



The Sequoia



BULLETIN of the SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
San Mateo, California

VOL. 12 - No. 11
February 1960

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/7 - 2/11 - 2/17 - 2/18 - 2/24 - 2/27

FEBRUARY 7 (SUNDAY) - 9 A.M. FIELD TRIP

at La Honda. Meet at intersection of Skyline Blvd. and La Honda Road.

FEBRUARY 11 (THURSDAY) - 8 P.M. REGULAR MEETING, Burlingame Recreation Center. Our president, Ruth Breckenridge, will open with a short report of the Board meeting, followed by Gene Hebbbron's new and review bird slides which are proving so helpful. An outstanding film on conservation will be shown which should prove both interesting and enlightening. We hope to see you all there.

FEBRUARY 17 (WEDNESDAY) 9 A.M., BIRD WALK, G. Hebbbron, leader. Meet at Coyote Point Yacht Harbor Parking Lot. Shore birds.* Come prepared for "wet" walking.

FEBRUARY 18 (THURSDAY) - 6 P.M., POT LUCK DINNER; 8 P.M. SCREEN TOUR:

POT LUCK DINNER, 6 P.M. 2/18/60, at Washington School, Howard Avenue, Burlingame. If you can come on the spur of the moment do so, but if convenient phone one of the following:

- Mrs. Alice Steele -----Di 4-8317
- Mrs. Mabel Lee -----Di 2-2428
- Mrs. Oleta Dickinson----Em 6-7661

SCREEN TOUR (following pot luck dinner) 8 P.M., San Mateo High School Auditorium, Delaware at Bellevue Avenue. Cleveland P. Grant will present "LAND OF EARLY AUTUMN" (high country of our West and in

Alaska.) This is an outstanding film with a riot of color--habitat of the ruffed grouse, moose, fox, fighting buffalo and the wary grizzly bear. COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

FEBRUARY 24 (WEDNESDAY) 9 A.M., Gene Hebbbron, Leader of BIRD WALK* Meet at Coyote Point Yacht Harbor Parking Lot. Shore birds. Come prepared for "wet" walking.

FEBRUARY 27 (SATURDAY) 8:30 A.M., FIELD TRIP AT GAZOS CREEK. Meet at intersection of Skyline Blvd. and Half Moon Bay Road. Take lunch.

(*Phone G. Hebbbron (Di 3-0415) if you are going on bird walks)
OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Too often we don't see the forest for the trees. We enjoy the varied activities of Audubon Society, but we forget that the basic underlying principle, the very reason for existence, of our Society is conservation of natural resources.

If we do stop to think about conservation, we usually say to ourselves, "What can I, as an individual, do about conservation? Of course I feel sad to see the beautiful wild areas in my community destroyed, but how can I do anything about it?"

Your board of Directors, at the January meeting, decided that it is possible for our Society to do something constructive about conservation, and that it is urgent to start before it is too late. A motion was carried that the Sequoia Audubon Society, make as one of its

(cont'd. on page 2)

President's Message (cont'd)

major projects, in co-operation with other organizations, the development of a program of conservation of natural resources in San Mateo County.

A committee composed of Conservation Chairman Kathleen Weber, J. Ed. McClellan, and Will Harman was appointed to get this program underway. This committee is undertaking a herculean assignment and will need the active help and cooperation of all of us.

ff. --Ruth Breckenridge

REPORT ON NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
BERKELEY, JANUARY 9, 1960

Our delegates to the conference, Mrs. Jack Hebron, Mr. J. Ed McClellan, and Miss Ruth Breckenridge, were requested to report on a major concern of Sequoia Audubon Society.

Previous to the conference, this matter was discussed at a meeting of the delegates and at the January meeting of the Board of Directors.

It was decided that our delegates should present, as one of our major problems, the lack of participation of our membership in Society activities. We have excellent potential among our membership, but relatively few take part in activities.

Several possible solutions were suggested. Among them were:

1. The development of a regular publicity feature, timely and interesting in character, and geared to extend knowledge of the basic principles and aims of Audubon Society.
2. The enlargement of membership participation within the organization especially in committee activities.
3. The establishment of a permanent meeting place.

When our delegates arrived in Berkeley, they found that a number of other Chapters were also attempting to solve the problem of non-participation.

Among other interesting problems discussed at the conference were youth education and leadership training programs.

The delegates enjoyed this opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with Audubon members from other areas. The expert planning of Bill Goodall did much to produce an efficient, well-organized, and productive conference.

-- Ruth Breckenridge

FOR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Nature color slide photographers who would enjoy receiving wider recognition of their work will be interested to hear of the First San Francisco International Color Slide Exhibition to be presented by the Photochrome Club in the Bay Region during March.

For those who wish to submit an entry for consideration, the deadline is February 29. A maximum of four color slides is allowed and may be on any nature subject--birds, flowers, insects, geological subjects, etc. The entry fee is \$1 to cover the costs of the exhibition. It is a non-profit operation and there is no admission charge for the public showings.

The slides are to be judged by a jury panel of five members, one of whom is Phyllis Lindley, National Audubon Society Staff Member. The exhibition will be comprised of about 350 top notch nature slides and will be projected throughout the Bay Area in March.

Entry forms and information are available from Betty Randall, 1931 Grant Ave., San Francisco 11.

KEEP THINKING ABOUT
AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA
JUNE 19 - AUGUST 27

For information write Audubon Camp,
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Robert Ruark, writer, hunter and African traveler has given up big-game hunting. He now prefers to shoot game with his camera.

WANTED A HOME

Sequoia Audubon Society is in need of a permanent "home." At the present time the Society holds its meetings in one place, its pot-luck dinners in another, and its Board meetings in still another! Its possessions are scattered here and there -- Fiesta Booth materials in a member's garage, an excellent library stored in the house of another, to say nothing of the worthwhile exchange bulletins and other current materials which members would enjoy if they could be made available.

Do YOU have any suggestions? If so, please contact one of the members of the "home hunting" committee -- Mr. J. Ed. McClellan, Mr. Will Harman, or Mrs. Margaret Bump.

-- R. Breckenridge

NOTICE

The Hamilton Naturalist's Club is sponsoring an International Exhibition of Nature Photography in April 1969. One of the purposes of this venture is to bring to the attention of the public the need of saving our few remaining natural beauty areas. We hope to have photography from many parts of the world.

Entry forms may be had by writing to:

Mr. John Giles, Exhibition Chairman,
International Exhibition of Nature
Photography,
Hamilton Naturalists' Club,
Main Post Office, Box 384,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

-- Robert O. Elstone
President, Hamilton
Naturalists' Club

Report on Regular Meeting, Jan. 14, 1960

Our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hebron for a delightful evening. Gene showed her new and review bird slides. At each meeting she shows a few bird slides we have previously seen and then

adds a few new ones. These are proving to be most helpful and some are beginning to look like old friends.

Following the bird slides, the Hebbrons showed their slides of Hawaii. Most of these were pictures of the plant life of the Islands and were indescribably lovely.

--- Ida B. Smith

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Kathleen Weber

COUNTY CONSERVATION - To preserve our county forested areas, proper policing of the public beach areas, and the use of the edges of the bay for migratory birds were some of the items mentioned when the Sequoia Chapter Conservation Committee met January 16.

One of the most important points the committee felt was to build up personal contacts with the proper people so that we can achieve these goals and others for the good of all the people in the country. These contacts must be kept fresh and alive, and members of our chapter should be interested in attending meetings of the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, Recreation Department, etc., so that we will be aware of conservation action in our area and will be able to present any plans we have concerning conservation.

Several members will be needed to assist the Conservation Committee along these lines. If interested people will please call or drop one of the following a line saying, "I am willing to help" -

Jed McClellan
1356 Bernal Ave.
Burlingame (Di 3-3486)

Will Harmon
656 Cedar St.
San Carlos (Ly 3-6040)

Kathleen Weber
879 College Ave.
Menlo Park (Da 3-9817)

the project will be an easy and most worthwhile one.

CONSERVATION NOTES by Kathleen Weber,
Cont'd.

TOXIC PESTICIDES

The development and use of poisons for killing plants and insects has far outstripped facilities to fully test the chemicals for all possible immediate and long-term harmful effects on humans and other life, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The volume of all plant and insect poisons being used for control purposes in the U. S. has risen at least seven times above the 1940 level. Most chemicals in use today were not on the market before World War II, and more than 60 have been developed in the past few years. More than one billion pounds of chemical poisons are being used on farms each year.

Few states effectively regulate the poisons. Under law, the manufacturers print instructions for use on the package labels and there the responsibility ends.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture was widely criticised for the Federal-State project in the Southeast for the complete eradication of the imported fire ant, which, in some areas, is classified as an agricultural pest. Heptachlor, the poison that has been used most, has caused die-offs of large numbers of birds, fish and other animal life following some operations. Livestock and farm pets also have been killed. Only after bitterly attacking its critics did the U.S. D.A. reluctantly somewhat reduce the aerial dosage level.

Now after thousands of acres have been treated, researchers have found that the violently poisonous heptachlor breaks down under exposed conditions to an even more toxic compound, heptachlor epoxide. These two compounds have been found in milk, in the tissues of beef animals, and on grains, fruits, vegetables, and forage crops.

Wanted for the Bulletin: More observations of birds in your garden!

Please send them to the editor of the Bulletin about February 20.

REDWOODS THREATENED

The California Division of Beaches and Parks is attempting an all-out effort to save the finest stand of giant redwoods in the State, the Rockefeller Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. These irreplaceable Sequoia sempervirens are threatened by the rapidly advancing erosion of the Bull Creek watershed, set into motion by the logging off of the natural protection of trees and undergrowth. This year, 25 virgin redwood trees were destroyed.

The Division plans call for acquisition of 18,000 acres of logged-over land in the Bull Creek watershed, reforestation of this area, and the construction of small dams to eliminate floods. Further development of this land for recreational use is also envisioned.

1959 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

In number of species noted, our 1959 Christmas census, conducted on January 2, 1960, was unprecedented, yielding 164 different varieties. But number of birds listed (somewhat less than 10,000) was not impressive. To a certain extent this latter may reflect the paucity of observers. Nevertheless, it seems real that birds were considerably scarce.

It has been postulated that unusual weather accounted for the freakish nature of the count.

A storm, just before Christmas, drove the vanguard of the northern birds into the Bay area. But the moderate temperatures and cloudless skies which immediately succeeded caused some summer visitors to linger.

Over and above the intermingling just described was a very unusual scattering of species which resulted in one or two individuals of different kinds occurring in our area where normally

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1959 Christmas Bird Count (Cont'd)

they are never seen. Were the general aridity of the last "rainy" season and the long dry fall of 1959 factors?

Worthy of special mention are:

1. A hooded oriole - summer resident lingering as a free loader at the feeding tray of Mrs. Winona Sears, San Carlos.
2. Wandering tattler, green heron, Florida gallinule, yellow-breasted chat, surf-bird, Forster's tern - all staying on to enjoy the mild weather, perhaps.
3. Snow goose, white-fronted goose, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal-strays into our circle.

Possible species not counted, due to limited time under scrutiny, were: bittern, red-breasted nuthatch, and Virginia rail.

Three yellow-billed magpies were on the coast, but outside our census circle. Strays from Colorado? Some years ago, a yellow-billed magpie lived for days off the largess of food scraps at a downtown Redwood City drive-in restaurant.

Nell and Les Sleeper saw some 12 starlings in the vicinity of Pescadero on the Thursday preceding our count.

Only "billboard" type species have been recognized. Experts who could have identified with confidence more obscurely marked species would have probably augmented a most unusual count.

-- Neil B. Dickinson

Note: It is planned to publish in the February bulletin a list of the birds counted.

10. (cont'd from opposite column) To cooperate, as occasion prompts with national and state conservation agencies, and with private associations devoted to the interests of conservation and to education in the field of natural resources.

STATED PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

The purposes and objects of the National Audubon Society shall be to engage in any such educational, scientific, investigation, literary, historical, philanthropic and charitable pursuits as may be included within the following:

1. To arouse through education public recognition of the value of and need for protecting wild birds and other animals, plants, soil, and water, as well as the interdependence of these several natural resources.
2. To study and conduct research with relation to the scientific facts, a knowledge of which is essential to the formulation of sound policies in the field of conservation.
3. To foster recognition of the need for preservation of such environmental conditions as ample food, water and cover, on the maintenance of which animals and plants depend for survival.
4. To foster the preservation of adequate stock of native animals and plants, so that no species may become threatened with extinction.
5. To promote the protection and preservation of natural resources, including the encouragement, establishment and maintenance of nature sanctuaries.
6. To publish and distribute documents as a means of disseminating information about the subjects mentioned above or related matters.
7. To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions, and to develop and maintain a library, in the interest of the conservation of natural resources.
8. To establish and maintain such educational projects as nature trails, exhibits, tours and camps.
9. To encourage the organization of branches and other affiliated groups in sympathy with these stated aims.

(continued opposite column)

OFFICERS

President - Miss Ruth Breckenridge
135 Lorton Avenue
Burlingame (Di 3-4216)

Vice Pres - Mrs. Ida Smith
121 Magnolia Ave.
Millbrae (Ox 7-5627)

Treasurer - William Harman
656 Cedar St.
San Carlos (Ly 3-6040)

Secretary - Mrs. Eugenia Hebbro
1055 Black Mt. Road
Hillsborough (Di 3-0415)

Bulletin Staff

Editor - Mrs. Elizabeth G. Baker
457 - 26th Ave.
San Mateo (Fi 5-5335)

Asst. Ed. & Circulation Manager
Mrs. Eugenia Hebbro
1055 Black Mt. Road
Hillsborough

Reporters: Committee Chairmen

(Correction: The Jan. Bulletin
should have been Vol. 12, No. 10)

Please send in material for the March
Bulletin no later than Feb. 23. If
possible type contributions.

Return to Sequoia Audubon Soc. Bulletin
c/o Mrs. Jack Hebbro
1055 Black Mountain Road
Hillsborough, California
(Form 3547 Requested)



Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dickinson
554 Oak Park Way
Redwood City, Calif.