



# 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: Jan. 15)

January, 1970  
Vol. 16, No. 7

Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Frank Beyer will present an illustrated program on 'Florida and its Wildlife'.

Next Field Trip: Probably not until February.

Christmas Count: Sunday, Dec. 28th. Leader: Dennis Clemens. Assistant Leaders: Frank Beyer and Lynn Farrar. Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for assignments. Potluck, 6:30 p.m. at the Farrars, 955 Diabole Drive, Lafayette. Contact Ruth Farrar at the above phone.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. William Anderson's "Our Unique Water Wilderness - The Everglades".  
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First of all - please note that our January meeting will be on a Monday (Jan. 5th) instead of the usual Thursday. Since our regular meeting night falls on New Years Day, and Room B will be occupied the following Thursday, we took the next best date: Monday, the 5th.

Speaker for the evening will be Frank Beyer, our energetic Field Trip Chairman this year. While Frank was Professor of Forestry at the University of Maine for several years, he and his wife, Helene, warmed up by taking trips to Florida. Naturally, Frank took pictures. He has arranged a set to show us ... and if you saw his last show about Maine last year, you know that we will have an interesting program at our next meeting.

So we'll see y'all at 8 p.m. on January 5th in Meeting Room B, which is on the lower Mall of the Sun Valley complex.

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Considering the weather and the difficulty of lining up leaders and participants, we have not planned a field trip for January. The Christmas Count on Dec. 28th will expose you to some winter birding.

Now if you want to go birding in January, there is a trip on Sunday the 11th to Howarth Park and Spring Lake in the Santa Rosa area sponsored by Madrone Audubon of that city. Leaders will be former Mt. Diablo Audubon members Carl and Ruth Swenson. Meet at the Lake Ralphine parking lot at 9 a.m., weather permitting. Lake Ralphine is to the left (south) of the Valley of the Moon Highway (No. 12) as you enter Santa Rosa, just after you pass the road going to Calistoga. If interested in more details, you can call their Field Trip Chairman, Richard ~~xxxx~~ Mix, at 707-545-1194.

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Our Christmas Count this year will be held on Sunday, Dec. 28. The leader will again be Dennis Clemens, but Lynn Farrar is acting as Coordinator and should be contacted at 283-5938 by those interested. You don't have to be an ornithologist to take part - we can always use an extra pair of eyes, and you will be assigned to a team containing someone to identify what you see. Hopefully we will have a good turnout of people and birds. Two adjacent areas, Golden Gate & Tomales Bay, will not have a count this year, for lack of leadership. We have the leaders - all we need are the participants.

Ruth and Lynn Farrar have graciously offered their home for the Potluck Supper and Tally session, which will start at 6:30 that Sunday night. Contact Ruth (283-5938) ahead of time, to tell her whether you will bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert. Bring card table or TV tray, chairs, silverware, dishes, and a healthy appetite.

To get to Farrar's, at 955 Diablo Drive (Lafayette) from Walnut Creek: "Take the Pleasant Hill Turnoff from the Freeway and go towards Lafayette 1/4 mi. and turn south (left) on Carol Lane, opposite Western Sand & Brick. Go south about 1/2 mi., passing a church, to Moraga Blvd. Turn right across the bridge one short block to Hawthorne. Turn left 2 full blocks, the second being up a winding road, to the fork in the road. Take Diablo Drive, sharply to the left, and Farrar's is 955, the first house on the right. Be sure to turn left onto Diablo Drive ... that's the crucial point", says Lynn.

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Frank Beyer's January program should be a fitting introduction to our next Audubon Wildlife Film, Wednesday, Jan. 21, when Wm. Anderson will narrate "Our Unique Water Wilderness - The Everglades". In this film we will see many birds and animals in this National Park, so often threatened with water problems and noise pollution.

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Our speaker for December, young Jim Carlton, apologized for knowing little about the birdlife at Lake Merritt ... but he surely knew everything else about the Lake. Although only a Junior at U.C., Jim talked like a professor and reeled off facts about marine life in the Lake and the possibilities that some species were introduced from afar on the feet and wings of migratory birds. It was news to many of us that much of the wildlife in the Lake has been imported from the East Coast. In addition to many slides of the Lake and its marine life, Jim displayed some of the shells and specimens he has collected in his many years of studying the lakeshore. It was a very interesting meeting ... marred only by some loud background organ music ... and it's too bad more members didn't brave the holiday crowds and come out.

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Here is a report by Frank Beyer on the follow-up trip to Lake Merritt:

"It was a very interesting trip. 9 Adults and several children were present. Lionel Kett, in charge of the duck-banding program, demonstrated banding techniques, using live birds from his trap at the lake. The feeding area had many wild and tame ducks in it."

Frank was busy that afternoon attending a Christmas Count conference with other Bay Area Audubon Council members, so Chris Nelson led the afternoon field trip at Alameda Beach. He says:

"13 Adults and a covey of children gathered at the Beach on what must have been one of the nicest days, bar none, that Alameda has had this year. We had a warm sun, no wind, and lots of birds. After a picnic lunch, the group assembled in the new orientation teaching room, called the Old Wharf, sponsored by the Alameda Rotary Club, where I pointed out the ecological relationships among the life forms of S.F. Bay. Beneath a huge mural of old S.F. schooner days, we sat on cases and bales of cargo from all over the world and looked at a partially-completed diorama on the front wall. All enjoyed seeing some of the interpretive exhibits stored in the building.

"When the tide goes out at Alameda, it really goes out, and the numerous shore birds feeding along the water's edge were soon all out in the Bay. All agreed that it was a great day for slopping in the mud. Kids removed shoes and pursued their quarry out into the Bay. Brown Pelican, Bonaparte's Gull, Godwit, Willet, Plover, Sanderling, Sandpipers, and numerous Gulls were present. A search for the elusive Clapper Rail in the marshlands proved fruitless, but the sight of our ardent members thrashing through the mud and salt grass made the effort worthwhile.

"Subsequent weather showed that this was probably the last nice day on the Bay for a long time. The turnout proved that competition with Christmas shopping was evident, but not unexpected."

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Harry and Betty Adamson led the joint field trip to the Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges in November. Harry comments:

"On Saturday, November 22nd, the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, plus several members of the Diablo Hiking Club, met at Gray Lodge State Game Refuge near the town of Gridley. Members of Altacal Audubon and Audubon people from the Sonoma Coast, as well as an Ornithology class from a nearby Jr. College, had also selected this weekend. John Cowan, Refuge Manager, made us welcome and gave a short orientation talk. The morning was beautiful, and between our group and the Sutter Buttes, which lie just to the south of the Refuge, the sky was laced with strings of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, and ducks.

"Although the Osprey or Fish Hawk has only been observed two or three times in some 15 years, most of the ponds on the refuge being too shallow for its fishing activities, our group identified a bird of this species early in the morning walk. It was probably the most unusual sighting of the entire trip.

"From the enormous flocks of Snow Geese that 'boiled up' in the distance and flew over us in waves, it was easy to occasionally identify individual neat little Ross' Geese. The rolling call of the Sandhill Cranes was almost constant, and at one time we could see several flocks and estimated that four to five hundred cranes were in the air. American Bitterns were common, and at least 3 Virginia Rails were seen. No Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen, however, and the numbers of some ducks, particularly Ruddy Ducks,

were down over past years. One European Widgeon drake was seen by a few people before being hidden by clumps of reeds. 21 Adults and 6 children were present for the Saturday event.

"The following day, Sunday the 23rd, we met at the headquarters of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge some 7 miles south of willows. Only 5 adults attended this outing. On this more westerly side of the valley, more "dark geese" - Lesser Canada and Cackling races of the Canada Goose, and good-size flocks of white-fronted Geese or "Specklebellys" (an apt hunters' cognomen) are found. Of course there were many thousands of Snow Geese also, and the sounds were almost as charming as the sights. Whistling Swans, White-tailed Kites, Avocets, and White Pelican were a few of the species not noted the previous day at Gray Lodge. In addition to the European widgeon often seen in winter on the fenced pool near the entrance, we saw another drake at "Widgeon Bend" on the visitors route. The weather was perfect both days.

"The <sup>76</sup> bird species seen were: Western & Pied-billed Grebes; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons; Common & Snowy Egrets; Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada, White-fronted, Snow, & Ross' Geese; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal; European & American Widgeons; Shoveler; Ring-necked & Ruddy Ducks; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, & Sparrow Hawks; Osprey; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Virginia Rail; Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Greater Yellowlegs; Dunlin; Long-billed Dowitcher; Avocet; Ring-billed Gull; Mourning Dove; Burrowing Owl; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Lewis, & Nuttall Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe; Violet-green Swallow; Scrub Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Western Bluebird; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Black-birds; House Finch; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Savannah, Vesper, white-crowned, Golden-crowned, & Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

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A holiday welcome to our newest members:

Prudence A. Larson, 2170 Holbrook Drive, Concord, 94520'

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One member has flown the coop. Betty Nelson kept up her membership while attending Michigan State for her master's degree, but now is attending medical school in Philadelphia and has resigned from our group, because she doesn't expect to be around permanently for four years.

One of our former Vice-Presidents, John Stanley, is now listed as "Conservator" of the "Concerned Conservationists Church", P.O. Box 419, Boulder Creek, Calif., 95006.

John Wright has said "bye-bye" to the Army and hopes to attend some of our meetings from now on.

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#### Observations:

Lynn Farrer reports two California Thrashers and an immature male Sharp-shinned Hawk at his place in Lafayette.

For the first time in 18 years, Harry Adamson has seen Red Crossbill in his yard in Lafayette. Other Audubon Societies report many this winter.

Frank Beyer spotted two Black-necked Stilts in the North Bay.

Santa Claus passed a Snowy Owl.

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(Next Deadline: Feb. 15)

February, 1970  
Vol. 16, No. 8

- Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Don Millen will give an illustrated talk on Iceland.
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, Feb. 7 (Weather permitting). Delta Area. Meet at Thornton at 10 a.m. For information you can call Frank Boyer in Vallejo at 707-644-0236.
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. Charles Lotchkiss takes us on Virginia's "Fidewater Trails".

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We turn to another of our members, Don Millen, for our next meeting. Don will take us to a very interesting part of the world - Iceland - as he narrates and shows slides taken on that North Atlantic island last summer. He and his wife, Dottie, camped there for two weeks and had a great time, except when it was time to try to understand the language. They were not able to take many pictures of the birds, but Don will bring us an interesting description of a land that few of us know much about.

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Assuming that someday the rains will stop, our next field trip will be on Saturday, Feb. 7th. We plan to meet at the restaurant in Thornton and spend much of the day exploring the Delta. Go over the Antioch Bridge and take Highway 160 up the river to the Rio Vista Bridge. Then turn right (east) on Highway 12 across the delta for 13 miles to the turnoff marked Thornton, and north 8 miles to the town. Bring lunch, shoes, clothes, and scopes. For further information you can see Frank Boyer at the meeting on the 5th or call him in Vallejo (707-644-0236).

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On the next page is the summary of the Christmas Count arranged by Dennis Clemens, our official Compiler. Dennis writes:

"The record number of species for us is 123, and only one other time did we get 120. On this 1969 Count we missed some relatively easy species, which could have given us a new record; but that's the way the birds are - here today and gone tomorrow."

St. Diablo Audubon Society 1969 Christmas Count, Dec. 28

Loon, sp. (1)	1	Least Sandpiper	67	Bewick's Wren	13
Western Grebe	5	Dunlin	6	Long-b. Marsh Wren	6
Pied-b. Grebe	11	Long-b. Dowitcher	2	Rock Wren	4
Dbl-c. Cormorant	10	Western Sandpiper	1	Mockingbird	20
Great Blue Heron	2	Amer. Avocet	74	Calif. Thrasher	8
Green Heron	1	Glauc.-wing Gull	150	Robin	96
Common Egret	2	Herring Gull	10	Varied Thrush	21
Snowy Egret	24	Calif. Gull	449	Hermite Thrush	23
Amer. Bittern	1	Ring-bill. Gull	463	Western Bluebird	51
Canada Goose	97	New Gull	8	Mt. Bluebird (9)	4
White-fr. Goose	237	Bonaparte's Gull (12)	6	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	48
Mallard	36	Mourning Dove	131	Water Pipit	72
Gadwall	12	Barn Owl	1	Cedar Warring	34
Pintail	3765	Short-ear. Owl	1	Loggerhead Shrike	36
Green-wing. Teal	24	White-thr. Swift	270	Starling	1627
Amer. Widgeon	150	Anna's Hummingbird	28	Hutton's Vireo	2
Shoveler	2000	Belted Kingfisher	4	Myrtle Warbler	3
Canvasback	22	Yellow-shaft Flicker (5)	1	Audubon's Warbler	68
Lesser Scaup	4	Red-shafted Flicker	156	Blk-thr. Gray Warb. (10)	1
Common Goldeneye	17	Acorn Woodpecker	60	Yellowthroat	5
Bufflehead	20	Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	9	House Sparrow	235
Ruddy Duck	14	Hairy Woodpecker	6	West. Meadowlark	370
Hooded Merganser (2)	2	Downy Woodpecker	4	Red-wing Blackbird	632
Turkey Vulture	21	Nuttall's Woodpecker	19	Brewer's Blackbird	2763
White-tail Kite	6	Black Phoebe	12	Purple Finch	7
Sharp-shin. Hawk	6	Say's Phoebe	11	House Finch	303
Cooper's Hawk	4	Violet-grn. Swallow (6)	5	Pine Siskin	41
Red-tail Hawk	43	Tree Swallow	210	Amer. Goldfinch	162
Golden Eagle (3)	2	Steller's Jay	78	Lesser Goldfinch	182
Marsh Hawk	19	Scrub Jay	239	Rufous-side Towhee	63
Sparrow Hawk	37	Common Raven (7)	1	Brown Towhee	114
Calif. Quail	113	Common Crow	45	Savannah Sparrow	97
Ring-neck. Pheasant	11	Chant-back Chickadee	16	Lark Sparrow	13
Common Gallinule	5	Plain Titmouse	97	Slate-color Junco (11)	1
Amer. Coot	556	Common Nuthatch	251	Oregon Junco	580
Killdeer	225	White-br. Nuthatch	25	Wh. crown Sparrow	641
Black-bell. Plover	4	Red-br. Nuthatch	4	Gold-crn Sparrow	398
Common Snipe	23	Brown Creeper	2	Fox Sparrow	3
Long-b. Curlew (4)	1	Trentit	14	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Greater Yellowlegs	9	House Wren	2	Song Sparrow	12
		(Gull, sp.)	1059	(Blackbird, sp.)	260

Also seen during Count Period: Horned Grebe (LF), Band-tailed Pigeon, Great Horned Owl, Red Crossbill (HA), White-throated Sparrow (VS).

Group leaders' initials for unusual birds indicated by (#): (1) FB, (2) LF, JH (3) HC, JH (4) ERBA (5) AZCO (6) VS, JH (7) ERBA, FB (8) HA, D&AB, JH (9) HC (10) VS (11) HA (12) ERBA.

Totals: 120 species, 5 additional in Count Period, 20,560 individuals.

Weather: Clear, cold, windy.

Participants: Harry & Betty Adanson, Ernie & Betty Atkinson, Bill Betts, Frank Beyer (Field Trip Chairman), Dave & Alyce Bowman, Ann Cavanagh & son Charles, Dennis Clemens (Compiler), Bob Cornelius, Harry & Dorothy Couden, Ed Eichstedt, Russ Epley, Lynn & Ruth Farrar (Coordinators), Elsie Glatfely, Phil Gordon, Jane Helrich & crew, Kevin Kaufman, Florence Klinger, Molly Jane Monheit, Chris Nelson, Elizabeth O'Meara, Stewart & Carol Purcell, Leo & Virginia Schaefer, Ernie Schulz, Clair & Frieda Shackelford, Tom Schulenberg, Seward Whitehead.

Dennis also says, "Participation was excellent this year, and the birders were highly enthusiastic, reflecting the nature of the club lately - the meetings I attended last year were very interesting and there seemed to be more members involved. Thanks go to Lynn Farrar for organizing such a successful count. We also thank Lynn and his wife, Ruth, for making their house available. Let us not overlook the many cooks, who prepared the many fine dishes at the Potluck Supper."

Dennis feels, rightly, that the Farrars did enough this year to excuse themselves for many years in the future. So what we will need next year is someone to volunteer to coordinate the Count and someone to volunteer a home. Start thinking about it now, and let us know in the Fall of 1970!

Ruth Farrar says someone left a grayish seat-cushion at her house. If it is yours, call her at 283-3938.

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Probably our largest turnout, at least 60 people, attended our Monday, January 5th, meeting. Frank Beyer presented a good program. He took us to Florida and showed us its wildlife, after first showing how man is destroying so much of the state's beauty with bulldozers and honky-tonks.

At the meeting, Harry Adamson displayed his latest painting - an Aplomado Falcon in an arid Guyana landscape. Ed Eichstedt displayed the new name-tag carrier box made by a Rossmoor friend of his. We voted to compensate the friend, via Ed.

Frank Beyer reported on progress of the Bay Area Audubon Council, which met recently to discuss Christmas Count cooperation. A proposal has been made that the Point Reyes Bird Observatory be approached to coordinate all the Bay Area counts and to issue a report for this area.

Chris Nelson says that Warren Larson, who showed us his movie on the Great Gray Owl last year, would be interested in photographing unusual birds. If one such bird is hanging around your feeder, give Warren a ring at LA 5-91149 or drop him a note to 44 Rincon Road, Kensington.

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We greet our latest new members:

- Mrs. Genevieve Baird, 130 Sharene Lane, #38, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596
- Joanne and Peter Dean, Rt. 1, Box 46, Brentwood, 94513
- Henry S. Hoffman, 97 Placitas Ave., Atherton, Ca. 94025
- James and Linda Nunes, 4620 Pleasant Hill Road East, Martinez, 94553
- Wesley and Dolores Nunes, ~~4620~~ 3400 El Monte Drive, Concord, 94520

If non-member readers are interested in joining us, our dues are \$2.00 per year Single and \$3.50 for Double Membership. Send your check to our Treasurer, Robert McCarthy, P.O. Box 641, Walnut Creek, 94597.

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Plans were made at the January meeting to cooperate with National Audubon on "DDT Moratorium Day", Sat. Jan. 17. Literature was passed out, and we planned to contact homes and nurseries to collect containers of DDT.

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Speaking about Ford Ruth, a recent "Chronicle" said on its front page that this "prominent biologist has proposed that the State turn to desalting of sea water" in lieu of the Peripheral Canal.

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Observation:

Ed Eichstedt, Larry Curl, and Seward Whitehead spotted about 200 White Pelicans near the Dumbarton Bridge recently.

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Ed Mize, Editor .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Ca. 94520 .. Ph: 686-1342



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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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

(Next Deadline: Mar. 15)

March, 1970  
Vol. 16, No. 9

- Next Meeting: Monday, March 2, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative of National Audubon in Sacramento, will discuss the Affiliate and Chapter status. He will also show slides of the Audubon Camp program, and will demonstrate proper use of binoculars and scopes.
- Next Field Trip: Sunday, March 8, 10 a.m. Alum Rock Park, San Jose. Leader: Ed Mize (phone 686-1341). In case of stormy weather, the trip will be cancelled.
- Next Screen Tour: Thursday, Mar. 26, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. Harry Poderson explores 'The Bahamas - Top to Bottom'.

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Every three or four years, the question of changing our local Audubon status from Affiliate to Branch Chapter comes up for vote. It seems that 1970 is another election year. Pres. Chris Nelson has prepared the attached letter, being sent to members, expressing arguments in favor of the switch.

Chris has arranged for Paul Howard to come down from the Sacramento Audubon office to give background information and answer questions regarding a change in our status. Mr. Howard will also show slides of the Wyoming Audubon Camp, which Chris attended last summer. If time permits, Mr. Howard will also give a training demonstration on the use of binoculars and scopes, so bring your binoculars, if you're interested.

Please note that our next meeting is on Monday, March 2nd, in Meeting Room B at Sun Valley. Since Mr. Howard had an important meeting in Sacramento on our regular meeting date, we have switched our meeting from Thursday to Monday in March.

You can turn in the enclosed ballot at the meeting, or mail it by March 10 to our Secretary, Hazel McCarthy, at P.O. Box 641, Walnut Creek, 94597, or 1929 Dora Ave., Walnut Creek.

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A Field Trip is scheduled for Sunday, March 8th, at 10 a.m. at Alum Rock Park, east of San Jose. We have not been there in recent years. Your Editor has been asked to be leader. I know that Alum Rock Park is nice in the Fall, but I know nothing about birding there in the Spring, and I will not have time to 'scout' the area. It isn't much of a hike along Penitencia Creek - part of the way on a paved road - and we should be able to cover it in a couple of hours. Perhaps we might consider stopping at the Sunol Water Temple on the way home.

To get to Alum Rock: As you approach San Jose on the Nimitz Freeway, head for Los Angeles on the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101) going around east of San Jose. Turn off at 'Santa Clara Street/Alum Rock Ave.', head for the hills to the east, and follow signs to the Park, passing by the road going to Mt. Hamilton. You will probably have to pay a fee of about 50¢ on entering the Park. Continue on to the upper picnic ground, and meet at the parking lot after you cross the creek. It's about 5 or 6 miles from the Freeway. The canyon can be cool, so bring warm clothes. You'll need a lunch before you get home. In the event of rain and stormy weather, be wise and stay home. Questions? Call Ed Mize @ 686-1341.

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The Affiliate vs. Chapter question has been before us a few times in the past, and previously the switch to Chapter status has been voted down by members present at meetings. This time, a ballot is being distributed, in hopes of a greater participation in the voting.

The attached letter gives many arguments favoring a Chapter vote; here are some points in favor of an Affiliate vote:

- (1) The higher fee, while not affecting present members, would be a hardship on prospective members in the future - especially those who are retired and on a fixed income;
- (2) Anyone wanting to support National Audubon aims and receive Audubon Magazine can do so easily by sending them the money directly. And if he feels he wants to belong to a larger and more active group, Golden Gate Audubon is just over the hill;
- (3) Not all our members favor 'national conservation' accents. Our Fall Questionnaire (see 'Quail', 10-69) showed 39 members in favor of 'blending several interests', 22 for 'natural history', 18 to 'include conservation problems', and 12 to 'include national conservation'.
- (4) Some of the anticipated financial return mentioned in the letter would be somewhat reduced, because 'The Quail' will have to be commercially printed for larger membership. At present, 165 copies are run off by 'Ditto' at a minimum cost by your Editor. This is about the maximum possible number under present circumstances. (\* see below)
- (5) It's not how many members we have that counts .. it's how many workers we have. Right now some of our committees are not filled, leadership of the Christmas Count fell on two men for lack of volunteers, and pleas for Field Trip Leaders brought no response. Chapter status does not guarantee more workers.

\* In connection with Item (4) above, let me also add: Nine years as Editor of 'The Quail' is enough! The job presently leaves me with too little free time for my many other interests. (It takes me over two weeks to do all the writing, typing, printing, and mailing of our bulletin each month). I therefore hope to join the ranks of ex-Editors soon - hopefully after putting out a combined May & June issue. (I will be away on a three week vacation -including attendance at the Audubon Convention in Seattle - right

after the May meeting and will not have time to get out a June issue.) If anyone is interested in taking over as Editor in July, contact Chris Nelson at 228-9369 or me (Ed Mize) at 686-1341.

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About 40 members and guests came to the meeting on Feb. 5th to hear Don and Dottie Millen talk about their interesting two weeks of camping in Iceland last summer. It looked like bleak, but green, country. The green came from the rains, and the bleakness from lack of trees and plenty of lava. The Millens had excellent pictures of the new island of Surtsey.

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The following Saturday there was a field trip to the Delta, led by Frank Beyer, who reports as follows:

"The eight adults and three children who found their way to Thornton in the fog were rewarded when the fog lifted at noon. 51 species were recorded, including a Lincoln's Sparrow, still warm after being hit by a car. Cranes were dancing on the ground, and the air was full of small flocks of them appearing and disappearing in the fog. A large concentration of geese in the field along Highway 12 was a highlight of the homeward journey.

"Species List: Pied-billed Grebe; Great Blue Heron; Black-crowned Night Heron; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose; White-fronted Goose; Snow Goose; Mallard; Pintail; American Widgeon; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed Hawk; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Ring-necked Pheasant; Sandhill Crane; Gallinule; Coot; Killdeer; Long-billed Curlew; Dunlin; Calif. Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Rock Dove; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Downy Woodpecker; Tree Swallow; Crow; Scrub Jay; Bushtit; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Rufous-sided Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Lincoln's Sparrow; White-crowned Sparrow; Song Sparrow".

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William Anderson's Audubon Screen Tour film on Jan. 21 confirmed the alarming words we had heard earlier from Frank Beyer that much of Florida is being destroyed by man. The first half of Anderson's film dealt with this destruction, and the second half was a tour of some of the more prolific wildlife areas of the Everglades. Particularly impressive was the Anhinga Trail, and a view of the Painted Bunting.

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#### Observations:


Harry Adamson reported a Golden Eagle flying over his Lafayette home. He said, too, that Allen's Hummingbirds were back the earliest in 19 years. More than 100 geese flew over his place in four flocks recently. The Cattle Egret is getting nearer and nearer. Two have been seen in the Inverness-Point Reyes Station area. One was found by Monterey Audubon on its Christmas Count and others near Watsonville. Keep your eyes peeled!

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Frank Beyer and Chris and Ann Nelson represented us at the first official meeting of the Bay Area Audubon Council held in Fremont on Jan. 17. Items discussed: South S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge, 'Ban DDT Day', South Bay Crossing, and Christmas Count coordination. Present was Bob Shields from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Portland, who talked about the South Bay Refuge and distributed copies of a beautiful brochure prepared by his department. Copies were available at our February meeting.

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



February 15, 1970

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY... GOING PLACES

Dear Audubon Member:

How interesting to note that lately our entire society has been thrust into the controversy and concern over our deteriorating environment. Suddenly, everyone wants action on issues that Audubon members have been crusading about for years. I think we should all take some credit for this developing concern which, hopefully, will rescue the quality of life which we will be leaving for those who will follow us.

This "environmental awakening" should cause our own Audubon membership to re-evaluate its present position, to see if we can be even more effective in the future. Are we concerned enough or involved enough with the vital issues that face Audubon people all over the United States?

As you are probably aware, Mt. Diablo is an affiliate of the National Audubon Society and not a chapter. In summary, what this means is:

1. Your membership fees are \$2.00 and \$3.50 instead of \$10.00 and \$12.50. (Increased postage costs, etc. will probably require an increase in our dues next year as recommended by your treasurer.)
2. You do not receive the Audubon magazine.
3. We pay National Audubon \$25.00 a year instead of their returning approximately 45% of the membership fees collected to us.
4. We must maintain our own membership rolls, collect dues, and run membership campaigns, rather than having National do all of this.
5. We can accept no credit for the accomplishments of National Audubon--rescuing the alligator and the Everglades, banning DDT, etc.

This situation and more confronted your president when recently, upon the sponsorship of our own Mt. Diablo Audubon, an historic first meeting of all the Bay Area Audubon Societies met and a Bay Area Council of Audubon was created. We were the only affiliate group at this meeting, all others being chapters. This caused me to do some checking, and with the help of the Western Regional Office, I discovered the following:

1. An affiliate can vote to become a chapter and those members who wish to continue to pay the existing low membership fees may do so. They don't receive Audubon Magazine, of course.
2. Approximately 109 persons, families or institutions are already members of National within the area of our jurisdiction. This is a loss to our organization of approximately \$524.
3. An additional 32 individuals, families or institutions within our area now list their affiliation with Golden Gate Audubon. Assuming at least 50% would affiliate with Mt. Diablo if we became a chapter, these new members plus an additional \$67 would be returned to us.
4. The possible addition of 124 new members and an income of approximately \$591 would eliminate additional fund-raising costs of ours, such as the spring potluck dinner. This could be considered a deduction from the cost of joining National Audubon.
5. National will print and mail special announcements, etc. at no cost to a chapter.
6. Affiliates which have become chapters have experienced greater growth, activity and success than ever before.

Contra Costa County is just entering an era of its greatest growth. Our environmental problems are probably just beginning. I think our membership needs to decide how we shall go about our work in the future. Our membership at present consists of 144 persons. Attendance at meetings and turn-outs for field trips would indicate that we need to greatly enlarge that membership. Is chapter status what we should be considering?

To assist your officers and myself in this re-evaluation, we are asking two things of you. First, we have invited Mr. Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative of National Audubon, to be our speaker on ~~Thursday~~, March ~~5~~<sup>2</sup>, 1970. Besides giving our membership a complete analysis of chapter status, he will also show some slides of the Audubon Camp program in Wyoming and put on a training demonstration on the use of binoculars and spotting scopes. This in itself is a terrific program, so plan to attend and bring your binoculars.

Secondly, following Mr. Howard's presentation, or any time if you cannot attend, we request that you complete the enclosed questionnaire-ballot concerning chapter status. It was felt that the entire membership should have a say in this important decision rather than just those who were present for the floor vote.

Others have struggled with this decision, so I am enclosing a copy of an interesting letter from a Mrs. Hazel Wolf, Secretary of the Seattle Audubon to a Mr. Peterson of Olympia Audubon. The situation involved is so similar to the considerations we face here that I felt it could not help but be of value to you in reaching a decision, especially if you cannot attend the March 5th meeting.

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December 2, 1969

Mr. Julius Peterson, President  
Olympia Audubon Society  
2434 South Columbia  
Olympia, Washington 98501

Dear Julius:

Before you went on your vacation you asked me to write to you on the result to Seattle Audubon Society of its having become a chapter of the National Society. I'd say that the all-over effect has been to strengthen and broaden our work for conservation through our national tie, and also with other chapters in the western region. But first I'll go into some of the details of the transfer.

We became a chapter of National in November 1962, and immediately dues jumped from \$3.00 to \$8.50 (later raised to the present dues of \$10.00) for those who opted to become joint members. Those who did not were entitled to remain local members at the old \$3.00 rate. They did not, of course, receive the Audubon Magazine. According to our agreement with National, no new local members were to be accepted into SAS after November 1962. We had about 450 members at that time, and about 250 elected to become NAS members and some 200 remained local. The locals have declined steadily due to later joining NAS, or falling behind in dues, or through death. Eventually all will be phased out. Meanwhile our Society has grown to around 1200, and I'd say the age level is much lower, many young marrieds, students, particularly graduate students. We expect the latter to increase rapidly since the NAS has lowered the dues of high school, college and graduate students to \$6.00 including the Magazine.

The procedure we follow is this: We accept all applications and immediately put them on our rolls so that they receive our bulletin. They are then forwarded to NAS with the checks made out to NAS. Therefore, no applications go through our books. At the end of each month NAS sends us a check covering all new applicants and all renewals. NAS does all the bookkeeping as well as sending out notices (two of them, I think) to members when their dues are payable. The notices include a self-addressed envelope, so that renewals go directly to New York. A large sheet accompanies each NAS check, breaking it down as to whose dues are collected, the amount, and the date of expiration. It is not necessary, but we do post these items onto the individual card. I am enclosing an application card showing the different classifications for dues. On a straight individual of \$10.00 we receive a refund of \$4.00, and more on the family and other rates. NAS keeps a certain amount of the balance and the rest goes to the Magazine. On the student rate we will receive no refund--in fact, it is optional whether we offer the student rate (but of course we are very happy to, and have long advocated it). So much for our financial arrangements. As you can see we are relieved of a big bookkeeping job and notifying people. After six months in arrears a member is dropped, and we are furnished a list. We usually make some effort to salvage these people and sometimes do. But we find that we have to drop most of them.

The National supplies the chapter with membership cards and attractive recruiting brochures without charge. When SAS put on a rather substantial membership drive involving a list of 2300 names, National subsidized us for the first class postage. We realize 10% on this list, which is very high. We have received quantities of DDT leaflets and catalogs of teaching aids and other items from time to time, all of which have been very helpful.

Mr. Peterson -- 2

Today there is a quickening of interest in conservation and Audubon, as distinguished from other conservation organizations puts a good deal of emphasis on urban problems, while other organizations are somewhat oriented toward wilderness. Our rapid growth both locally and nationally is no doubt due to this emphasis and is thus more closely related to a greater number of people, not simply to those who are ordinarily referred to as "out-of-doors" people. As you know, the Audubon Magazine, which grows more beautiful with each issue, has a wealth of information about all phases of conservation, as well as a wide variety of articles on nature subjects. I would say it is one of the most important factors in getting in new members. NAS initiated the fight against DDT and is the leader all over the country. For this and other reasons, it is no accident that it is now the largest conservation group in the United States, while including subscribers and members, 94,000 people read the Magazine. We have 80,000 members. After the September issue came out enclosing BAN DDT stickers, almost instantly 94,000 appeared on automobiles.

It is the common experience that groups becoming chapters receive inspiration from this move--the interest in conservation grows, both nationally and on local issues. Both Seattle and Portland are good examples. Since Portland became a chapter a little over a year ago, its membership has shot up, and it has organized a chapter in Salem. Tacoma, which started with 20 members, in one year now has more than 200. They publish a monthly bulletin, have local conservation projects, hold regular field trips and membership meetings. They raise additional funds through sale of books.

It should be relatively simple to make the changeover from local to joint membership and without disturbing the structure of your society. A motion to become a chapter is adopted with the proviso that those who wish to remain local members only are free to do so. All others fill out application cards which are sent to the New York Office by the local membership chairman. I believe it is the policy of National to grant the charter when the group has doubled its membership. This precaution is to make sure that the group is stable and means business.

That is everything I can think of now, Julius. Anything I can do to help, I'll be only too happy to oblige--and please let me know your reaction and progress.

With kindest regards, and to Hazel, too, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Hazel Wolf)  
Secretary

Mr. Peterson -- 2

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That is everything I can think of now, Julius. Anything I can do to help, I'll be only too happy to oblige--and please let me know your reaction and progress.

With kindest regards, and to Hazel, too, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. Hazel Wolf)  
Secretary




Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
Page Three

Your officers have voted to unanimously support becoming a chapter. As one so aptly put it:

"Let's face it, our generation allowed the environmental crisis to happen...  
a \$10.00 membership cost is a small enough debt to pay in hopes that the  
money will be used to correct the situation for those who will follow us."

Do let us hear from you. There is so much to do, and we need your help in deciding how  
to do it.

Sincerely,



Christian Nelson, President  
Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

CN/em  
Encs.

MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

BALLOT - QUESTIONNAIRE

(I prefer that Mt. Diablo Audubon apply for CHAPTER status with the National Audubon Society.

(I prefer that Mt. Diablo Audubon maintain its AFFILIATE status and not consider chapter status at this time.

If you are approving Chapter status, please complete the following (after reading through all statements):

(I are already individual or family members of the National Audubon Society.

(I contemplate joining the National Audubon Society when application information is received. (Note: We need 50 members to qualify)

(I would prefer to continue to pay the existing membership dues of Mt. Diablo Audubon at this time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member  
(For Family Membership)

NOTE: We would like to announce the results of this ballot in the March issue of The Quail and prior to the time that many memberships become due. Therefore, please return no later than MARCH 10, 1970 to our Secretary:

Hazel McCarthy  
1929 Dora Avenue  
Walnut Creek, California



# 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: April 15)

April, 1970  
Vol. 16, No. 10

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 2, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. John A. Davis will show slides of some of the wildflowers that can be seen in Briones Regional Park.

**Next Field Trips:** Sunday, April 5, 9 a.m. Annual Wildflower Trip. Meet at Chris Nelson's place at the top of Briones Road (see below). Leader: John Davis (228-2509).

Saturday, April 18. Meet at 8 a.m. at Lafayette Reservoir for birding trip. Leader: to be announced.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Our annual wildflower program will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Featured will be a slide presentation by member John Davis, who will show views of Briones Regional Park and some of the 50 varieties of flowers he has found there.

This program will be a prelude to the Annual Wildflower Trip. This year we will hike into Briones Regional Park following our leader, John Davis. We start at Chris Nelson's house at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 5th. You can park in the Nelson's yard. We will walk to the Lagoon Area, about 1½ miles one way and somewhat uphill. The way can be muddy, if there have been recent rains, so come prepared for sloppy slitherings. If the weather is abominable on Sunday the 5th, the trip will be cancelled. If you have questions or doubts, call John Davis at 228-2509.

Chris Nelson's house is the last one up Briones Road, at the entrance to Briones Regional Park.

From Martinez, go out Alhambra Road and branch to the right onto Alhambra Valley Road, continue to the junction with Reliez Valley Road, jog slightly to the right (west), and then take Briones Road on the left up the hill to the last house.

From Concord, go west out Willow Pass Road, Taylor Blvd., and Grayson Road to Reliez Valley Road, turn right and go just beyond the Alhambra Valley Road junction and go up the hill on Briones Road.

From the Lafayette Area, take Pleasant Hill Road north, branch onto Reliez Valley Road, and proceed beyond the Alhambra Valley Road junction before scooting up the hill on Briones Road.

\*\*\*\*\*

A three hour birding trip has also been scheduled for Saturday, April 18th, at Lafayette Reservoir, where we meet at 8 a.m. Facilities are available, if you stay for lunch. No leader yet, but we might hear the lucky person's name at our April meeting. If you have questions about the trip, you can call Frank Beyer in Vallejo at 707-644-0236. Lafayette Reservoir, on the west end of Lafayette, is easy to find. Get off the Freeway, and go west, young man, through the main part of Lafayette on Mt. Diablo Blvd. Expect a small fee at the Reservoir.

\*\*\*\*\*

Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative of National Audubon in Sacramento, was present at our March meeting. First, he discussed the proper use of binoculars - covering much of the information outlined in the booklet being mailed to members. Then, Paul showed slides of Audubon Camp of Wyoming - a beautiful place apparently free from rain most of the summer. Finally, Mr. Howard discussed the merits of belonging to National Audubon and talked of our possible change in status from Affiliate to Chapter.

.....  
According to our Secretary, Hazel McCarthy, 45 ballots, representing 65 votes (2 for joint membership) have been received. The votes were:

In favor of changing to Chapter Status	51
In favor of remaining an Affiliate	10
Already members of National Audubon	29
Would consider joining National Audubon	23
Want to continue existing membership dues	11

Voting thus indicated that a large majority favored Branch Chapter status. Some members, who belong to National Audubon and to Golden Gate Chapter, have expressed the desire to stay with Golden Gate. We heard at the meeting that we would need 50 members of NAS before we would become a Branch Chapter. Hence, it'll be a little while yet before there is a change in our status. Since our President will be in Pennsylvania at the time of our April meeting, our status will be up in the air awhile.

\*\*\*\*\*

I didn't get very far with my suggestion of retiring as Editor in July. There was no stampede of volunteers to take over the job ... instead, there was a stampede of volunteers urging me to reconsider. Not only that but, at the March meeting, Ann Nelson brought a huge cake beautifully decorated with a frosted Quail; and during the meeting Chris Nelson handed me a large box in which was a well-taxidermed Quail atop a short post. The fence post bore a plaque of appreciation for my nine years as Editor. Very nice! Oh, by the way, I have put off my resignation for several months. Now you can resign yourself to reading these editorial efforts for awhile longer.

++++++

The field trip to Alum Rock Park in San Jose attracted 17 members and guests on a beautiful morning. Birding was limited - only about 20 species - but we all had a good time. Chief find was Canyon Wren, by Russ Epley. Hawks and woodpeckers were frequent, and once we saw a Red-tailed Hawk zoom towards another one with talons outstretched. Goldfinches and Siskin were seen near the parking area. We saw several wildflowers, too, such as Milkmaids, Shooting Stars, and Red Delphinium.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Audubon Screen Tour on Feb. 23rd was unique in its presentation by Charles Hotchkiss, who combined the flavor and costumes of the Williamsburg (Virginia) area with the outdoors nearby, as might have been seen by the Colonial naturalist, Mark Catesby. Very effective!

.....

We welcome back into the fold -

Elvira Holsolaw, 600 Alhambra Way, Martinez who has helped us with Membership and Hospitality jobs in the past. Elvira finds Sun Valley more convenient to get to than Diablo Valley College.

.....  
We have been informed of the death of one of our newer members, Wallace Atherton, of Rossmoor. On retiring from his work as Sales Manager of the Tubbs Cordage Co. of San Francisco, he moved to Rossmoor from Berkeley and joined our group late last summer, after having met John Davis at Lafayette Reservoir one day. He later attended some of our field trips.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mt. Diablo Audubon's finest piano player, Ann Cavanagh, gave a recital at the Concord Library on a recent Sunday before a large and appreciative audience. Ann started her program with Bach, Beethoven, and Berg; but, as someone said, 'her last five numbers were all Grieg to me'.

+++++

We have received a five dollar donation from the Women's Club of Walnut Creek to assist us with plans for equipment for wildflower work.

.....  
Circle Monday, June 1st, for our Potluck Dinner Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Chris Nelson's house. More information next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Contra Costa Park Council's annual dinner meeting will be held on April 1st - no foolin' - at the new Boundary Oak Restaurant (off Oak Grove Road at the Walnut Creek Golf Course). Time: 6:30 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person, including tax and tip. Speaker: Dr. Theodore Foin, ecologist from U.C. Davis. For tickets, call Genevieve Sattler at 685-5315.

+++++

John Davis reminds us that the struggle over PG&E's lines through Briones Park has not ceased, despite a preliminary approval. The Sierra Club still seeks denial of the power company's right to string wires through the Park. The Club feels that the protests of the 22,000, who signed petitions against the lines, should be considered. You are urged to write to the East Bay Regional Park Board of Directors, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, asking them to use every means possible to reroute the lines through Briones.

.....  
National Audubon will hold its annual Convention this year in Seattle, May 14 thru 18. Workshop meetings will be held on Sunday the 13th and Saturday the 16th, with field trips on Friday and Monday. If interested, send a 6 dollar registration fee to National Audubon Convention, 555 Audubon Place, P.O. Box 4446, Sacramento, Calif. 95825, or write for information.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mt. Diablo State Park will be enlarged by 660 acres, since the State has purchased 580 acres near the top and 80 in the lowlands. Total price: \$157,000. Don't ask me where Bill Mott found the money ... he told us a year ago that priority was going to the beaches of Southern California.

+++++

#### Observations:

The Glotfeltys and Shackelfords recently saw a Bald Eagle from Highway 88.

Harry Adamson saw 6 Hooded Mergansers at Lafayette Reservoir.

Lynn Farrar reports two Short-eared Owls at his place.

Carol & Stuart Purcell spotted 2 Golden Eagles west of Weott.

.....



# 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: June 15)

May and June, 1970  
Vol. 16, Nos. 11 & 12

Next Meetings: Thursday, May 7, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Sam Smoker will present a program entitled, 'A High Desert Safari - A Voyage to the Past'.  
  
Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m. Annual Potluck Dinner & Meeting, to be held at the home of Ann & Chris Nelson, at the top of Briones Road. Call Ann at 228-9369 to arrange for the food to bring.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. Audubon Canyon Ranch.  
\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE NOTE: This 'Quail' covers two months, May and June. Your Editor will be away from his typewriter in mid-May.

.....

Sam Smoker, Director of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek, will speak at our May 7th meeting at Sun Valley 'B'. His program, entitled, "A High Desert Safari - A Voyage to the Past", will transport us to Bristlecone Pine Reserve and Saline Valley in Eastern California. The Junior Museum has started a novel approach to museums for youths, giving them a better understanding of their environment. One development has been car safaris - trips taken by boys and girls over 11 - through various zones of California. Last year's safari to the high desert country was so successful that two trips are planned for this year. We will see pictures taken on such a safari, and prominent will be the oldest living things on earth - the Bristlecone Pines.

+++++

President Chris Nelson and his wife, Ann, have volunteered to host the annual June Potluck Dinner-Meeting at their home, which is at the top of Briones Road. The date is Monday, June 1st, because Chris will be in Oregon on the regular meeting date in June. Full directions to the Nelson home appeared in your April 'Quail', in connection with the flower trip, which started at their home. Just find your way to the junction of Reliez Valley Road and Alhambra Valley Road, jog a few hundred feet

to the west, and climb Briones Road, the first road to the left, all the way to the last house. Plenty of parking.

If you plan to attend, be sure to call Ann Nelson at 228-9369 a few days ahead and arrange for the traditional hot dish, salad, or dessert to bring. Also bring your eating equipment, and have a couple folding chairs, TV trays, or a card table in the trunk of the car, in case of need. Dinner is planned for 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting, including installation of officers, and possibly a short program.

\*\*\*

In order to install officers, we have to have some first, and they will be voted upon at the May meeting. The Nominating Committee has had a dickens of a time trying to get four members to serve as officers for this next year. At last report, the 'new' officers look amazingly like the 'old', thus:

President	Chris Nelson
Vice-Pres	Frank Beyer
Secretary	Hazel McCarthy
Treasurer	Bob McCarthy

Chris said that he would serve a second year, to help with the projected transition of our group from Affiliate to Branch Chapter of National Audubon. Frank Beyer has agreed to replace Dave Bowman, who has to take it easy with his health. The McCarthys have reluctantly agreed to continue in their positions, unless somebody volunteers to take over their jobs. If you would care to be either Secretary or Treasurer, call Chris Nelson at 228-9369. Remember - it is poor policy in any organization to expect a small handful of workers to carry the same load year after year.

.....

Of our 152 members, 68 voted in the recent 'status' poll. Final results are:

In favor of changing to Chapter Status	51
In favor of remaining an Affiliate	12

Expect more information on this subject at our May 7th meeting.

++++

A field trip is planned for Saturday, May 9, to Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County. This wonderful Audubon sanctuary is on Highway 1, a few miles north of Stinson Beach and on Bolinas Bay. Park in the Ranch lot and meet at 10 a.m. in front of the fountain. On days that the Ranch is open, leaders guide parties through the museum, nature center, and on a hike to an overlook, where one can see nesting egrets and herons. There are plenty of birds at the Ranch and on Bolinas Bay. It should be a great day for birding.

\*\*\*

John Davis led the annual Wild Flower Walk, in Briones Park on April 5th, and makes these comments:

"We had about 40 members on this walk, all of whom were most interested in the wild flower display on this particular day, which was probably the season's best. The weather was absolutely beautiful. We arrived back at Chris Nelson's house at noon, where Ann Nelson invited us to eat lunch on the front lawn. Mrs. Helen Sharsmith was our guest Botanist, and her

fund of knowledge made our walk most interesting. Several members collected litter on the road down the hill after lunch. All in all, it was a pleasure to lead this outing."

91 species of plants were seen on the walk, as shown in this list, compiled by Florence Klinger:

"Calif. Poppy; Dwarf Lupine; Fiddleneck; Filaree; Wild Geranium; Tom Cat Clover; Miners' Lettuce; Buttercups; Woodland Star; Pineapple Weed; Galium; Chinese Houses; Mugwort; Bush Monkey-Flower; a low-growing yellow Mimulus; White Nemophila; Larkspur; Plectritis; Calif. Sagebrush; Agoseris; Streptanthus glandulata; Rock Brake; Coffee Fern; Common Vetch; White Vetch; Wyethia; Yarrow; Clarkia; Soap Plant; Dock; Small Dock; Bush Lupine; Clematis; Wild Cucumber; Shepherd's Needle; Blue Dicks; Naked Buckwheat; Wild Oats; Scarlet Pimpernel; Shepherd's Purse; Pepper Grass; Fringe Pods; Nievitas; Cream Cups; Baby-Blue-Eyes; Blue-eyed Grass; Owl's Flower; Wild Radish; Blue Witch; Yerba Buena; Dutchmen's Pipe; Indian Paint Brush; Wind Poppy; Sweet Cicely; Maidenhair Fern; Snake Root; Sanicle (yellow); Cinquefoil; Giant Trillium; Spurrey; Solomon's Seal; Gold-backed Fern; Poison Hemlock; Cow Parsnip; Mustard; Red Hairs; Columbine; a Lotus; Hedge Nettle; Gum Weed; Monardella; Gooseberry; Buck-eye Tree; Bay Tree; Blue Oak; Interior Live Oak; Madrone; Eldorberry; Coffee Berry; Poison Oak; Greasewood; Canada Thistle; Deer Weed; Bur Clover; Sedge; Wild Rose; Wild Blackberry; Fox Tail; Brass Buttons; Perennial Sow Thistle; Milk Thistle."

\*\*\*\*\*

Pictures of many of these plants were shown in beautiful color at our April meeting by John Davis. John had carefully arranged his plants in groups, permitting comparison of members of the same family. It was evident that he had spent many hours tracking down some of the plants.

.....

Treasurer Bob McCarthy presided at the April meeting, in the absence of President Chris Holson, who was back in Philadelphia at the time.

Frank Beyer told us that a North Bay Wildlife Refuge may be established soon in the vicinity of Tubbs Island (now owned by The Nature's Conservancy), west of Vallejo. The site has been approved by the Vallejo City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

Elizabeth O'Meara told us that the new Del Valle State Reservoir Park is now open near Livermore. She says you can get to it by going down L Street, passing the Veterans Hospital and the Cresta Blanca Winery. (The latter might be hard to do!)

Bob McCarthy called our attention to efforts of "constructionists" to destruct the mouth of the Russian River, by extracting gravel from the bar and from an island, which might become a wildlife refuge. We voted a small sum to help battle the gravel boys and promised to write some letters. Subsequently, a zoologist reported in the paper that "even a rat couldn't live on that island".

+++++

We welcome our latest members:

Mary C. Harris, 600 Alhambra Way, Apt. 8, Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Betty Londrum, 4920 Myrtle Drive, Concord, Ca. 94521

\*\*\*\*\*



Lynn Farrar led the trip at Lafayette Reservoir on April 18th, and reports: "Only 10 members and friends showed up for an interesting day of birding. The weather was sunny, but cold in the wind, and the birds hollered but would not come out to be seen. 56 Species were logged, and there were several goodies. Tops was a Common Loon in breeding plumage, first seen by Tom Schulenberg about 7 a.m. by seen by others around 10 a.m. This is only a third record for our part of the county. A Caspian Tern was a satisfying addition to the list. Tom got a Bonaparte's Gull early, but it did not stay around. A Green Heron flew about for all to see at 11 a.m. The first Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen and heard. The almost pure Albino Redtailed Hawk put in a very leisurely appearance. A spick and span pair of breeding Ruddy Ducks was admired. Baby Pied-billed Grebes and Coots followed mama into the water. Several swallows and a White-throated Swift cavorted overhead, while a White-tailed kite disappeared all too quickly. Calif. Thrasher serenaded from a perch, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk did circles in the air. ... This is a real easy local trip that should be enjoyed by our group several times during the year."

"Other species sighted: Turkey Vulture, Quail, Pheasant, Calif. & Ring-billed Gulls, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummer, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy & Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Violet-green & Tree & Cliff Swallows, Steller & Scrub Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrenit, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Orange-crowned & Nashville & Myrtle & Audubon's & Wilson's Warblers, Red-winged blackbird & Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Purple & House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided & Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, Golden-crowned & Song Sparrow."

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Mt. Diablo Audubon is listed as a co-sponsor of the Contra Costa Park Council's environmental conference, to be held at the Creative Arts Building in Pittsburg on Saturday, May 16, starting with registration at 8:45 a.m. Speakers will be Congressman Waldie, Asseblymen Dent, Fong, Knox & Milias, and a host of others. Workshops will study Delta problems, Population, Air Pollution Control, & Parks. A \$ 3.50 fee includes box lunch. Send it (the fee) to Contra Costa Park Council, c/o Mrs. Wm. Sattler, 4050 Poplar Ave., Concord 94521 (phone: 685/5315).

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#### Observations:

Jon Williams reports White-faced Ibis near Los Banos. Ed Eichstedt and Larry Curl saw a Golden Eagle there, too.

Tom Schulenberg reports a female Hooded Merganser at Lafayette Res. 4/5, and, also on this date, a near-adult Golden Eagle 1/2 mi. SW of the Reservoir headed for Orinda, after being swooped by a Redtailed Hawk.

.....

By sending money a few months ago to help SOS (Save Our Seashores), we helped to contribute to a conservation victory in April. A bill authorizing the spending of an additional \$ 38.4 million for land in Point Reyes Seashore was signed by R. M. Nixon. All that remains now is for Congress to appropriate the dough, which people say is available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

+++++

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, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: July 15)

July, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 1

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Program to be announced in a later 'Quail'.

Next Field Trip: Probably the weekend after the September meeting. (Your  
guess is as good as mine).

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School's out! No meetings or field trips scheduled for the summer. Please note that we get back in business on the second Thursday in September. Since many members will still be on vacation before Labor Day, arrangements have been made at Sun Valley to let us have Room B on Sept. 10, the second Thursday. In October we expect to resume our official scheduled meeting date - the first Thursday of the month.

.....

Our annual Potluck-Dinner Meeting was held on Monday, the 1st of June ... and how could we be so lucky? On the regular meeting date, Thursday the 4th, the fog was thick enough to cut with a cake knife, and the following Monday, the 8th, a half-inch of rain caressed the land.

But on Monday, June 1st, the sun shone and balmy breezes blew, and we were able to hold our dinner meeting, and program outdoors. Even our genial hosts, the Nelsons, must have expected colder weather, for they greeted us with a boiling pot of split pea soup, which warmed our tongues and feelings. Ladies came burdened with a wide assortment of food, so nobody hungered very long. The food sold for \$35.50. Dessert featured a beautiful birthday cake for Gail, daughter of Jon and Betty Williams.

After a very brief meeting and an imaginary installation of officers, our new (and old) President, Chris Nelson, treated us to a slide show featuring the Regional Parks. Many people remarked, "I didn't know we had that many parks!" (That's why Chris showed the slides!)

Frank Beyer showed pictures of the May field trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch, with views of herons and egrets anesting. He expressed disappointment that this field trip only attracted 5 people - including Frank and Helene. Makes one wonder if we should have any field trips at all.

\*\*\*\*\*

With this 'Quail', members are receiving our new membership roster. Don't mind the few typing errors - my hunting and pecking aren't too good at times. But if you see errors in the address or phone, let me know at 686-1341. Thanks go to Bob McCarthy, who checked over all the memberships with me to make sure that the list was up to the minute. Just to point out how much we have grown in the last year - last year's roster covered only two pages.

We extend warm greetings to our newest members:

Mr. and Mrs. Harriott Dickey, 113 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda  
 Dr. and Mrs. M. Sheldon Polski, 97 Gilrix Drive, Martinez  
 LeClaire Rothfeld, 3673 Northridge Drive, Concord.

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Enclosed, too, is a letter from our President, who is still hoping that those who plan to join National Audubon or switch present Audubon membership to Mt. Diablo will so indicate on the enclosed card. (A card is not being sent to those who have already sent one in). We need 50 members in National Audubon before we can pledge allegiance to a branch instead of an affiliate. No action is required by those who are not now or ~~intend to~~ don't intend to become members of National Audubon.

.....

You didn't get a 'Quail' last month, because Editor Ed took a rest from publication and mailing chores and enjoyed a wonderful trip to the beautiful Northwest in perfect weather. In Seattle I attended some of the National Audubon Convention but didn't get much of a thrill from it. The speakers I heard were philosophical, vague, repetitious, and factless; and I came away wondering "Haven't I heard or read all this stuff before?" Time spent with friends and relatives kept me from going on any of the field trips, which were held in gorgeous weather.

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From what I have read, the local Park Council's Environmental Conference on May 16th was far more interesting and a great success, even if some of the well-known speakers did duck out too rapidly.

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At our May 7th meeting in Sun Valley 'B', Sam Smoker gave a good program on the Alexander Lindsey Junior Museum's safari trips to the Bristlecone Pine Reserve and Saline Valley (northwest of Death Valley).

At this meeting, too, we voted a small sum (\$10) to help East Bay Regional Park construct special carry-all exhibits for use in displays by various organizations.

.....

#### Observations:

(None submitted by members recently, so you'll have to read mine). Outstanding on my recent trip was the sighting of some 70 White Pelicans near Susanville making a ~~big~~ pelican-line flight to Eagle Lake, probably from Pyramid Lake. ... Also, in Eastern Washington I saw some white-tailed hawks; but I'm not bold enough to say whether they were Ferruginous or the desert phase of Red-tailed Hawk. ... And, I hate to confess it, but in Eastern Oregon I killed a White-headed Woodpecker! In a narrow canyon he flew in front of the car, made a U Turn, zigged when he should have zagged, and went ka-plop, poor thing.

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Dear Member of Mount Diablo Audubon:

On behalf of your officers and myself, I wish you all an exciting and pleasure-filled summer ahead. We have appreciated all that the membership has done to make the past year a pleasant one for us, and we hope for you. Whether your contribution was as monumental as that of our fabulous editor, Ed Mize, or as simple as bringing cookies to a meeting, it becomes evident that any success and benefits we achieve depend on what we each contribute. I think our group should be commended for being able to turn out between 35 and 60 members consistently at meetings. For a group our size, this is surely a record of some sort.

Next fall we enter a new era in the history of Mount Diablo Audubon when, hopefully, we can officially become a full-fledged chapter of the National Audubon Society. This should open up some new horizons for our group and stimulate new ideas and interest.

You can save our faithful secretary, Hazel McCarthy, a long telephone chore (if you are one of the 52 members who agreed to join Audubon) if you would please fill out the enclosed membership card and mail it, with your check soon to: Hazel McCarthy, P. O. Box 641, Walnut Creek 94597. We are encouraging family memberships, since from the additional \$2.50 our group receives back \$2.00. This will help us to reach our minimum number of 50 for provisional and our 100 total for permanent status much sooner. If you are already a member, simply indicate this, but send the card in. I should remind those who had indicated that they wished to maintain an affiliate status or remain with Golden Gate Audubon that they are certainly welcome to do so, and only need to respond to the dues notices from Treasurer, Bob McCarthy.

Ed Mize has generously agreed to again supply us with a new up-to-date membership roster (enclosed). We are pleased to see so many new names along with yours.

Because of the lateness of Labor Day, we are uncertain of our September date, but more on that later. Do have a nice summer and do mark your calendars now for the first Thursday of each month starting in October. Call any of your officers, including your new vice president, Frank Beyer, if there is any way in which you would like to help or to express your desires and needs involving your Audubon interests.

Sincerely,



Christian Nelson, President  
Mount Diablo Audubon Society

Membership List July 1970

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
Baird, Mrs. Genevieve	130 Sharene Lane, #38	Wal. Creek	94596	933-7148
Barcelon, Mrs. Ruth	1268 Redwood Lane	Lafayette	94549	284-4796
Bartley, Floyd & Marjorie	1142 El Curtola Blvd.	Wal. Creek	94595	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.	3449 Golden Rain Rd 3	Wal. Creek	94595	
Bonnicksen, 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
Buchanan, Mrs. Elizabeth	1764 Sharon Drive	Concord	94520	687-3411
Burde, Virginia	34 La Campana	Orinda	94563	254-5500
Carter, Mrs. Ann	1116 Bacon Way	Wal. Creek	94596	935-6381
Cavanagh, Ann	1431 Barbis Way	Concord	94520	682-5127
Clason, Mrs. L.R. (Maxine)	337 Del Amigo Road	Danville	94526	837-8954
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
Curl, Mr. & Mrs. A. L.	1117 Canyonwood Ct #3	Wal. Creek	94595	
Davis, John & Tammy	21 Wanda Way	Martinez	94553	228-2509
Dean, Joanne & Peter	Rt. 1, Box 46	Brentwood	94513	
Dickey, Mr. & Mrs. Marriott	113 Hillcrest Dr.	Orinda	94563	
Dowell, R. Judson, M.D.	127 E. 18th St.	Antioch	94509	757-5700
Eckford, Mr. & Mrs. Carl	3831 Walnut Ave.	Concord	94520	685-7280
Eckstrom, Mrs. H.C. (Doris)	1100 Singingwood, #6	Wal. Creek	94595	933-9257
Eichstedt, Ed	3117 Golden Rain Rd.1	Wal. Creek	94595	933-0663
Epley, Russell & Elsie	1118 Glen Rd.	Lafayette	94549	284-1917
Farrar, Lynn & Ruth	955 Diablo Dr.	Lafayette	94549	283-3938
Finch, Lucille	2154 Russell St.	Berkeley	94702	
Floming, Ida Jean	230 Bancroft Rd.	Concord	94520	939-3889
Galvin, Marjory	Star Rt. Blackhawk Rd.	Danville	94526	837-6284
Gibson, Howard & Frances	19 Sky Terrace	Danville	94526	837-6577
Glotfelty, Roy & Elsie	3576 Powell Dr.	Lafayette	94549	284-4014
Goren, Audrey	206 Santa Fe Dr.	Wal. Creek	94598	932-3369
Greenfield, Henry & Eleanor	1955 Lucille Lane	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
Harris, Mary C.	600 Alhambra Way, #8	Martinez	94553	
Hazen, Harold & Beatrice	2525 Golden Rain Rd. 2	Wal. Creek	94595	939-4735
Helrich, Jane	1819 Laguna	Concord	94520	687-8873
Hoffman, Henry S.	97 Placitas Ave.	Atherton	94025	
Hodgson, Ralph & Margaret	4081 Legion Court	Lafayette	94549	254-0657
Holden, Jean	2313 Holbrook Dr.	Concord	94520	687-1981
Holsclaw, Elvira	600 Alhambra Way	Martinez	94553	228-5114
Houck, Gillette & Helen	3255 Quandt Rd	Lafayette	94549	935-0917
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. Creek	94595	939-5236
Karlsruh, Ruth	2301 5th Ave.	Concord	94520	689-1264
Klinger, Florence	072 Green St.	Martinez	94553	228-2650
Larson, Prudence A.	2170 Holbrook Dr.	Concord	94520	
Lea, Mrs. Ann	2628 Oak Road	Wal. Creek	94596	934-4934
Lendrum, Betty	4920 Myrtle Dr.	Concord	94521	
Lusebrink, Engra	Rt. 5, Box 2728	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
Martin, George & Dawn	2704 Lariat Lane	Wal. Creek	94596	934-9273
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
McPherson, Mr. & Mrs. H.	1572 Green Valley Rd.	Danville	94526	837-9733
Meagher, Mrs. John	1537 N. Marta Dr.	Pl. Hill	94523	685-5702
Millen, Don & Dottie	3206 Dover Way	Concord	94520	685-6518
Mize, Ed & Joan	1255 Mt. Diablo St.	Concord	94520	686-1341
Monheit, Molly Jane	1107 Magnolia Lane	Lafayette	94549	284-4261
Nelson, Christian	RFD Box 294-A	Martinez	94553	228-9369
Nunes, James & Linda	4620 Pleasant Hill Rd	East, Mtz	94553	228-7050
Nunes, Wesley & Dolores	3400 El Monte Drive	Concord	94520	
O'Meara, Mrs. Elizabeth	2231 Overlook Drive	Wal. Creek	94596	934-4720
Paige, Harold L.	1212 Monticello Rd.	Lafayette	94549	283-3408
Perlman, Isadore	1158 Glen Rd.	Lafayette	94549	283-3021
Polski, Dr. & Mrs. M.S.	97 Gilrix Drive	Martinez	94553	
Porterfield, John & Alice	3053 The Alameda	Concord	94520	685-4616
Purcell, Carol & Stuart	603 Aleta Place	Pl. Hill	94523	689-2537
Reynolds, Jack & Beth	496 Mohr Lane	Concord	94520	689-2980
Richardson, Ethel	1372 Rockledge Lane	Wal. Creek	94529	939-2794
Rothfeld, LeClaire	3673 Northridge Dr.	Concord	94520	
Rothman, Jeannette J.	37 Miranda Court	Alamo	94507	837-7117
Running, Les & Doryne	1826 Noemi Drive	Concord	94520	685-3443
Ruth, Ferd & Juliet	43 Cuesta Way	Wal. Creek	94596	934-8803
Sampson, Mrs. Elsie	1473 Rancho View Dr.	Lafayette	94549	934-5247
Sattler, Wm. & Genevieve	4050 Poplar Ave.	Concord	94521	685-5315

Schad, George	1850 - 2nd St.	Concord	94520	685-7898 <sup>7</sup>
Schaefer, Leo & Virginia	801 North Gate Rd.	Wal.Creek	94598	939-5260
Schaller, Richard & Margaret	1736 Clayton Rd.	Concord	94520	685-7641
Schieffelin, John & Marion	3579 Powell Drive	Lafayette	94549	283-3943
Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. James	130 Richard Lane	Wal.Creek	94529	935-0359
Schreider, Jay	449 Crest Ave.	Wal.Creek	94529	934-8820
Schulenberg, Ted, Janet & Tom	27 Bel Air Dr.	Orinda	94563	254-8729
Schulz, Paul E.	2038 Donald Drive	Moraga	94556	376-7229
Shackelford, Frieda	712 Laurel Drive	Wal.Creek	94596	935-1344
Shanks, Glenn & Margaret	3849 Maplewood Ct.	Concord	94520	685-7444
Soulé, Mrs. J. Brill	33 Charles Hill Rd.	Orinda	94563	254-5807
Steller, Sally	591 Fulton Way	Danville	94526	837-9061
Swanson, Nancy & Lorne	2436 Cherry Hills Dr.	Lafayette	94549	933-5065
Toasperm, Mrs. W.J.	1923 Buttner Rd.	Pl. Hill	94523	934-0749
Urbain, Lucy	3559 Herman Drive	Lafayette	94549	283-2499
Veitch, Peter	154 Camino Sobrante	Orinda	94563	254-2419
Warner, Norma L.	3163 Wayside Lane	Wal.Creek	94596	934-4604
Whitehead, Seward	1129 Ptarmigan Dr. 4	Wal.Creek	94595	933-3390
Williams, Jon & Betty	455 Virginia Hills Dr.	Martinez	94553	935-1562
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 Nolson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Aug. 15)

August, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Program to be announced in the next "Quail".

Next Field Trip: Probably the weekend after the September meeting.  
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"Summer is icumen in  
Ihude sing cuocu"

And there's a good Old English bird observation to start off this mid-summer issue of "The Quail".

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As you see, there has been no action in the last month concerning the September meeting and field trip -- but rest assured that these events will take place in due time.

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Almost as soon as the July issue of "The Quail" hit the streets, phone calls came in telling me that the roster carried the name of Rufus Johnson, but that Rufus had passed away late last summer. (Somehow my eagle eye failed to see any obituary in the local papers). Mr. Johnson contributed much to Mt. Diablo Audubon in years past, with his botanical knowledge and his willingness to serve upon committees.

The A. C. Mohrs (Albert and Dixie) have left our group and moved to Sonoma, where they plan to mingle with Madrone Audubon. In so doing, they may again be associated with former Mt. Diablo Auduboners Carl and Ruth Swenson.

Early this month, my wife and I were showing the Oakland Museum to some friends from Michigan, and I heard a familiar voice say, "I sure wish some one around here knew something about birds". That was John Bruce's way of attracting my attention. He was busy guiding a gang of kids from the San Ramon School District through the Museum.

A letter from Dennis Clemens says that he has been transferred from the wilds of Camptonville to the tamer portion of Stanislaus National Forest and will be a forester in timber management at Pinecrest.



His address: Box 1091, Pinecrest, Ca. 95364. The district has an excellent visitor's program, consisting of nature walks, field trips, evening slide shows, and movies. Dennis said, "I had begun to think that the Forest Service couldn't use a person who is interested in natural history, but until now I was just in the wrong district."

He recently completed a vacation trip through Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, via Craters of the Moon, Salmon River Valley, Glacier National Park, and Yellowstone, during which he increased his bird life list to 275.

"It was nice", he said, "to see Red-necked and Eared Grebes in breeding plumage. Found a pair of nesting Trumpeter Swans in Yellowstone and abundant Barrow's Goldeneyes. Saw many Gadwalls and Blue-winged Teal in Idaho and Montana and Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, along with Golden Eagles, in Montana. Photographed an Osprey nest on a telephone pole near Glacier, with male and female exchanging places. Saw Prairie Falcons on the cliffs near Jackpot, Nevada, Wilson's Phalaropes in Montana, and, of course, Franklin's Gulls and Black Terns and Common Terns. Observed Warbling Vireos at Glacier, Common Grackles in Montana, along with Lark Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Brewer's Sparrow at Craters of the Moon. At various places, I also saw antelope, white-tailed and mule deer, buffalo, moose, elk, hoary and yellow-bellied marmot, and badger. It was nice to see clear blue skies, puffy white clouds, and fertile farmlands. California appears to be tired out and over-used!"

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Observations:

(None better than Dennis' interesting report above).

A friend of mine was at Santa Cruz the weekend of July 11-12 and reported seeing a continuous flock of black sea birds skimming along the top of the ocean for two hours. He estimated several hundred thousand birds. I told him that they were probably Sooty Shearwaters (Whale Birds) headed for their September rendezvous in the Bering Sea, coming up from breeding grounds off Tasmania.

\*\*\*\*\*

I've been enjoying a new book, "The Year of the Whale", by Vic Scheffer - maybe because Vic was a prominent figure at the U. of Washington back in the early '30s, when your editor was studying various biological sciences. The book is well written and casually introduces interesting facts about whales - almost in a conversational manner. I recommend it.

+++++

Ohlone Audubon, our cousins in the Hayward and Fremont areas, <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ active in efforts to convert 70 acres of the old California Nursery in Niles into a rare botanical park. Of course, over a million dollars might be required, but it's a good thought.

\*\*\*\*\*

PG&E decided to reroute some of the power lines through Briones Park into less visible areas ... a sort of compromise with the groups that have been trying to keep the lines out of the Park.

\*\*\*\*\*

A new pest has arrived in Contra Costa County. The Face Fly (Musca autumnalis) has finally arrived here - some 19 years after it came from Europe and first appeared in Nova Scotia. It bothers livestock by swarming around the animals' eyes, nose, and mouth, making the stock so nervous that it won't graze.

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# The Quail

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

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

(Next Deadline: Sept. 11)

September, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 3

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Frank Beyer will give an illustrated talk on Shorebirds.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Sept. 12. Lower Tubbs Island Refuge (see map).  
Meet at Refuge gate no later than 10 a.m.

.....

Since our new Vice-President, Frank Beyer, is automatically our new Program Chairman, he has taken an easy way out by volunteering to give our initial Sept. 10th program. He comments,

"I will talk on Shorebirds, in preparation for the field trip following and will show slides of shorebirds and others we may see."

Frank has given us excellent programs on Florida and Maine these past two years. You will enjoy his latest presentation, I am sure.

Please note that the meeting date is September 10th, the second Thursday of the month, to avoid conflicts with the Labor Day and Admission Day holidays. If you have not been to Sun Valley Meeting Room B yet, you will find it on the lower Mall. Go down the escalator and keep going in the same direction to the end of the hall and turn right.

\*\*\*\*\*

The September Field Trip will be held the following Saturday, Sept. 12th, at the Lower Tubbs Island Refuge. A map is enclosed to assist our members. The Island, now owned by The Nature Conservancy, lies between Vallejo and Novato, south of Calif. Highway 37. One way to get onto 37 is to leave Freeway 80 just beyond the Solano County Fairgrounds and follow signs to San Rafael. Or you can go through Vallejo and follow Marco Island Strait until you meet 37 just north of the high bridge. Go west on 37 ten or twelve miles, passing over Sonoma Creek. Just before Tolay Creek Bridge, there is a ~~next~~ gate, where we enter the Refuge. Frank Beyer says,

"Either Chris Nelson or I will be at the gate to let people in. There is plenty of parking at the Refuge headquarters 3 miles south of the gate. The hike will be a bit over a mile along dike roads - easy walking. It may be chilly if the breeze is coming in off the Bay, so jackets would be appropriate. We may move slowly, if there is much to see. Plan to be at the

Refuge gate by 10 a.m. at the latest and bring a lunch. The trip could last about 3 hours, or longer for those who wish to stay."

Enclosed is a tentative program and field trip schedule for our 1970-71 Audubon year. Changes will be announced in 'The Quail' as soon as possible. (Incidentally, all systems are GO on that Pt. Reyes trip for October 4th. The Coudens have special Park Service permission for access to unusual areas. More details in the next 'Quail'.)

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President Chris Nelson has announced the following Committee Chairman:  
 Field Trip ... by Committee (as listed on the Schedule)  
 Program Chairman ... Frank Beyer  
 Membership Chairman ... Ed Eichstedt  
 Publicity Chairman ... Margaret Schaller  
 'Quail' Editor-Printer-Mailer ... Ed Mize

\*\*\*\*\*

There are probably still more Committee jobs to be filled, so don't be bashful if Chris asks you to help out. ... If you are interested in taking over the job next year as Editor of 'The Quail', contact ol' Ed Mize at 686-1341. This tenth year marks the end of my reign.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 'Concord Transcript' recently mentioned that member Glenn Shanks became ill with a 'heart difficulty' during a recent trip to Wisconsin and is now recovering in the Appleton Memorial Hospital. He will be confined to bed for some time. His wife, Margaret, is presently at 480 E. State St., Iola, Wisconsin, 54945.

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#### Observations:

The Nelsons and Frank Beyer recently scouted Lower Tubbs Island and saw 30 species, including 14 White-tailed Kites - 2 families of 5 birds each and 2 pairs of adults. Lots of shorebirds, too, i.e. Western & Least Sandpipers, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Dowitcher, Godwit, Willet, Avocet, and Yellowleg. Lots of both Egrets, 20 Night Herons, Bittern, Northern Phalarope, and even a Prairie Falcon.

During July & August, Dorothy & Harry Couden mixed business with pleasure in the Great Basin States. The species count was 143, with Wyoming leading with 79, thanks to Grand Tetons & Yellowstone. On the trip, 49 species were single-area sightings.

Jon Williams, back from the Lassen country, reports a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at Lake Almanor, Osprey nests at Caribou Wilderness Area and Butt Lake, and 13 Double-crested Cormorant nests in a rookery at Butt Lake. Also, a Bald Eagle in full plumage at Snag Lake, and Red Crossbill at Bowman Lake.

.....

Golden Gate Audubon has invited our members to apply for space on a pelagic trip off Monterey on Saturday, October 3, leaving Fishermen's Wharf in Monterey at 9 a.m. and returning about 3 p.m. Fare: \$7 per per son. Reservations close Sept. 20 or earlier (if boats are filled). Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon and mail with stamped self-addressed envelope (names and addresses of guests must be included) to Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., S.F. 94109. This is not a joy ride ... it's for HARDY seafarers and persons really interested in sea birds. You'll probably need anti-sea-sickness pills.

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## TENTATIVE PROGRAM AND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

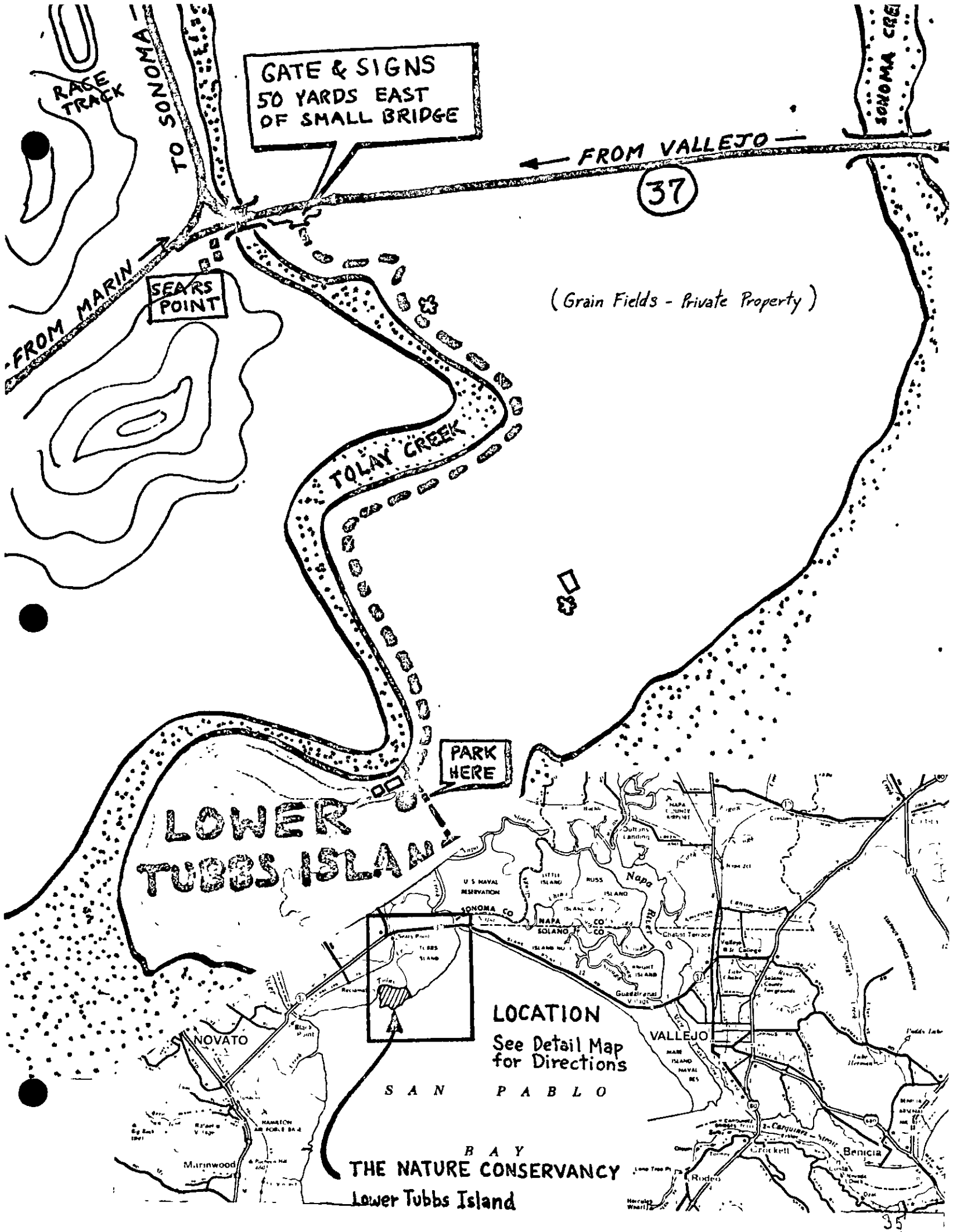
## MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Program Chairman: Frank Beyer  
Vice President

Field Trips: By Committee  
Chris Nelson  
Frank Beyer  
Lynn Farrar  
Harry Cauden

PROGRAMSFIELD TRIPS

September 10	"Shorebirds Are Tough" - Frank Beyer	September 12	Lower Tubbs Island - Chris Nelson
October 1	"Knowing More About the Non-Game Species Program of the Department of Fish and Game" - Robert Mallette	October 4	Point Reyes-Limonteur - Harry Cauden
November 5	"The West Coast Refuge Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" - Robert Shields	November 7	Valley Refuges - Frank Beyer
December 3	"Local Fish and Game Wild- life Projects" - Mr. Elliott	December 20	Christmas Count - Lynn Farrar
January 7	"Looking Back at the California Indian in His Environment" - Robert Schenk	January 10	Coloma Gold Discovery Site and Museum, American River - Chris Nelson
February 4	"The Birds of New Zealand" Narrator	February 7	Coyote Hills Regional Park Inland Marsh and Grasslands - Bruce Campion
March 4	"What Do You Really Know About Insects?" - Josh Barkin	March 6	Bodega Bay - Harry Cauden
April 1	"The Trees, Shrubs and Lesser Known Plants of Our Area - Joanne Dean	April 4	Sunol Regional Park Wild- flower Trip - Joanne Dean
		April 10	Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo - Jane Herlick
May 6	"The Little Brown Pelagic Birds"	May 9	Farralon Islands Boat Trip - Golden Gate Audubon
		May 15	Lafayette Reservoir - Ed Mize
June 7	Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Members' Slide Show	June or July	Yuba Pass - Lynn Farrar



GATE & SIGNS  
50 YARDS EAST  
OF SMALL BRIDGE

← FROM VALLEJO  
37

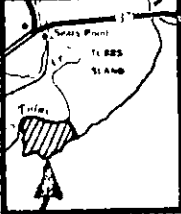
(Grain Fields - Private Property)

SEARS  
POINT

TOLAY CREEK

PARK  
HERE

LOWER  
TUBBS ISLAND



LOCATION  
See Detail Map  
for Directions

SAN PABLO BAY  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
Lower Tubbs Island



# 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, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 4

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Robert Mallette will speak about the non-game species program of the Calif. Department of Fish and Game.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. Meet at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Information Center, near Olema. Trip to Limantour Spit. Leaders: Harry & Dorothy Couden.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, October 5, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym. Albert Wool presents "Coastline California".

.....

The speaker at our October 1 meeting will be Mr. Robert D. Mallette, Associate Wildlife Manager-Biologist for the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game at Sacramento. The title of his talk is, "Knowing More About the Non-Game Species Program of the Department of Fish and Game".

President Chris Nelson, who has heard Mr. Mallette speak before, says, "Many people assume that the Department of Fish and Game monies and efforts are all dedicated to serve the hunter and the fisherman. Few people are aware of the new involvement and direction that is being taken concerning our non-game species. This will be an illustrated program and is certain to enlighten as well as entertain our Audubon members and guests."

The meeting will be held at Sun Valley Meeting Room B, which is on the lower Mall.

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The following Sunday, Oct. 4, Harry and Dorothy Couden will lead a field trip to Limantour Spit and the Muddy Hollow Road portions of Point Reyes National Seashore. Harry says,

"This is a special-access trip we have arranged through the National Park Service at Pt. Reyes, and it is one of the areas routinely monitored by personnel of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Meet at the Information Center across from the

Park Headquarters, near Olema, at 9 a.m. (There is a big sign in Olema on Highway 1 pointing to the Headquarters). Plan to hike as well as drive, and bring a lunch."

.....

The popular Audubon Wildlife Tours begin a new season on Monday, October 5, at 8 p.m. in the Diablo Valley College Gym. The speaker, Albert Wool, is a member of Santa Clara Valley Audubon and has a ranch near La Honda. He has been here before with excellent pictures of the wildlife of the Coast Range near his ranch. One of the nice things about his programs is that he presents wildlife that we have a chance of seeing - not some exotic bird in a far-away land. This time he films a stretch of the Coast between San Francisco and Big Sur, featuring avocets, godwits, oyster catchers, sea lions, elephant seals, and much other wildlife.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Fall Season started with a September 10th meeting (Bert O'Meara's birthday) featuring the slide program, "Shorebirds are Tough", by Frank Beyer, who obviously had dashed out in recent weeks and captured, on film, some shorebirds hot off the mud flats. Frank's presentation was thorough, for he showed us just about every shorebird in these parts except a Knot. By listening to his comments on distinguishing characteristics, we almost became experts on the subject. Frank used the Western Sandpiper, Killdeer, and Willet as size reference very effectively. It was a fine presentation and prepared the way for the field trip to Tubbs Island the following Saturday.

Chris Nelson, co-leader of that trip, wrote it up as follows:

"The weather was perfect - no wind (until time to go home). 43 attended .. 36 adults and 7 kids .. a good turnout for our first trip. The tide was out, so many ponds were dry and birds had all the mudflats to feed on; but we saw hundreds, including all we looked for, except phalaropes.

"Between 27 and 31 species were recorded in the easy 2½ hour walk. The 2 mile drive into the Sanctuary turned up Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, about 20 White-tailed Kites, Pheasant, and a single Say's Phoebe. The walk turned up Herons and Egrets, Greater Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Dowitcher, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Western & Least Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, and a lone Black-bellied Plover, which somehow was still in breeding plumage. Flocks of Pintails put in an appearance, along with two Forster's Terns and a Short-eared Owl.

"Frank Beyer was the expert of the day and had an easy time convincing us that "Shorebirds aren't Tough", as long as you keep your 'short, stout, long-bills ~~xxx~~ separate from your long, thin short-bills' .. or was it 'short, thin, stout bills?' What was that again, Frank?

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At the September meeting it was voted to pay the car expenses and bridge tolls for Frank Beyer, who represents us at quarterly meetings of the Bay Area Audubon Council. Frank's next meeting of the Council will be held at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary on October 3rd.

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We greet our newest members:

Jerome and Linda Sedgwick, 327 Dogwood Drive, Walnut Creek 94598

The Sedgwicks joined National Audubon (and Mt. Diablo Audubon) at our September meeting after Chris Nelson announced that we had 48 National members in our group and needed 50 to become a Branch Chapter. Just previously, Ernie and Betty Atkinson signed a transfer card changing their registration to Mt. Diablo Audubon. By now all 50 of the transfer cards and new memberships are in the hands of National Audubon. Our officers realize that there has been confusion and delay in setting up the Branch status, so apologies go to the new members of National who have been upset in not yet receiving "Audubon" magazine.

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#### Observations:

The raving Ernie and Betty Atkinson recently returned from a vacation trip in Oregon, and they were raving about the birding at Malheur Wildlife Refuge, where they counted 85 species in one day, including 500 Sandhill Cranes and even a wondering wandering Redstart. "Ospreys were like sparrows, at Klamath Lake", Ernie said. "We saw Violet-green Swallows by the hundreds on the wires between Klamath Falls and Crater Lake, Bald Eagles at Klamath Lake, and even a Peregrine Falcon at Crater Lake. Closer to home, Ernie reports that Blue Grosbeak in the Delta (Bethel Island) have been pushed out by construction but are still to be seen in more distant islands.

Chris Nelson didn't have that kind of luck in the Klamath Basin. He and the family were there on the coldest day ever recorded so early in the season, and even the doves had brains enough to move south.

Bert O'Meara reports that wild turkeys in the Noche (south of Livermore) have crossed two ridges and appear to be thriving.

Ed Eichstedt and Larry Curl were at Fort Baker recently and sighted two Skuas and a Murre.

Lynn Farrar says that we are having an early Fall migration with lots of warblers. Keep looking for the return of the winter sparrows. Caspian Terns might be moving into our area.

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Glenn Shanks says that he is back in Concord and recovering well from his heart problem. He says that he certainly enjoyed all the mail he got back in Wisconsin from his many concerned friends.

Elizabeth Buchanan dropped a note from Pennsylvania, where she was enjoying relatives and the East Coast (including Mystic, Conn.), and she plans to be back in this area in time for the October meeting.

Albert C. Mohr, a Mt. Diablo Audubon member until he moved to Sonoma, is being honored by the American Chemical Society as a 50 year member of that group.

Just recently came news that a court has thrown out a mineral (sand) claim in the Nortonville area, thus increasing that area's chances of becoming a Regional Park some day.

The Nature Conservancy has received a \$200,000 grant from the Fleischmann Foundation and will use the dough to buy Lower Tubbs Island (North Bay) and the Horse Baylands Refuge (South Bay). Hooray!

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It's not too early to plan for the annual Christmas Count, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 20 this year. Also, it would be appreciated if members would volunteer to help with the organization and compilation of the Count. For the last two years, Dennis Clemens has been our compiler, but he's up in Placerville now. For the last umpteen years, Lynn Farrar has carried the brunt of the Christmas Count work. Why don't you pick up the phone, call Lynn at 283-3938 and tell him that you'd like to help out this year? He might faint, but would appreciate the call.

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, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Nov. 15)

November, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 5

- Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:45 p.m. Concord Library  
(Salvio @ Parkside). Joint meeting with the  
Contra Costa Park Council. A movie on "Silent  
Spring" will be shown, followed by an environmental  
discussion by State Senator John Nejedly.
- Of Interest: Saturday, Nov. 7 (time?). Open House at  
Coyote Hills Regional Park.
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m. Grey Lodge Wildlife  
Refuge. Meet at the Interpretive Center.  
Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236)
- Next Screen Tour: Monday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. DVC Gymnasium. Walter Berlet  
takes us to "Hawaii - Paradise of the Pacific".

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As you may recall, a tentative schedule of our activities for the year was sent to you a couple of months ago. It was 'subject to change' of course - a good thing, because in November we are changing both the meeting and the date of the field trip. The meeting had been changed because Mr. Shields, who was to speak to us on Wildlife Refuges, has migrated to Washington, D.C., and that's a little far for him to come back to speak to us.

So instead, arrangements have been made to hold a joint meeting with the Contra Costa Park Council, which holds meetings this year on our regular meeting night. Please note that the joint meeting has been moved up to 7:45 p.m. and will be in the Concord Library at the corner of Salvio and Parkside. It's easy to get there: if you come on the Freeway, swing into Concord on Willow Pass Road, and after you pass the Plaza and the banks in the center of town swing over a block to the left (north) to Salvio, turn right on Salvio and go east about a half-mile to the Library (at the corner of Salvio and Parkside). The meeting room is to your right as you walk into the Library. Plenty of parking room on adjacent streets and lots.

The program will start with "Silent Spring", a movie made from a TV program featuring Rachel Carson. (It will be interesting to see whether her predictions have been fulfilled.) Afterwards, State Sen. John Nejedly will discuss the Environmental Bills which came before the Legislature at Sacramento. As time permits, he will answer questions.

.....

"The field trip has been changed to Saturday, Nov. 21", says Frank Beyer, the Leader. "This avoids a conflict with an Open House set for Coyote Hills Regional Park on our normal field trip day, and will also permit a buildup of waterfowl at Grey Lodge Wildlife Refuge. This trip will be a one day affair this year, because so few people attended the second day activities last year." (Editor's Note: Santa Clara Valley Audubon expects to be at Grey Lodge the same day we are).

"Meet at the Interpretive Center at Refuge Headquarters 2 miles beyond the hunter-checking station at Grey Lodge. To get to the Refuge, which lies west of Gridley, take 99E to Live Oak (10 miles north of Yuba City) and turn left at the light onto Pennington Road. Follow this road and the signs about 10 miles to the Refuge. Turn west at the hunter-checking station. Allow 2 - 3 hours driving time, depending upon how fast you push the horses. Duck hunters will be blasting away in another part of the refuge and will not bother us. Bring lunch, warm clothes and sturdy shoes. We will walk some levees."

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Chris Nelson hopes that some Mt. Diablo Auduboners will be present at the Coyote Hills Open House to help take care of the many visitors expected. 'Sunset' Magazine will be publicizing it. Coyote Hills Regional Park is down near Dumbarton Bridge. Turn off the Nimitz Freeway at Jarvis Road and drive west to the signal at Newark Blvd. Turn right, go over the railroad tracks, and continue a mile to Patterson Ranch Road. Then turn left into the park. More information at our November meeting.

A National Audubon display ('National Panorama on Conservation Action') can be seen at the Sacramento Center in S.F. Nov. 3 - 7.

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At our October meeting we were shown the Briones Regional Park Wildlife Kits prepared by the East Bay Regional Park staff. These attractive kits will be placed in various libraries in our area and thus be available for people visiting Briones and wishing an identification manual. Nearly all the flower pictures in the guide were taken by John Davis.

Treasurer Bob McCarthy has been carrying home a lot of dues money from all our new members lately. At any rate his brief case finally fell apart. So what did Bob do? He went out and arranged for a beautiful leather carrying case and has donated it to our group. This is Bob's last year as Treasurer, and he wants the next Treasurer to start off with an air of distinction.

.....

Harry Couden has this to say about the Limantour Spit trip held Oct. 4th:

"It was a good trip and worth repeating. Fortunately, several expert birders joined our 12-car party, to total 32 people. The birding area is quite small, with all our pre-scheduled stops virtually within sight of each other. The exception is the Muddy Hollow area. Here we missed the expected migratories. But we logged a unique species, the hermaphroditic CooMar Hawk. Our flying glimpse was too brief to gain agreement as to whether

"she was a Cooper's or he a Marsh Hawk. We were a wind-blown, cold, 53-count, 3-stop group at lunch, but a warm, happy, 80-count party 2-stops and adjournment later. The other 79 species were:

Common & Arctic Loons; Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-billed Grebes; Brown Pelican; Double-cr. Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egrets; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Cinnamon Teal; American Widgeon; Ring-necked Duck; White-winged Scoter; Vulture; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered & Sparrow Hawks; Quail; Coot; Semipalmated & Blackbellied Plovers; Killdeer; Black Turnstone; Common Snipe; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Pectoral, Least & Western Sandpipers; Dunlin; Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbles Godwit; Sanderling; Avocet; Western, California, Ringbilled, & Heerman's Gulls; Common Murre; Mourning Dove; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Black & Say's Phoebes; Western Wood Pewee; Violet-gr. & Tree Swallows; Steller & Scrub Jays; Crow; Wrentit; Winter, Bewick's & Long-billed Marsh Wrens; Mockingbird; Robin; Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Yellowthroat; Meadowlark; Redwinged & Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; Pine Siskin; American Goldfinch; Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned & Song Sparrows; Oregon Junco."

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At our October meeting Bob Mallette discussed the non-game species interests of the Dept. of Fish & Game. His slides opened with views of some areas that people are trying to save for bird habitat, and then he showed several fine pictures of birds of prey. We heard that there are probably less than 10 pair of Peregrine Falcon left in California. Also, that Fish & Game are no longer in predator control.

Lynn Farrar had earlier pointed out that the feral cat situation at Lafayette Reservoir is getting worse. People are dumping unwanted cats in the area, and the smart birds are getting out. Those not so smart are being gobbled by the cats.

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Many members of National Audubon in this area have signified their intentions of becoming members of Mt. Diablo Audubon. We welcome these new members:

Donald C. Anderson, 511 McBride Drive, Lafayette, Ca. 94549  
 Roger Brewer, 15 Vista del Orinda, Orinda, Ca. 94563  
 Mrs. Kenneth L. Briney, 99 Shuey Drive, Moraga, Ca. 94556  
 C. J. Brown, 117 Danefield Place, Moraga, Ca. 94556  
 F. Langdon Davis, 1516 Golden Rain Rd. #3, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94595  
 Kathryn & Bill Furnish, 115 Linda Lane, Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523  
 Wallace & Dorothy Kanes, 81 Jackson Way, Alamo, Ca. 94507  
 George & Marianne Kostal, 4302 Rose Lane, Concord, Ca. 94520  
 Gus Malmquist, 3980 S. Peardale Drive, Lafayette, Ca. 94549  
 Mrs. Rix Maurer, Jr., 121 Andrea Drive, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Morley, Jr., 391 Camino Los Juntas, Pl. Hill  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rosston, 3913 Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette 94549  
 Mrs. Eugene S. Shreyer, 2063 Mohawk Drive, Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523  
 Thomas A. Steyaert, 205 Summit Road, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596  
 Nanette D. Sullivan, 2428 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596  
 Tom Vale, 2802 Kinney Drive, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94595  
 Tomas S. Vanasek, 500 Los Lomas Way, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94598  
 Sidney & Alice Whiting, HQ AFSC Box 609, Andrews AFB, Maryland, 20331.

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DON'T FORGET THE 'HAWAII' SHOW, Nov. 23

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Ed Hize, 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, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Dec. 15)

December, 1970  
Vol. 17, No. 6

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Bruce Elliott of California Fish & Game will discuss 'Local Fish and Game Wildlife Projects'.

Paul Howard, Western Representative of National Audubon (Sacramento) will be on hand to present our National Audubon Branch charter.

Christmas Count: Saturday, December 26. Contact Lynn Farrar at 283-3938 for assignments and for information about the traditional Potluck Dinner-Summation Meeting.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, January 13, 1971, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley Gym. Robert Fultz presents "Acadian Reflections".

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There's a lot of activity scheduled for our December 3rd meeting at Sun Valley 'B'. Speaker will be Bruce Elliott, local representative for California Fish and Game. He will discuss the wildlife management projects in this area.

Also present will be Paul Howard, National Audubon's Western Representative, who will come down and present us with our charter making us an official Branch member of National Audubon. But first we will be asked to vote on the enclosed revision of our Constitution and By-Laws.

In order to become a Branch of National Audubon, our Constitution and By-Laws have to be rewritten to agree with National Audubon regulations. As President Chris Nelson says,

"Enclosed you will find copies of the proposed revised Constitution and By-Laws of our Society. Your President and Officers have reviewed this in line-by-line detail, in order to perpetuate the philosophy of Mt. Diablo and to incorporate the necessary changes required for the changeover to National Chapter status.

"In a nutshell, the changes you will find essentially reflect standardization of membership categories and fees with National's and provisions which allow for cancellation of the Chapter-National relationship should this ever be deemed desirable by either party.

"Since we anticipate Mr. Howard to present our charter to us at the December 3 evening meeting, it would appear proper that those members who will be present should come prepared, if they agree with the changes as worked out by the officers, to approve the new Constitution and By-Laws prior to the acceptance of the new charter. Comments to improve and strengthen this document are always appreciated and in order from the general membership."

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The date of our annual Christmas Count has been switched without a fight. The new date will be Saturday, Dec. 26th - the day after Christmas. We had announced that we would be counting birds on the 20th, but then we found out that National Audubon's official count period started on the 22nd this year. Also, most of the members contacted preferred a date after Christmas rather than before the holiday. It's official.. Dec. 26th.

Contact Lynn Farrar at 283-3938 for assignments of territories to cover. Since there seems to be a little confusion about the location of the Potluck this year, Lynn will tell you where you can find the eats, when you contact him for your assignment to a group of birders.

Most of our members are familiar with the workings of the annual Christmas Count, but for the benefit of our many new members here's a little summary. The Count is held nationwide annually as a rough census of bird population during a designated period around Christmas and New Years. On one day interested observers try to count the numbers and species of all birds seen within a 15 mile circle. This has resulted in rivalries developing among some sections of the country, but here at Mt. Diablo Audubon the Count is still done for pleasure, information, and interest. We have a varied habitat within our circle, and groups radiating from a central point generally find a total of about 120 species each year. If you are interested in going out on December 26th, you don't have to be an expert birder to be part of a team - there is always a need for extra eyes and counters. Call Lynn Farrar for more information and an assignment. You might find it to be an interesting day.

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Our joint meeting with the Park Council on November 5th was a great success, with about 80 people in attendance at the Concord Library. No Audubon business was conducted.

State Senator John Nejedly explained some of the workings of the Legislature and showed why it is sometimes difficult to get worthwhile bills passed. He stressed how the Legislature really depends upon the will of the people. Thus, the great success in the extension of BCDC was primarily due to the many people who wrote letters and attended hearings. On the other hand, bills regulating public access to our seacoast did not do as well because there was little public backing. Many of Sen. Nejedly's ill-fated conservation bills will be introduced again. He would like to see a proposed 'Environmental Council' set up to examine proposals by certain agencies that fail to consider ecological values. Nejedly thinks that more conservation measures will be passed in the next session, because several of the anti-conservationists were voted out of office in November.

.....

Following Senator Nejedly's talk and his answers to numerous questions, we were shown a film entitled "The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson", which was originally shown on CBS TV News about 1962 but was well worth seeing again. Things looked grim back then, and methinks they are grimmer today.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our membership list continues to grow, as more local residence members of National Audubon indicate their desire to be assigned to Mt. Diablo Chapter. We greet our latest members:

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Beckstead, 1509 Rockledge Lane #2, Walnut Creek 94595  
 Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Gilmore II, 1173 Bacon Way, Walnut Creek 94596  
 Mrs. Harold Henningsen, P.O. Box 554, Diablo 94528  
 Kurt A. Larson, 225 Babette Court, Pleasant Hill 94523  
 Glenn R. Maynard, P.O. Box 695, Danville 94526  
 Mrs. L. M. McOmie, Birds Landing 94512  
 Charlotte M. Morrison, 1501 Oakmont Dr. Apt. 2, Walnut Creek 94595  
 Mr. & Mrs. Benton Wood, P.O. Box 223, Orinda 94563

+++++

Now that we have gone 'big time', it looks like there will have to be more membership participation in our future operations. We will need more committee members, because our population explosion is putting an unfair burden on the few members now carrying the load. "The Quail" will certainly have to be put out by a team, for no longer can one person be expected to write, type, print, and mail the bulletin (as has been the case for several years). In due time the bulletin should probably be printed commercially to insure enough readable copies. Expect no change before next June, at which time I will be resigning as Editor.

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#### Observations:

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(No field trip in early November)  
 (No observations given at the last meeting)  
 (No news via mailman, pony express, or carrier pigeon)

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Pres. Chris Nelson and Vice-Pres. Frank Beyer attended a workshop at National Audubon Western Headquarters in Sacramento on October 24. The Bowmans, Dave and Alyce, have migrated north to Medford, Oregon, where Alyce has a supervisorial position in one of the hospitals.

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According to Ohlone Audubon's bulletin, the Open House at Coyote Hills on Nov. 7 was a great success, thanks to the publicity given by 'Sunset' magazine in a recent issue. Approximately 300 visitors were conducted along the trails in groups of 20. "White-tailed Kites, hawks, and numerous species of ducks and shorebirds were all over the place, and a Flamingo remained in a pond the entire day for all to see". Mt. Diablo Audubon representatives were on hand to help as tour leaders.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now that we are members of National Audubon, former Mt. Diablo Audubon members who do not wish to join National will continue as members of MDAS on payment of annual dues (\$2 Single; \$3.50 Couples). From now on our only new members will be those who join National Audubon (\$10 Single; \$12.50 Family). All members of MDAS, whether recent or ancient, will continue to receive 'The Quail'.

\*\*\*\*\*

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