Lab Office girls who have dittoed the many copies.

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: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Calif. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: July 15)

July, 1969  
Vol. 16, No. 1

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 4th.

Next Field Trip: Probably the weekend following Sept. 4th.

. . . . .

In case you haven't heard - summer is here. This is the time of the year when our Audubon activities slack off for a few months. Nothing is scheduled until the new season begins in September; so, in the meantime, enjoy yourself and have plenty of euphoria.

Our new President, Chris Nelson, gathered the new officers into his hilltop home recently for the purpose of making plans for his Audubon year. It's too early to announce anything definite, but it does look like a memorable year coming up.

Since the Presidents of three Bay Area Audubon Societies (Mt. Diablo, Golden Gate, and Ohlone) have connections with the East Bay Regional Park District, it is safe to say that there will be excellent cooperation by these societies, possibly with joint field trips or meetings, and close collaboration on mutual problems.

Our President is interested in finding out our interests and is thinking of submitting a questionnaire in a month or so, enabling you to express your feelings about the direction you want us to go this year. It is possible that our first Fall meeting may feature a panel discussion on this subject.

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Chris has asked me to continue on as Editor of 'The Quail' for yet another year. I can't think of any good reason why I shouldn't .. so bear with me for another year.

Attached is our latest membership list. Hopefully it is correct to the minutest detail; but if you detect any errors call me at 686-1341, or drop a note, and corrections will appear in a subsequent issue of 'The Quail'.

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The Potluck-Meeting held at the Steller home on June 5th was attended by about 30 members and guests and thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks go to Sally and Jack for again sharing their lovely home and view with us. Our incoming President couldn't be there, because he was out of town on important business (fishing in Oregon), and other loyal members were away on vacation or attending graduation rites. There was plenty of conviviality. After our new officers were installed, we were treated to a show of slides of Spain and France by Fabrice Le quintres, a foreign exchange student from France. The show was well received and an interesting change from our usual natural history programs. (Fabrice is now on his way home to France).

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Further to the report in last month's "Quail" about the Resolution unanimously approved by the County Board of Supervisors, regarding expansion of Mt. Diablo State Park, Dr. Mary Bowerman reports that the County sent copies to Nejedly, Knox, Dent, and to the County Administrator. Senator Nejedly forwarded the Resolution to William Penn Mott for his action. In as much as Mr. Mott has publicly stated that Southern California beaches have the highest priority and Mt. Diablo a low priority, the best approach may be through our local legislators. Dr. Bowerman hopes to consult with them during the summer. "Perhaps others may wish to make their interests known", she says.

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#### Observations:

Harry Adamson reported seeing a Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Westgard Pass, SE of Bishop. Said it was the first he had seen in California.

Doris Eckstrom and Margaret Schaller birded near Tucson recently and found such goodies as Curve-billed Thrasher, Cardinal, Mexican Junco, Gray-headed Junco, Rivoli's Hummingbird, and Grackle.

Further afield were Ernie and Grace Schulz, who went to Hawaii immediately after the May meeting and saw many unusual birds, including a Hawaiian Rail on Maui.

Closer to home was a Common Loon on Lake Hennesey (Conn Dam), seen by Frank Beyer.

Poignant was a letter to the Examiner by a father who had borrowed a book on birds from the San Francisco Library for his 8-year old son and then had to take the boy miles and miles from home to find some real open space and birds. Father wondered how things would be for his grandson someday. Could you find birds today near your childhood home?

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#### Personals:

~~Ex-Pres.~~ Ernie Schulz was last reported at Millerton Lake (behind Friant Dam), where he is on a special project for the State Park system.

What is more fitting than to have our new President, Chris Nelson, slated to go to the Audubon Camp in the Wind River Range (Wyoming) later on in the summer? Maybe if the weather and the camera cooperate we might have a program about the Audubon Camp someday.

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

Membership List July 1969

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

				Phone
Adamson, Harry & Betty	995 Carol Lane	Lafayette	94549	283-2164
Atkinson, E.F. & 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
Bartley, Floyd & Marjorie	1142 El Curtola Blvd.	Wal.Creek	94598	935-0419
Bayes, Hersch	1248 Grant Street	Fairfield	94533	
Bell, Douglas A.	3276 Walnut Lane	Lafayette	94549	284-7613
Betts, Bill & Lucy	5131 Myrtle Dr.	Concord	94521	685-5119
Beyer, Frank & Helene	409 Rollingwood Dr.	Vallejo	94590	707-644-0236
Blake, Frances	4440 Walnut Blvd.	Wal.Creek	94596	935-2884
Boileau, A.P.	139 Paraiso Dr.	Danville	94526	837-2353
Bonnickson, Barbara	613 - 2nd St.	Brentwood	94513	634-4152
Bowerman, Mary L.	970 - 2nd St.	Lafayette	94549	283-3403
Bowman, David & Alyce	148 Sylvan Road	Wal.Creek	94596	939-8592
Bright, James	Star Rt.Tassajara Rd.	Danville	94526	837-9079
Brophy, Wm. & Terrye	686 St. Mary's Rd.	Lafayette	94549	283-0804
Bruce, John & Helen	325 La Tierra Buena	Danville	94526	837-9554
Burde, Virginia	34 La Campana	Orinda	94563	254-5500
Cavanagh, Ann	1431 Barbis Way	Concord	94520	682-5127
Clason, Mrs. L.R. (Maxine)	337 Del Amigo Road	Danville	94526	
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	94595	934-8873
Davis, John & Tammy	21 Wanda Way	Martinez	94553	228-2509
Dowell, R. Judson, M.D.	127 E. 18th St.	Antioch	94509	757-5700
Eckstrom, Mrs. H.C. (Doris)	1100 Singingwood,#6	Wal.Creek	94595	
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, 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. & Florence	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)	1542 Lavetta Way	Concord	94521	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
Hall, Lucy A.	140 Esther Lane	Danville	94526	837-2681
Hazen, Harold & Beatrice	2525 Golden Rain Rd.2	Wal.Creek	94529	939-4735
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
Johnson, Rufus	2756 Tice Ck.Dr.#5	Wal.Ck.	94529	939-5236

Klinger, Florence	072 Green St.	Martinez	94553	228-2650
Lane, Mrs. K. A.	12 Rider Court	Wal.Creek	94529	935-0947
Lea, Mrs. Ann	2628 Oak Road	Wal.Creek	94596	934-4934
Lusebrink, Engra	1565 Escondido Blvd.44	Escondido	92025	
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	1819 Laguna	Concord	94520	687-8873
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
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	496 Mohr Lane	Concord	94520	689-2980
Richardson, Ethel	1372 Rockledge Lane	Wal.Creek	94529	939-2794
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	685-7898
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 Dr.	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
Schulenberg, Ted & Janet;& Tom	27 Bel Air Drive	Orinda	94563	254-8729
Schulz, Paul E.	2038 Donald Drive	Moraga	94556	376-7229
Shackelford, Frieda	712 Laurel Dr.	Wal.Creek	94596	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	94520	685-7444
Soule, Mrs. J. Brill	33 Charles Hill Rd.	Orinda	94563	254-5807
Steller, Sally	591 Fulton Way	Danville	94526	837-9061
Swanson, Nancy & Lorne	2436 Cherry Hills Dr.	Lafayette	94549	
Toasperm, 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 Ulfinian 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: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Calif. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: ~~July~~ <sup>Aug.</sup> 15)

August, 1959  
Vol. 16, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 4th, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
(see attached letter)

Next Field Trip: Probably the weekend following Sept. 4th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our new President, Chris Nelson, has made it easy for the Editor this month. Attached is his informative letter and questionnaire being sent to all members. Please study the questionnaire and check all the items you favor. Please return it to our Secretary, Hazel McCarthy, promptly. If you are somewhat undecided and plan to seek more information at our Sept. 4th meeting, you may turn in your ballot then. In any event, Chris is hoping for a good response. That way he will know the feelings of the club members and can plan his year accordingly.

Note the list of Committee Chairmen. We are still shy a Hospitality Chairman. If we are to remain hospitable after our meetings, we should have such a Chairman. Any volunteers? Call Chris before Aug. 4th, or thereafter drop a note to his address given at the top of the 'Quail'.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have ideas for field trips, and especially if you would care to lead a field trip, please contact our Field Trip Chairman, Frank Beyer, by mail at 409 Rollingwood Drive, Vallejo, 94590, or by phone at (707) 644-0236. Frank would appreciate your help, since he is new to the area.

...

## Observation:

Bob and Hazel McCarthy stayed in a motel in Klamath Falls recently on the Link (Klamath) River and noticed numerous 'whitefish' jumping for insects. Downstream were at least a hundred Western Grebe and squadrons of White Pelican having a piscatorial picnic. Also there were many Black-crowned Night Heron and a Blue Heron. Bob says it was a nice place for birding - and right in town!

\*\*\*\*\*

Have a nice vacation ... if you haven't already had one!

...

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: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Sept. 8)

September, 1969  
Vol. 16, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
A Panel Presentation and Audience-Member Forum  
designed 'to get the pulse of our membership'.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Sept. 7, 2 p.m. A visit to Dr. Naviaux'  
place at 450 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill.

\*\*\*\*\*

As announced in The President's Letter, enclosed with the August 'Quail', we will start our Fall season with a panel discussion on whether or not our Society is truly meeting the needs of the majority of its members.

We will meet in Meeting Room B of the Sun Valley Shopping Center, where we met several times last year. In case you haven't been there yet it is on the lower floor of the Mall, opposite the branch postoffice. Take the escalator near Macy's to the lower floor and keep walking. We meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4th.

Have you sent in your questionnaire yet? It's not too late. If you are uncertain of your feelings, bring the questionnaire to the next meeting and hand it in there.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our first Field Trip of the new season will be somewhat different than previous trips but promises to be interesting. Arrangements have been made for us to visit Dr. James Naviaux' veterinary establishment at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7. We will see his live bird collection and hear his story of the work done with birds oil-soaked at Santa Barbara. He is a former member of Mt. Diablo Audubon, and he has received considerable newspaper publicity for the work he has done in restoring better health to a wide variety of birds.

To get there: Turn west off Contra Costa Blvd. at Boyd Road, at the Veterans Monument. Go 0.8 mile west, towards the hills, and Dr. Naviaux' place is at 450 Boyd Road, on the left and enclosed by a white fence.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have information for the October 'Quail', please get it to your editor at once, because he will be out of town for a few weeks in the latter part of the month and will be printing the October issue before he returns.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory will hold another banding clinic Saturdays, Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, for those interested in participating in the PRBO program. Capturing and banding birds, along with record keeping, has been the primary PRBO activity and has depended largely upon volunteers. Interested persons are urged to attend both sessions, which start at 9 a.m. and end at noon. The Observatory is on Mesa Road out of Bolinas.

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As of mid/August, 10,000 birds have been killed by botulism in the San Joaquin Valley. The greatest loss has been Pintails. Tulare Lake Basin is the primary area of poisoning. Airboats and airplanes are being used to harass the ducks away from diseased areas.

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Pollution from inadequate sewage treatment plants in Las Vegas Wash has so contaminated Lake Mead that green algae is now three miles out into the formerly blue lake. Swimming is forbidden in many parts of Lake Mead. It has been recommended that Las Vegas sewage effluent be pumped into Eldorado Dry Lake instead.

.....

Gov. Reagan has signed the Knox "Save the Bay" bill, which extends the life of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission until ended by the Legislature. BCDC would continue to regulate filling and dredging of the bay and would also have jurisdiction over a 100 foot strip of shoreland and over the thousands of acres of salt ponds and managed wetlands. Within a year, BCDC must designate areas suitable for high-priority water-oriented uses: ports, industries, airports, wildlife refuges, recreation, desalination plants, and power plants.

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Looks rough for Point Reyes National Seashore. Congress has stalled on appropriating more money to buy land, and one scenic portion, the 2500 acre Lake Ranch, is already in the preliminary stages of subdivision.

.....

Georgia-Pacific Corporation, not long ago condemned for cutting redwoods in the proposed Redwood National Park area is now being adulated for donating two groves on the Van Duzen River to Nature Conservancy, which in turn deeded them to the state. The gift totals 390 acres and is valued at 6 million bucks.

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98,000 Acres of the Ventana Primitive Area in the Santa Lucia Mountains of Monterey County have been designated the Ventana Wilderness Area by Congress. The bill has been signed by the President.

.....

(Attention other Audubon Societies) Mt. Diablo Audubon's Field Trip and Program Chairmen for this season are:  
 (Field Trips) Frank Beyer, 409 Rollingwood Drive, Vallejo, 94590  
 (Programs) Dave Bowman, 148 Sylvan Road, Walnut Creek, 94596

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Finally, a bit of summer humor from Max Morath, the ragtime specialist, in concert at Stanford recently:

"Did you hear about the alcoholic birdwatcher? He liked a little swallow each morning".

.....



# The Quail

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

Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Oct. 15)

October, 1969  
Vol. 16, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 2, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Robert Love, Associate Curator of the new Oakland Museum, will discuss the Museum complex.

Next Field Trips: Saturday, Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m. Oakland Museum. Meet at the Main Lobby for a guided tour.

Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m. Tilden Park Nature Area. A special trip designed primarily for beginning birders.

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(Note: You are getting this issue of 'The Quail' earlier than usual, because your Editor is going on vacation. Hopefully the information on this page will still be accurate a few weeks from now.)

..

Our President, Chris Nelson, has successfully arranged for us to have a program and field trip featuring the Oakland Museum. At our regular meeting at Sun Valley Meeting Room B, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m., Robert Love, Associate Curator, will explain the concept of the new museum, with emphasis on the natural history section. (Meeting Room B is on the lower floor of the Sun Valley shopping complex).

The following Saturday, Oct. 4, at 10:30 a.m. we will have a special guided tour through the natural history section. The Museum is at Tenth and Fallon, near the Oakland Auditorium, and you can park in the basement for a small fee. Meet at the Main Lobby, which is also the floor of the Hall of California Ecology. Several master docents will guide us in small groups. So let's have a good turnout! The tour should last about two hours. If then you want to see the Cowell Hall of California History (2nd floor) and Gallery of California Art (3rd floor), feel free to do so.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Since writing the previous page, I have learned that regular tours through the Museum will not start until November ... so we are lucky.)

Speaking of the Oakland Museum ... its Natural Sciences Guild is sponsoring a two-day ecological conference Sept. 26 & 27. Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall will deliver the keynote address. There will be panels on pesticides, water and air pollution, the population explosion, and land use. Registration fee is \$2.00 plus \$1.50 for those who want a box lunch on Saturday. Information and registration form available from Hubert Dufoe, Acting Curator, Natural Sciences Division, Oakland Museum, Tenth & Fallon Streets, Oakland, 94607.

.....

We will also have a field trip on Saturday, Oct. 11, to the nature area of Tilden Regional Park. In response to requests and suggestions given on our recent questionnaire and at the September meeting, this field trip will appeal to beginners and for children who would appreciate a general introduction to birding. We meet at the Tilden Nature Area at 9 a.m., and the Regional Park District may have a naturalist present to assist us. If late, walk up behind the animal farm to the Nature Lodge.

From the Diablo Valley area, you can reach the Tilden Park meeting place by taking the San Pablo Dam Road from Orinda towards Richmond, and, after the road narrows down, turn left on Wildcat Creek Road (opposite Bear Creek Road). Go up and over the hill and down to the Botanical Garden portion of Tilden Park. Keep to the right and follow the signs leading to the Pony Rides, Little Farm, and Nature Area. Just beyond the Pony Rides you come to the end of the road at Indian Camp Picnic Area. Park and lock your car and walk to the Park and to the Nature Hall.

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Chris Nelson has our Audubon Season off to a great start. We had a packed house at the first meeting, and at least 50 people showed up for the first field trip, at Dr. Daviaux' place. The questionnaire, circulated with the August "quail", was returned by nearly 40% of the members. Results are summarized at the end of this issue.

Our September meeting panel discussion featured Betty Adanson, Josh Barkin, and John Bruce. Betty told how our club had been originally founded by a group interested in birds, but that, to her regret, in recent years there had been a pronounced swing to more emphasis in programs and field trips on conservation and natural history. Josh Barkin, President of Golden Gate Audubon, gave an interpretation of national Audubon's present viewpoint and quoted largely from an address given by AAS' President Elvis Stahr at the St. Louis Convention. John Bruce acted as the man in the middle, giving primary emphasis to the need for conservation in protecting the birds. He outlined the many studies of birds that could be done and strongly urged that we spend a few minutes at each meeting discussing bird observations, studies, or even histories of the ornithologists.

Chris Nelson then read a summary of the questionnaire returned so far and urged the members to come up with suggestions. They did, and here are some of them:

- o Perhaps we should have an annual meeting on certain conservation disputes come and give them a few of the attention.
  - o Perhaps we should try to build up our membership and return to having two field trips a month.
- The next meeting will be on ...

- Should we sponsor leadership training courses?
- Perhaps we should have better association with other Audubon groups, through mutual fieldtrips and programs, and even consider a "Council" of Audubon Societies in our area;
- Perhaps we should have natural history experts go along on birding trips to make the trips more informative.

.....

The enthusiasm shown in this first meeting carried over to the following Sunday afternoon, when over 50 members, guests, and children showed up at Dr. Naviaux' house to hear about his work with injured wildlife. It was a good turnout, especially considering that it was a hot, muggy day that only an Iowan could love. An Acorn Woodpecker flitting between the exposed beams of the living room added interest. Dr. Naviaux explained the background of the National Wildlife Health Foundation that he has sponsored, and he expressed the hope that someday land in a Regional Park could be set aside for this project. He then described work he did at Santa Barbara, in an effort to save some of the oil-soaked birds, and of the problems faced by his co-workers. He himself brought back 86 of the birds, but 25 died on the way and others soon afterwards. He thinks that possibly an enzyme in raw fish fed the birds was destroying Vitamin B that the birds needed to survive. When a program of Vitamin B feeding was instituted, the rest of the birds survived. We also saw many color slides of various birds and animals that the Doctor and his wife, Judy, had befriended, and we saw many of these birds and animals in the bird cages and in the outside enclosures. At the conclusion of his interesting talk, Dr. Naviaux showed slides of sealions at San Miguel Island, and it was evident that the sealions were in far better shape than sensational papers and magazines had pictured.

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Excellent publicity written by Pres. Nelson and dispatched by Publicity Chairman, Florence Klinger, brought numerous guests to our first meeting. As a result, we had the largest increase in membership ever recorded on a meeting night. Bob and Hazel McCarthy were writing receipts and taking down addresses like mad.

We extend a special greeting to our new members:

Wallace Atherton, 3341 Tice Creek Drive, Walnut Creek, 94595  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanen, 1764 Sharon Drive, Concord, 94520  
 Ann Carter, 1116 Bacon Way, Walnut Creek, 94596  
 Jean Holden, 2313 Holbrook Drive, Concord, 94520  
 Ruth Karlsrud, 2301 5th Avenue, Concord, 94520  
 Carol & Stuart Purcell, 603 Aleta Place, Pleasant Hill, 94523  
 Elsie Sampson, 1473 Rancho View Drive, Lafayette, 94549  
 Jon and Betty Williams, 455 Virginia Hills Drive, Martinez, 94553.

May we remind others who our interested in joining Mt. Diablo Audubon that we are an affiliate of National Audubon, and not a branch, and our dues are \$2.00 a year for a single and \$3.50 for a couple. Our Treasurer is Robert McCarthy, P.O. Box 641, Walnut Creek, Ca, 94597.

.....

#### A Hot Observation:

John Bruce says that on a recent Sunday there was a terrific transformer explosion near his home that set afire some grass and burned a fence. Cause of the disturbance was traced to two Scrub Jays, which had touched bills, while perched on adjacent wires.

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Results of the Questionnaire

<b>A. General Goals and Philosophy</b>	
1. Restrict club activities to ornithology	4
2. Expand to all fields of natural history	22
3. Expand to include conservation problems	18
a. County, 17; b. State, 19; c. Nation, 12	
4. Effect blending of several interests	39
<b>B. Programs</b>	
1. Restrict to birds	4
2. Limit to natural history	18
a. Local, 10; b. State, 13;	
c. National, 5; World, 10	
3. Include	
a. Conservation speakers	36
b. Travel Programs	23
c. Political Issues	27
d. Family vacation trips	19
<b>C. Field Trips</b>	
Length of time	
1. Limit to half day	3
2. Full day	8
3. Some half day and some full day	40
Limits of distance	
1. Limit to one hour drive	11
2. Up to 3 hrs driving	25
3. Include overnight trips	28
Time preference	
1. Saturday mornings	13
2. Saturday afternoons	5
3. Sunday mornings	14
4. Sunday afternoons	10
5. All day Saturday	21
6. All day Sunday	16
Diversity of field trips	
1. All bird study	5
2. Varied goals	44
3. Occasional trip to museums, etc	34

Members were urged to vote for all items favored. Since 46 members responded, votes of 44 (for varied field trips), 40 (for varied time of field trips) and 39 for blending of goals would indicate that variety is the spice of life for our Society. There was little to choose between Saturday and Sunday preference for field trips. A real surprise was the vote of 28 for overnite field trips, because in the recent past such trips have not been well attended. Natural History and Conservation Programs were preferred to Bird Programs. Apparently, many members feel that you can't have birds without a habitat. Chris Nelson thanks all who took the time and postage to mail in their questionnaires. A return of 40% exceeded the anticipated response.

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# The Quail

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

Pres: Chris Holson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Nov. 15)

November, 1969  
Vol. 16, No. 5

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 6, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Ed Eichstedt will show motion pictures of Michigan birds and other wildlife.

Next Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 22 and 23. Joint field trip with Diablo Hiking Club to the Sacramento Valley refuges. Meet at 9 a.m. Saturday the 22nd at the Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, west of Gridley. Meet at 9 a.m. Sunday the 23rd at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, south of Willows. Leaders: Harry & Betty Adamson (283-2164 before 9 p.m.)

Next Screen Tour: Tuesday, Nov. 25, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Edgar T. Jones will show 'Fabulous Africa'.

\*\*\*\*\*

We tap one of our own members, Ed Eichstedt, for our November program. Until he moved to Rossmore, Ed was a Landscape Architect in Michigan, and one of his hobbies was taking motion pictures of Michigan birds. He has agreed to share them with us on Thursday, Nov. 6th. You will see a wide variety of birds - some of which we have in California, too. The film also has scenes of animals and plant life of Michigan. The meeting, at 8 p.m., will be in Meeting room B of the Sun Valley shopping complex, on the lower floor.

\*\*\*\*\*

We won't have another field trip until the weekend of November 22 - 23, at which time we will have a joint trip with the Diablo Hiking Club to the bird refuges up the Sacramento Valley. For information call the leaders, Harry and Betty Adamson, at 283-2164 before 9 p.m. Meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday the 22nd at Grey Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, west of Gridley. To get there: Take 99E to Live Oak (10 miles north of Yuba City) and turn west at the light onto Pennington Road. Drive about 10 miles on Pennington Road, following signs directing traffic to the refuge. (Or from Gridley you can drive west on the Colusa Road about 6 miles and then south on Pennington Road to the refuge). Birding should be good at this time of the year, and the hunters will be in an area other than where we walk. Bring warm clothing, walking shoes, rain gear (if necessary), binoculars, and lunch.

The following morning, Sunday the 23rd, we meet at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, which is on 99W about 7 miles south of Willows. The Refuge is right along the highway ... you can't miss! We will drive and walk on the levees. Expect to see lots of ducks, geese, and a wide variety of other birds.

The Adamsons say that those of you who camp may be able to squeeze in with the duck hunters in an allotted place at Gray Lodge; or you might try Colusa-Sacramento River State Park.

The refuges can be reached from here in a little over two hours by those who zip along the freeways and want to make a one day trip. Those who want to stay overnight might try some of the motels in the Willows area. Travel books recommend primarily the

Blue Gum Motel, 5 mi. north of Willows on 99W (Phone: 916-934-5401),  
(Rates: \$8.50 up Single, \$10.50 up double. Excellent restaurant.)

Other motels in the area that might be considered are:

Willows Motel, 725 S. Tehama St. (Phone: 916-934-4778)

(Rates: About \$7 up Single and \$9 up double)

Western Motel, 601 N. Tehama St. (Phone: 916-934-3856)

(Rates: About the same as the Willows Motel)

\*\*\*\*\*

The second Audubon Wildlife Tour of the Season will feature Edgar T. Jones, who was here almost three years ago. This time he will show "Fabulous Africa", taken on a photographic safari in Tanzania and Kenya. You will see a variety of African animals and birds, in Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti Plains, and the Samburu Game Reserve.

+++++

The October regular meeting featured Robert Love, Associate Curator of the new Oakland Museum. Mr. Love briefly described the aim of the new museum - to be different from other museums - and then took us on a simulated ecological transect across California, from the sea to the high deserts, thus duplicating exhibits in the Museum. Unfortunately, we didn't see much of the museum!

That opportunity came the following Saturday, when about 60 members and guests met at the Main Lobby of the Museum and were divided into groups of ten and escorted through the Hall of California Ecology. Here again the exhibits were arranged to give the feeling of "a walk across California", and sometimes you had to look up to see an exhibit. The general reaction of the touring groups was favorable.

\*\*\*\*\*

No word on how the field trip to Tilden Park came out. It fell on October 11, the windiest day in months.

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Experienced nature photographer Karl Maslowski started the Audubon Wildlife Tours with "A Naturalist Afield", which turned out to be an excellent production, helped by various sound recordings. One beauty of Mr. Maslowski's film was his tendency towards portraiture, by sharply focusing on a bird or animal long enough for the viewer to absorb detail. Excellent pictures of owls, eagles, hawks, grosbeaks, crossbills, and several albino freaks were shown. The pictures were arranged to show a cycle of seasons in Upper Ohio.

\*\*\*\*\*

Darry Adamson will give a bird lecture and show slides at the Nov. 18th meeting of the Diablo Hiking Club at the Pleasant Hill Park Fieldhouse, 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, at 7:30 p.m.

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We are happy to welcome our newest members:

Mr. and Mrs. A. Laurence Curl, 1117 Canyonwood Court No. 3, Walnut Creek  
 Gillette and Helen Houck, 3255 Quandt Road, Lafayette, 94549 94595  
 Jeannette Rothman, 37 Miranda Court, Alamo, 94507

Thanks to the excellent publicity by Chris Nelson and Florence Klinger, we have received many requests for membership information and "The Quail".

If you are interested in joining us, our dues are \$2.00 per year Single and \$3.50 for Double Membership. Your check can be sent to our Treasurer, Robert McCarthy, P.O. Box 641, Walnut Creek, 94597. Mt. Diablo Audubon Society is an affiliate of National Audubon and not a branch.

\*\*\*\*\*

We voted at the October meeting to send National Wildlife Health Foundation ten dollars to help meet the cost of the chicken feed being purchased by Dr. Naviaux in his effort to save injured and sick wildlife.

At the same meeting, Elsie Sampson passed on a recipe submitted by her husband for neutralizing DDT before discarding it:

Make a 50% solution of Drano with water, mix with the DDT, set for an hour, and pour down the drain with plenty of water.

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By a 4 - 1 vote, the Alameda County Supervisors nixed conversion of Apperson Ridge, near Sunol Valley Regional Park, into a quarry. We voted opposition to the projected quarry last May.

It doesn't look good for Pt. Reyes Seashore. Only 40% of the projected land has been purchased, and chances are slim that other money will be appropriated. Developers say that the private in-holdings would make beautiful sites for tract homes.

Bang! Bang! And about 70 more of the Tule Elk in Owens Valley have been slaughtered by hunters at 50 bucks (dollars) a throw. There were only 330 in the whole world before the shooting, but California isn't big enough for that many, according to the Calif. Fish & Game Commission.

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A conference to "Save California's Biotic Communities" will be held early next year at The Oakland Museum, sponsored by the Calif. Native Plant Society and the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Guild. They hope to save areas containing significant biotic communities. Contributions will be welcomed by the Treasurer, Mrs. Joyce E. Burr, 7817 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito, Ca. 94530.

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#### Observations:

Ed Eichstedt reported Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers at Bodega Bay. The Condor Count this year turned up a definite 53 Condor, one more than last year.

Dave and Alyce Bowman recently returned from So. Calif. and reported excellent birding at Lake Cachuma, over the hill from Santa Barbara.

Harry Adamson told of a scare story in the papers about Red-whiskered Bulbuls, now established in the Pasadena and San Diego areas. These colorful tropical birds were released in Florida during a hurricane and are now in the West. They have been known to damage fruit. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently placed them on the restricted import list. Harry doesn't think that they will ever become as numerous as starlings, despite dire predictions.

Your editor recently took a vacation trip to Utah and hoped to see an Ouzel and a Golden Eagle. Done! The rock-bouncer was in a stream west of Missoula, and the Eagle was soaring in a bit of sunshine after the rain at Salt Creek Pass, between Jackson, Wyoming, and Montpelier, Idaho.

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# The Quail

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

Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Dec. 14)

December, 1969  
Vol. 16, No. 6

Next Meetings: Thursday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. James Carlton, an authority on the zoology of Lake Merritt (Oakland) will discuss some of his research.

Monday, January 5, 1970. Program to be announced.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Dec. 6. Lake Merritt & Alameda Beach. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Duck Feeding Area of Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt). Afterwards to Alameda Beach Park for lunch and a look at birds and animals there.

Christmas Count: Sunday, December 28. Leaders: Dennis Clenons. Assistant Leaders: Frank Beyer and Lynn Farrar. Potluck dinner afterwards, if someone volunteers a home.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, January 21, 1970. William Anderson's "Our Unique Water Wilderness - The Everglades".

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James T. Carlton, a student at the University of California at Berkeley and an associate in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the California Academy of Sciences, will speak at our December 4 meeting in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Although only 21, young Carlton is recognized as the leading authority on the zoology of Lake Merritt in Oakland. It was there that he found a unique shrimp-like animal, a "beach hopper", found nowhere else in the world. Mr. Carlton has also made serious studies on other animals found in the Lake.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. on December 4 in Meeting Room B, which is on the lower Mall of the Sun Valley complex.

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We will follow up the above program on the following Saturday, December 6th, when we meet at 10 a.m. at the Duck Feeding Area of Lakeside Park on Lake Merritt in Oakland. Go down Broadway into Oakland and turn east on Grand Avenue and at Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt) take Bellevue Avenue to the Duck Feeding Area, just east of the Boat House.

We will spend about an hour and a half there checking the birds and the zoology of the Lake. Then we drive to Alameda Beach Park for lunch and further wildlife studies. Take Webster Street through the tube and across Alameda to its deadend at Central, turn right one block and left at the Foster Freeze, and entrance to parking will be midway in the block.

For those interested in the little stuff in the water, there will be crabs, ghost shrimp, & rock lice ... and there should be plenty of birds for all. At the Beach we meet at the Old Wharf Teaching Room. In the event of rain, we will meet inside among the tons of East Bay Regional teaching material available for study. This is a family trip and should appeal to all.

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Our 1969 Christmas Count is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 28. At our November meeting, Lynn Farrar outlined the history of the Christmas Counts in our area. He also pointed out the pleasures of participating in the Count and stressed that you don't have to be an expert birder to be part of a team, since there is always need for extra eyes and counters. Mt. Diablo Audubon generally finds about 120 species, but there is always the hope of finding some of the more elusive birds.

Leader again this year will be Dennis Clemens, who is presently with the Forest Service at Camptonville but plans to be in this area for the Count. Assisting Dennis will be our Field Trip Chairman, Frank Beyer. Advisor and Coordinator will be Lynn Farrar, so call him at 283-3938 for further information or assignments.

After chasing the birds on Count Day, it is customary to meet for a Potluck Supper to rehash the days events and count the species. If you would care to open your home for this annual Potluck, please call Lynn Farrar. Hopefully the January issue of "The Quail" will be in your hands by Christmas with final information on the Count and the Potluck.

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Substituting for Frank Beyer, who was ill, Lynn Farrar was present to lead the field trip at Tilden Park on Windy Saturday, October 11. He says: "As the bumper sticker says (paraphrased), "What if a field trip were held and nobody came?". This is what happened, and I must admit to some pique, as I left a fine fellowship breakfast of ham and flapjacks at our church to lead the trip. A most interesting talk was available by Mr. O'Neill of East Bay Regional Parks in front of a lovely fire at the lodge for several outsiders who appeared, but no MDAS members were present, although I waited until 10:30 a.m."

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At our November meeting, we agreed to send letters

- (1) To Sen. Bible, urging that funds for Point Reyes be released;
- (2) To the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, applauding and thanking them for voting against the quarry at Apperson Ridge;
- (3) To the Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, backing up the establishment of the Farallones as a Wilderness Refuge;
- (4) To S.O.S (Save Our Seashore) with a donation to help defray their expense in rallying sentiment behind Point Reyes; and
- (5) To Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, urging enactment of the Park Dedication Ordinance without delay.

Our Secretary, Hazel McCarthy, was heard to heave a sigh of relief when the business meeting was finally over.

At this meeting, Ed Eichstedt presented a very interesting collection of movies he had made - primarily of birds in Michigan and Ohio. He seemed to specialize in photographing bird nests, and we saw those of Horned Lark, Blackbird, Black Tern, and Pied-billed Grebe. We also saw Leaf-cutting Ants at work, a Praying Mantis egg mass, and a Puff Adder. Scenically, we were treated to Tahquamenon Falls, with its water colored by peat bog drainage. All in all, it was an excellent collection of movies and well appreciated by the 50 or so attending the meeting.

On display at the meeting was the October, 1969, issue of "Florida Naturalist" (Florida Audubon Society), which featured an article about Harry Adamson, the artist - "one of a half-dozen bird artists since World War II, and the only one in the West". The article showed four of Harry's paintings. Harry brought one of these paintings, "Mallards", for display at the back of the room in living color.

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We extend a warm greeting to our newest members:

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eckford, 3831 Walnut Avenue, Concord  
George and Dawn Martin, 2704 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek  
Mrs. Howard McPherson, 1572 Green Valley Road, Danville  
Seward Whitehead, 1129 Ptarmigan Drive, No. 4, Walnut Creek

We also extend an invitation to some of our members of long standing to come to our meetings and meet our many new members.

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#### Observations:

Elizabeth O'Meara reported seeing four wild turkeys in a remote section of Alameda County.

Frank Beyer told of seeing Red-necked Grebe at Sodega Bay.

Ed Eichstedt spotted a Clapper Rail at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.

Lawrence Curl reported an albino Red-tailed Hawk at Rossmoor.

Lynn Farrar pointed out that this was probably the same one that used to hang around Lafayette Reservoir; whereupon, Ernie Schulz wondered whether the unique hawk was looking for a place to retire to.

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At a meeting held at Alameda Beach on Saturday, Nov. 15, representatives from various Bay Area Audubon clubs began the formation of a Bay Area Audubon Council. Such a group would meet quarterly to hash out joint endeavors, exchange field trip information, correlate bird counts, etc. Chris Nelson, Bob & Hazel McCarthy, and Frank Beyer attended the meeting.

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Special Note: Please mark on your calendar now the date of our January meeting: Monday, January 5, at Sun Valley "B". Our regular meeting date on Thursday, Jan. 1 (New Years) is out, of course, and the room is not available the following Thursday. We can have Monday, January 5th.

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Latest information indicates that money for Point Reyes might be forthcoming soon. Surely the great tide of public opinion can be held responsible for a change in opinion of some of our leaders. Thanks for your signatures on the circulated petitions.

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Judging by all the decorations around town, Christmas must be on its way. So let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a good Christmas Count.

*Ed Mize - the Editor*

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