



Sequoia Audubon Society is a branch of National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to enjoy and safeguard the wildlife of the Bay area. All interested persons are welcomed at field trips, bird walks and monthly general meetings. PRESIDENT: Mr. U. E. Gras - 425 Alder Lane, San Mateo, FI 1-0575

MEETINGS

- Feb. 6 BOARD MEETING at the home of President U. E. Gras, Thurs. at 425 Alder Lane, San Mateo. Any member of the Audubon Society is welcome to attend.
- Feb. 13 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Washington School Cafeteria, Thurs. 8:30 pm 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. All members are urged to attend, and to bring guests. Please notify Carol Boyd (343-5901) to let her know what you will bring-salad, main dish, or dessert.
- Feb. 13 REGULAR MEETING - at Washington School Auditorium. Thurs. 8:00 pm Our President, an expert photographer, will regale us with a selection of slides taken on his 1963 trip to Monument Valley, and of the Canyon de Chelly. Uke has displayed his nature photos in salon exhibits, so we are certain to see some outstanding pictures of these beautiful places.

FIELD TRIPS

(Alice Steele, Chairman - Di 4-8317)

- Feb. 2 AQUARIUM and MUSEUM - Golden Gate Park. Sunday 9:45 am Meet by whales, in front of Aquarium. Study of tide-pool exhibits, as well as bird displays, rock and gem specimens, and outstanding collection of shells in museum. Golden Gate Park itself is a bird-watcher's paradise. Lunch is optional for those who wish to stay longer.
- Feb. 16 HALF MOON BAY. Meet at intersection of Skyline and Sunday 9:30 a.m. Half Moon Bay Roads. Will explore ponds and side roads in the region of Half Moon Bay. This area was especially good on the Christmas count.
- Feb. 29 STANFORD UNIVERSITY GROUNDS. Meet at corner Sat. 10:00 a.m. nearest Hoover Tower, on Serra St. Park in visitors parking area in front of Administration Building. Grounds are lovely this time of year. Varied habitat makes it interesting. A good restaurant is available. Will go to top of Hoover Tower at 1:00 p.m.
- March 7 Mt. TAMALPAIS - ALPINE LODGE & 8 The Lodge has been reserved for our exclusive use for Sat. .Sun. this Saturday afternoon and night. Bird walks, Spring flowers, a superb view, a comfortable lodge and beds, with blankets furnished. Cost: Only \$1.50 per person. Bring your own lunch for Saturday noon. Dinner and breakfast at the Lodge, potluck style. For reservations call Alice Steele (Di 4-8317) or write to her at 1109 Chula Vista Avenue, Burlingame, Final details will be given in the March issue of the Sequoia. Make up a party now, and get as many reservations as possible.

MID-WEEK BIRD WALKS

(Leader: Gene Hebbbron, Di 3-0415)

- Feb. 5 CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKES. Meet at Crystal Springs Wed. Dam Parking area. We will be looking at ducks and 8:30 am other water birds, Dress warmly, lunch optional. The parking area may be reached from El Camino by way of Crystal Springs road to Skyline. Turn left about 200 feet.
- Feb. 19 SEAL SLOUGH. Meet at the eastern end of 19th Avenue, Wed. San Mateo. Turn right and park. We will be seeing 9:00 am shore birds, and perhaps the Burrowing Owl. Dress warmly and be prepared to walk, lunch optional.

REPORT on CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Seventeen members of the Sequoia Audubon Society and their friends counted species and individual birds over the chosen area which centers on Crystal Springs Lakes, and extends from Belmont Sloughs to Pillar Point. Census day was 28 December, 1963. Weather was mild - cloudless skies, moderate temperatures, and virtually no wind. One hundred and sixty species were noted, and some 36,065 individuals estimated; Species-wise this was the second largest score made by the Sequoia group. One hundred and sixty four were counted several years ago. Unusual species found were:

1. Wandering Tattler-a single individual lingered for days on the mudflats adjacent to Bayshore. He or she is supposed to be further south, and to inhabit the rocky coasts.
 2. Wilson's Phalarope-again a single bird-almost always found inland on fresh water, and move south in winter. This is my first record for this area.
 3. Ferruginous, Rough-legged, and Swainson's Hawks-not unknown to the Peninsula, but rather rare. We were fortunate to have all three.
 4. White-throated Sparrow-another stray perhaps more common than we suspect.
 5. Myrtle Warblers - usually not noted, but probably fairly common among the Audubons.
 6. Ruddy Turnstone-rare but not unknown.
 7. Allen's Hummingbird-an early arrival, apparently.
- Gratifying was the return of the Robins in numbers, and build-up of Black-necked Stilts and Avocets, and the increase in Golden-eyes. We enjoyed good luck with the Hooded Mergansers, which tend to be sporadic in their appearances. Disturbing was the overall shortage of ducks, and especially the paucity of Scaups, Redheads, and Ring-necked Ducks.

Each year we find more houses built in some of our choice areas. I wish to acknowledge the participation of Les Sleeper of the Santa Clara Society, who led the group exploring the Lobitos-Tunitas canyons. Les can always be counted upon to secure the maximum yield from an area, including the unusual. Mrs. J. E. Cisne, President-elect of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and her son, John, kindly gave us a hand at Crystal Springs and Pillar Point, and contributed some species the rest of us did not find.

B. Neil Dickinson

