



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

- May 7 BOARD MEETING at the home of President U. E. Gras, Thurs. 425 Alder Lane, San Mateo. Any member of the Sequoia Audubon Society is welcome to attend. 8:00 pm
- May 14 REGULAR MEETING - at the Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. Thurs. 8:00 pm
The program will be a repeat showing of the fine film entitled "The Hummingbird", shown last year by the photographer, Tullio Pellegrini. It will be presented to us this time by Mr. A. H. Isenberg, at whose aviary many of the pictures were taken. This has been acclaimed as one of the finest nature films they have ever seen by many Audubon members. We especially urge those who missed it last time to be sure to attend this time. In addition to this outstanding film, this will be the annual business meeting of the Sequoia Group, with the election of officers for the next year. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

(Alice Steele, Chairman - DI 4-8317)

- May 3 AL WOOL RANCH
Sunday Leader - Al J. Wool. Contact Neil Dickinson (Em 6-7661) 9 am sharp or Alice Steele (Di 4-8317) if additional information is needed.
Meeting Place: La Honda, at General Store parking area. Mr. Wool will meet us here and lead the caravan to his ranch for a day of birding. He has found some monk's head growing, as well as some new birds in this area. He has also found some Indian artifacts which he will show us. Bring Lunch.
- May 16 LAKE PILARCITOS and STONE DAM
Saturday Leader: Ruth Breckenridge (Di 3-4216) 8:30 am
Meeting Place: Causeway near the north end of Sawyer Camp Road.
Permission has been obtained from the San Francisco Water Department to take three cars and approximately twenty-five people to Lake Pilarcitos. We shall leave the cars at Lake Pilarcitos and walk to Stone Dam, where we shall eat our lunch. This is an easy (almost level) walk of about one mile. In order not to exceed our quota, reservations will be necessary, so please phone as soon as possible.
- May 24 MT. DIABLO STATE PARK
Sunday Leader: to be determined later. 8:30 am
For information, contact Alice Steele (Di 4-8317)
Meeting Places: Burlingame Avenue Railroad Station, at 8:30 am, to consolidate cars as desired. Plenty of free all day parking available.
We will join any who wish to go by way of the Bay Bridge at Danville, at the intersection of Highway 21 and the road to Mt. Diablo at approximately 9:30 am. Bring lunch. Those who went on this trip last year will remember good birding, an exceptional number of wild flowers, and enjoyable scenery.

MID-WEEK BIRD WALKS

The mid-week bird walks will continue on a non-scheduled basis, the times and places to be chosen as circumstances indicate. For information on these walks, contact one of the following:

- Gene Hebbroon DI 3-0415
- Florence Richardson FI 5-4443

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

SUNOL WATER TEMPLE and CALAVERAS PARK - March 21
In spite of a few showers, this was a very fruitful trip for birders. With many varieties of shorebirds observed around the meeting place, at the approach to the Dumbarton Bridge, and plentiful field and forest dwellers at the destinations of the trip, a total of 53 species of birds were seen. Most noteworthy, perhaps, were the White-tailed Kite, Yellow-billed Magpie, and several varieties of goldfinches.

BUTANO CREEK - April 4.

April 4 was a beautiful spring day, and a large group met at the Crystal Springs Dam at the head of San Mateo Creek and journeyed together to Half Moon Bay, down the Coast to Pescadero Beach, then into the hills, through the town of Pescadero to Butano Creek, up Butano Creek to the Skunk Cabbage Patch, and, after a picnic lunch at the intersection of Cloverdale Road and Butano Creek, down to Gazos Creek, birding all the way - on the lakes, through the hills, down the coast, etc., etc.

Such a trip gave us a wide variety of habitat - lakes, ponds, fields, woods, ocean - and at last sixty species of birds were reported. Of special interest among the birds seen were Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows, Brown Creeper, Common Snipe, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red-naped Sapsucker, Black Brant, Surf Bird, Florida Gallinule, Pheasant, Band-tailed Pigeon, Green Heron, and Raven.

The Skunk Cabbage was blooming in great profusion, with the great spathes bright yellow and the beautiful velvet-green leaves not yet tall enough to hide the blossoms. Several of the group said they had never seen the skunk cabbage bed quite so spectacular. Butano Creek Canyon was dressed in a great show of wild flowers. The Osoberry, Bleeding Heart, Sessile Trilium, Coast Trilium, and Yellow Violets, among many other species were at their best. Wild Ginger was showing red in the buds, and the Dentaria and Redwood Sorrel were everywhere. Of course the Red Elderberry was in full bloom.

Everyone who made this trip had a truly thrilling day. Alice Steele was the leader.

J. Ed. McClellan

BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDENS - April 18

The rather small group which joined in the trip to the University of California Botanical Gardens was richly rewarded, enjoying a most satisfying day. Anyone interested in California wild flowers and native trees, plants, and shrubs, and who has not been to these botanical gardens should go there. Everything is clearly labeled. Several of the cacti are in magnificent bloom. The Rhododendron and Azalea make a lovely display at present.

A. E. Montgomery

CONSERVATIVE NOTES

There has been considerable publicity recently, regarding the tremendous loss of fish in the Mississippi Valley, especially in the lower reaches. This has been established as being due largely to the residual pesticides washed into the river from the farm areas along the river and its tributaries. The materials considered mainly responsible for leaving these toxic residues are endrin and dieldrin. After much careful study, to eliminate other potential pollutants, biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service have been shown that these insecticides are the cause of not only the killing of vast numbers of fish, but also a great deal of animal and birdlife along the river system.

As a result of this destruction of natural resources, a sub-committee headed by Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut will soon start looking into the disaster, with a view to better control and regulation.

The National Audubon Society has announced that the results of a two year study of the population status and habitat of the California Condor would be completed this summer. This study has been conducted under the leadership of Dr. Alden H. Miller, noted ornithologist and head of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley.

Audubon President Carl W. Buchheister thanked Regional Forester Charles Connaughton and Supervisor William Hanson of the Los Padres Forest for postponing a decision on whether or not to build the so-called Sierra Madre Road in the Santa Barbara district of the National Forest until they could study the results of this investigation. The proposed road has been opposed by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, who have argued that increased traffic and human disturbance will further endanger the Condor. The findings may also result in a revision of the cooperative Condor protective program that has been in effect for nearly twenty years. No announcement of the investigation was made prior to this time, because it was feared that premature publicity might attract photographers and curiosity seekers in such numbers as to interfere with both the study and the birds. The Condor is extremely sensitive to human disturbance. However, the road controversy produced publicity that could not be avoided.

It is encouraging to note the cooperation of government agents in this instance, standing out in such marked contrast with the arrogant attitude of the Atomic Energy Commission with respect to the problem of power lines through Portola Valley and the Huddart Park area in our own region.

CONSERVATION MEETING

Although there is an unavoidable conflict with one of our major field trips, we wish to remind those who wish to help the cause of conservation on the Peninsula of the meeting and picnic to be held in Huddart Park on Sunday, May 3. For details, see the April issue of

THE SEQUOIA, or contact Bob Lebkicher (Em 6-6418). The featured speaker will be Mr. Harold Gilliam. Several candidates for County Supervisor are also to be present, to present their stands on conservation in this region.

HAVE FUN - BENEFIT AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Members of the Sequoia Audubon Society are invited to a catered picnic supper to be given by the Golden Gate Audubon Society at Audubon Canyon Ranch on May 9. Supper will be served about 5 pm. Reservations are \$2.00 for adults; \$1.00 for children under 8. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, and send to A. W. Larson, 44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7, before May 6. Those who wish may come early and spend the day. Nesting egrets may be observed all day. Starting at 3:30 pm tours will be conducted to Garden Club of America Canyon. Other features will be a raffle (benefit of Ranch Fund) and sale of autographed copies of BIRDING IN THE BAY AREA by Dale Peters Clyde and Hope Burchard Purmont (\$ 0.50 plus tax). Come and meet the authors. Look for Audubon Canyon Ranch sign on Highway 1 about four miles north of Stinson Beach, Marin County.

NOTICES from WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE - NAS

The following notices were received from Bill Goodall. Anyone interested should contact him at 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte, California.

60th NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION - Tucson, November 7-11, 1964
It is not too soon to register for the exciting 1964 National Convention, the first in the history of the Society to venture to the West. It will be a noteworthy occasion. Send your registration fee (\$5.00) to Mrs. Duryea Morton - National Audubon Convention - 613 Riversville Road - Greenwich, Connecticut - and you will receive full information about Convention Activities and housing procedures. Make check payable to "National Audubon Convention." ACT NOW - then RELAX.

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

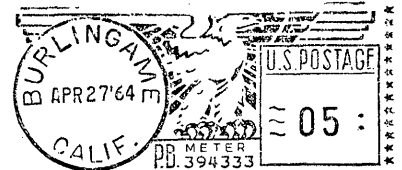
While extending regrets to the many who tried to attend camp this summer only to find it full, Bill Goodall suggests you let him hear NOW if you are interested in the 1965 program. Already, many have placed their names on a PRIORITY LIST to receive information in advance early in the Fall. We would be glad to add YOU to the rapidly growing roster, so don't delay.

ALBATROSS EXPEDITION

Leavitt McQuestion will sponsor his annual "Albatross Expedition" on Monday, June 15th. A sport fishing boat will leave Stagnaro's Landing on the Santa Cruz Municipal Warf at 7:30 am and return about noon. The destination will be the cod fishing grounds 12 miles offshore, where Black-footed Albatrosses are common at this season.

Tickets are \$1.50 and reservations should be made in advance. For more information write Viola Anderson, 1015 Connelly St., Salinas.

Return to: Sequoia Audubon Society Bulletin
c/o Mrs. Bonnie McClellan
1356 Bernal Avenue
Burlingame, California
(Form 3547 Requested)



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