

UNDER THE SUN

Birds In Valley Could Set Record



by BERT FIREMAN

But there are among us serious bird watchers, associated together in the Maricopa Audubon Society. Most of its members seem to fall into that stratum of society known as the intelligentsia. A high degree of intelligence — at least great patience, scientific accuracy, profound study, and love of beauty—are attributes of the successful bird watcher. And 'tis yet a pursuit safe from the inquiries of the junior senator from Wisconsin.

During the Christmas-New Year season 8,000 bird watchers in all parts of the nation took part in the 56th annual Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The local group was among 575 societies participating under uniform rules. Sports Illustrated magazine for Jan. 16 had a major article on the count, thereby providing us with comparative figures that are almost startling in significance.

Few persons have considered this part of Arizona particularly rich in birds. Grain growers do report blackbirds and doves a nuisance in the late spring when barley and wheat are maturing. But usually swampy and coastal areas are considered superior gathering places for birds. The magazine article credited a group of 42 observers at Cocoa, Fla., with a new record of 184 species of birds during this year's count. This broke the previous record established at San Diego the year before, when 175 species were counted.

HOW ABOUT A RECOUNT? Provided with the Florida figures and the official report of the Maricopa Audubon Society, I believe the Valley of the Sun next year should be able to file a claim that will outdo the Florida record.

Certain comparative factors in the studies must be considered. The Florida party was composed of 42 observers while only 22 watchers took the field here. The Florida party spent a total of 500 man-hours hunting for birds, while the Maricopa Audubon Society report shows a total of only 30½ hours given to the search.

Yet Florida set a record with 184 species and almost 78,000 birds.

Working within a 7½-mile radius from a center near Indian School Rd. & 91st Ave., the Maricopa bird watchers identified 104 species and counted a total of 81,592 individual birds.

Our mass of birds was much greater than those identified at the Florida city. Our watchers spent less than one-tenth the time in the field, yet they counted 104 species to 184. If they had spent the entire day counting birds it is entirely possible that we, instead of near-tropical Florida, would now hold the record for the most species.

'Tis nothing less than amazing what species of birds were identified. Of course, blackbirds—both yellow-headed and red-winged — predominated. Our typical Arizona lowland birds were also out—Gambels' quail, mourning dove, roadrunner Gila woodpecker, white-winged dove, and cactus wren.

There were also herons, geese, several varieties of ducks, sandpipers, killdeer, hawks, pheasant, robins, owls, flickers, phoebes, flycatchers, larks, creepers, wrens, mockingbirds, thrashers, thrush, bluebirds, gnat-catchers, kinglets, warblers, sparrows, cowbirds, cardinals, goldfinches, towhees, sparrows, waxwings, pipits, vireos and other species.

The party, headed by A. S. Margolin of the Phoenix College faculty, recorded as their greatest discoveries a few species seldom seen here, at least not in December. These included Eastern meadowlark, black-throated gray warbler, Lazuli bunting, evening grosbeak, and purple finch.

Next winter, with a larger group of observers and a full day in the field, the local bird watchers may be able to bring the national record to the Valley of the Sun. Or will it then be the

June 15, 1958

AUDUBON GROUP PREPARES

NEW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

A Wildlife sanctuary has been established near New River by the Maricopa County Audubon Society.

The land is part of the T Cattle Co., and is about a mile long and a half-mile wide. It lies roughly $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the east of the community of New River on the Black Canyon Highway.

1958 Officers

Wm H Patey	President
Mary Bonnewell	Vice President
Ellen Frederickson	Treasurer
Una Miller	Secretary

The sanctuary is for the protection of wildlife, including all animals and plants. The cattle company owns the land, and is co-operating with the Audubon Society to help preserve the natural beauty of the trees, shrubs and flowers along New River.

The land has been posted, and will be cared for as a sanctuary by the society, according to its president, William H. Patey, 111 E. Royal Palm Rd.

Not only have Audubon signs been placed throughout the area, but Arizona Game and Fish Department signs prohibiting hunting and fishing have been placed at the water holes.

A number of Arizona song birds make the area a nesting place, according to Patey.

1958 *Phoenix Gazette, Dec. 10, 1958* PAGE 17

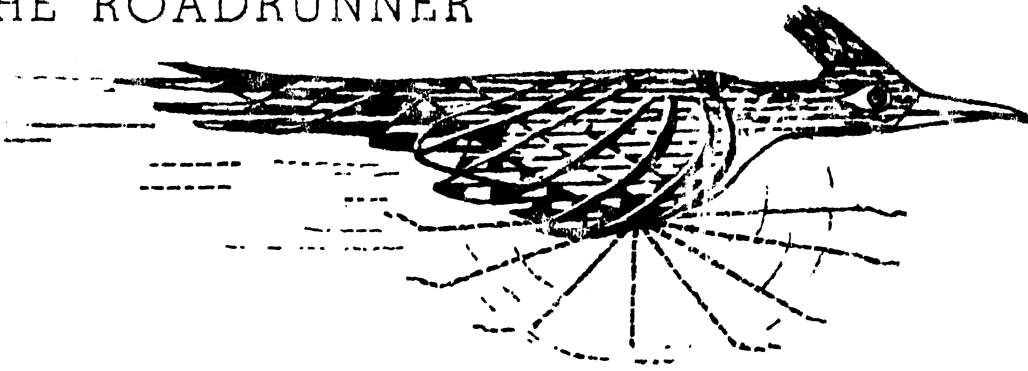


Gazette Staff Photo

BIRD SEASON OPEN IN ENCANTO

Sighting one of the many varieties of land and water birds to be found in Encanto Park are these participants in a bird walk sponsored by the Maricopa Audubon Society. Pictured are (from left) Keith Warren, 1329 E. Vermont; Joseph Pryor, North Miami Beach, Fla.; Mrs. David M. Demaree, 5541 N. Ninth Ave., coleader for the Audubon society; and Mrs. Pryor.

THE ROADRUNNER



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THE OASIS IS OUR OASIS NOW

The responsibility, joy and satisfaction of participating actively in the preservation of wildlife is now ours. Over the past few years we have had field trips to the spot on the Black Canyon Highway which we call "the oasis". Our June meeting was a picnic-field-trip there and over supper, after a pleasant bird hike, members beginning with "Something ought to be done" went on to "What can we do" and ended with "Let's try".

Bill Patey and Keith Warren were delegated to investigate the possibility of establishing an Audubon Society Sanctuary there, and went about their task next morning. Contact was made with the Game and Fish Commission, and after considerable searching of various land records, contact was also made with Mr. Levi Reed of the "T" Cattle Company which owns the land. Mr. Reed is president of the company, and gladly agreed to cooperate with the MAS in preserving the natural beauty of trees, shrubs and flowers along the stream, as well as the wildlife there.

Permission was given for the MAS to post the area with sanctuary signs. This was soon done. Keith Warren made a number of sturdy wooden signs and frames, and with Mr. Patey placed them at some twenty strategic points around the area, which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of New River, and is legally described as within the East half of Section 15 7 North and 2 East.

Members have already begun making frequent visits to remove litter left by careless visitors and to keep eyes open for violators who may fail to comply with the directives on the posted signs.

MAS members, applauding this fine beginning, may ask what we, as individuals, can do to maintain the Oasis in all its aspects. In the November issue we hope to have Gordon Nicholson, who has always been deeply interested in the area, answer our questions and help us see the direction in which we ought to proceed.

IN THE CROCKETTS' POCKETS--

--are rolls and rolls of new nature films, which we'll see at the November meeting. Harry and Ruth Crockett really need no introduction, because of course you've seen their marvelous bird pictures in "Arizona Highways", my dear, and surely you remember the movies they've shown us in the past, so naturally you're going to be at the Phoenix College Clubroom at eight on November 3, aren't you? You are.



Photo Moulton Smith MAS Audubon present - New River 1958

1958 AZ Republic



Bird Walk With a number of winter visitors to the Valley of the Sun participating as well as residents, first bird walk of the season was held at Encanto Park under sponsorship of city parks and recreation department. Guide was Mrs. Marie Boniwell of Maricopa Audubon Society. Seventeen species of birds were observed in the 1½ hour walk. Another walk will be announced in January.

1958

The Phoenix Gazette

ARIZONA'S PROGRESSIVE NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1958

PAGE 17



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MAS field trip to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point) Sonora, Mexico, 1958?
Left to right: Jim Werner, Jim Bialac, Frank Brunk, winter visitor, Mrs.
Culver, Bill Patey.



MAS field trip to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point) Sonora, Mexico, 1958? Left to right: Jim Werner, Frank Brunk, Jim Bialac, winter visitor, Mrs. Culver, Bill Patey

1959 Officers

Mrs L M Bonnewell	President
Mrs David Feese	Vice President
Mrs D M Demaree	Treasurer
Mrs C A Miller	Secretary

Sept 14, 1959 Mrs Feese resigned as Vice President, and Col Wayne B Gardner was appointed Vice President



Gazette Staff Photo

NATURE LOVER

Mrs. Lowell M. Bonnewell, 321 E. Northern, is new president of the Maricopa Audubon Society. Other new officers are Mrs. David Feese, vice president; Mrs. Una Miller, secretary, and Mrs. David Demaree, treasurer.

ENCANTO PARK BIRD WALKS



YOU ARE INVITED!

November - April, 1959-60

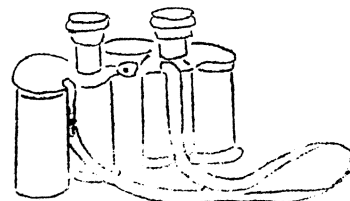
TUESDAYS 10:30 A.M. to Noon

November 17	February 2 and 16
December 15	March 1 and 15
January 5 & 19	April 5 and 19

- * All walks start by the lagoon near the boathouse behind the Encanto Park Clubhouse, 2605 North 15th Avenue.
- * Everyone interested in knowing our Arizona Birds is invited free of charge.
- * Leaders: Mrs. Lowell Bonnewell
Mrs. David Demaree
Mrs. Charles Garland, Recorder

Sponsored by Maricopa Audubon Society

City of Phoenix, Arizona Parks and Recreation Department





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PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT
2700 NORTH 15TH AVENUE

April 28, 1959

Mr. William H. Patey
President
Maricopa Audubon Society
111 E. Royal Palm Road
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Patey:

I would like to extend to the Maricopa Audubon Society the sincere appreciation of the Parks and Recreation Department for the second season of Encanto Park Bird Walks.

The continued interest and increased response of the public reflects the very real value of this service to the community.

The fine contribution of Mrs. Lowell Bonnewell and Mrs. David Demaree, particularly, as well as that of other members of the Society who assisted, is to be highly commended. Their knowledge and enthusiasm and time so generously shared have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Walks.

It has been a pleasure to cooperate with your organization in this project, and it is our hope you will wish to continue the service next season.

Very truly yours,

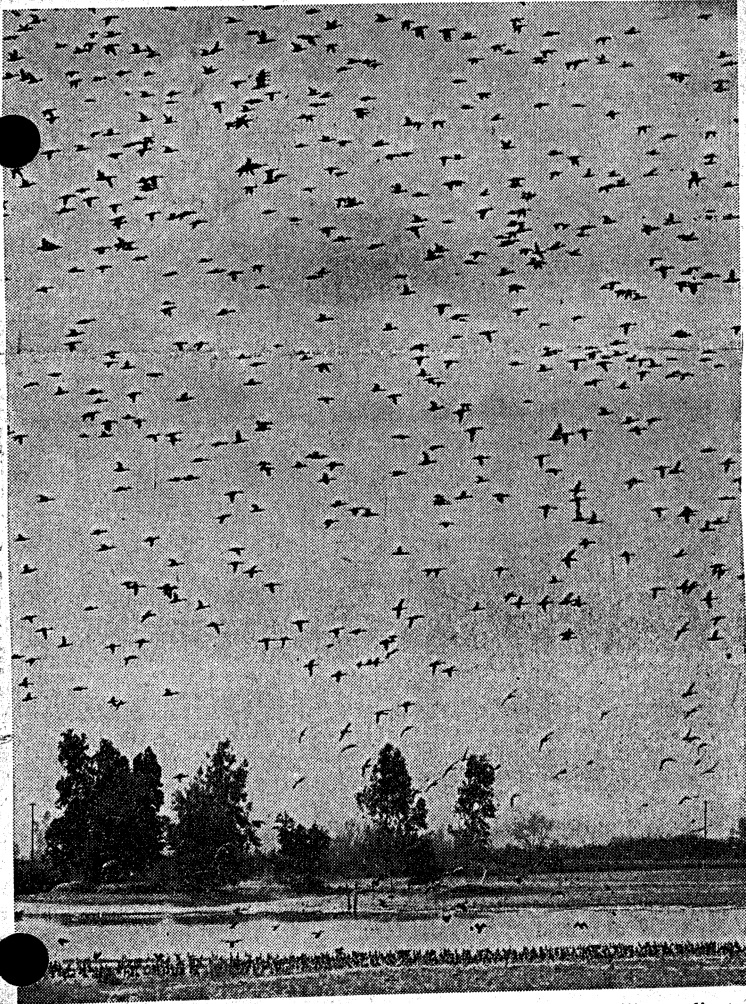
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

L. Cedric Austin
Superintendent

BP



From Phoenix Gazette 1966



BIRDS OF A FEATHER — Large flight of ducks such as this will complicate counting when Maricopa County Audubon Society joins similar organizations throughout United States and Canada for 60th annual Christmas bird count on Jan. 3. County groups will find and record individual numbers of birds in 15-mile diameter circle.—(Republic Photo, Willis Peterson)

Valley Birdwatchers Set Annual Field Day

Birdwatchers have their annual field day Jan. 3.

That's the day the Maricopa Audubon Society, along with similar societies throughout the United States and Canada, count the number and kinds of birds living in the area.

This will be the 60th annual Christmas Bird Count, which has the backing of the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PHOENIX groups will seek out and record species and individual numbers of birds found in a 15-mile-diameter circle. Counting starts at dawn and ends with darkness.

Phoenix watchers' last year

noted 82 species and about 685,000 birds. In other years, as many as 104 kinds have been sighted.

It's possible that some birds are counted two or more times, but that's one thing the birdwatchers can't help for the obvious reason they can't control the flights.

SOME OF the birds seen near Phoenix include red-winged and yellow-headed blackbird, red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, coot, horned owl, least sandpiper, roadrunner, Anna's hummingbird, hermit thrush, mountain bluebird, killdeer, green heron, and green-tailed towhee.

Persons interested in joining in the counting should contact the society president, Mrs. L. M. Bonnewell, 321 E. Northern, or Mrs. David M. Demaree, 5541 N. Ninth Ave.

When counting is over, all groups will meet for dinner at the home of Mrs. C. A. Miller, 5717 W. Clarendon, where totals will be checked and compared.

An old but interesting article

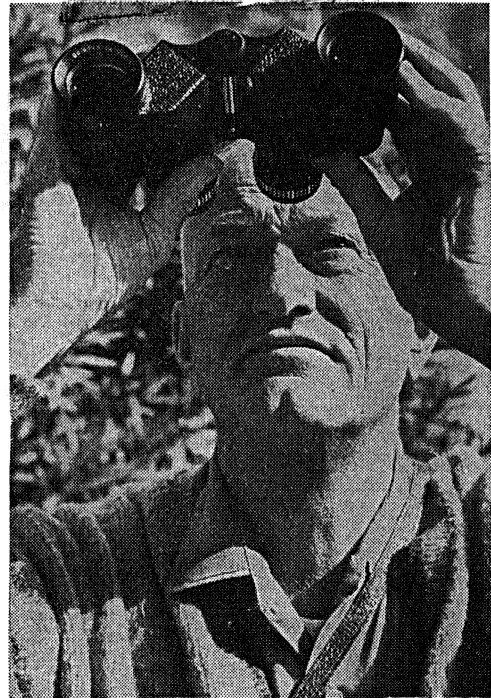
vis of a great-grandchild.

Jenn.
Hick-
chil-

Land For Birds

PATAGONIA (AP)—The Tucson Audubon Society plans to purchase an additional 320 acres near the present Sonoita Creek bird sanctuary, three miles south of here.

Besid
survived
John S
Ind.; a
Calif.;
Paul, a
ard M
her
Bryan



Gazette Staff Photo

IS IT A BIRD?

Looking for winged visitors to Encanto Park is a walking visitor, H. J. Vincent of Santa Rosa, Calif. Vincent today joined the first of a winter series of bird walks in city park.