

The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 17, Number 2

Oct. 1967

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, Dr. Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Dr., Hillsborough 342-3620 - Editor, Mr. J.L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

MEETINGS

- Oct. 5 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Thursday Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. 8:00 P.M. Committee chairmen should attend, and all members are welcome.
- Oct. 12 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreation Thursday Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. Members and guests are invited to participate. Please 6:30 P.M. call one of the Social Committee Co-chairmen, as indicated below, to let them know what you will bring. Barbara Drake 344-7320
Maureen McTaggart 366-4478
- Oct. 12 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at our new Thursday location, the Burlingame Recreation Center. 8 P.M. Bill Anderson, of the California Department of Fish and Game will present "Adventures With Wildlife and Wildflowers During 1967" illustrating his travels and observations from the Gulf of California to Glacier National Park with his colorslides.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Florence Richardson 345-4443)

- Oct. 14 PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR TRAILS Saturday LEADER: Jean Jones (344-0339)
10:00 A.M. MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor parking area. Turn off Bayshore at Embarcadero Road. Proceed east over the freeway past the municipal golf links to the yacht harbor. Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes. Bring lunch, as the best tide for one trail may be shortly after noon.
- Oct. 28 PESCADERO MARSH AREA, for marsh and shore Saturday birds.
9:00 A.M. LEADER: Katherine Kroll (697-2051)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at Pescadero Beach, opposite the end of Pescadero Road. Bring lunch and wear warm clothes.

D TRIP REPORT

INVERNESS and POINT REYES: September 9 and 10 Saturday we covered salt marsh and stream valleys in the Inverness area, the RCA Station, and had a quick look look at Limantour Estero. Small birds were less abundant than expected. Noteworthy were Winter Wren, Yellowthroat, and the two Yellowlegs and Virginia Rail that permitted observation at such close range. Memorable visit to Grace Miller's feeding station where 10 birds were observed within the half hour, including Downy Woodpecker, Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, and Thrush.

There was a great flock of Brown Pelicans on the bay, and three Black Turnstones greeted us at the meeting place. Most of the morning was spent on the Arroyo Honda trail at Point Reyes Bird Sanctuary, which offered excellent birding. Warblers were abundant, especially Townsend's and Wilson's. The exciting discovery of the whole trip was the American Redstart (male) in full breeding

Florence Richardson

SAN MATEO BRANCH - SIERRA CLUB CONFERENCE THE MOUNTAIN AND THE BAY

A distinguished panel consisting of Federal and local officials, a marine biologist, and conservationists will discuss the effects of man's activities upon San Francisco Bay. Topics critical to San Mateo County will be stressed, such as: The relation of San Bruno Mountain to proposed bay-fill plans. The Bay as man's garbage dump and sewage disposal plant effects of wastes, dredging, and fill upon aquatic life. The role of Federal and local government in regulating development of a rich resource.

Panel moderator:

Will Siri - Director, Sierra Club
President - Save-San Francisco
Bay Association

Panel:

Colonel Boerger - District Engr., U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers
Francis Felice - Marine Biologist, University
of San Francisco
Marcella Jacobsen - Vice President, Save-San
Francisco-Bay Association
William Schreeder - San Francisco Regional
Director, Federal Water Pollution Board
Robert Stallings - Manager, San Mateo County

Program: 7:30 - 8:00 P.M. Business meeting,
Peninsula Regional Group
8:00 - 8:30 P.M. San Francisco Bay movie
8:30 - 9:30 P.M. Panel Presentation
9:30 - 9:45 P.M. Recess
9:45 - 10:30 P.M. Questions

Date: Wednesday, 4 October 1967

Place: Burlingame Recreation Center Auditorium
850 Burlingame Avenue, Burlingame

CONSERVATION BAY CRUISE

Last spring, the San Mateo County Junior Museum and the Boyd Natural History Museum of San Rafael sponsored a very successful cruise of the South Bay area. Georg Treichel and Dr. Howard Cogswell provided a most enlightening commentary on the South Bay and its problems.

This fall the same sponsors are planning a trip to view the North Bay, with the same commentators. The route taken will be along the Marin County shore and across to Contra Costa County. It is planned to circle Marin Island, where there is a heron rookery, and to go by the whaling station at Richmond. Don't count on seeing a whale, though.

Let's compare the North Bay area to our South Bay - the natural features, the shoreline development, and the ever present problems.

DATE: November 4, 1967
TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
COST: \$2.50 per person

(NOTE: send check, with name and address, to the Junior Museum; Address: Coyote Point, San Mateo.)

No telephone reservations will be accepted, but you may call the Museum (344-9911) for information.

CONSERVATION NOTES
MARSHES VANISHING

Four-fifths of the marsh areas around San Francisco Bay have been converted to residential use and more than half of the water area is "in immediate danger of being filled," Assistant Secretary of the Interior Frank C. Diluzio said in an address to the National Symposium on Estuarine Pollution at Stanford University, August 23. He described estuaries, where rivers meet the sea, as one of nature's "richest treasures, a sensitive and complex interaction between the air, the land and the water." The histories of estuaries, he said, "has been one of steady and now accelerating destruction. Today the condition of our estuaries is shocking: their future is bleak and the need for action is urgent." San Francisco Bay, Diluzio said, "is a startling example of the effects of urbanization on an estuary. Of the original 435 square miles of water area, 17 square miles have been filled in and 240 square miles are in immediate danger of being filled. Of the 300 square miles of marsh areas around the Bay, 240 square miles have been converted to residential use." He emphasized the pollution of our environment, and particularly the estuaries, "creates a process which we little understand, but which we are quite sure will be deadly serious to us, to future generations and to the future of mankind."

"CITY-IN-THE-BAY" SINKS (WE HOPE !)

Respectful and appreciative kudos to San Mateo County Planning Commission for its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that the City-in-the-Bay project be rejected as damaging to the natural functions of the Bay and to the general environment of the Peninsula.

City governments representing the residents of Millbrae and Burlingame also rejected the proposal and many qualified environmental specialists warned against the effects of the massive Bay-fill. Save San Francisco Bay Association has been diligent in dissemination of information to its members.

We have all these people to thank for the responsible roles they took in influencing the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to consider only what is apparently, from the Sept. 20 newspaper announcements, a vastly reduced development plan which contains some park land making the shores of the Bay accessible to the public. Conservationists, however, will not relax their vigilance until details of the revised plan are publicized.

COYOTE POINT

Local conservationists are much concerned about a proposal by the Board of Supervisors to build an olympic-size swimming pool and its accompanying parking lot of 13 acres on the comparatively small tree-studded knoll at Coyote Point. The exceptionally strong Bay winds would need to be dealt with by sinking the pool deep into the hill at great cost to the County. There are other far more appropriate sites in the County for a large public pool. One that has been suggested is the 23 acre portion available at the County Fairgrounds, which would be more accessible to the public and would provide space for the pool, its auxiliary buildings, and the parking lot.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS

Arthur Frye, Jr., general manager of the San Francisco Water Dept., recently announced to San Mateo County officials that the San Francisco Water Dept. is ready to declare its Crystal Springs - San Andreas watershed property an agricultural preserve under the terms of the Williamson bill which allows reduced taxes on rural lands held in open space for ten years. The open space classification applied to the Crystal Springs area will be a noteworthy and welcome action toward preservation of the beautiful lake area. Now, if only the State Highway Commission would relent on its objectionable plan to build a freeway along the shore of Crystal Springs, San Mateo conservationists might be able to believe that the scenic wonder of the Crystal Springs area was no longer endangered.

CALENDAR FOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Your attendance is earnestly solicited.

- Oct. 3 - 7:30 P.M. Sequoia Audubon Conservation Committee meeting Junior Museum, Coyote Point, San Mateo.
- Oct. 4 - 8:00 P.M. "The Mountain and the Bay" Panel discussion; moderator: Will Siri, Director Sierra Club and President, Save the Bay Association Burlingame Recreation Center Auditorium (A Sierra Club meeting, open to the public) Details on preceding page.
- Oct. 5 - 8:00 P.M. Charter Study Committee - Public hearing concerning a proposed change in San Mateo County charter whereby supervisors would be elected by districts instead of on the present county-wide basis. City Council Chambers, New Civic Center, Daly City.
- Oct. 25, 26, 30 Tentative dates - Candidates Nights Sponsored by League of Woman Voters. Watch local newspapers for time and place of these meetings. Plan to go and ask the candidates' their position on major conservation issues.
- Nov. 4 North Bay Conservation Cruise with Georg Treichel. Phone Junior Museum (344-9911) for details and reservations. Details on preceding page.
- Nov. 4 - 8:00 P.M. Conservation Workshop Sponsored by Sierra Club. Watch November Sequoia Audubon Bulletin for location, or call 325-0517.
- Nov. 9 - 8:00 P.M. Candidates Night. Sponsored by Committee for Green Foothills and other conservation groups. Sequoia High School auditorium.
- April 6 - 9, '68 National Audubon Society Western Conference Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California "Playing Russian Roulette with Nature" If interested send your name and address to: National Audubon Western Conference P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Calif., 91733

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee



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