



The Sequoia



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. A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Dr., Hillsborough, 344-4249.

MEETINGS

Feb. 3 BOARD MEETING at the home of President A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. All Board members are requested to attend, as are the Committee Chairmen. Other members are welcome.

Feb. 10 POTLUCK SUPPER - at the Washington School Cafeteria, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. Members and guests are invited to participate. These are always gourmet dinners - you are really missing one of our best functions if you don't come to a Potluck Supper. BE SURE TO LET the Social Committee know what you plan to bring. Call Ruth Canoles (343-8053) or Laverne Goodwin (342-0414) for this purpose.

Feb. 10 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Washington School Auditorium, address above. Mr. A. Warren Larson, President of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will present an illustrated program on Owls and other Birds of Prey. Mr. Warren, a teacher in the Richmond School District, has spent six summers as a seasonal Naturalist for the California State Park Department. Over a period of many years Mr. Warren, an ardent photo enthusiast, has taken many interesting and unusual bird pictures, including one of a Great Gray Owl. He will be able to give details on the color slides for those who want such data.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Nick Kroll OX 7-2051)

Feb. 6 LAKE MERCED - San Francisco
Sunday LEADER: Nick Kroll
9:00 am MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Lake Merced Boat House. This is reached by turning off of Skyline Blvd. at the Harding Park Golf Course entrance. The boat house is the first building on the right, between the two lakes. Wear warm clothing and be prepared to walk. Lunch is optional for those who want to make a day of it. This area is excellent for a great variety of birds, including water, marsh, and forest birds.

Feb. 19 PESCADERO BEACH
Saturday LEADER: Katherine Kroll (OX 7-2051)
8:30 am MEETING PLACE: Meet at 8:30 sharp at the intersection of Skyline and the La Honda Road. This area offers some of the finest birding in the county. Besides the beach itself, the largest fresh water marsh in San Mateo County lies behind it, extending over a mile towards the hills. Over 100 varieties of birds have been logged here, and this count may be approached in a single day. Such scarce types as Bitterns,

Feb. 5 BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK
Sat. For information on time and place of meeting call Florence Richardson (FI 5-4443). The first of this year's Beginners' Meetings was held

at the home of Gene Hebbbron, for an orientation session, with eight people attending. The subjects covered included "How to Identify Birds", the use of binoculars, and discussion of bird habits. A few birds came into the feeding area, and were viewed and identified by those present.

The second meeting, led by Florence Richardson, will cover the subject of field identification of birds. Gallinules, Rails, Kites, Yellow-throats and others can be expected.

Warm clothes and walking shoes are a must. Bring a lunch and be prepared for a very interesting outing.

Mar. 12-13 ALPINE LODGE on Mt. Tamalpais
Sat. - Sun. LEADER: Alice Steele (344-8317)

This is an advance notice for an overnight outing at this most enjoyable spot. The two day trip will include a picnic lunch at the Lodge, hiking, with a chance to see a variety of birds, flowers, and trees. On Sunday, after checking out of the Lodge, there will be a visit to Audubon Canyon Ranch, on Bolinas Bay. This is a most fascinating area, with a great variety of bird life.

More details will be given in the next bulletin - but make a note now to SAVE THIS DATE.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

GOLDEN GATE PARK - On January 8, 1966, Nick Kroll led a very enjoyable field trip in Golden Gate Park, beginning at the Chain of Lakes and ending at Stow Lake. The weather at the start was cold and overcast, then progressed to cold drizzle and finally ended with warm sunshine.

The trip had been thoroughly scouted and well planned, so the birding was good. We saw 34 species, including Yellowthroat, Creeper, Fox Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but the main emphasis was on ducks, which at this season may be studied at close range on the lakes in the Park. The Shovellers put on a show for us on North Lake, several ducks forming a close circle and swimming rapidly counter-clockwise, with their spoon-shaped bills dipped just below the surface of the water. Round and round they swam, then scattered; then formed the circle again and repeated the show. We watched this several times, just as Nick had told us we would see it.

In addition to the performing Shovellers we saw Mallards, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, Baldpate, Bufflehead, Cinnamon Teal, Lesser Scaup, Pintail and Ring-necked Duck.

Jed McClellan

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Possibly because of our experience in covering the shore birds from our program for the Department of Fish and Game, we had a record count this year. Neil Dickinson reported at the January meeting that there were 24 observers working on January 2, which turned out to be a good, clear day. A total count of over 100,000 birds was reported. Because of the clarity of the day,

this included large rafts of ducks on the Bay, which could not be distinguished. The count of identified birds was a fantastic 38,800. A list of 157 species was tabulated for the day. Some fairly scarce birds were reported, including Lesser Yellow-legs (2), Lawrence Goldfinches (2), Gallinule, Snow Geese (2), Evening Grosbeaks (2), Virginia Rail (1), and 5 Great Horned Owls. Among the surprising counts was the scarcity of Linnets, Robins, and Lesser Goldfinches. However, the observation of a single White-throated Sparrow, a number of Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and Rough-legged Hawks made up for these missing friends. Neil expressed his thanks to all those who were able to take part in this most valuable work.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Conservation work is challenging, but can also be depressing. As often said: "It's one crisis after another". Some days, when news is particularly distressing, your chairman feels like imitating those people who march up and down at street corners with placards that read: "Prepare to meet thy doom...the end of the world is at hand!!!...and this month was no exception in having its share of bad news:

Mineral King, a 13,000 acre tract bounded by Sequoia National Park has been opened for development as a ski resort by the U. S. Forest Service. Walt Disney won the bidding and plans to spend about \$40 million developing the area which will eventually accommodate 12,000 people a day.

Even more unnerving was the disclosure of a \$200,000 study the Public Utilities Commission is going to make on the San Francisco Watersheds. This study will explore the possibilities of recreation, housing...and hear this..."industrial parks" on existing watershed lands. If San Mateo County and its citizens don't begin action right away to retain the watershed we just might witness our most glorious piece of wilderness real estate go right down the drain.

Cheering news has come forth from the final reports of the various sub-committees of the San Mateo County Regional Planning Committee. These sub-committees have opposed the idea of a Bayfront Freeway and have urged its deletion from the San Mateo County Master Plan. Letters to Supervisors Chess, Werder, Fitzgerald and Fassler agreeing with this view would be in order from all of us because South San Francisco and other peninsula cities are pressing strongly for this Outer freeway.

The City of Menlo Park is now working very hard, through its Chamber of Commerce, to have its baylands selected as the site for a four year 20,000 student state college. While not against education, it would seem to me that a school of that size would practically necessitate an outer freeway and eventually require additional filling for expanded housing and facilities.

A conference on natural and urban beauty in California was held recently in Los Angeles. All the big names in California conservation and planning were there. Mr. William Rand, the husband of one of our members attended and delivered a paper. He is now writing a resume of the conference which will appear in the next bulletin.

1966 should see the Federal Government making some pretty big conservation decisions: the Everglades drought crisis, the proposed Grand Canyon Dams, the proposed Rampart Dam in Alaska and a Redwoods National Park. It is URGENT that you write your representatives now in support of the largest possible Redwood Park. PLEASE take the time. After all, if we, as Californians and Audubon members, don't care about the Redwoods who does???

Your conservation committee held a meeting January 18th and discussed ways we could be more active and influential in conserving the remaining baylands and keeping the Watershed intact. Very few people attended and we really do need all the help we can get. Anyone interested?

I urge you all to attend a meeting Jan. 27 at 8:00 p.m. in the Supervisors Chambers, Gov't. Center, Redwood City. This meeting is sponsored by the Town Hall Association and will concern the Bay. Bill Mott, President of Save S. F. Bay will speak and so will a private developer. Let's have a good turn-out.

Good reading: Justice William Douglas' new book: a Wilderness Bill of Rights.

Eleanor McCurley
Conservation Chairman

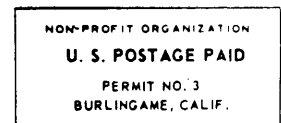
NEW MEMBERS

We have not had space to recognize some of our new members in the last few SEQUOIA Bulletins, so we will try to catch up now. If anyone has been missed, please let us know, and we will run their names in future issues. This is one way for old-timers to know who to look for at our meetings, and we hope help the newcomers to become absorbed into our activities.

Hilda H. Larsen - 1416 Hemlock Avenue, San Mateo
Miss O. C. Seeney - 1200 Palm Drive, Burlingame
Mr. Peter J. Hayes - 2340 Valleywood Drive, San Bruno
Mrs. Peter Schragger - 105 W. Santa Inez Ave., Hillsborough
Margaret Estep - 25 Manor Court, Redwood City
Mrs. N. P. Guadagni - 8 Kenmar Way, Burlingame
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Newman - 25 Corte Alagra, Millbrae
Dr. Oscar W. Hills - 412 Hurlingham Ave., San Mateo
Miss Jean Williamson - 1400 Palm Drive, Burlingame
Mrs. E. L. Becker - P. O. Box 1504, San Mateo
Mrs. Milton J. Richter - 811 Oregon Avenue, San Mateo
Mr. Bernard S. Cohn - 2411 Octavia St., San Francisco
Mrs. Robert L. Hammett - 1408 Alvarado Ave., Burlingame
Miss Dorothy C. Rogers - 325 Dwight Road, Burlingame

This may also be a good time to let Ruth Breckenridge's friends know that her new name is: Mrs. Willard Hass - 205 Santa Clara Way, San Mateo. Our best wishes to you, Ruth, and congratulations to the lucky man.

Return to Sequoia Audubon Society Bulletin
c/o John L. Morrill
505 Costa Rica Ave.
San Mateo, Calif.
(Form 3457 Requested)



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