



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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December 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

- December 1
Thursday
7:45 P.M. BOARD MEETING at the home of President A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. Committee Chairment should attend, and all members are welcome.
- December 8
Thursday
6:30 P.M. POTLUCK SUPPER at the Washington School Cafeteria, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. Members and guests are invited to participate. Please call our Social Events Co-chairmen, Laverne Goodwin (325-0414) or Ora Ohliger (343-6031) at an early date to let them know what you plan to bring.
- December 8
Thursday
8:00 P.M. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Washington School Auditorium (address above). Our Program Chairman and Vice - President Howard Gurevitz, has arranged for us to see the most interesting and informative feature, "A Few Weeks in the Life of the Red-footed Booby", to be presented by Mr. Warren Turner. The program will consist of colored slides and movies taken of these amusing birds on the island of Kauai.
- December 3
Saturday
9:00 A.M. FIELD TRIPS
(Chairman: Nick Kroll 697-2051)
PILLAR POINT (Half Moon Bay)
LEADERS: Dr. and Mrs. Howard Gurevitz (342-3620)
MEETING PLACE: Skyline Blvd. at the intersection with Half Moon Bay (East end of causeway between lakes). Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes. Lunch optional.
- December 11
Sunday
8:30 A.M. SAWYER CAMP ROAD (Crystal Spring Lake)
LEADER: Mrs. Gene Hebbbron (343-0415)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the San Mateo Creek Dam on Skyline, near the head of Crystal Springs Road. Lunch optional.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A REMINDER: The annual Christmas bird count will be conducted on Monday, January 2, 1967. If you have not already signed up, please call Neil Dickinson (366-7661) for an assignment. We will need all the help we can get to make this a successful count. Areas to be covered, and the leaders for each are listed in the SEQUOIA for October.

BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK

- December 10
Friday
M. COYOTE POINT Yacht Harbor and dikes. Grebes, Loons, diving ducks including Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Scoter, and shorebirds may be present at short range. Call leaders for meeting place: Ruth Dorsey, 591-3109, or Florence Richardson, 345-4443.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BELMONT SLOUGH: October 30

A thoroughly enjoyable day, although the incoming tide covered the mud flats soon after our arrival. (This area has incredible concentrations of shore birds at low tide). We recorded 28 species. Except for a few Pintails and Ruddy Ducks at a distance, no ducks had arrived. Good opportunities for observing the Water Pipits, Savannah and Song Sparrows. A Whitetailed Kite was seen perched at a distance. Twelve Great Blue Herons stood together resting in the marsh grass. One of several resting Night Herons elected to fly up and approach our group closely, to alight and stand for a long time watching us with its ruby-red eyes. A curious people watcher !!

A. E. Montgomery

62nd NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

The SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY was well represented at the National Convention, held this year for the first time in our State, at Sacramento. The Convention was extremely well organized, and all events ran on time, with no confusion or delays. Those of our Branch attending the Convention were the following:

William Anderson	Marian Lockwood
Ruth Canoles	Gertrude Medler
Gene Hebbbron	John Morrill
Gladys Jaten	A. E. Montgomery
Charlotte Klock	Florence Richardson

The Sacramento Audubon Society is to be highly commended for their performance as the host Society for the Convention. Although attendance figures seen to date are not in agreement, ranging from 1100 to as high as 2000, it at least appears that a near record attendance was attracted.

In addition to the numerous field trips, all of which were essentially sold out well in advance, the many programs presented were of special interest.

The initial sessions were given over to reports on some of the accomplishments of the Society during the past year, such as the studies on the Condor and the Bald Eagle. Conservation needs were given regarding the Raptors, Latin American migrants, and the California Wildlife Plan.

Following a day of field trips, Monday's sessions were directed towards the place of the Outdoors in Education. This outstanding program featured speakers of national stature, who presented various ideas as to what should be done to educate our people to appreciate the outdoors, and a discussion of the importance of such studies.

The afternoon session on Monday was directed mainly to governmental approaches to Conservation, as presented by several legislators of both State and National rank.

Evening programs were mainly of an entertainment nature, showing films of the wildlife of such places as Hawaii, New Zealand, and the Galapagos Islands. Other nature films and slide programs were also given.

Altogether, this Convention was one which was encouraging in many ways, but one which clearly pointed out that there is still much to be done. Many fine ideas on how to advance the cause of Conservation were given and one attending the meetings could not fail to be charged up for the continuing fight to preserve those values in our environment which are threatened by those who consider only their own immediate financial gain, with no regard for the long range future of our country, and indeed the whole world.

This was truly an inspiring meeting.

CONSERVATION NOTES

PARTICIPATION NEEDED

The magnitude, seriousness, and political implications of current environmental threats to the Peninsula have become too vast for one individual to cover in this column! It is recommended that members (1) search local newspapers for conservation issues-- The Palo Alto Times, The Redwood City Tribune, and Burlingame's Advance Star give fairly good coverage and there may be others; (2) stay well informed on the current activity of agencies and "developers;" (3) REACT by attending meetings where hearings are held to show the elected officials that there is public interest, and/or by continually writing letters to the cognizant officials or agencies.

At the recent symposium at Foothill College on "Competition for the Bay" it was emphasized that unless the citizens participate in the decision-making which affects their environment, they will have to abide by decisions made in favor of "developers" who relentlessly and legally promote their schemes. Even Lee Ham, president, San Mateo Co. Development Association, stated Oct. 19 on the "Standing Room Only" panel sponsored by the College of San Mateo that had not the electorate in 1870 permitted the legislature to parcel out Bayside land it would still be in the public domain. Anything can happen to an unwary public.

CRITICAL ISSUES:

1. Proposal for Vast Bay-fill: Representing the interests of David Rockefeller of New York, Crocker Land Co., and Ideal Cement Co., the Pacific Air Commerce Center has announced a proposal for vast bay-fill involving bay frontage in Millbrae, Burlingame, and San Mateo for "auxiliary development serving the airport, extensive recreational and scenic (?) developments, industrial and warehousing facilities, marina-type residential and apartment complexes." (this is in addition to the application by the Pacific Utilities Commission to fill 200 acres of the Bay for the expansion of San Francisco Airport.) Are we willing to say goodbye to our good climate, not to mention the wildlife ecology, and accept perpetual SMOG, increased traffic congestion, and the probable reinstatement of the Bayfront Freeway plan?

There is one glimmer of hope: W. T. Lindquist, PACC president, stated that no development will proceed unless there is overwhelming public support. Let's attempt to show him that there is not by writing today to the San Mateo County Planning Committee, County Government Center, Redwood City, 94063.

2. Crystal Springs Lakes: On Nov. 2, at the CSM series on the Environmental Crisis, Sen. Dolwig disclosed that San Francisco is now under way in piping its water directly and will let go to Crystal Springs Lakes. Obviously this will leave Crystal Springs Lakes land up for grabs by developers unless the Board of Supervisors can act promptly enough to protect this incomparable gem of San Mateo County. Perhaps an aroused public could prod them into action prior to 1970 which is the earliest date mentioned in plans announced by the Parks and Open Space Sub-committee for acquisition of land.

CRITICAL ISSUES (CONT.)

3. Sloughs: A new fortnightly, "The Bay Guardian," published by Bruce Brugmann, 432 Natoma St., San Francisco, disclosed in its Oct. 27 issue that: "Leslie Salt Co. will gain 458 acres of sloughs, the public will gain virtually nothing in a complicated land swap proceeding quietly between Leslie and the State Land Commission." No person or agency seems to have questioned this multi-million dollar transfer of land titles--Not the BCDC, or Alan Cranston, State Comptroller, who (at this writing) is a member of the State Lands Commission and its representative on BCDC.

ITEMS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON CONSERVATION GUIDE

1. Two Correspondence courses offered by Cornell University biological principles and historical and legal bases of resource management, and "Current Topics in Conservation: treating subject such as water pollution, deer management, forestry, pesticides, etc. are available for \$10 each. To register or obtain information write to: Prof. R. J. McNeil, 122B Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., 14850.

2. New Condor Count: 51 The second annual field census of the California condor, held Oct. 18 and 19, by the California Fish and Game Dept., resulted in a conclusion that 51 different birds had been sighted. Last year's count: 38. National Audubon believes the larger count this year is due to improved census techniques; if correct, however, the new figure indicates the condor has a better margin for survival than previously believed.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

AFTER THE ELECTIONS

The recent elections, at local, State, and National levels, have brought about a considerable change in the nature of our government. The interest and concern of many of our new leaders in matters pertaining to Conservation are either unknown or are different than those of their predecessors. It would be well for each of us to write letters to these new leaders, to acquaint them with our ideas and wishes on matters of concern. A letter doesn't take long to write, so use some of your spare moments to further our cause, and let our leaders know how we feel.

NEW MEMBERS

We are again pleased to welcome several new members to the SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY:

Mrs. Mildred Speed
1419 Oak Grove Ave.
Burlingame, Calif.

Mrs. Wendell L. Wylie
820 N. Delaware, #309
San Mateo, California

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