



# The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 15, Number 9

May, 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

May 5 BOARD MEETING at the home of President A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Dr., Hillsborough. All Board members and committee chairmen are requested to attend. Members of Sequoia are welcome to attend.

May 12 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame.  
Thurs. 8:00 p.m. Program: BIRDS FROM DOWN UNDER  
Mrs. E. L. Becker will present color slides taken by an Australian nature photographer of birds she observed on a recent trip to that country.  
In addition, a short film, THE WHITETHROATED SPARROW, distributed by the Canadian Travel and Wildlife Films will be shown.  
Light refreshments will be served following the program, courtesy of our Social Committee.

## FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Nick Kroll - OX 7-2051)

May 15 SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK  
Sun. LEADER: Mrs. Gene Hebbbron (343-0415)  
7:30 a.m. MEETING PLACE: Meet at 7:30 A.M. at the entrance gate to the San Francisco Water Temple at Sunol. Bring lunch and wear walking shoes.  
To reach Sunol, go to Niles and through Niles Canyon to Sunol. The entrance to the Water Temple is at the juncture of the Niles Canyon Road and Highway 21.  
Birding in the Sunol region is exceptionally good, and there should be a fine display of wildflower blossoms.

May 22 LAKE PILARCITOS AND STONE DAM  
Sun. LEADER: Ruth B. Hass (345-9089)  
8:30 a.m. MEETING PLACE: Meet at west end of dam on Sawyer Camp Road, about one mile from the Millbrae end of this road.  
Permission has been obtained from the San Francisco Water Department to take four pre-designated cars to Lake Pilarcitos. All other cars must be left at the meeting place. From Lake Pilarcitos we shall walk to Stone Dam. Trip must be limited to thirty people. For reservations phone Ruth Hass (345-9089)

May 28 TILDEN REGIONAL PARK, BERKELEY  
Sat. LEADER: Florence Richardson (FI 5-4443)  
8:00 a.m. MEETING PLACE: Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the northwest park entrance at the intersection of Spruce Street and Grizzly Peak Blvd., in Berkeley. The most direct route is via Eastshore Freeway to University, east to Shattuck Ave., left to Cedar, right to Spruce, then left again to Grizzly Peak Blvd.  
We will take the Laurel Canyon and Jewel Lake trails, covering a variety of habitats. Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatchers as well as other nesting birds and some late migrants should be seen. In the afternoon choose between the Regional Park's Botanical Garden of native California plants or more birdwatching. Bring lunch and be prepared to walk.

June 4 BUTANO FIRE TRAIL  
Sat. LEADER: J. Ed McClellan (DI 4-3486)  
8:00 a.m. MEETING PLACE: Meet at the dam on Skyline, at the head of Crystal Springs Road (San Mateo Creek Dam), at 8:00 A.M. Bring a lunch. We hope to find the bush poppies and Rhododendrons in bloom.

May 7 BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK  
Sat. For details on this trip call  
8:30 a.m. Mrs. Gene Hebbbron (343-0415)

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BUTANO CREEK: On April 2, we took the annual trip into Butano Creek Canyon - and for once there was no rain.

The wildflower display was perfect, as usual. The Skunk Cabbage and Trillium are the big attractions at this season and were at their peak. Both Sessile Trillium and Coast Trilliums were abundant. Other interesting plants in bloom were Canyon Gooseberry, Mission Bell Lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*), Dentaria, Wild Ginger, Stream Yellow Violet, Oso Berry, Red Elderberry, Big-leaf Maple, Box Elder, Red Alder, Hazelnut, Twinberry, Fairy Bell (both *Disporium smithii* and *Disporium hookeri*) and Bleeding Heart.

Of the birds, the Winter Wrens, which were singing all through the canyon, probably were the most exciting, or, perhaps, that honor should go to the Vaux Swift seen near the picnic tables. Among other birds seen were Wilson's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bush-tit, Pine Siskin, House Finch, Stellar Jay, Scrub Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna Hummingbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Rough-winged Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Robin, and Flicker.

As it did last year, the Girl Scout organization permitted us to use the picnic tables and a rest room, for which the key was furnished to us.

J. Ed. McClellan

ANGEL ISLAND: April 16, 1966

The weather cooperated perfectly - a warm clear morning so almost everyone went on the top deck of the boat to enjoy the views.

A thick finger of fog came under the Golden Gate Bridge, and sailing boats were out in force.

It's nesting time, and even the gulls have deserted the open water and are busy along the cliffs.

Wild flowers are beautiful now - Coast Lupine and blue-blue Ceanothus covered the slopes of the island. A few of the earlier fine display of Zygadine Lilies and Hound's Tongue are still there. We saw beautiful blue Lupines California Poppies, Indian Paint Brush, Phacelia, a lovely *Colinsea* - but the Wind poppies were the best of the day for all of us. The Red Thistles have only started to come out.

A Black Swift was the thrill for the experts - Band-tailed Pigeons, Ravens, Barn Swallows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Juncos, Chickadees, Orange-crowned Warblers, Soaring Red-tailed Hawks gave us pleasure all day. Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds were all about.

A total of 60 blossoming plants and 28 species of birds were listed.

Alice Steele

## CONSERVATION NOTES

**SKYLINE AS A SCENIC ROUTE:** The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recently passed favorably on the motion to recommend Skyline Boulevard as a State Scenic Highway. It is now up to the Division of Highways to see how Skyline meets the requirements for a scenic route. The disappointing side of the Supervisors' decision was the fact that they went along with the citizens' report and left the density at 1 acre instead of requesting 2 or 2-1/2 acres. It's hard to believe that you can actually retain the scenic vistas along Skyline with one acre lots.

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**STUDIES AND HOW THEY ARE MADE:** This might be the title for an article on this past month's activities in the conservation arena. On the home front we had a recently published study on the problem of garbage disposal in the Bay area made by Wilsey, Ham & Blair (the darlings of the developers). Employed by the scavenger people Wilsey, Ham & Blair came up with the SURPRISING and AMAZING!!!! conclusion that there is no other way now and for years to come to dispense of our refuse except by dumping it in the Bay. Now, just imagine how reassuring and comforting that solution was to the "fill the Bay with garbage" people. Are we really supposed to believe that this was a fair and thorough study?

The Arthur Little Company, on the other hand, recently completed a most extensive study of the effects a Redwood National Park would have on the economy of the region involved. They discovered that as the trees are cut and the forests gone there would be a decline in the economy, simply because the resource was no longer there... this would happen without a park. If a park were created they say there would be a decline in the economy at first, but then, even using conservative estimates of park visitors, the economy of the area would improve considerably and would continue to grow in the years to come.

A study we hope will be made is now being considered: that is the feasibility of double-decking the Bayshore Freeway. This is now being discussed in Sacramento, the main reason being the steadily rising prices of land acquisition costs. If they double-decked the Bayshore Freeway it should certainly remove the prospect of the Bayfront Freeway being built practically in the middle of our Bay.

**WATER RELIEF FOR THE EVERGLADES:** The director of civil works for the Army Corps of Engineers has informed National Audubon that \$1,500,000 could be utilized during the fiscal year starting July 1 to move large supplies of water from Lake Okeechobee to the National Park. Unfortunately, this money was not included in the Administration's Budget and the subcommittees must be persuaded to vote the money over and above budget recommendations. Write and urge such approval to Rep. Michael J. Kirwan, House subcommittee head and Sen. Allen Ellender, Senate Sub-committee head.

**DAMS IN GRAND CANYON:** This is now an imminent threat. Hearings are soon going to be resumed on the bills which would authorize the dams. This time however, they are going to broaden the legislation to include dams and irrigation projects in Colorado and New Mexico. This is being done to win the support of Rep. Aspinall of Colorado and Sen. Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, both very influential in the Interior Committees. Write your representatives now to defeat this newest scheme. If it is defeated it will be because enough opposition is generated in the rest of the states outside this bloc.

### NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD PROGRAM

Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology - In a recent issue of The Audubon Magazine a program to be operated by the Cornell Laboratory, to accumulate data for scientific study was described. The program is under the direction of Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. but is to be carried out with help from local regional centers. Mrs. Eleanor A. Pugh is serving as such a center for northern California, and has asked that anyone in Sequoia Audubon who can help out in this program participate.

To do so requires only that you obtain cards from Mrs. Pugh, and record on them the pertinent data regarding any nests observed. Even before securing the cards, make notes on the type of bird, contents of nest, location, date(s) observed, and any other information which appears to be of interest.

The information obtained in this program will help in the long range study of such things as:

- 1) Effects of chemical poisons on bird reproduction.
- 2) Adaptability of birds to loss of habitat and through urbanization.
- 3) Species that are little known or are diminishing.

To take part in this valuable program, write to Mrs. Pugh at Cambria, California (93428), and get a supply of cards.

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