



The Sequoia



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

- February 6
Thursday
8:00 PM
- BOARD MEETING at the home of Vice-president Charles Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION. Members are welcome to attend.
- February 13
Thursday
6:30 PM
- POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Ave. All those planning to attend please advise the Social Committee, below, to let them know what you will bring. Those attending are requested to bring their own utensils.
Miss Anne Hall 341-5198
Miss Estelle Naggini 343-7913
- February 13
Thursday
8:00 PM
- REGULAR MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, following the Potluck Supper. The program will feature the proposed South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge. Arthur Ogilvie from the Santa Clara County Planning Department will bring us up to date on the planning and political maneuvering. Dr. Howard Cogswell from Hayward State College will review the biological importance of this refuge complex. The bill to establish this refuge has already been introduced into Congress (H. R. 2749). It now needs our informed support. We are looking forward to an interesting and informative evening with slides and commentary.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones -- 344-9339)

- February 8
Saturday
9:00 AM
- FORT CRONKITE AND RICHARDSON BAY
LEADER: G. Paul Lechich (344-3405)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at Vista Point, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The first part of the trip will be to Fort Cronkite, then on to Richardson Bay, where Fred Ross, of the Audubon Center will assist Paul. Bring lunch and wear warm clothing.
- February 23
Sunday
9:00 AM
- SEARSVILLE LAKE
LEADER: Monty Montgomery (344-4249)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the entrance to Searsville Lake, near Woodside. There is a 25¢ per person entry fee. Wear hiking shoes and warm clothing. Bring lunch and listen to titmice and warblers in the picnic area.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - December 29, 1968

The big event of the 1968 count was the return of the Robins in great numbers. They had started to recover last year but really swarmed over our area in December to strip the toyon and pyracantha bushes clean. Perhaps the Robins are now innured to DDT. Cedar Waxwings and Varied Thrushes were also unusually abundant. Is there a correlation between these three seed eaters?

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a first for our count - indeed a first for our area! Sally Kinsell and Lou Hart spotted this "miniature mockingbird" in Sally's garden.

Sally found the Black-capped Chickadees in the Madrone Area of Huddart Park along with the chestnut-backed variety - the second recording for our area.

Present at feed trays of Sally Kinsell and Paul Lechich, respectively, were a Red Crossbill and a Bullock's Oriole. Crossbills are erratic in their behavior - some years being abundant, and more often completely absent. Probably the Oriole just lingered where food was readily available.

The count of one thousand Knots was made by Al Bergeron on a single long but narrow shell bar near Foster City. The Knots were resting in the company of approximately equal numbers of Godwits and Willets.

Alice Steel and I continue to note "Short-billed Western Sandpipers" - this year 25 of the Semi-palmated Sandpipers are reported by me and 3 by Alice. This question will be resolved only by an expert examination of a new collection of "Western" skins to prove Alice and me ornithologically inept or the writers of guide books guilty of uncritical copying from original sources.

Alice observed the two Barrow's Goldeneyes during the week of the count, but not in the actual count day. For the past three years or so there have been sporadic sightings of a Flamingo in our general area of the Bay marshes. Source - escape? - species?

After a precount survey with Alice Steele of our "salt marsh" area, I can only express amazement at the number of species found in this habitat this year. The amount of filling is appalling. However, new mudflats do appear and fill sinks into the mud, upon which it is floating, to create pot holes.

Final tally discloses that this is our best year ever in both species and individuals.

Previous highs were:	Species (1959)	164
	Individuals (1966)	57,199
In the 1968 count:	Species	165
	Individuals	87,740

In view of the evident deterioration in our count area, I don't believe it, but there it is - perhaps better coverage.

Neil Dickinson, Leader

CONSERVATION NOTES

AN EXCITING HAPPENING!

A proposal of extraordinary interest to Audubon members is gaining momentum and public support at an impressive rate. This is the proposal to establish a National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay which has been ably sponsored by the South San Francisco Baylands Planning, Conservation and National Wildlife Refuge Committee (ad hoc) brought together by the Santa Clara Planning Department. Participating in the Committee are representatives of Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, various federal, state, local agencies and service organizations, as well as private citizens and conservation groups.

The areas proposed for acquisition are:

- A. Greco and Bair Island, San Mateo County - 2,800 to 3,800 acres;
- B. Coyote Hills Slough southerly, west of Coyote Hills to south of Mowry Slough, Alameda County - 7,000 to 10,000 acres;
- C. Alviso area, western portion Station Island (Drawbridge area), in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties - 3,000 acres.

The Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife in the Department of the Interior recently completed a feasibility study for the refuge and supports it as a potential "showcase of the West".

Congressman Paul N. McCloskey of San Mateo county is one of three mid-peninsula congressmen who have joined five of their northern California colleagues in introducing a bill to the House of Representatives which would provide direct funding for the refuge. Co-authors of the bill in addition to Congressman McCloskey are: Don Edwards, San Jose; Charles Gubser, Gilroy; Jeffery Cohelan, Berkeley; William Maillard, San Francisco; Robert Leggett, Vallejo; Phillip Burton, San Francisco; and John Moss, Sacramento.

Approval of the respective local jurisdictions is, of course, required. On January 14, the City Council of Fremont unanimously passed a resolution approving the proposed refuge before an overflow crowd of interested citizens. Presentations will be made subsequently to Redwood City and San Jose city councils, and to the affected county Boards of Supervisors.

Five Bay area Audubon societies will join forces in active support of the proposal; their efforts will be coordinated in a committee headed by Maryann Danielson. Paul Howard, Western Regional representative of National Audubon Society, attended the first meeting of the committee on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the invitation of Sequoia Audubon president, Howard Gurevitz, and assured the group of NAS interest and assistance in developing public support.

To find out more about this exciting new idea, be sure to attend the regular Sequoia membership meeting on Feb. 13, when there will be a slide presentation of Bay refuge habitat and inhabitants. Invite non-members to attend so that public interest will begin to grow in San Mateo County! We shall need lots of interested citizens to attend public hearings.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN IN JEOPARDY

The San Mateo County Parks and Open Space Plan, so widely acclaimed when first presented to the public by the Regional Planning Committee, reportedly will face harsh criticism when presented to the County Planning Commission at the County Government Center, Redwood City, at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 13, and its implementation may be jeopardized unless there is substantial show of public support. All members interested in improving county park and open space conditions should attend the Feb. 13 meeting.

Marian Lockwood

NAPA RIVER CRUISE

Under the sponsorship of the San Mateo County Junior Museum, a special conservation oriented Spring cruise up the Napa River is being planned. There will be the always enjoyable trip across the central section of the Bay, past the Mare Island Shipyard, to the Napa River. There should be nesting water birds to be seen, and a good look at one of the few remaining areas of undisturbed marsh in our region. Commentary will be furnished by experts on ecology and biology, to help interpret what is seen. Some of the areas under consideration of BCDC will be seen.

Date: Sunday, April 13, 1969
Time: Leave San Francisco at 9:00 AM, return about 5:00 PM
Cost: \$5.00 each. (Not recommended for small children: those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

to secure reservations, send money to:

San Mateo County Junior Museum
Coyote Point, San Mateo, Calif. 94401

give name, address, telephone number, and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope, so that your tickets may be sent to you. For further information call the Museum 344-9911.

Non-Profit Organization
Sec. 34.65E, P. I. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 152
BURLINGAME, CALIF.

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dickinson
554 Oak Park Way
Redwood City, Calif. 94062