



# The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 16, Number 3

November 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 - Editor, Mr. J.L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

## MEETINGS

November 3 BOARD MEETING at the home of President  
Thursday A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive,  
7:45 PM Hillsborough. Committee Chairmen should  
attend if possible, and all members are  
welcome.

November 10 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the  
Thursday Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard  
8:00 PM Ave., Burlingame. Our speaker will be  
Mr. William Anderson, of the State Depart-  
ment of Fish and Game. Bill will show some  
of his outstanding color slides of birds of  
San Francisco Bay, and will discuss the  
ecology of this Bay and its surroundings.  
Anyone who enjoys fine photography and  
beautiful bird pictures will not want to miss  
this meeting.  
Light refreshments will be served by our  
local Social Committee, under Laverne  
Goodwin, following the meeting.

## FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Nick Kroll 697-2051)

November 19 LOS BANOS WILDLIFE REFUGE  
Saturday LEADER: Mr. William Anderson  
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 9:00 AM sharp  
at TINY'S RESTAURANT, on Highway 152,  
in Los Banos. This is a long drive from San  
Mateo, so some may wish to go Friday  
night, and stay over. Please make your own  
reservations in this case. This should be  
done early, as the Duck season opens this  
week-end, and many motels will be filled.  
Call Nick Kroll for additional information.

November 27 RODEO LAGOON for Fall land, shore and  
Sunday water birds. The varied habitat of brackish  
8:30 AM lagoons, ocean beach and shrub covered  
slopes attracts many species.  
LEADERS: Florence Richardson (345-4443)  
Gene Hebbroon (343-0415)  
MEETING PLACE: Meet at Vista Point, at  
the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge.  
Bring a lunch and wear warm clothing.

AN EVENING WITH OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL JR.  
Mr. Pettingill, famous naturalist and wildlife photographer,  
will deliver an illustrated lecture and show his latest color  
film, entitled "New Zealand Spring".

November 16th 8:00 PM

Auditorium of the California Academy of  
Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
PRICE: \$2.50

This event is under the auspices of The Golden Gate Audubon  
Society and for the benefit of Audubon Canyon Ranch.  
Enclose check to Golden Gate Audubon Society, and self  
addressed stamped envelope, and send to:  
P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco, 94126

## BEGINNERS BIRD WALK

November 5 This will be a half-day trip for water fowl and  
Saturday shore birds of San Francisco Bay. For meet-  
9:00 AM ing place call Mrs. Dorsey (591-3109) or Mrs.  
Montgomery (344-4249).

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

On Saturday, October 8, the weather was fine, and after  
meeting at the San Mateo Creek Dam a considerable party  
of us drove to the Elliot Ranch opposite the California State  
Ano Nuevo Beach Reserve. There we drove through the  
ranch on a dirt road to the sand dunes.

On the way through the ranch we stopped at a pond and  
watched the birds there: Coots, Ruddy Ducks, and Pied-  
billed Grebes. Around the pond we saw Yellowlegs, Do-  
witchers, Dunlin, Quail, a Black Phoebe, Killdeer, Brewer's  
Blackbirds, Redwings, and California Gulls. In the fields  
and along the sand dunes we saw Song Sparrows, Meadow-  
larks, House Finches, Sparrow Hawk, a Bewick's Wren,  
and various Sparrows.

Leaving the cars at the edge of the dunes, we took our lunch  
baskets and walked to the beach, about half a mile, and then  
along the beach a short distance to the closest mainland  
approach to the island.

A part of the time the island, where the sea lions and other  
animals have taken over the old lighthouse and other build-  
ings, was obscured by fog; but for perhaps an hour the sun  
lighted up the island as though just for our benefit.

We ate lunch in the warm sunshine on a portion of the beach  
sheltered from the breeze, and then walked along the beach  
exploring like Robinson Crusoe.

While we were eating, both California Sea Lions and the  
great Stellar Sea Lions played and chased each other in the  
ocean where we could watch them with ease.

Along the edge of the ocean we saw Pelagic Cormorants,  
Knots, Black Turnstones, Willets, Marbled Godwits, Sand-  
erlings, Surf Birds, Brown Pelicans, and Tattlers.

Among the sand dunes we saw many interesting plants,  
including:

- Fuzzy Wuzzy (*Baccharis pilularis*) - in bloom
- False Heather (*Ericameria ericoides*) - in bloom
- Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) - in bloom
- Sea Fig (*Mesembryanthemum Chilense*) - in bloom
- San Verbena (*Abromia umbellata*) - not in bloom
- Willow (*Salix* species, probably *lasialepsis*) - not in bloom
- Seaside Heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*, var. *oculatum*) - in bloom
- Beach Primrose (*Oenothera cheranthifolia*) - in bloom
- Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera hookeri*) - in bloom

All had a very enjoyable time.

Jed McClellan

## CONSERVATION NOTES

### WHO WILL SAVE THE COASTSIDE?

"From San Francisco, a white stucco wave rolls south across the Skyline ridge, cascades down the Pacific slope and laps at the base of 1800-foot Montara Mountain. Wall-to-wall houses inundating once green valleys jam the land right to the ocean's edge. "South of the Montara ridge the land is a lush green laced with rich, dark farmland, bright fields of flowers, sand dunes, and marshes where, with luck, one may see a great blue heron feeding or in majestic flight.

"This is San Mateo County's Coastside. From Skyline Boulevard on the San Francisco Peninsula's mountain backbone to the Santa Cruz County boundary there are 260 square miles of farms and forests, beaches and mountains, less than ten percent of which has been developed. "But in the next decade this peaceful land may be swamped by stucco and blacktop and lost forever as the finest park and open-land resource remaining in the San Francisco Bay Area complex.

"Henry Doelger has announced plans for a 500-home subdivision --- the initial development of his extensive holdings near Montara; another developer has plans to spread a carpet of homes over the rolling farmland of the San Gregorio Valley.

"By 1975, a freeway will skewer the Montara Mountain barrier; another is poised to cross the mountains from San Mateo. Land speculators, eagerly anticipating the day when the Coastside will be half an hour from downtown San Francisco, are paying \$3000 to \$5000 per acre for potential residential land. Barring controls to the contrary, fields of artichokes, flowers and flax will be fed to the maw of the bulldozer, and the gentle slopes will be rendered unrecognizable.

"As a regional open-space resource the Coastside is surpassed only by San Francisco Bay. Here is precious open space, much of which should be preserved - - and enhanced. The opportunity to do just this remains. The question is: Who will do it, and how?

"True, the county has an unenforceable Master Plan that includes consideration of the coast. A handsome piece of artwork more honored for its violation than adherence, it offers no assurance for the future. Large sections of rolling coast land are colored the mustard-yellow designation for medium family density - - 11 to 15 persons per acre. But then so are the bayside hills of San Bruno, San Mateo and Belmont, which now resemble great tiered cakes frosted with stucco and used brick. The Master Plan shows most of the Coastside splashed with lush shades of green. But what happened to other green areas has destroyed my faith in the plan's efficacy.

"It is going to take a massive educational and coercive effort by the concerned people of San Mateo County. No group has a greater interest in the Coastside than those who live on San Mateo's Bayside, the greater part of which has already been cut up and covered by the developers.

"Means of control now exist which are not being used. The Board of Supervisors can, by exercising its present authority, zone and hold the zoning of undeveloped lands on the Coastside for exclusive agriculture, for recreation, for watershed. Such action would slow the rate of development to allow time for more permanent machinery to be designed to insure the orderly growth and protection the Coastside deserves.

## CONSERVATION NOTES (Cont'd)

"The decision-making process must be taken from the hands of the few who directly or indirectly make money in the process of suburban development. In order to guarantee the protection of the Coastside, new protective mechanisms must be created. As one possibility, why couldn't the state legislature establish a Coastside Regional Park and Open Space District with the power to control development, to establish parks and recreational areas, to hold agricultural lands in agriculture, and to protect forests and watersheds from harmful exploitation?

"It will not happen by itself. Only a concerted drive by well informed, dedicated ( if not outraged ) citizens will stop the mountain movers."

- - From an article in CRY CALIFORNIA, Spring 1966 issue, by William Shand, Assistant News Editor, Redwood City Tribune and member of San Mateo County Regional Planning Committee.

Submitted to Sequoia Bulletin by  
Marian Lockwood, Chairman  
Conservation Committee

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION

This is the last call for this event. The Convention will be held in Sacramento during the period of November 11 to 16. Many fine speakers and special events are scheduled, including field trips under noted naturalists. Plan to attend at least part of the meeting. Details and application forms may be obtained from the following:

A. E. Montgomery	John L. Morrill
2270 Summit Drive	505 Costa Rica Avenue
Hillsborough	San Mateo
Phone: 344-4249	Phone: 344-5497

## NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Mrs. L. Frances Wiseman, of 800 Memorial Drive, South San Francisco as a member of Sequoia Audubon. We hope she will enjoy many of our activities.

## REGIONAL EXCHANGE

A new and very valuable service to all people interested in Conservation is being offered by CITIZENS FOR REGIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS. This consists of a monthly report summarizing all major reports and developments of concern to conservation-minded people. Your Board of Directors has decided to subscribe to this service, so you will receive the periodic REGIONAL EXCHANGE with your Sequoia each month.

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