BBC SWISS FORAY

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TOUR LEADER: BOB MC CAUSLAND

BUS DRIVER: PASQUALE FRANCOIS
A THUMBNAIL GEOGRAPHY OF SWITZERLAND
by
Hughes Barnes

Using round numbers, starting from Wheeling, W. Va., and going straight north for five hundred miles then turning right and going straight east, passing one hundred and fifty miles north of Montreal, Canada, and continuing for five thousand miles, the traveler arrives at Zurich, the largest city of Switzerland.

Switzerland is a tableland, three-fifths the size of West Virginia, roughly triangular with the Jura Mountains which resemble the folded mountains of W. Va., running from Lake Geneva at the southwest corner to the northeast forming the western barrier next to France. The southern flank is guarded by the Alps Mountains which Switzerland shares with France, Italy, Liechtenstein and Austria. The elevation above sea level in Switzerland goes from about six hundred feet at Lago Maggiore to over fifteen thousand feet at Mt. Rosa. The mountainous portion of the country constitutes about 70% of the nation and is relatively unoccupied. The Alps have been ground down by thousands of years of glacial erosion. They present some of the most spectacular mountain glacier landforms in the world. A case in point is the Rhone Valley a giant geologic fissure which splits the Alps, and has been ground out of a U shaped valley from the present Rhone Glacier at the east end westward to Lake Geneva. The snow and lakes of Switzerland furnish feeder water for the mighty rivers of Europe. The Rhone to the southwest, the Po to the south, the Danube to the southeast and the Rhine which leaves Lake Constance and flows westward along the northern border of the country to Basel where it turns north across Germany to Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The climate of Switzerland is amazingly mild considering the latitude and the altitude. This is especially true of the south facing slopes of the Alps (the Sun Decks). During the year, two seasons dominate in length, Winter and Summer. Fall and Spring are brief and can be found just below the snowline most anytime in winter and summer respectively.

The Swiss government is a Federal Republic of 22 Cantons. The political organization is similar to that of the United States with notable exceptions. The Federal government has limited powers and the local communities have the real authority on most matters. Two thousand years of Switzerland's history would require too much space to even include the highlights here, but let it suffice to say that for about six hundred years the country has been involved in some form of democracy.

The central location of the nation and the passes over the Alps and more recently the tunnels through the Alps has made the country a crossroads of Europe.

A shortage of natural resources is overcome by the Swiss people by importing raw materials and producing quality merchandise to be sold worldwide. The breathtaking beauty of the landscape draws visitors from other lands, therefore, tourism and services aid in the trade balance.

Each Swiss man is used to discipline as he is drafted into the army at the age of 20 and after the initial training, remains a citizen soldier as long as he is able-bodied until he reaches age 60, having refresher training each summer. Each community has local soldier units fully equipped that can be quickly mobilized for civil or military emergencies.
A THUMBNAIL GEOGRAPHY OF SWITZERLAND (Cont'd.)

Switzerland, though smaller in area than West Virginia has three times as many people (over six million). It would be difficult to describe a typical Swiss as each community has distinctive characteristics. A prominent one of these is the wide variation of language and dialects of each. (German 69%, French 20%, Italian 10% and Romansch 1%). All religions are tolerated although the German speaking people are predominately Protestant and the French and Italian speaking people are Catholic.

Regardless of the area, the visitor finds the people industrious, skillful, independent and proud of their heritage. They love flowers, music and neatness, and they are very gracious hosts.

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TUESDAY - SEPT. 26 - The great day we have waited for has finally arrived. At 8:00 a.m. it was 40°. As we finished packing the sun was out bright and about 1:00 p.m. the folks gathered at Conrads for our departure at 1:30 p.m. Jerry Devaul and George Strope took Carolyn, Dorothy, Helen and Chuck Conrad, Mary C. Becker, Lavania Moore, Dorothy Broemsen, Dolores Devaul and Glen Phillips to the Pittsburgh airport, arriving at 2:40 p.m. There we were met by Pete and Libby Chandler, Art & Kay Dunnell, Edna Gregg, Marian Means and Bill and Norma Murray. Mary Lou Brown came about 4:00. We boarded our TWA plane #700 for our 4:20 p.m. departure. As we were waiting for take-off Dr. Kyle and Eleanor Bush and Ephe and Virginia Oliver got on our plane. They had to change planes because of a bad battery so met our plane in Pittsburgh. Take-off time was 4:45 p.m. We had a beautiful flight, cruising at 550 miles per hour at 33,000 feet where it was 62° below zero. Arrived at JFK Airport in New York at 5:45 p.m. It took about an hour to get our luggage. We got a taxi to Swissair Terminal and saw a sign at the check-in counter "BROCK'S", so knew we were at the right place. Checked in our luggage and went for a snack. Kept meeting the rest of our group and finally all were accounted for. The Washington group's plane was 1/4 in line on the ground and waited one hour. Hughes Barnes and Clifford Blair had to wait one hour for their luggage and just made it in time for take-off. Went to Gate 26 and boarded our DC 10 Swissair #1103 for our 9:05 p.m. departure. We were 6th in line and finally took off at 9:40, flying 600 miles per hour. Capt. Cooper said it would take 6 hours & 15 minutes to Zurich. We were scattered throughout the plane as we did not get our block of seats promised. At 10:00 p.m. we passed over Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; then Newfoundland and headed over the Atlantic. We passed over Paris also. About 10:30 drinks were served. At 11:00 dinner was served - Hors d'ourves - pear with cream cheese and a walnut, ham roll with asparagus, shrimp, carrots and green peas - Tenderloin of Beef and mushrooms, braised potatoes, spinach, cheese and crackers. Peach with strawberry sauce, coffee. About 11:20 we had a little turbulence which lasted a couple hours. At 12:00 midnite they had a movie. You had to rent earphones to hear.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27 - Most of us couldn't sleep. About 2:00 am it started to get light and it was a beautiful sunrise above the white clouds. At 2:30 they served juice and brought a hot towel to wash and awaken us. At 3:00 they served a continental breakfast. At 4:05 our time (9:05 Swiss time) - set our watches ahead five hours - we started our descent and touched down at 9:25 a.m. in Zurich. Very smooth landing. By now it was overcast. It didn't take too long to get our luggage, show our passports to the immigration officers and there was Bob McCausland, our tour leader for the next two weeks, waiting to greet us. After introductions, instructions on money exchange (at $1.00 for 1.43 Swiss francs), we took our luggage to the bus (Mercedes Benz) and met our driver, Pasquale Francois, a gentleman from Martigny in the canton of Valais near where Bob lives. Francois managed to get all our luggage in the bus and we were ready to leave at 10:35.

We traveled westerly from Zurich along the Limmat River to Olten which is at the boundary of the Jura Mountain and on the banks of the Aare River. Bob talked as we rode along about the buildings, country, etc. We saw beautiful garden spots of flowers and vegetables laid out in plots with a small building on each plot. They belong to the apartment dwellers who have their own small garden plot. Bob pointed...
out a tunnel entrance which was covered with vines and flowers. We crossed the River Reuss. The window boxes were beautiful with geraniums, impatients, etc. We passed huge apartment houses, all of which have balconies on the sun side. The walls along the highway are soundproof. They build a wall, then earth and shrubs, then another wall and shrubs. The farmland along the way was laid out in plots and strips - beautiful. Started to see our first castles. Speed limit 75 to 80 MPH. Saw our first cattle. Saw people digging potatoes by hand, also with a potato picker. Norway spruce trees very straight and tall - trimmed part way up the trunk. The houses all have red steep A-type roofs. Saw our first horse and goat.

On the outskirts of Olten at the Hotel Agip, we stopped for lunch. The dining room was mostly enclosed with glass and there were beautiful flowers on each table, even one arrangement in the rest rooms. It was quite an introduction to Swiss food. Lunch turned out to be an enormous meal of Currey Soup, sausage wrapped in bacon, zucchini, whipped potatoes, and an ice cream roll. Coffee was 1.50 franc. This also began the "Ein glass wasser" routine which became all too familiar later on.

From Olten we continued on northwest to Basel, going thru five tunnels. We all were busy looking at the beautiful countryside, clean houses, well kept fields and occasionally falling into a light sleep. The jet lag is catching up. About 3:00 pm we arrived in Basel and the Hotel Europe. Basel is the second largest city in Switzerland and the main port on the Rhine. The hotel is new and comfortable - rooms with a double bed - single headboard but beds made separately and each with a lovely feather puff as an extra covering. At 4:30 we attended our first meeting with Bob. He went over the tour, explained what we can expect, gave each a bird book, "The Birds of Britain and Europe", a post card to send home, made us aware of the library that would be available to us throughout the tour, told us the significance of Herren, Damen, Mannen, Er, Sie and W.C. and had a discussion of the bad situation of the U.S. Dollar. Bob pointed out that we should always exchange money at the bank. Hotels, restaurants, etc., take a very high commission for cashing travelers checks. Assignments were given as to daily diary, keeping the different lists and stamps.

Dinner was 7:00 and consisted of potato/celery/cnion soup, breaded veal with mushroom sauce, buttered noodles, high salad of shredded carrots, shredded beets, celery, lettuce and bib lettuce - each in its own pile - not mixed - and a slice of ice cream. A basket of bread was on the table but no butter or preserves or jelly. Bob made a few announcements about breakfast and boarding the bus in the morning and the balance of the evening was free. There is no problem of going out walking after dark, so this was one of the favorite pastimes throughout the tour. By ten o'clock most of the group were sound asleep, dreaming of tomorrow.

Part of the group decided to go to France which was only a couple blocks down the street and a block over (as we were informed). 24 of us started to walk - we walked and walked following signs. Finally it started to rain and was cold and all but 8 turned back. We were ready to give up when Max Thacker asked a lady who got off the trolley where to go. Max and Carol Stickel got directions. We went to the station but didn't know how much the ticket cost - there were machines to buy tickets but we didn't know how to use them. The trolley stopped and finally the conductor got off the trolley, we held cut our money and he put it in the coin machine and got our tickets. One franc each for 8 of us. We rode 3 or 4 stations on the trolley and got off to get another one. The conductor said get Trolly 15 and we could use the same tickets. Trolly 15 stopped but the conductor said we couldn't get on. Said we wanted to go to France and he said not right trolley (or something like that). We asked a man and as far as we could understand he said Trolly 15.
WEDNESDAY - SEPT. 27 (Cont'd.)
So back to the station. No trolley and it was cold and windy. We asked a couple and they said only a 5 to 10 minute walk. But we waited for the trolley and took it to the end of the line. Had to walk a couple blocks to the border - showed our passports, and we were finally in France - street dark, buildings dark, nothing open. Max Thacker stopped a couple and asked how to get to France and the man said, "You're in France". He said, "Where?" He said "St. Louis". Decided to go back. Walked to turn-around station of Trolley 15. Tried to tell the conductor where we wanted off. Chuck kept asking all the passengers. Finally got to Schiffendale station and got off to get another trolley. Chuck kept asking the conductor and passengers if right trolley to get back to Hotel "Europe". Finally made it back to the hotel. We rode all nite on one ticket. The tickets are on an honor system and periodically someone checks and there is a fine if ticket is not good. Guess we were lucky. What a night! Carol Stickel stopped in our room to have a cup of tea to warm us up, but we found neither her coffee pot or my convertor and adaptor would work, so decided to call it a day.

THURSDAY - SEPT. 28 - The day was overcast but it began with great expectancy as we faced our first full day in Switzerland. As we entered the dining room at 8:00 a.m. there spread before us was an overwhelming display of breakfast choices, many fruit juices, bowls of fruit, stewed prunes, and a delicious concoction of scraped apples, coconut, raisens and other fruit; rolls, many different kinds of bread, cheese for the cutting, jams of all varieties, coffee or tea and packaged cereals of all kinds. This should hold us until lunch.

At 9:00 a.m. sharp we boarded our bus and were introduced to Jacqueline Block, our personable and vivacious guide. As we drove about the city, Jacqueline pointed out the interesting landmarks and gave pertinent facts about the city. 200,000 people crammed into 37 square kilometers, second largest city in Switzerland, a city of industrial fairs and many conventions. One of the places was called Bank Square because there were twelve banks in the one block area. The most interesting landmarks were the Rhine River and its ancient bridges connecting Major and Minor Basel, the Munster Cathedral, the Museum of Fine Arts, International Bank, Zoo with its collection of threatened species, the famous Basel Guild Houses and three of the original seven town gates. (Passed Conrad's hotel). The highlight of the morning came when we visited the harbor area where one can stand in three countries at one time. Chuck took real advantage of this opportunity - he stood in Switzerland, had his left arm around a girl in France and his right arm around another in Germany. Your guess as to where Helen was standing. all this was crowded into two hours.

But the morning wasn't over. After returning to the hotel, we still had about one hour before lunch. So, off we went to visit the old market place just on the other side of the river. Eager to taste the flavor of the city, many of us walked from the hotel to the market area and "oohed and ahhed" over the beautiful flowers and fruit displayed by the farmers, took pictures of the famous fountains we passed on the tour, tried our German and French and came back with the first souvenirs.

After a delicious lunch, we boarded the bus for a short ride to the Museum of Natural History. Dr. Studer of the Dept. of Ornithology was our host. We were divided into three groups, each with an English speaking guide and a specialist in one of the departments we were to visit - Geology, Mammals and Ornithology. The exhibits were outstanding and well presented. After the tour we met in the lecture
THURSDAY - SEPT. 28 (Cont'd.)

hall for comments by the museum staff and a talk by Mr. J. Rhoner of the Swiss Union for the Protection of Nature. Mr. Rhoner discussed the aims and programs of the Union and the problems of nature conservation in a small country like Switzerland. Bob presented them with a packet containing a BBC patch and bumper sticker, West Virginia map, bird check list, "Birds of West Virginia" booklet, "REDSTART", State Park booklet and a West Virginia Bag. After leaving the Museum many of us went back to the Munster Cathedral for a tour of the interior. (It was closed in the morning). It was just around the corner and a short walk back to the hotel. Many famous people were buried here: Erasmus of Amsterdam, the early translator of the Bible; Royalty of the Hapsburg family, and a mayor of Basel named Conrad. It was rainy as we walked back to the hotel for dinner. The group surprised Mary Lou Brown with a birthday gift.

Well, as we all know, BBC'ers are not known to retire early. During the morning tour the group learned of a very special Bierstube in the center of old Basel, operated by Dr. Fischer. He established his own Bierstube in order to produce the kind of beer he enjoyed. This was too much to pass up - so off we went. It was not difficult to find as two members of the group had slipped away in the afternoon for a cool beer at the stube. As we were examining the large copper fermentation vat and enjoying our beer (Hell oder Dunkel) cokes or wine, who should arrive but our guide of the morning, Jacqueline. After our enthusiastic greeting we joined voices in Viva La Companie, The West Virginia Hills and many other favorites. To cap it all off, we were led by Chuck, Pete Chandler, George Hurley in "Vass Ist Dass Hier?" The boisterous Amerikaners were finally drowned out by the player piano which offered a medley of Swiss tunes. After a heart-felt rendering of "We're Sorry You're Going Away" to Jacqueline, we departed Dr. Fischer's Bierstube and drifted back in small groups to the hotel. What a wonderful, full first day in Switzerland!

FRIDAY - SEPT. 29 - As we were eating an early breakfast Bob came in and said he heard by radio that Pope John Paul I had died unexpectedly. After breakfast our luggage was put on the bus and by 9:30 a.m. we were on our way for our first full day of birding in Switzerland. We drove east along the four-lane highway to the village of Mohlin where we visited one of several stork breeding stations in Switzerland. As we approached the village we observed storks perched on cranes, buildings, water towers and all sorts of construction in the area. We were greeted to the station by Herr Hess, Mrs. Esther Strasser (interpreter) and Herr Joseph Leaszh. At one time there were 150 pairs of breeding storks in the immediate area around Basel and Mohlin. Today there are only eight known pairs. At the station there are about 56 storks and others that come during the migration period. Storks banded as far away as East Germany stop at the station on their way north or south. From the station the storks are known to travel as far as Zurich in search of food. We saw his breeding flock that was kept in captivity. The young are released to the wild to try and preserve the species of Black Storks. Mr. Hess seemed to know two of his storks personally. We watched as he called the storks to a central feeding point where they were fed white mice. The mice are received frozen from one of the local pharmaceutical firms and government laboratories. They would clack their bills and lay their heads flat across their back. When asked how you tell the male from the female, he said the one that clacked the longest was the female.

There were also quite a number of birds in captivity, recuperating from injuries and soon to be released. There were the Tawny, Great Horned, Barn, Little Owl,
FRIDAY - SEPT. 29 (Cont'd.)

Pheasants, Buzzards and Hawks in the many cages making up the station.

From Möhlin we traveled east and stopped at the restaurant Gasthof Vier Linden overlooking the Reuss River Valley and the city of Brugg. The Reuss valley is the location of the newest Swiss Wildlife Protected areas. After lunch the sun came out for us to take a few pictures from our point high above the valley. True Swiss countryside. In the afternoon we journeyed through the old village of Brugg and then continued down the Reuss River valley to the lake of Klingnau. While waiting for our guides, we were a bit early, we walked around the village and observed lumber trucks arriving to unload onto flat-bed rail cars. Many commented about the length of the trees. At 3:00 Mr. Früh and members of the Waldshut Bird Club of Germany arrived and served as our guides for the afternoon. We saw lots of water birds, many new to all of us. The sight of Lapwings excited the group only to be outdone by Little Grebe, Gray Heron, Pochard and Curlew. By the end of the first day our bird list had come to forty. The end of the day brought a few rain drops, but not enough to dampen our spirits. After a short farwell, presentation of BBC patches, bumper stickers, West Virginia maps, etc., we said good-bye to our new-found bird friends.

A short drive from Klingnau to Schaffhausen and across the border to Singen, Germany, brought us to the Hotel Lamm. At the border we all had our passports ready for inspection, but they didn't even look.

One of the things we noticed in Switzerland is the prime condition of the cars on the road. Bob explained that there is a very strict inspection system which requires there be no rust on the bodys of the cars. Another observation is that all of the clocks on the public buildings and churches are running and have correct time.

After dinner the bird list was checked. Glen Phillips will be the official keeper of the bird list. Most of the group had succeeded in adding at least twenty-five new birds to their life list. Not bad for one day.

SATURDAY - SEPT. 30 - Breakfast is moved up to 7:00 a.m. but several of our group were out birding by 6:00 a.m. or so. At breakfast Ruth Strosnider, Harry and Katharine Sigel reported about their find of an elderberry bush filled with blackbirds, robins, and even a mistle thrush. Time didn't permit us to return, but plans were made for the following morning. By 7:45 a.m. we were on our bus heading east toward Radolfzell and then north to Schloss Meersburg the headquarters for the Max Plank Ornithological Research Center. The Schloss, castle, is located off the main road and it was necessary for us to walk along a small lake surrounded by forest and marsh. On route we saw Canada Geese, Coots, Rails, a Stork nest and a Moorhen.

We were met at the Institute by the Director Mr. Gerhardt Zink who spoke to us about the work of the Institute. The Institute was founded in 1902. Since 1946 they have banded three and a half million birds. The Swiss band the Storks above the elbow and the Germans band on the ankle. The French also band above the elbow. Most of the birds banded are small song birds going southwest across this peninsula in migration. The Institute is mainly concerned with the study of migration. On maps we were shown fly ways, direction changes in route and circle routes for long distant migrants.
SATURDAY - SEPT. 30 (Cont'd.)
We then took the bus to the banding station near Radolfzell. Mr. Rolf Schlenker, technical director for Bird Banding, told us about their operation. Banding has continued on this protected half island since 1962. For the past ten years the nets have been manned every hour by day and every half hour if raining during the season - the end of June to beginning of November. Soft Japanese mist nets extend 500 meters through shrubbery, out into the lake. Here they get mostly small song birds. The nets are maintained at the same height, same length, and the shrubbery is maintained at the same height. They do not check age by skull calcification but they do make extensive vegetation studies and actually count the numbers of fruits and berries eaten each day. They have 50 species of bushes under study and 5,000 berries. Birds they had caught that morning were brought out for us to see, Chiffchaff, beautiful Sparrow Hawk, Blue Tit and Redstart. Some of the group went out to the nets while others checked out the record station. The station is manned by volunteers of both sexes for four months.

When we got back to the hotel for lunch we noticed our large linen napkins in a large envelope. We put our name on the envelope and put our napkin in the envelope to use for the next meal.

After lunch we left for Stein on Rhein, crossing back into Switzerland. On the way we saw a house being built and a Christmas tree on top. This is a custom - when ready to roof the house they throw a party and place a tree on top. The village of Stein on Rhein has kept its medieval character and is one of the most picturesque villages in Switzerland. The photographers went wild taking pictures of the window boxes, painting on houses, interesting shutters and the many bay windows. The coffee and pastry shops were well visited and the Black Forest Cake delicious.

Next we set out for Schaffhausen and on the way saw a beautiful double rainbow and upon arrival at the Rhein Falls we saw another one. On the way we saw a wedding bus, decorated with a huge bouquet of flowers on the front and one on each fender. When anyone gets married they rent a bus to take the family and guests to the wedding and reception. The Rhein Falls are the most powerful in Europe - 500 feet wide with a drop of 70 feet and a flow of 37,500 cubic feet a second. Most of us walked down the steps to below the falls, very spectacular. Bob has the weather so arranged that it never rains when we are in the field or visiting points of interest. It's only permitted to rain while we are traveling from point to point. So it has been today. Upon arrival at the Falls the rain stopped, the sun came out so everyone could get some good pictures. Back in the bus - enroute it begins to rain - arrive at hotel - rain stops - we go walking in the village.

Some of us wanted to go to church - got the time and directions but found the church was being repaired and the Mass was an hour earlier in the Parish house. We came back toward the hotel and saw a lady with a prayer book. By using sign language, etc., (she could not speak English) we knew she was on her way to church so we followed along. It was five blocks away - a beautiful modern church and the Mass was said in German. Recognized the tune of two hymns so sang in English. Dorothy Hurley could read German so sang with them. Needless to say we were a little late for dinner. Checked the bird list and had announcements and some went for a walk before retiring.
SUNDAY - OCT. 1 - A small group was up early to visit the elderberry bush - cloudy and not as exciting as yesterday but on the way back to the hotel an unknown siskin-like bird turned out to be a Serin - a first for all of us.

For breakfast we had cold cuts, rolls, jelly, tea or coffee and a good glass of water. The hotels are learning that we like water.

We boarded our bus at 8:00 a.m. The weather is cool, but sunny. We took Route 33 out of Singen through Radolfzell and along the Zellersee to the Wollmatinger Ried Marsh near Konstanz, Germany. Herr Herald Jacoby, Dr. Von Wicht and Martin Schneider of the Konstanz Bird Club divided our group into three parts to explore the Marsh area. The area is covered with reeds which is used for mats and fencing. After a 2½ mile walk through the tall stand of Phragmites we arrived at a viewing platform much like those at home. One of the highlights of this stop was seeing five Cormorants perched on posts out in the water. They looked like sentinels guarding the entry to the Wollmatinger Ried. Many "lifers" included the Hazel Grouse, Purple Heron, Bearded and Marsh Tits. A pair of Whinchat had all puzzled for a while and Willow and Reed Warblers gave everyone a taste of warbler viewing in Europe which is even worse than at home. Part of the marsh is cut every year to enable rare plants to grow. On our way back we saw autumn Crocus, Closed Gentians, knotweed, Mints, and enough other plants to make the "weed pickers" wake up.

With presentations of a BBC patch, material on West Virginia and a donation for the upkeep of this area we said good-bye. We hope to welcome Dr. Von Wicht to West Virginia during his trip to the United States in 1979.

As a picnic lunch has been arranged for today, Bob made sure that we would have sun. Sure enough when we stopped on the Reichnau Peninsula, not only was there sun, but a wonderful harvest festival taking place in the Village of Mittelzell. We visited a Roman Catholic Church and saw a huge display of vegetables in front of an altar in back of the church. As we watched the villagers arrive with their families, the children were carrying long poles decorated with flowers and vegetables. Oh, what a time the photographers had. Graves in the church yard were covered with blooming flowers. This was seen all over Switzerland - very beautiful.

A short ride brought us to the Händel Lake near Hegglingen where a group spent the rest of the afternoon. Some returned to the hotel for a short rest, and a select group stayed at the hotel and enjoyed Irish Coffee.

Dinner was at 7:00 p.m. Everyone scurried around to find his own napkin. Why? Because the evening before we put them in an envelope, provided by the hotel, and put our name on the outside. Although not all rooms had showers, everyone looked all clean and shiny as they arrived for dinner. Apparently the showers on the 3rd and 4th floors were put to good use. Francois, our bus driver, arrived a bit late and received a loud applause. By this time he has become part of our group. It has been said that he was seen reading a bird book. No question about it - we will have him out in the field with us before this trip is over. Another birthday - Edna Gregg. She had Happy Birthday sung to her twice - once in English and once in French by the intelligent people at one table. After dinner Glen brought us up to date on the bird count. We now have 88 on the list. Tonight we are going to bed earlier as we have a big day tomorrow.
MONDAY - OCT. 2 - Big day is right. At 9:00 a.m. we left Singen and drove back to Konstanz to visit the Island of Mainau. On the way we saw people scrubbing the sidewalks, including a woman who also scrubbed the outside wall of her store where dogs had stopped for relief. On the island is the Boden Botanical Gardens. The Boden Castle is used as the Gardens headquarters and surrounding it are the gardens. The castle was the winter residence for the Baden princes and members of the Royal House of Sweden. The grounds were beautiful with all sorts of native and exotic plants, trees, shrubs and flowers from all areas of the world. The children's garden was outstanding where living flowers depicted animals, such as rabbit, an owl, peacock, whale, etc. The dahlia and rose gardens were also favorites. This is an enchanted place of flower beds and formal gardens that only pictures can convey as it is beyond description. Unfortunately the day was overcast, limiting somewhat the great beauty of the gardens. Several new birds were added to the list, including the Mandarin Duck and the Great Crested Grebe. By noon everyone met at the bus for another outdoor picnic lunch. In the brisk fall weather, several members were observed wearing gloves.

From Mainau we went to Konstanz, crossed back into Switzerland at 12:45 and took Route 1 through great farming areas to Frauenfeld, Winterthur and on to Zurich. Saw our first Brown Swiss cows. From Zurich we took Route 4 to Zug and on toward the mountains and Luzerne on the banks of the "Lake of the Four Cantons", which were the four original states comprising early Helvetia. Saw the name "Conrad" on a crane.

We went directly to the Glacier Gardens in the center of Luzerne. Saw the monument to the fallen Swiss Guards of Louis XVI in Paris on August 10, 1792. It is a dying lion carved into the sandstone rock as you enter the Glacier Gardens. The thirty-two giant pot holes carved by the Reuss Glacier were something new to most of us and we marveled at this example of what ice can do given enough time. One pot hole is 30 feet deep and 26 feet wide. In the museum we enjoyed a film on the formation of Helvetia, viewed a relief map showing central Helvetia, ancient massive stoves were of special interest. Highlight for many was the excellent photo exhibit and slide show of Swiss Alpine scenes by members of the Swiss Alpine Club. The House of Mirrors provided comic relief for all the seriousness depicted. With a half dozen or more images of oneself proceeding in all directions simultaneously it was both baffling and hilarious.

There was some difficulty in finding the Hotel Balances. After entering and backing out of several small streets, Francois displaying his artful control of his bus, we concluded that we couldn't get there from where we were. How right we were - you need a police escort to enter the one-way street. So, with the assistance of the hotel portier we finally arrived. Yes, Francois "had a problem" in his Italian-American manner. Checked into the hotel and the rooms were beautiful with a huge bed with a feather puff covered with sheer material - a double pillow and our first sheets on the bed. In the clothes closet there was a pin cushion with needle and thread, pins and buttons. Each room had a balcony overlooking the Reuss River and the Chapel Bridge. This is a most elegant hotel built in 1199. At sunset and again at dawn we watched the Swans swim in the river along with other Ducks. From our balcony we saw the golden street lamps reflecting in the water and a splendid church beyond. While we had two hours before dinner, there was only window shopping since the stores were closed for celebration of Luzerne's 800th birthday.
MONDAY - OCT. 2 (Cont'd.)
At 8:00 we were dressed and ready to depart for our evening on the "Night Boat - Wilhelm Tell" - dinner, dancing and entertainment. We arrived at the boat dock, acquired the tickets, passed out tickets and you know what -- several people were missing, so Bob sent Carol and Dorothy Bremser back to the hotel to see what had happened. Along the way they met the missing persons, Mary Lou Brown, Ruth Stro- snider and the Hurleys who thought we were to meet in the lobby, until they could not reach Bob or the Conrads on the phone. This time there was no singing of "Always Behind Like an Old Cow's Tail". After leaving dockside dinner was served. Cheese fondue and white wine, followed by a garden salad, roesti (specially prepared potato dish), veal, green beans, and carrots. This was topped off with Cassata and coffee or tea. Entertainment consisted of folk music, dances, and modeling of beautiful costumes from various cantons. A feature of the evening was the blowing of the Swiss Alpine Horn by the entertainers and later on by various volunteers in the audience. BBC'ers who were successful in producing sounds of various musical degrees included Harry Sigel, Libby and Pete Chandler, Janice Musser, George Hurley, Zettie Stewart and Chuck Conrad. With a bit of coaxing we are sure Chuck could have played "West Virginia Hills". At one point when the boat was opposite a sheer mountain peak, the horn was blown on the open deck to demonstrate the echoing effect. It was thrilling in the darkness. The evening closed with dancing on the lower deck with Francis, Virginia Oliver, Helen Conrad and Bob joining the group on the dance floor.

Most everyone was ready to return to the hotel by 11:00 p.m. when the cruise was over. All agreed it was another wonderful day on our Swiss Tour.

TUESDAY - OCT. 3 - Before breakfast several members of the group walked across several of the old bridges and along the lake taking photographs of the towers surrounding old Lucerne. They are all different and very interesting. Others did a bit of birding from their balconies. Remember, the balconies overlooked the Reuss River. We never had it so nice! After breakfast our luggage was out and waiting for the bus. Francois had to park it five miles away so had to take a taxi to where the bus was parked. After his arrival the luggage was put on the bus, we got on the bus and then had to wait. For the first time on the trip we did not depart on time - not our fault - we needed a police escort out of the special one-way street. They arrived and off we went - I guess you could say we were escorted out of town...

After a short drive we arrived at Sempach and the Swiss Ornithological Research Center. We were greeted by Herr Neir and his assistants. We were divided into two groups and shown around the small center. The center collects all Swiss Bird Banding data, conducts censuses, studies bird migration, organizes waterfowl counts and publishes all the data. Conservation and ecological studies, improvement and expansion of reserve areas are part of the Center's main education program. Public interest programs and projects are a continuing effort of the Center since it must depend upon public contributions for its money. Eleven scientific people are employed full time. One of their main sales items is a yearly calendar of which many of us bought several. Each month has a different bird on the calendar. It was suggested that perhaps BEC members would like to order these calendars for gifts in America. The center also had a fine collection of mounted birds which we all enjoyed studying. Mr. Levick conducted the tour outside. They had caged birds which had been injured and they would be released when able to fly.
Tuesday - Oct. 3 (Cont'd.)
We had lunch at a small country Inn overlooking the site of the battle of Jompach on July 9, 1386. This was a decisive battle between the Swiss Confederates and the Austrians. Arnold von Winkelried, by his heroic sacrifice, secured the victory for the Confederates. Before departing we visited the nearby church with paintings on the walls of the battle.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with traveling to Zernez. We traveled back to Lucerne and then along narrow roads to the freeway, making a rest stop along the Walensee. On the way we saw 6 Swiss army helicopters flying by. We also saw some half-way houses. The girls bring the milk down from the mountain to make cheese and the boys stay with the cattle. Went thru lots of tunnels. The barns have a big overhang and no rain spouts, big windows in the buildings have bird silhouettes to keep birds from flying into them, hay was put on a double cross to dry. Rain began to fall as we passed through Davos and as we climbed the Fluelapass, 2383 meters, the peaks were covered with snow. At the top there was considerable snow but our Francois brought us through safely to Zernez. Along the way over the pass we observed Swiss mountain farms and homes, pine trees that were supporting lichens much like Spanish moss, and walking trails going everywhere. Arrived at Zernez at 6:50. There was a little confusion in getting the rooms as we were housed in three hotels - Hotel Baer u. Post, Piz Terza Garni (garni means "breakfast served"), and Alpina, but we all ate lunch and dinner at Hotel Baer u. Post. The dining room was a lovely old room with a giant brown bear (now extinct) and a huge Capecaillie, etc., mounted on the wall. Both were common in this part of Switzerland just fifty years ago. After dinner Bob, Carol Stickel, Carolyn Conrad, Charlie Miller, Chuck and Helen went for a walk in the brisk air before turning in for the night.

Wednesday - Oct. 4 - We had the morning free to visit in the village, go walking in the nearby hills or venture off to other parts of the valley. In small groups we did all this. Katharine Sigel went to the beauty shop. The early morning group walked up to a beautiful country church and found inside a magnificent chandelier and organ behind the altar. From the church the scenery was gorgeous with snow-capped peaks everywhere. Returned in time for fresh strong coffee and crisp croissants, butter, jam and plenty of ice water.

In most of our hotels we all had baths or showers. This was not the case in this remote part of Switzerland. In one hotel the bath did not close unless the door was locked, so Helen got the key and left it under an ash tray on a table outside her door for the other BBC'ers to use. An inquiry at another of the hotels as to the procedure for taking a bath resulted in the following information. With the payment of Swiss Fr. 4 at the reception you received the knob to turn on the water, one must ask in the morning to arrange for the knob and cannot take a bath before 9 a.m. and not after 7 p.m. This lady ran a tight ship - No wonder everything is spic and span. Now the problem - We are up and out before 8:00 a.m. and do not return from dinner before 9:00 p.m. - Oh, well, we all will be in the same fix. There is a saying that goes something like this - "A real lady can take a bath in a pie pan of water and have enough left over to water the geraniums".

Some members went shopping while others under the direction of George Hurley decided upon a train trip up the Lower Engadine Valley to Schuls Tarasp-Vulpera. The train was to leave soon, twenty minutes, much rush to get ready and meet at the station. Bob got all a special group ticket (as there were 25) and off they went.
Bob stayed behind, so they were on their own. The trip took all morning and it was great fun. The train followed a narrow valley hugging the mountain sides as it climbed up to Schuls. It was foggy and raining when they arrived but some looked around the shops and did a bit of shopping. They all followed the signs to the Conrad Hotel in hopes of having Chuck treat them to a coffee — ho lucky! On the way back they met a young woman from Zurich who was most excited when she saw the bird books and binoculars. She had the same book in German and was returning from a three day walking trip in the Swiss National Park. She just had her first close-up view of the Golden Eagle. All were back in time for lunch. Bob met the group at the station.

At 1:30 p.m. we went to the Visitor Center of the Swiss National Park, the only National Park in Switzerland. It was started in 1914. Dr. R. Schloeth gave us a private tour of the Center explaining the area, policies, geology and ecology of the park. After a slide show, he joined us for a tour into the park. Emphasis was put on the fact that the park is a scientific park, tourists must stay on marked trails, there is no camping within the park and, of course, no picking of flowers or taking out of any other natural material. A short walk was made into the park during which we saw our first Nutcrackers, Red Deer and heard the bellowing of the Red Deer Bucks. This was to become a call we would hear often during our days in the park. The Nutcracker bird eats the fruit of the stone pine, then drops enough to reseed, so new trees sprout up below the old tree. The park is patrolled by five full-time rangers and during the season an additional five are added. It forms a nature reserve of over 40,000 acres which is protected from all human interference.

We returned to Zernez and to our hotels. After dinner some had arranged to have a bath. We had a check on the bird count.

Ethel Durham fell on the sidewalk today and sprained both ankles. Doc Bush looked at them and thought they were sprained but felt they should be X-rayed. It was quite cold and snowy today and at night the plants were covered. There are 1,000 people in the valley of Zernez.

THURSDAY — OCT. 5 — It was a cold, crisp 45°F and snowing. Some were out birding before breakfast and found a European dipper under a covered bridge. After breakfast we had a little time to shop and go to the bank. Then we went back to the National Park for a morning of birding. Ken Anderson lost his notebook in the restaurant back in Sempach and they forwarded it to him at the National Park. Was he ever happy to get this as it had all his notes in it. Bob tripped on the slanted sidewalk, sprained his wrist, and broke the band on Chuck's watch which he had borrowed because his didn't run. We were divided into three groups in order to cover as much territory in the park as possible. Everyone had a good look at the Nutcracker, various Tits, and some saw the Golden Eagle. The weather was cool and those with a down jacket appreciated the warmth. There were many hikers on the trails today. Some of the hikers were whole families, even small children walking along. As the weather was not too pleasant it was decided not to return to the park in the afternoon. Today most of us got our first look at Eidelweiss which was growing by the Park headquarters building.

After lunch we drove to St. Moritz. The drive through the Alps was so beautiful; through quaint villages with very narrow roads, alpine housing with the ever-blooming flower boxes, and the snow-capped mountains in the background. St. Moritz is on a small lake. The city is a good sized town with many hotels, lots and lots of
THURSDAY - OCT. 5 (Cont'd.)

expensive shops and attractive homes. Some of us window-shopped while most of the birders went out along the lake to see birds. It was very windy and they nearly froze it was so cold. They were glad to get back to the city for a "hot coffee". We all were glad to get on the bus and head back to Zernez for dinner.

After dinner we checked our route on our maps. Ephe Olliver gave a tree report (surely is good to have the experts along), and sang "Logger Lover". We sang Happy Birthday to Lavania Moore. Carol, Pete and Libby, Chuck and Helen visited Ethel Durham in her room. Doc Bush had put on an ace bandage. She was some better. The same five met Bob and Francois at the bar room, had a beer, and then headed back to the hotel.

FRIDAY - OCT. 6 - While the bus was being packed, we learned from the innkeeper that it gets down to 30 degrees below centigrade and Zernez could expect about four meters of snow during the winter. (-25 degrees F. and 13 ft. of snow). We left Zernez at 9:00 a.m. on time like always, and journeyed down the Engadine Valley toward St. Moritz and the Maloja Pass. As we traveled, Bob pointed out interesting areas and explained the Swiss Post Bus system. Most of the outlying villages depend upon this system for communication to the larger villages and towns. The bus schedules are meshed with the rail system. Like most things in Switzerland it works. Noticed the traffic lights are unusual - green is square - amber is a triangle - and red is a circle.

Today we never ceased to marvel at Francois' talent in handling his bus. As we passed thru the village of Zonz, he eased his bus through and around narrow streets and corners with inches to spare. The buildings were built next to the street with no sidewalks to speak of, many houses had large overhangs and, of course, it was a two-way street. We applauded his dexterity and his response - "NO PROBLEM!". In the next days we would witness his skill as a bus driver many times.

As we left St. Moritz we passed the three famous lakes of the Engadine Valley, Lake St. Moritz, Lake Silvaplanner (we walked around it), and Lake Silser. It was a short drive from St. Moritz to the summit of the Maloja Pass, 1,815 meters. From the pass to Vicosoprano, 19 kilometers, Francois negotiated his bus around thirteen hairpin turns, as we marveled at the mountains covered with fir and larch trees, which brought us to the Orlenna Valley. The larch trees are still green where in Zernez they had already turned yellow from the frost.

What a drive, the most spectacular to date. Between Promontogno and Chiavenna, they border with Italy, Alpine vegetation died away and groves of chestnut trees, grape vines and fruit trees appeared. As we crossed from Switzerland into Italy our passports were checked, but no stamp, just presented.

At Sorico, Italy, we made a pit stop and treated ourselves to a delightful Italian ice cream and visited the lovely old Catholic church. It was difficult to find a place to stop, but again Francois saved the day - - We stopped at Porlezza, Italy, along the shore of Lake Lugano for a picnic lunch. The sun came out (72° in the shade), the first time in several days, and we enjoyed eating our sack lunch and lounging in our shirt sleeves under the sun. For the next twenty kilometers Francois again demonstrated his driving ability as he negotiated his bus through a series of very, very tight spots, tunnels and villages. Our closest encounter was in a tunnel where we met a cement mixer depositing cement at a construction site.
FRIDAY - OCT. 6 (Cont'd.)
Francis brought the bus to a halt when we had just one inch between us and the cement truck. The cement truck backed out. "He is the best bus driver in all of Switzerland" say his passengers.

We crossed the border from Italy back into Switzerland, the Swiss border police just waved us through and we arrived in Lugano about 3:15 p.m. Had a short drive along the lake front and then went directly to Locarno and the Hotel Alloro dell Angelo in the center of town. As we approached the city we noticed a chimney sweep at work. They charge $60.00 for their work. Locarno is large and a very old town and Italian is mainly spoken. Tropical plants predominate. Many sidewalk cafes, attractive and inviting. Cobblestone streets in some places. The main business area has lovely wide streets and there is no speed limit so cars drive fast. In all of Switzerland the pedestrian has the right-of-way and cars stop at the designated places for the person on foot to cross. We had time for a walk along the main street, a coffee in one of the many outdoor cafes and we were back at the hotel for dinner. It was interesting that we had two bunches of Concord grapes for desert at dinner. Mr. Werner Suter, an Ecology student from the University of Zurich, who was to be our guide tomorrow joined us for dinner.

Some of the rooms had a bidet and it was a 'first' for many of us. Most of the bathrooms had no knobs on the faucets and you had to get one or borrow one.

After dinner most of us walked along the shopping area, window shopped, and had hot chocolate, coffee, or cappicino at the sidewalk cafes. All too soon it was time to call it a day - and a long one at that.

SATURDAY - OCT. 7 - The sun is cut bright - our warmest morning. Today thirteen years ago Bob got permission to stay in Switzerland. After the usual rolls, bread, butter, jelly, tea or coffee, other than for the first days we have had real continental breakfasts throughout, all but hay Dunell, the Durhams and Pd were off for a morning field trip to the Bolle di Magadino reserve. Warner Suter met us at the hotel and served as our guide. The Bolle di Magadino is a new protected area and he is recording its return (hopefully) to its original condition. The area is very different from the northern part of Switzerland. One finds lots of grassy fields, lowland woods, less concern for the way the land is preserved, and of course the lack of the traditional Swiss cleanliness. The highlight of the morning was hearing the Cetti's Warbler (new to Switzerland) and seeing our first kingfisher. Throughout the morning Mr. Suter pointed out to us the problems of re-establishing the area, new airport for private aircraft (where we saw many parachutists), fishing interest, damage by floods and general lack of interest among the people.

Back to the hotel for lunch - fresh calves tongue - Is this Chuck's favorite???? Not until we were half through the meal did most of our group realize what the meat really was. All but a few agreed it was very good. Good Italian ice cream for desert.

For the afternoon there were two choices. One, be on our own in the town or return to the Bolle di Magadino. Those who went into town enjoyed doing some window shopping as well as shopping. The weather was warm, not hot, and it was a pleasure to get out of some of the heavier clothes we have been wearing for the past several days. The field trip was a bit long as they had a misunderstanding about where the bus was to pick up the group. Nevertheless they did see several Wheatears,
SATURDAY - OCT. 7 (Cont'd.)

Skylarks, and Long Tail Tits. The botanists in the group enjoyed the time our guides had to spend with them. They were particularly excited in the morning at seeing the largest jewelweed they had ever seen. It was a strikingly beautiful plant, pink color. It is a native of the Himalaya and now spreading rapidly thru Europe. By the time they returned to the hotel it was too late to do any shopping.

Some of us were going to church at 5:00. A lady from the hotel was going so we went with her. It was only a five minute walk to the beautiful Saint Antonio Catholic Church. Mass was said in Italian by a priest from India. A children's choir sang beautifully. The church was old and beautiful - all dark and light marble on altars and pillars. Beautiful tile floor, seats high and kneelers old and bare.

While eating dinner we noticed the beautiful paintings on the ceiling - they were very faded and difficult to read but we noticed the name "Conrad".

After dinner we strolled through Locarno. As we came by a restaurant we saw it was full of people and a group of small children were singing. Here it was the same children who sang in church. They were Swiss and German children from Davos. Later a group of German men sang and then came outside to sing and we were thrilled with their beautiful harmony. We hated to leave but the hour was late.

SUNDAY - OCT. 8 - What a magnificent day! We left Locarno right on time and drove east through the Italian-Swiss countryside seeing grapes being harvested in the vineyards. They were carried in large baskets. Stopped at Bellinzona to view the three castles protecting the entry to the St. Gotthard pass. The fortifications of Bellinzona, built between the 13th and 15th centuries, rest on three castles connected by walls. These castles bear the names of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald, all cantons, states, to the north who at one time or the other controlled the area. Merchants and travelers used to have to pay a good toll on their way to or from the St. Gotthard pass.

We passed through Giornico, a small village with flags across the streets, celebrating its 500th anniversary 1478 - 1978. We continued up the Valle Leventina along the Ticino River to Airolo at which point we entered the Valle Bregaglia and arrived at the summit of the Nufenenpass, 2,478 meters, in time for a grand picnic lunch. Today we are blessed with excellent weather, not a cloud in the sky and the temperature is 76 degrees F. as we enjoy our picnic lunch among the snow-capped peaks of Switzerland. Before our departure down the north side of the mountain, we all wander around taking pictures, looking at the flowers, and marveling at the grandeur of the Alps.

We traveled through the Rhone Valley from which we could view some of the highest mountains of the Alps. We turned north to Oberwald, the home of the Swiss Champion of Cross Country Skiing and then in the direction of the Furkapass. The first 12 kilometers were along the Rhone Valley to Gletsch, the intersection of the roads going over the Furkapass and the Grimselpass. As we look up to our left we saw the mountain road going over the Grimselpass and we all agreed we were glad not to be going over that pass. In front of us was the face of the Rhone Glacier, what a view! Then we started up to the Glacier - and only then did we realize how many "hairpin turns were on the road". Well, we arrived and all looked back down the mountain and many felt we would have been better off to have gone up on the Grimsel-pass - but, the view - - there we were just a few feet away from the Rhone Glacier -
DAY - OCT. 8 (Cont'd.)

not a cloud in the sky - film point through the camera at the rate of five pictures a minute. From the visitors' center you could look westward at the water from the melting ice flowing down the mountain and winding like a silver ribbon through the valley below. This is the beginning of the Rhone River. On the other side of the mountain begins the Renn River. The moon was visible in the dark blue eastern sky and it was mid-afternoon, with a bright sun. Such a deep blue sky with no pollution was indeed something for us to witness.

The glacier has been moving at the rate of 100 feet a year and is now high up on the mountain. We can see where its movement had been up until 1870. Some of us paid the Swiss Fr. 2 and walked out into the Grotto under the ice. It was a beautiful blue and of course there was a bit of dripping water. It was time to go, but I think many of the group wanted to linger a bit longer - not sure if it was the beauty or concern for the drive down the mountain. At any rate about this time an Air Rescue Helicopter landed at the parking lot and discharged two passengers. So, we knew there was another way down.

With everyone on the bus we started down at around 4:00 p.m. for our trip to Brig. The persons in the front and back of the bus were in for a real thrill. The first five 'U' turns went well, then on the sixth turn Bob and Chuck found themselves hanging out over the cliff as Francois stopped to back up -- as he backed up the bus stalled -- Once started he continued to back and the next thing we knew Hughes Barnes and Cliff Blair and several other passengers had the same experience. Then Francois took the bus forward and we continued down the mountain. "No Problem!"

Well, I think there were several of our group who were ready to get out and walk. Upon arrival in Gletsch, Francois received a great hand of applause.

The Rhone Valley from Gletsch to Brig is fifty kilometers and with very few sharp turns -- for this I think we all were glad. In the high areas cattle were coming down from their summer pastures. As soon as we got low enough every possible place was terraced and covered with green fields, neat small chalets and busy people working the land. Quite a different view from what we saw on the other side of the mountain. We arrived at Brig and the Hotel Elite about 5:15 p.m. Brig is an industrial city, a railroad center, and a main point for travelers going east, west, north and south.

After dinner Bob suggested we walk to the Stockalpar Castle, built 1658 - 1678 by their most famous burglar and now restored and used to house business offices, law courts, etc. They also hold dances, art shows and other events in the open courtyard. It was supposed to be lighted but wasn't, so most of us walked downtown and stopped at the train station, some getting money, and then back to the hotel.

DAY - OCT. 9 - Another beautiful day, sun is out, temperature is up and we are on our way for a day of hiking in the Riederalp. A short bus ride brought us to Morel where we took the cable car up to the Riederalp. From Morel, 759 meters elevation (2,500 ft.) we went up to the cable car terminal at an altitude of 1,950 meters (6,000 ft.) in eight minutes. This was a new experience for many of our group and there was much arm clutching as we took the dips as the car negotiated the cable towers. The capacity of the car is 20 persons (if they are well-acquainted) and could transport 600 persons in one hour.

As we left the cable car terminal, we began to take note of the breath-taking beauty of the snow covered peaks of the Valais Alps on the south side of the Rhone Valley.
skirted with neat green fields dotted with brown chalets. Then we saw a mountain formation recognized around the world - the Matterhorn, framed by the high mountain ranges to the southwest. In 24 hours we had been at Lago Maggiore the lowest point at about 600 feet and now we were looking at the highest elevation, the Mt. Rosa range towering at above 15,000 feet.

As we departed the station and started our walk, we were to hear some of Bob's most famous sayings - "Just a short walk - we will only be on the contour - it's an easy walk - it's really not too far - the view you must see" - and - "it's just around the corner". Many were wondering in what part of West Virginia he grew up in - You know the old West Virginia Hillbilly saying - "Down the road and around the bend".

Our first easy walk along the contour started at 1,950 and we went to 2,000 meters to reach the Alpine Research Station of the Swiss Union for the Protection of Nature. Enroute frequent stops were made to catch one's breath and to admire the scenery - to look at the beautiful heather, silver thistle, mini hen and chickens, pink yarrow - or watch the nutcracker make the trip with such ease. Also stopped in a small church - altar very ornate and lovely.

Dr. Halder and his staff met us at the center and gave us the history. The lovely villa was built in 1912 by a wealthy Englishman of German birth, Ernest Cassel. Among his visitors were the Prince of Wales and Winston Churchill. Churchill wrote one of his books while vacationing there. He didn't like to hear the tinkling of the cow bells so paid to have them taken off. Mr. Cassel died in 1921, leaving an estate of 400,000 million francs. In 1972 the villa was sold to the Swiss Union for the Protection of Nature. Some of the original furniture is still there. We were divided into three groups and had a tour of the center. There were felt slippers to put on to protect the floors, if you were wearing hiking boots. The displays illustrated the geology and history of the area in general and the huge Aletsch Glacier in particular. After the lecture tour and a film slide show of the plants and animals of the Riederalp surroundings, Dr. Halder suggested that the weather conditions were ideal for a climb (Bob referred to it as a walk along the contour) up to the Riedehorn. This was the first mountain climbing for most of us and quite an accomplishment for so-called lowlanders. Most of the group decided to make the climb so we zig-zagged up a narrow slippery path to the top at about 2,000 feet. A golden eagle circled overhead as we climbed and it was noted that several were very careful not to lean backwards as we watched it gain altitude and drift away. We reached the top for a view we shall never forget. In brilliant sunshine, many of the famous peaks of Switzerland lay before us. What a lovely spot to eat our sack lunch. Our morning started at about 2,000 feet and we were now standing at approximately 8,000 feet - and we walked the "contour" for about 2,500 feet. The walk down to the center was easy and it was good to stop for a short rest with refreshments. For the afternoon we divided into three groups. One would remain at the center then make their way back to the cable car station, the second would go with Dr. Halder down toward the glacier and the third group would go with another guide, Tegn Schaerer, in the direction of the glacier. It turned out that group two and three ended up going together. What a rewarding walk it was. We stopped at a point where we could get a good view of the glacier. This was called Bishop's Rest. One of the archbishops of England found this place to be one of his favorites, with its soft mosses, solitude and over-whelming scenery. As we walked on we saw two Chamois feeding along a ridge, then a few meters further we all froze in our tracks - there before us, less than ten feet away, a female Black Grouse with several of her young were feeding. We watched for fifteen or twenty minutes as they promanaded back and forth before our eyes, binoculars were not necessary. Then the whole family, one after the other jumped onto a log, walked the full length, then
HUNTER - OCT. 9 (Cont'd.)
jumped off and went down the mountain. The word was out that we now were going to
be late and we must hurry back. However, luck was still with us. Twenty yards
further we came over a small ridge and there, less than fifteen yards away, stood
a Chancis and two kids. The cameras clicked away and after several minutes she
walked off as if nothing had ever disturbed her, the kids following. Dr. Halder
said he had never seen anything like it in all the years he has been leading walks
along this trail.

Now we really must hurry or we will miss our scheduled cable car down the mountain.
Bob sent Charlie Miller back to the center to collect all the coats and personal
items left there. Cliff Blair who had waited at the center had to help carry them.
They were to take everything directly to the cable car station. Group one was there
when he arrived - Where are the others we are ready to go - they are coming - It was
now approaching six o'clock and still no sign of groups two and three. At last
there they come - but, the cable car attendant was ready to depart - WAIT - Wait,
here they come. We made our way. Of course, the talk was about the Black Grouse
and the Chamoises at eyeball range.

According to Hughes Barnes, he got hold of one of the ceiling handhold straps in
the cable car as we descended to Norel and found he was really hanging on for sev-
eral. We stopped at an eighty foot concrete middle station to load and discharge
local passengers. This stop gave us an added thrill and more time to view the sun
setting on the beautiful southern mountain range. A few more dips and dives and we
were back at the terminal in Norel. Francois was waiting with the bus, so we were
back in Brig eating our evening meal on schedule at 7:00. Needless to say, no lull-
abys were necessary. We get to sleep late in the morning - Hurrah!!!

TUESDAY - OCT. 10 - Breakfast today at 8:00 a.m. Immediately
after which our bus was packed and the rest of the morning was
free to shop and tour the lovely village of Brig. Many of the
group visited the Stockalperschloss (Stockalper's Castle) built
in 1501, which was once the largest private residence in Switz-
erland. It can be recognized from afar by its three towers with
shining bulbous domes, standing where the road to the Simpion
begins. Several of us visited the inside and were pleased with
the varied art work, antique furnishings and materials. We
gathered back at the hotel for lunch which consisted of a large hamburger with a
poached egg on top - no bun - french fries, carrots and peas. We had an update on
the bird, flower, and tree list.

With clear blue skies above we departed Brig at 1:30 p.m. and headed west down the
Rhône Valley. Route Bob pointed out various churches that were built by the
English during their time as the major group of tourists came to Switzerland. Also,
we passed several military air fields with the unusual feature of having the hangers
built into the mountain. Everyone did a little wishful thinking as we saw signs for
the famous hot baths of Leukerbad. We passed through Sierre, known especially for
its fairs, and flowers. The parking lot, the entrance and view as we left the town
"au rucois" in flowering splendor. A little after 2:00 p.m. we entered Sion, capi-
tal of the state of Vaudais. The city is over 2,000 years old. On a rock outcropp-
ing some 400 feet above the valley we saw the fortress-church Valere, former resi-
dence of the Chapter of Sion.

As we left Sion we passed a huge sports complex and Bob pointed out the valley of
the Grand Dixence with the highest faced dam in the world. As we seemed to have
time Bob and Francois agreed to take a scenic route through the vineyards to
TUESDAY - OCT. 10 (Cont'd.)
Martinry. We soon were engulfed in vineyards, the grapes large and lush. The soil was deliberately cultivated with large stones to help extend the warmth of the day to the roots at night. As we continued through the low part of the valley, we passed orchards of apples, pears, and apricots which produce the bulk for all of Switzerland. At 2:00 p.m. we stopped in Martinry, Francis' hometown, for refueling and refreshments. Martinry is a lovely tour village at the end of the Rhone Valley, at which point the river takes a 90 degree turn. Its proximity to the French and Italian borders makes it an important international road junction.

Back on the bus, leaving Martinry, we notice the trees are turning color. A short drive brings us to St. Maurice. Dominated on the west by the Dents du Midi and on the east by the Dent du Morcles, is located one of the oldest churches this side of the Alps. Inside the cathedral de St. Maurice are housed some of the richest ecclesiastical treasures in the Christian world.

We enter the state of Vaud and more and more vineyards. From here we begin to ascend to Bob's beautiful and much loved village of Leysin. At an elevation of 4,500 feet, it is a terraced mountain site overlooking the magnificent Rhone Valley and Dents du Midi. Got to the Hotel Central Residence just at sunset and the view from our balcony was sensational - sunset on snow capped mountains and half moon over it all. Below the trees are in full fall color just like home. Wow! Wonder what the poor people are doing tonight! Our rooms were very beautiful and modern - the first time we didn't have feather puffs on the beds. As for us we are in for a special treat. On up the mountain by 'bus, then foot, and we arrive at the Chalet Restaurant Prafandaz, built in 1858, where we were greeted by the owners. Margrit, Bob's wife, took the Durhams, Janice Musser, Hughes Barnes and Chuck up to the Chalet in her car, making two trips. Seated closely in the room, the wood walls and floors and tables with candles exuded a feeling of warmth and togetherness.

Michael Lockwood, Bob's tour agent, joined us for dinner. We were served a white wine. A toast was made by Chuck and a memorable night began. Cheese Fondue, Singing (Zephe started with "The Man Who Stirred Coffee With His Thumb"), wine, good company - need we say more? We walked down the mountain by moonlight and back to the hotel. Many of us left our window open and enjoyed the fresh mountain air.

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 11 - The sun came peaking into our rooms early in the morning. We were up and out to enjoy the sun coming up across the snow covered peaks. Before we knew it all the balconies were full of BBC'ers looking at the sunrise.

Today is a touring day. We left Leysin, went over the Col des Rosses, passed the village of Chateau d'Oex and many small villages before arriving at Gruyere. This little fortified town is perched on a hill in a landscape full of grace and harmony, overlooking a valley of rich farmlands. Below the old town we visited Gruyere cheese factory where we watched the transfer of the contents of the cultured milk vat to the molds for filtering the solids and compression into round cheeses. We left the factory with small samples of cheese. We then visited the town proper. The town has kept its appearance of earlier age. At the far end of the village stands the old castle. Many of us had time to visit the interior, others were too busy taking pictures and enjoying the famous Gruyere coffee and cream. The shops were beautiful with their typical window flower boxes, cobblestone street, and a red-leafed vine on one of the buildings.
Lunch today was a different sort of arrangement. In an effort to expose us to all aspects of Swiss life, Bob took us to a new shopping center in Bulle for lunch at Mirroz. We were given Swiss Fr. 6 - and introduced to a very modern concept of cafeteria service. We entered a large square, on one side you had your choice of many different hot dishes, on another desserts, on the third all beverages, hot and cold, and in the center a huge salad and cheese table. Now the interesting part, you paid for the salad and cheese by weight. Of course, on all other items the prices were clearly marked. Some surprises came as we approached the check-out counter - By this time no one knew what their lunch would cost. Each item was added and the red figures kept flashing on the cash register. The first one paid Swiss Fr. 5.5, then 4, 3.50, 8, 6, etc. The highest was recorded by Bill and Norma Murray, Swiss Fr. 22 - for the two. Steak dinner ... Dottie Hurley spent less than anyone. Most everyone had a good and interesting lunch under or just above the Swiss Fr. 6 limit. It was lots of fun and the food was good, and according to Bob not expensive to Swiss standards. In fact the Swiss Fr. 6 was about $4.00. Most of the group sat outside and enjoyed the sun and scenery around the center. After wandering through the various sections of the shopping center we all met back at the bus.

We traveled along the Lake of Gruyere, observed an interesting method of bridge construction whereby one section is telescoped from the completed part to the next pillar, saw large Bernese Oberland farm houses and arrived in Bern in time to see the Clock tower strike three. "Little men" march around and a golden man at the top strikes the bell. Bern is the capital of Switzerland. Saw the main street (street of fountains), shopped, visited the old cathedral which was built in 1421 and was being repaired. Most beautiful stained glass windows, paintings on the ceiling, and reversible seats. Bern is noted for its bear pits, which some of our group visited. It is now time to get on the bus and go back to the hotel. Passed a herd of cattle walking along the road. Had to stop at one place for a herd of holsteine cattle to walk up the street - one cow had a huge bell. In Switzerland the cattle have the right-of-way and the cow which gives the most milk has the largest bell. We returned to Laysin just in time to see the alpenglow over the Dents du Midi mountain on the other side of the Rhone Valley.

A hot bath and showers, a short rest, and we are ready for our farewell dinner of beef fondue at the Restaurant Buffet de la Gare in Laysin. The beef was excellent, the service superb and the setting fitting for such an occasion. Chuck talked about our Swiss Foray and said it couldn't have happened without Bob and presented him with a handmade wooden perpetual calendar which was obtained in Zernez. Chuck then told Francois he was the best driver in all Switzerland and gave him a bottle of wine, a card signed by everyone and money. He said he would never forget us - the folks from Virginia West.

It was a great evening and all too short. Some of the folks walked back to the hotel, others rode. A few gathered in the Conrads' room for a little more time to talk with Bob and Maryrit before taking another look at the moonlighted mountains and our last night in Switzerland.

THURSDAY - OCT. 12 - The morning of October 12 dawned bright and clear, with the sun striking the Dents du Midi and slowly creeping into the Rhone Valley. Alpine Choughs and red and black squirrels were taking in the morning sun in the tops of the Norway spruce near the hotel.
THURSDAY - OCT. 12 (Cont'd.)
The morning was spent shopping and walking around Leysin. It is a lovely village. Some of the group took a walk into the forest and others went up the mountain a ways. We all returned to the hotel around 11:00, finished packing our suitcases, and then the bus was loaded for the last time. We were invited to Bob and Margaret's for a picnic lunch. Chalet Seneca is built on a hillside and faces south directly toward the highest snow-covered mountains in the area. We were greeted by "Lady", the family dog, and the Swiss and West Virginia flags flying from the flag pole in the garden. Like many West Virginia homes, it is divided into two levels with liv ing and guest rooms on one floor, and dining, kitchen and bedrooms on the ground floor. All was beautifully furnished with both modern items and treasured antiques and mementoes of their travels and work. The place for the carved perpetual cal en dar, presented to the McCauslands the night before, was just waiting for it to be hung. The Chalet was named after the Seneca Indians of North America in memory of Bob's days with West Virginia 4-H Club work. Chalet Seneca lived up to the Swiss tradition of having flowers everywhere - inside and out. It is also a Swiss tra dition to bring flowers when visiting anyone and we presented Margaret with a pot of beautiful flowers.

Lunch was served on the balcony overlooking the Rhone Valley. We had a wonderful lunch of grilled sausages, potato salad, hard boiled eggs, hot dogs, cake, ice tea, and coffee and hot tea. "Lady" the dog, enjoyed the hot dogs and sausages as much as we did.

All too soon it was time to get on the bus for the last time and head for the air port in Geneva. We all bid Margaret good-bye and descended the mountain to aigle and proceeded west, northwest along the Rhone Valley. Francois had a tape recorder in the bus and frequently played music for our entertainment. We passed miles and miles of vineyards, along the sides of the road, behind walls, in the fields and up steep hillsides. We went by the Castle of Chillon on Lake Geneva and Charlie Chaplin's estate overlooking the lake. What started out to be a sunny day has now become foggy and we could barely see Lake Geneva. We see factories, apartment build ings and new buildings under construction and some have their flower boxes installed before the building is completed. Road banks are planted and seeded before the road is finished.

Geneva is a large international government city. We pass by the League of Nations, United Nations, International Patent buildings, and International Headquarters of the Red Cross, World Trade and other government buildings. The city is beautifully landscaped. There are many, many banks. Went by Rosseau's monument and a flower clock tower. We arrived at the Geneva Airport at 3:20 p.m. after driving 2,400 kilometers.

Bob checked immediately and found the 747 was replaced by a DC 10. Our block of seats had been confirmed this morning but with the change of planes our seats were scattered throughout the plane. The Kushees and Conrads were the last to board the plane and had been "frisked"; the plane being held for them. At 4:55 our plane took off and soon we were up 33,000 feet, would be flying over Paris, Shannon, New Foundland, Nova Scotia, etc. We had snacks and a good dinner and could watch a movie. The plane wasn't crowded so we could visit the other 320'ers. We were traveling west so it stayed light most all night. We all were too excited to sleep and soon it was time for our hot wash cloth, and at 7:50 we hit the runway of Kennedy Airport in New York (12:50 Swiss time). Took a while to get our luggage but we breezed thru customs. Said our farewells to those who had to stay overnite in New York. The Conrads then visited with Carol's family who came to pick her up.
THURSDAY - OCT. 12 (Cont'd.)

The Pittsburgh group had to wait until 11:25 for take-off, but soon we were in Pittsburgh at 12:26 a.m. - it was raining. The Wheeling group was picked up by Jerry and Skip Dewall for our final lap home, and the end of a most wonderful trip that will long be remembered and talked about by all.

* * * * * * * * * *

Our thanks to all who helped make this Diary possible. Without your good notes and personal write-up, this Diary could not have been written.

* * * * * * * * * *

Our thanks to the wonderful leaders who made our trip so outstanding, informative, and enjoyable.

Mr. Robert L. McCausland  
Chalet Seneca  
1854 Leysin, Switzerland

Jacqueline Block - Guide in Basel

Museum of Natural History  
Naturhistorisches Museum  
Augustinerstrasse 2  
CH-4052 BASEL  
Dr. Prof. Studer  
Mr. Saunders  
Mr. Keppell

Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz  
Swiss Union for the Protection of Nature  
Wartenbergstrasse 22  
CH-4052 BASEL  
Mr. Jurg Rohner - presentation in museum  
Dr. Ulrich Halder - center at Riederalp  
Mr. Tegn Schaerer

Mr. Karl Hess  
CH-4313 MÖHLEN, Switzerland (stork station)  
Mrs. Esther Strasser (interpreter)  
Mr. Joseph Leaszh

Mr. Gerfried Fruh  
Saderlacher Weg 3  
D-7890 WAIDSCHUT  
Mr. Senf  
Mr. Glaser

Mr. Rolf Schlenker  
Max Planck Research Center  
Schloss Höggeningen  
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Mr. Gerhardt Zink, Dir.

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Mr. Martin Schneider  
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Swiss Ornithological Station  
CH-6204 SÜDPACH  
Mr. Martin Vair  
Mr. Raymond Leveque  
Mr. Luc Schifferli

Dr. R. Schoeth, Director  
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Chasa del Parc Zernez  
CH-7530 AOBRÉZ  
Mr. Werner Suter  
Else Jublinstrasse 3  
CH-8047 ZURICH

NOTE: Address with a D in front of the numbers goes to West Germany,  
CH to Switzerland.
SOME BIRDS OF THE SWISS FORAY

In attempting to list the bird species identified during the Swiss Foray, there were a few decisions to be considered. In two places birds were being restrained until they recovered from injuries. These are listed separately under restrained birds. Three or four species were shown us from the nets at Radolfzell. These are listed among the 118 unfettered bird species. Comparison by scientific name was made using Robbins' "Birds of North America". Thirty-four of the unfettered species were found in Robbins, although some were noted as visiting or introduced species. Three species of the restrained birds are also found in North America.

At least one other aspect should be noted. We had excellent leaders and they directed our attention to several species that we would not otherwise have found. However, they could not be with us constantly, so some birds were found that were not identified. One Sunday, for instance, near Mindel Lake, there was a bird that acted like a flycatcher as it went from fence to post, etc., by the orchard. We did not identify it or the grouse-like pair that flew by us minutes later. Finally, there were just too many species to be learned well in a too-short time. We saved some for the next Swiss Foray.

References:
"The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East" Heinzel, Fitter and Parslow.
"Birds of North America" Robbins, Bruun and Zim
* Species listed in Robbins' guide as occurring in North America.

Glenn Phillips

BIRDS IN THE FIELD

1. Great Crested Grebe, Podiceps cristatus - first seen at Lake of Klingnau.
2. Little Grebe, Tachybaptus ruficollis - seen many places.
* 3. Cormorant, Phalacrocorax carbo - this is known in North America as the Great Cormorant. Seen from the platform at Wollmatinger Marsh.
4. Grey Heron, Ardea cinerea - first seen at Lake of Klingnau.
5. Purple Heron, Ardea purpurea - only sighting recorded when it circled back over us at Wollmatinger Marsh.
6. White Stork, Ciconia ciconia - seen only outside Basel at the breeding area.
* 7. Mute Swan, Cygnus olor - present on most all bodies of water but noted usually near human habitation.
BIRDS IN THE FIELD - Cont'd.

* 8. Canada Goose, Branta canadensis - transplanted from America, this species was seen at Max Plank Institute, Schloss Moggingen.

9. Mandarin Duck, Aix galericulata - seen by many people as we walked back to the bus from Minau Gardens.


12. Teal, Anas crecca - first seen at Lake of Klingnau. Robbins lists this species as a rare visitor from the old world.

13. Shoveler, Anas clypeata - seen from the platform at Wollmatinger Reid Marsh that overlooked Lake Konstanz.

14. Red-crested Pochard, Netta rufina - also seen at Wollmatinger Marsh.

* 15. Tufted Duck, Aythya fuligula - first seen at Stein on Rhein, this European duck is listed in Robbins as an occasional visitor to North America.

* 16. Ring-necked Duck, Authya collaris - noted among a flock near causeway as we came from Minau Gardens.

17. Pochard, Aythya ferina - first seen at Lake of Klingnau.

* 18. Gooseeander, Mergus merganser - Our Common Merganser, seen on Lake Konstanz from the platform at Wollmatinger Marsh.

19. Red Kite, Milvus milvus - first noted from near the bus at the stork breeding area.

20. Black Kite, Milvus migrans - seen the day we went to Riederalp.

21. Sparrow Hawk, Accipiter nisus - seen at the banding station.

* 22. Goshawk, Accipiter gentilis - seen at Bolle di Magadino, this species is also known as Goshawk in North America.

23. Buzzard, Buteo buteo - seen often, a rather common hawk.

* 24. Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos - observed in the National Park and in the Engadine Valley.

25. Kestrel, Falco tinnunculus - seen often. Its habits are seemingly very similar to those of our Kestrel.

26. Black Grouse, Lyrurus tetrix - At least three birds seen in one group during the afternoon walk at Riederalp.

* 27. Pheasant, Phasianus colchicus - first sighting in a field beside the Lake of Klingnau.

BIRDS IN THE FIELD - Cont'd.

* 29. Moorhen, Gallinula chloropus - our Common Gallinule, seen first at the Max Plank Institute.

30. Coot, Fulica atra - seen most anywhere there was lake water.

31. Little Ringed Plover, Charadrius dubius - seen at Wollmatinger Marsh, Lake Konstanz.

* 32. Lapwing, Vanellus vanellus - First noted at the Lake of Klingnau. This species is listed in Robbins but as a casual visitor to the northeast coast of North America.

33. Curlew Sandpiper, Calidris ferruginea - seen at Lake of Klingnau.

34. Dunlin, Calidris alpina - sighted at Klingnau.

35. Little Stint, Calidris minuta - seen at Lake of Klingnau.

36. Sanderling, Calidris alba - seen at Lake Konstanz.

37. Redshank, Tringa totanus - seen at Lake of Klingnau.

38. Greenshank, Tringa nebularia - observed at Lake of Klingnau.


40. Yellowlegs, Tringa flavipes - seen at Lake of Klingnau.

* 41. Short-billed Dowitcher, Limnodromus griseus - seen by a few persons at Lake of Klingnau.

42. Curlew, Numenius arquata - seen first in fields at Lake Klingnau.

43. Black-tailed Godwit, Limosa limosa - seen at Lake of Klingnau.

44. Snipe, Gallinago gallinago - seen by several at Lake of Klingnau.

* 45. Black-headed Gull, Larus ridibundus - Common except in mountains. Robbins lists it as a rare but regular visitor to our east coast.

* 46. Little Gull, Larus minutus - observed near Lugano. Robbins lists it as a European straggler to our east coast.

* 47. Rock Dove, Columba livia - first noted in Basel. Same species as our domestic pigeon.

48. Wood pigeon, Columba palumbus - many flocks of these birds were seen migrating.

49. Collared Dove, Streptopelia decaocto - seen in Brig castle courtyard.

50. Turtle Dove, Streptopelia turtur - seen in Singen.

51. Swift, Apus apus - my first sighting was in Lucern.
BIRDS IN THE FIELD Cont'd.

52. Kingfisher, Alcedo atthis - seen by many at Bolle di Magadino.
53. Green Wookpecker, Picus viridis - seen crossing in front of the bus at one time. Also seen at Bolle di Magadino, Locarno and Bob's home.
54. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Dendrocops major - seen as we left Minau Botanical Gardens.
55. Woodlark, Lullula arborea - seen at Zernnis.
56. Skylark, Alauda arvensis - seen outside St. Moritz. This species has now been introduced on Vancouver Island.
57. Swallow, Hirundo rustica - same species as our Barn Swallow.
58. Sand Martin, Riparia riparia - America we call it the Bank Swallow.
59. House Martin, Delichon urbica - seen many places.
60. Meadow Pipit, Anthus pratensis - seen in the afternoon at Bolle di Magadino.
61. White Wagtail, Motacilla alba - seen all over. Robbins lists this species as breeding in western Alaska.
62. Grey Wagtail, Motacilla cinerea - seen near the hotel in Swiss National Park.
63. Great Grey Shrike, Lanius excubitor - our Northern Shrike. Seen from the bus as we neared Geneva.
64. Hedgesparrow, Prunella modularis - brought to our attention in Wollmatinger Marsh.
68. Garden Warbler, Sylvia borin - brought from the nets at the banding station.
69. Blackcap, Sylvia atricapilla - also seen at the banding station.
70. Willow Warbler, Phylloscopus trochilus - seen at Bolle di Magadino.
71. Chiffchaff, Phylloscopus collybita - recorded at Munchen.
73. Firecrest, Regulus ignicapillus - seen at Riederalp.
74. Pied Flycatcher, Ficedula hypoleuca - seen first at banding station.
75. Whinchat, Saxicola rubetra - seen at Wollmatinger Marsh.

* 76. Wheatear, Oenanthe oenanthe - Bolle di Magadino. This bird is common from northern Alaska to Greenland and winters in the old world.

77. Black Redstart, Phoenicurus ochruros - first noted near the hotels in Zernnis.

78. Redstart, Phoenicurus phoenicurus - shown to us from the nets at the banding station at Radolfzell.

79. Robin, Erithacus rubecula - seen many places.

80. Blackbird, Turdus merula - also well distributed.

81. Fieldfare, Turdus pilaris - first noted at Wollmatinger Marsh, but later seen in many places.

82. Song Thrush, Turdus philomelos - a good view was had in Zernnis.

83. Mistle Thrush, Turdus viscivorus - also identified in Zernnis.

84. Bearded Tit, Panurus biarmicus - found in Wollmatinger Marsh.

85. Long-tailed Tit, Aegithalos caudatus - seen at Bolle di Magadino.

86. Penduline Tit, Remiz pendulinus - seen at Bolle di Magadino.

87. Coal Tit, Parus ater - seen about every day.

88. Great Tit, Parus major - also well distributed.

89. Blue Tit, Parus caeruleus - seen often, my first recollections are on the shore of Lake Klingnau and in the nets at Radolfzell.

90. Crested Tit, Parus cristatus - this upland species was seen at the National Park and at Leysin.

91. Marsh Tit, Parus palustris - seen that Sunday afternoon at Mindel Lake.

92. Willow Tit, Parus montanus - identified during our afternoon walk at Riederalp.

93. Nuthatch, Sitta europaea - also seen Sunday afternoon at Mindell Lake outside Singen.

* 94. Treecreeper, Certhia familiaris - this bird, found only in mountains, was seen in the National Park and is our Brown Creeper.

95. Short-toed Tree Creeper, Certhia brachydactyla - seen behind the observation platform at Wollmatinger Marsh and calling from a willow during our afternoon trip to Bolle di Magadino.

* 96. Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes - noted at Brig. This is our Winter Wren.
97. Dipper, Cinclus cinclus - who can forget its presence by the covered bridge outside Zernnis? This is one of the few places it remains all winter in Switzerland.

98. Reed Bunting, Emberiza schoeniclus - first heard at Wollmatinger Ried Marsh.

99. Brambling, Fringilla montifringilla - the bird was rather common, but my first look was at Bob's home in Leysin.

100. Chaffinch, Fringilla coelebs - seen several places, Wollmatinger Marsh by Lake Konstanz for one.

*101. Goldfinch, Carduelis carduelis - first seen at Lake of Klingnau but found in many places. Robbins labels it "introduced and rare" in America.

102. Siskin, Carduelis spinus - first positively identified in Singen.

103. Greenfinch Carduelis chloris - identified at Bolle di Magadino.

104. Bullfinch, Pyrrhula pyrrhula - seen in Wollmatinger Marsh.

105. Hawfinch, Coccothraustes coccothraustes - seen at Bolle di Magadino and a close look at one restrained at the research center.

106. Linnet, Acanthis cannabine - seen on the afternoon trip at Bolle di Magadino.


*108. Crossbill, Loxia curvirostra - this species, seen in the National Park is our Red Crossbill.

*109. Tree Sparrow, Passer montanus - my best look at this species was near the school house at Brig. Robbins: "locally common around St. Louis, Mo."

*110. House Sparrow, Passer domesticus - seen many places.

*111. Starling, Sturnis vulgaris - while plentiful, the flocks there didn't seem as large as those in some places in the U.S.

112. Jay, Garrulus glandarius - found many places.

113. Nutcracker, Nucifraga caryocatactes - found everywhere at the higher elevations.

*114. Magpie, Pica pica - well distributed.

115. Alpine Chough, Pyrrhocorax graculus - first encountered in Zernnis.

*116. Raven, Corvus corax - definitely identified in the National Park and at Riederalp.
117. Carrion Crow, Corvus corone corone - first seen in a field outside Zurich.

118. Jackdaw, Corvus monedula - after much speculation, identity was confirmed in Zernnis.

**RESTRAINED BIRDS**

1. Bar-headed Goose, Anser indicus - native to India, seen at ornithological research center at Sempach.

2. Snow Goose, Anser caerulescens - seen at the research center at Sempach.

3. Greylag Goose, Anser anser - seen at the research center at Sempach.

4. Lesser White-fronted Goose, Anser erythropus - seen at the research center at Sempach.

* 5. White-fronted Goose, Anser albifrons - known by the same name, this species is rare in U.S. east of the Mississippi River. Seen at Sempach.

6. Shelduck, Tadorna tadorna - seen at the research center at Sempach.

7. Honey Buzzard, Pernis apivorus - seen at the stork breeding area.

8. Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Chrysolophus amherstiae - seen at the stork breeding area.

9. Golden Pheasant, Chrysolophus pictus - seen at the stork breeding area.

* 10. Barn Owl, Tyto alba - seen at the stork breeding area.

11. Eagle Owl, Bubo bubo - seen at the ornithological research center at Sempach.

* 12. Long-eared Owl, Asio otus - seen at the stork breeding area.

13. Little Owl, Athene noctua - seen at the stork breeding area.

14. Tawny Owl, Strix aluco - seen at the stork breeding area.

Glen Phillips
DECIDUOUS TREES - BBC SWISS FORAY

Alder - European green. Alnus viridis, Black-A. glutinosa, Speckled A. incana
Ash - Flowering - Fraxinus ornus; European-Fraxinus excelsior.
Banana - Musa. Italy Musa
Beech - European - Fagus sylvatica, purple-F. sylvatica var. purpurea.
Birch - European - Betula pendula, B. pubescens.
Catalpa - Common C. bignonioides, Japanese - C. japonica.
Chesnut - Spanish - Castanea sativa.
Dogwood - Cornus florida, cornelian cherry - C. mas,
Elm - English Ulmus campestris, Dutch - U. scabra, Chinese U. pumila.
Empress Tree - Paulownia comemntosa.
Eucalyptus - Sp.
Fig - Ficus Sp.
Filbert - Corylus avellana.
Ginkgo - Ginkgo biloba.
Golden Chain Tree - Laburnum anagyroides.
Gum - Sweet Liquidambar styraciflua.
Hackberry - Celtis occidentalis.
Hawthorne - Crataegus Sp.
Hornbeam - American Carpinus caroliniana.
Horse Chestnut - Aesculus hippocastanum.
Kentucky Coffee - Gymnocladus dioecca.
Lemon - Citrus trifoliata.
Linden - Tilia cordata, large leaved. T. platyphyllos.
Locust - Black Robinia pseudoacacia, Honey - Gleditsia triacanthos.
Mimosa - Albizzia julibrissin.
Mountain Ash - European Sorbus aucuparia.
Mulberry - Black Morus nigra.
Olive- Olea europaea.
Osage Orange - Maclura pomifera.
Palm - Sp.
Plum - Purple leaf.
Redbud - Cercis ciliquastrum.
Sycamore - London plane-Platanus acerifolia, Oriental plane-P. orientalis.
Willow - Weeping - Salix babylonica, White-S. alba, Purple-S. purpurea.
Yellow Poplar - Liriodendron tulipifera.

EVERGREEN TREES

EVERGREEN TREES - Cont'd.

Cypress - Bald-Taxolium distichum, Italian-Cupressus sempervirens.
Chamaecypres or False Cypress- Japanese-C. pisifera variety squarrosa,
Lawson-C. lawsoniana.
Cryptomeria - Japanese-C. japonica.
Hemlock- American Tsuga canadensis.
Juniper - Irish-Juniperus hibernica, Pfitzer- Pfitzeriana, Prostrate-
Larch - European-Larix dedicia.
Pines - Red-Pinus resinosa, White-P. strobus, Black or Austrian-P. nigra,
Scotch-P. sylvestris, Ponderosa-P. ponderosa, Mountain-P. montana
variety mughus, Arole-P. arolla, Swiss Stone-P. cenbra, Cluster-
P. pinaster, Mugho-P. mugho, Balkan-P. peuce.
Redwoods- Giant Sequoia gigantea, Dawn-Glyptostroboides metasequoia.
Spruces - Norway-Picea abies, Red-P. rubra, Japanese-P. mazimowlezii,
Tigertall-P. polita, Servian-P. omorika, Dwarf Alberta-P. glauca
albertana, variety conica.

VINES - SWISS FORAY

Bougainvillea -
Blackberry - Rubus
Dewberry - Rubus
Grape - Vitis
Honeysuckle - Japanese vine
Ivy - English-Hedera helix, Kennelworth-
Raspberry - Red rubus
Wineberry - Rubus
Wysteria - Sinensis
Euonymus - Radicans
Clematis - (Virgin's Bower - Virginiana.
Hops - Humulus
Climbing Nightshade - Solanum
Virginia Creeper - Parthenocissus Sp.

SHRUBS - SWISS FORAY

Azalea - Sp.
Bamboo - Sp.
Barberry - Green-berberis thunbergi, Red-thunbergi atropurpurea.
Blueberry - Vaccinium Sp.
Blachthorne - Prunus spinosa
Burningbush - Euonymus alatus.
Boxwood - Buxus semper.virens
ButterflyBush - Buddleia
Buckthorne - Glossy Rhamnus frangula
Camellia - Thea Sp.
Cotoneaster - Sp.
Current - Ribes alpinum
Daphne - Sp.
Elderberry - Eurpean-Sambucus nigra, European Red-S. racemosa.
Fire Thorne - European -Pyracantha aucuoria.
Flowering Maple - Abutilon.
Porsythia - Sp.
Heather - Erica
Hercules Club - Aralia spinosa.
SHRUBS - Cont'd.

Hydrangea - Hydrangea paniculata
Kerria - Japonica
Ligustrum - Vulgare
Lilac - Persian-Syringa persica
Loquat - Eriobotrya
Oleander - Nerium
Oregon Grape Holly - Mahonia aquifolium
Privett - Ligustrum ibota
Rose of Sharon - Althea
Rhododendron - Sp. Alpen Rose- R. ferrugineum
Scotch Broom - Cytisus scoparius
Smoke Tree - Rhus cotinus
Snowberry - Symphoricarpus albus
Spirea - Red and White
Strawberry Tree - Euonymus atropurpurium
St. Johnswort - Hypericum
Sumac - Staghorn-Rhus typhina
Weigelia - Red

Ephe Olliver
The following list of plants observed during the Swiss Nature Tour by the Brooks Bird Club members, Sept. 27 - Oct. 12, 1976 were added to by Zettie Stewart, Ruth Strommeider, Maxine Thacker, Ephra Olliver, Orpha Richardson, Kyle Bush, others, and the local field leaders who were of invaluable help.

The territory covered went from Zurich to Basel, along the Rhine River, Aare River, Lake of Klingenau, Schaffhausen to Singen Germany; Max Plank Ornithological Research Center, Radolfzell, Stein on Rhun, Schaffhausen, Wollmatinger Kiel Marsh, konstantz, Minau, Mindel Lake area near Kogglingen, to Frauenfeld; Winterthur, Zurich, Zug, Lucern - Glacier Garden; Swiss Ornithological Research Center, Sampach, Clarus, Kublis, Davos, Fluelapass, Zernez, Swiss National Park, Schuoel (Engadin Valley), St. Moritz, Schafli, Madulain, Moloja Pass, Chiavenna, Italy, Cassaccia, Lake Como, Piorlizza, Lake Lugono, Lugano, Lacarno, Bolle di Magadino, Lake Maggiore, Bellinzona, Faido, Nefeneopass, Rhone Glacier, area, Rhone River Valley to Brig; Riederalp, Aletsch Glacier and Swiss Union for the Protection of Nature Station; Sion, Martigny, St. Maurice, Aigle, Leysin, Cruyere, Bern, back to Leysin; Rhone Valley to Vinnoiz, Lausanne, Lake Geneve and Geneva.

Literally and figuratively, the plants listed are a "bird's eye view" of flora in Switzerland, as observed by Americans on a fast-moving expedition through that lovely country. Not being able to collect plants for more detailed study, and frequently not having enough time in the field for botanizing, the list has been put together with much effort.

Botany books available at the time for checking the plants were: Mountain Flowers in Color by Anthony Huxley, Alpenblumen by Paula Kohlhaupt and Waldun Wiessenblumen by Helen Pursey. Just before leaving Switzerland, The Concise Flowers of Europe by Oleg Polumin was purchased and helped in further identifications.

Many of the flowering plants were beyond their blooming season, although we were able to see many yet blooming. Frost in the higher elevations had killed most of the flora, and we were sorry to have missed the great display of June alpine plants. Some of the plants were easily recognized since they comprise part of our West Virginia flora, as "naturalized from Europe". Others were similar species, and still others entirely different from our plant population. Only two species of goldenrod were observed, but many more gentians and composites were seen than are found here. Also, numerous species of umbellifera, thistles, and unfamiliar composites were noted. A few of the spectacular plants that were new to us were: Alchemilla glomerulans, Campanula rapunculoides, Carlina acaulis, Colchium autumnale, Erygium alpinum, Impatiens glandulifera and Inula arvensis.

Eleanor Bush

LEADERS:

Mr. Robert McCausland
Mr. J. Rohner
Mr. Fruh
Mr. Rolf Schlenker
Dr. Udo von Nicht
Mr. Harald Jacoby

Dr. Halder
Mr. Martin Schneider
Mr. M. Kier
Mr. R. Schoeth
Mr. Werner Suter
and Others
ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM (Yarrow)
ACHILLEA TANECIFOLIS (Tansy Milfoil)
ACONITUM NAPELLUS (Monkshood)
ADENOSTYLES ALLIARIAE (Common Adenostyles)
AGRIMONY EUANTHEIUM (Agrimony Cocklebur)
AJUGA REPTANS (Hedgefleabane)
ALCHEMILLA GLOMERULANS (Lady's Mantle)
ALLIUM SP.
ALNUS SP. (Hollyhock)
AMARANTHUS RETROFLEXUS (Pigweed)
ANAPHALIS MARGARITACEAE (Pearly Everlasting)
ANTERIALIA DIOICA (Catsfoot)
ANTHEMIS COTULA (Dog Penny)
ANTHRISCUS SYLVESTRIS (Meadow Cervil)
ANTHyllis VULNERARIA (Kidney Vetch)
AQUILEGIA VULGARIS (Columbine)
ARABIS ALPINA (Alpine Rockcress)
ARCTIUM LAPP (Bardock)
ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI (Bearberry)
ARMERIA MONTANA (Plantain-leaved Thrift)
ARTEMISIA VULGARIS (Wormwood)
ARUNCUS VULGARIS (Goatsbeard)
BELLIDIASTRUM MICHELII (False Daisy)
BELLIS PERENNIS (English Daisy)
BRASSICA NIGRA (Black Mustard)
CALTHA PALUSTRIS (Marsh Marigold)
CALYSTEGIA SEPIUM (Bindweed)
CAMPAULNA BARBOATA (Bearded Bellflower)
CAMPAULNA RAPOENULOIDES (Creeping Bellflower)
CAMPAULNA RHOMBOIDALIS (Diamond-leaved Bellflower)
CAMPAULNA ROLUNDIFOLIA (Round-leaved Bellflower)
CARDUS RUTANS (Awn Thistle)
CARDUS DEFLORATUS (Alpine Thistle)
CARLINA ACAULIS ( Stemless Carline Thistle)
CASUTA SP. (Dodder)
CENTAUREA NERVOSA (Plume Knapweed)
CENTAUREA PRYRGII (Wig Knapweed)
CENTAUREA RHAPONTICA ( Giant Knapweed)
CHAMAEMELUM NOBILE (Chamomile)
CHENOPODIACEAE ALBUM (Lamb's Quarters)
CHRYSANTHEMUM ALPINUM VARI. NUTCHINISIIIFOLIUM (Alpine-Wool Daisy)
CHRYSANTHEMUM ALTRATUM (Saw-leaved Daisy)
CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEUM (Marguerite)
CHRYSANTHEMUM PARTHENIUM ( Feverfew)
CICERIONUM INTBUS (Chicory)
CIRCEA LEUTANA (Enchanter's Nightshade)
CIRSIUM ARVENSE (Canada Thistle)
CIRSIUM SPINOSISSIMUM (Spiny Thistle)
CAMPAULNA LINIFOLIUM (Flax-leaved Bellfl.)
CLINOPODIUM VULGARE (Wild Basil)
COLCHICUM AUTUNNARE (Autumn Crocus)
CONIUM MACULATUM (Poison Hemlock)
CONVOLVULARIA MAJALIS (Hyacinth Flowers)
CORONILLA VARIA (Crown Vetch)
CORONILLAphan\ncia (Phacelia)
CORYDALIS LUTEA (Yellow Corydalis)
CREPIS ROUTILICA (Plumed Hawkweed)
CARLINA CORYMBOSA (Flat-topped Carline Thistle)
CYCLAMEN PURPURASCENS (Common Cyclamen)
CYMBALARIA MURALIS (Kenilworth Ivy)
CYMMOGLOSSUM OFFICINALE (Hound's Tongue)
DACTYLYLLUM GLOMERATUM (Orchard Grass)
DATURA STRAMONINUM (Thorn Apple)
DAUCUS COROTA (Wild Carrot)
DIANTHUS ARMERIA (Deptford Pink)
DIANTHUS SP.
DELPHINIUM ELATUM (Alpine Larkspur)
DIPSACUS LACINATUS (Teasel)
ECHINUM VULGARE (Vipers Bugloss)
ELODEA SP.
EUPHORBIUM AUGUSTIFOLIUM (Fireweed)
EUPHORBIUM FLEISCHERI (Fleischer's Euphorbiun)
ERIANTHUS ALOPECUROIDES (Plume Grass)
ERIOTERION ACER (Blue Fleabane)
ERIOTERION ANNUS (Daisy Fleabane)
ERIOPHORON VAGINATUM (Cotton-grass)
ERYNGIUM ALPINUM (Alpine Eryngo, Silver Thistle)
EUPATORIUM SP. (Joe-pye Weed)
EUPHORBIA CYPRISSIAS (Cypress Spurge)
EUPHORBIA HELIOCOSPA (Sun Spurge)
FILIPENDULA ULMARIA (Meadow Sweet)
FUMARIA OFFICINALIS (Rumitory)
GALEOPSIS TETRABIT (Common Hempnettle)
GALIUM BOREALE (Northern Bedstraw)
GALIUM MOLLUSCO (White Bedstraw)
GENTIAN ASCLEPIADIS (Willow Gentian)
GENTIAN COMNOSTRIS (Field Gentian)
GENTIAN CRUCIATA (Cross Gentian)
GENTIAN PNEUMONANTHE (Marsh Gentian)
GERANIUM PALUSTRE (Marsh Cranesbill)
GERANIUM PYRENEUM (Mountain Cranesbill)
GERANIUM ROBERTIANUM (Herb Robert)
GERANIUM SYLVIATUM SSP. RILULARE (Wood Cranesbill)
GEUM MONTANUM (Mountain Avens)
GEUM RIVALE (Water Avens)
GLECHEMA NEDERACEA (Ground Ivy)
GENTIAN KOUCHIANA (Trumpet Gentian)
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<thead>
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<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<td>Solanum dulcamara</td>
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Solidago virgaurea (Goldenrod)
Solidago canadensis (Goldenrod)
Soncus arvensis (Field Sow Thistle)
Soncus asper (Prickly Sow Thistle)
Stellaria graminea (Lesser Stitchwort)
Stellaria holostea (Greater Stitchwort)
Succisa pratensis (Devils Bit Scabious)
Symphytum officinale (Comfrey)

Taraxacum officinale (Dandelion)
Teucrium montanum (Mountain Germander)
Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow Rue)
Thalaspi arvense (Field Pennycress)
Thymus serpyllum (Common Thyme)
Trifolium arvense (Hare's Foot Clover)
Trifolium incarnatum (Crimson Clover)
Trifolium pratense (Red Clover)
Tussilago farfara (Colts Foot)
Typha latifolia (Cat-tail)

Urtica dioica (Nettle)

Vaccinium myrtillus (Bilberry)
Veratrum album (White False Helleborine)
Verbascum crassifolium (Mountain Mullen)
Verbascum nigrum (Dark Mullen)
Verbascum thapsiforme (Large-flowered Mullen)
Veronica filiformis (Creeping Speedwell)
Veronica fruticans (Rock Speedwell)
Veronica persica (Buxbaum's Speedwell)
Viola calcarata (Long-spurred Pansy)
Viola tricolor (Wild Pansy)
Viscum album (Mistletoe)
Verbena officinalis (European Vervain)

Xanthium strumarium (Cocklebur)

FERNS

Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum (Black Spleenwort)
Asplenium Ruta-muraria (Wall Rue)
Asplenium Trichomanes (Maidenhair Spleenwort)
Dryopters Filix-mas (Male Fern)
Matteuccia Struthiopteris (Ostrich Fern)
Phyllitis Scolopendrium (Hart's Tongue Fern)
Polypodium vulgare (Polypody)
Fern sp.