



# The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 15, Number 7

March, 1966

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

- March 3 **BOARD MEETING** at the home of President A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. All Board members and committee chairmen are requested to attend.
- March 10 **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING** at the Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. An interesting and informative program will be presented by Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, Professor of Zoology at San Jose State College, who will speak on "The Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Migration of Birds". Dr. Mewaldt is Director of this new and unusual observatory, and is a member of the Santa Clara Audubon Society and Secretary of the American Ornithologists Union.
- Thurs. 8:00 PM
- Light refreshments will be served by our Social Chairman, Ruth Canoles, at the conclusion of the meeting.

## FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Nick Kroll Ox 7-2051)

- Mar. 12-13 **ALPINE LODGE, On Mt. Tamalpais.**  
Sat. -Sun. **LEADER:** Alice Steele (344-8317)
- As announced in the February Bulletin, this will be an overnight visit to this scenic region, with the facilities of the Lodge reserved for our group. Those wishing to participate in this very interesting and enjoyable outing should contact Alice Steele for reservations and instructions as to where to meet, what to bring, etc. On Sunday morning those who were unable to stay at Alpine Lodge will meet those coming from there at Audubon Canyon Ranch, which is on Highway No. 1, facing Bolinas Lagoon, north of Stinson Beach. We will all meet there at 10:00 AM, will have a walk until noon, and will picnic at Canyon Ranch.
- March 20 **MT. DIABLO STATE PARK**  
Sunday **LEADERS:** Paul Lechich  
Monty Montgomery (344-4249)
- MEETING PLACE:** 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, or independently, at Danville, at the intersection of Highway 21 and the road to Mt. Diablo at approximately 9:30 AM. Bring lunch. By going earlier this year than formerly we expect to see an exceptional number of wild flowers, which added to the enjoyable scenery and the varied bird life will make this a memorable trip.
- April 2 **BUTANO CREEK**  
Sat. **LEADER:** Jed McClellan (344-3486)  
8:30 AM **MEETING PLACE:** Meet at the parking area ("Vista Point") at the San Mateo Creek Dam (Spring Valley Lakes) On Skyline. Take a lunch. This will be the annual trek to see the see the Skunk Cabbage, Trilliums, and other wildflowers along Butano Creek -- one of the most beautiful areas in San Mateo County.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

- LAKE MERCED** - On Sunday, February 6, Nick Kroll led a delightful field trip to and around Lake Merced.
- At eight o'clock rain was falling hard, but very soon the weather turned bright, and from then on the day was sunny and beautiful. The wind was chilly.
- Birding was good. We saw forty-one species; though surprisingly enough, we did not see the resident Night Herons, which we almost take for granted at Lake Merced.
- The most exciting experience of the trip was hearing the Common Loons calling. There were several of them on the Lake.
- Other exciting features were the presence of one (young) Brown Pelican, and one Swallow. The Swallow swooped by so fast that no one saw him well enough to determine his species.
- There were many Ruddy Ducks on the Lake, and few Goldeneyes, Scaups, Buffleheads, and Mallards.
- The grebes were well represented with Westerns, Pied-billed, Earee, and Horned.
- I gave a short report on the origin and discovery of the Lake.  
J. Ed McClellan

**PESCADERO MARSH** - Saturday, February 19, started out rainy, following a night of wind and rain; but the rain soon broke up into occasional showers, and after lunch, the sun even came out. Eighteen people went on this field trip, and had a great time. Katherine Kroll was our leader.

We met at the intersection of Skyline and La Honda Road, at 8:30, in the rain. The Fire Willow (*Salix scouleriana*) which we have noted at that intersection for several years was in full bloom. We started listing birds at the meeting place, and added to our list as we journeyed down the La Honda Road to San Gregorio and the Coast, then down the Cabrillo Highway to Pescadero Beach, then, after spending considerable time at the beach and in and around the Marsh, easterly along Pescadero Road to Cloverdale Road to the site of the old (now removed) wooden bridge across Burano Creek, (where we ate our lunch), then back along Cloverdale Road and Pescadero Road to Bean Hollow Road, and south to the low Bean Hollow Lake (El Arroyo de los Frijoles). We completed our bird count here with a total of sixty species for the day.

On the Lake Merced trip, on February 6, we saw one Swallow, which was not identified. On this trip, we saw several Swallows flying around together, above the Pescadero Marsh. At least some of these were Violet-green Swallows, and some may have been Tree Swallows. Spring is near!

Most of the ducks and hawks seem to be paired now, and a few days ago Bonnie and I saw two Great Horned Owls, obviously mated. Many of the birds are now in full Spring plumage, and Varied Thrushes are very numerous this year, after several years of scarcity.

Some of the especially interesting birds on the February 19 list are Varied Thrush, Western Bluebird, Pine Siskin, American Bittern, Belted Kingfisher, Violet-green Swallows, White-tailed Kite, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Plover (on the beach), Audubon Warbler, Marsh Wren, Yellowthroat, Florida Gallinule, Lark Sparrow, Virginia Rail, and Mockingbird. We had hoped to see Say's Phoebe, often seen at Pescadero Marsh, but he eluded us.

After the field trip, many of us called on Margaret Bump, and enjoyed the birthday celebration which had been planned for the pot-luck supper of February 10. She turned eighty on February 11.

J. Ed McClellan

## CONSERVATION NOTES

"We have destroyed more of our environment than any nation on earth. Since World War II the United States has consumed more natural resources than were consumed in the entire previous history of mankind."

Francis J. Tremblay, Professor of Ecology, Lehigh University

The above quote was passed on to me by Bob Lebkicher and I in turn pass it on to you . . . an appalling statement, but unfortunately all too appallingly true.

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I am proud to announce that Sequoia Audubon has paid the \$100.00 membership fee required to become a council member of the newly formed Conservation Council of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. This Council will comprise interested groups in the three counties and will serve as a "clearing house" for conservation news, plus educating the public and co-ordinating the various activities of its member organizations. It has a budget for next year of \$10,000 and an office in Palo Alto. Sequoia Audubon will have a member present and voting at its meetings and we'll keep you informed of the Council's activities.

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There are three rather pressing items on the national conservation scene which warrant some good strong letters from all our membership. Letters have already been written on behalf of the Society itself, but individuals actually seem to carry more weight in these matters very often:

**REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK:** The President will soon propose a Redwoods National Park, but it is understood (and on good authority) that this proposal will ask for only 45,000 acres, and only one tenth of this will consist of virgin redwoods. Rep. Jeffrey Cohelan of California will present a bill which includes 90,000 acres and takes in the prime area desired for a redwood park of stature. Write your representatives in Washington urging them to support Cohelan's bill instead of the administration's.

**NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK:** Like the administration's proposed Redwoods National Park this proposed park would also be weak and incomplete if the study put together by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior is endorsed. This study, recently completed, requests 698,000 acres (half the size originally suggested) and leaves out the "prize" of the Cascades, Glacier Peak Wilderness. It also includes dams, additional roads in the highest country, helicopter service and chairlift lines. The North Cascades deserve a park equal to their magnificent scenery and I suggest letters to the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior and the National Park Service protesting these damaging "weak links" in the study.

**RAMPART DAM** (otherwise known as "The Plot to Drown Alaska") The proponents of this monstrosity, which would create a lake the size of Lake Erie by damming the Yukon, will try to win authorization for it from the present Congress. The Department of the Interior is planning to release a study of the proposed dam by March 16 and its advocates are getting ready to move on it right now. This dam, if built, would destroy the most valuable waterfowl breeding area in the entire continent. Get your objections recorded in Washington BEFORE March 16.

On the local scene the Park and Recreation Commission of San Mateo County is now considering asking for a 400 acre regional Park on the northwest corner of San Bruno Mountain. It's very nice that they are doing something about preserving part of San Bruno Mt., but I should like to see them ask for substantially more acreage than that. Even if 400 acres were set aside the great bulk of the mountain could still be altered beyond any recognition (and its earth dumped in the Bay). At this moment Crocker Land Co. has a plan on file to put 50,000 people in the area now occupied by San Bruno Mountain. The best (and biggest) goal would be to have the largest part of the mountain serve as a substantial regional park and open space area for heavily populated northern San Mateo County.

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You probably get requests for all sorts of conservation committees, everything from "saving the Bald Eagle" to "saving the last natural blonde in California," but here are a couple more organizations which DO deserve your support:

The Nature Conservancy  
149 California Street  
San Francisco, Calif. 94111 (buys outstanding natural areas for educational purposes)  
Planning and Conservation League for Legislative Action  
2636 Ocean Avenue  
San Francisco, Calif. 94132 (supports a lobbyist in Sacramento who tries, and is often successful in getting the conservationists' wishes transformed into law).

E. McCurley, Conservation Chm.

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### BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK

March 5 Call Gene Hebbroon (343-0415) for further information.  
Saturday  
9:00 AM

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### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors has designated the following members to act as a Nominating Committee to report nominations for officers and directors at the annual meeting:

Mrs. Jean Maxwell  
Mrs. Katherine Kroll  
Mr. J. Ed McClellan

Suggestions for nominations may be submitted to the Committee by any members of the Sequoia Audubon Society.

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### NEW MEMBERS

The following have taken a family membership in Sequoia Audubon:

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander M. Fletcher  
1824 El Verano Way  
Belmont, California Tel. 591-6804

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### AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

The Audubon Camp of the West is again offering four two-week sessions near Dubois, Wyoming, for members of the National Society. Anyone interested in the details may obtain information by calling or writing the Editor, John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Avenue, San Mateo, (DI 4-5497) Sessions run as follows:

June 26 - July 8  
July 10 - July 22  
July 24 - August 5  
August 7 - August 19

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

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