



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 18, No. 7

March 1969

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

March 6
Thursday
8:00 PM
BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough.
Members are welcome to attend.

~~February~~ ^{March} 13
Thursday
8:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. Ronald A. Russo, naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District, has a fascinating story to tell us about mushrooms and other fungi. Their interrelationship with trees, birds, and other animals and plants of forest and field will be explained in a color slide presentation. Light refreshments will be served following the program by our Social Committee co-chairmen, Anne Hall and Estelle Maggini.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

March 8
Saturday
9:00 AM
PESCADERO BEACH STATE PARK
LEADER: G. Paul Lechich (344-3405)
MEET at the Turnout, at the intersection of Highway 1 and Pescadero Road, where we will view ocean birds. Then to the fresh water marsh, where quiet observers may see Bitterns and Marsh Wrens. Bring lunch and a warm jacket.

March 29
Saturday
8:30 AM
BUTANO CANYON
LEADER: L. Alice Steele (344-8317)
MEET at Crystal Springs Dam. This is our annual "Skunk Cabbage Trip". We will be in one of the finest areas in the County for seeing wildflowers blooming at this time of the year. Bring lunch and wear hiking shoes.

BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK

March 22
Saturday
9:00 AM
FOSTER CITY
LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443)
Some shore birds will be changing to colorful breeding plumage before leaving for nesting grounds.
For information on this Beginners' Walk call Mrs. Richardson (345-4443)

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

FOSTER CITY - January 25. Seventeen birders braved the rains this day and were rewarded with a fifteen minute viewing of the Virginia Rail, first spotted by Florence Richardson. After meandering slowly toward us, it crossed the road and settled down under a mallow plant. Some forty species were sighted, including many Horned larks, Knots, Curlews, and one Whimbrel.

Jean Jones, Leader

FORT CRONKITE - February 8. A total of fifty-nine species of birds were logged on this outing. Most were first seen at Fort Cronkite, but were seen again at Richardson Bay. Most noteworthy sightings were Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swift, Red-throated Loon, Fulmar, both Long and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Old Squaw and several other species of ducks, Brandt Cormorant, five species of Gulls, Red-throated Merganser, and 6000-7000 Western Grebes. Altogether, this was a most successful field trip, led by Paul Lechich.

SIERRA CLUB WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

The Eleventh Biennial Wilderness Conference of the Sierra Club will be held at the Hotel in San Francisco, March 14 and 15. Prominent speakers will discuss many of the problems facing us today, with regard to our environment. This has always been a most interesting conference, and is strongly recommended to those who are concerned with these problems. Lists and registration forms for the conference may be obtained by contacting:

John L. Morrill
505 Costa Rica Avenue
San Mateo, California 94402
Phone: 344-5497

CONSERVATION NOTES

S.O.S. FOR BCDC!

Melvin Lane, chairman of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, warns that the Government Efficiency Committee, headed by Sen. Richard Dolwig of San Mateo is the greatest obstacle to passage of the proposed BCDC Plan to control Bay fill. In view of the pressure upon the legislators of powerful Bay-fill proponents such as Westbay Community Associates, Leslie Salt, the City of San Mateo, the bill may be so amended as to nullify its purpose unless the legislators can be convinced there is a public demand for a bill with effectively strong controls.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Support for the National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay is building up. The Fremont City Council on Feb. 11, in the face of opposition by the president of Leslie Salt, reaffirmed its endorsement of the refuge proposal introduced into Congress by congressional bill H. R. 2749 by nine Bay area congressmen and referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Over 200 science professors of local college have signed a resolution supporting the refuge as needed for its educational, recreational, environmental and ecological value. The Executive Board of the Sierra Club has voted to pass a resolution supporting BCDC and the wildlife refuge. Bay Area Audubon Societies are contributing funds to finance a brochure describing the refuge which will be reproduced by the thousands and distributed to the public; contributions also from individuals are needed to increase this fund -- tax deductible if checks are made to Sequoia Audubon and mailed to Dr. Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough.

CALENDAR FOR CONSERVATIONISTS - (Note especially the public hearings)

March 14 and 15 - 1969 Wilderness Conference, Sierra Club, Hilton Hotel, San Francisco - featuring guest speakers Roger Tory Peterson, and Secretary of the Interior Hickel (!)

March 16 - 9 AM - 2 PM - Field trip in conjunction with the Wilderness Conference: Tour by boat of San Francisco Bay with commentary by Harold Gilliam and Georg Treichel.

For reservations for the March 14, 15, and 16 events, contact the Sierra Club, P.O. 3471, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, 94119.

March 18 - 8 PM - Bayside School, 2025 Kehoe Ave., San Mateo
Public hearing by the City of San Mateo on its "Venice West" proposal involving 1550 acres to be filled or diked off from Bay tidelands to create a convention center and other non-water oriented "developments", which would be detrimental to the entire Bay area environment and is considered to be a wedge to implement Westbay Community Associates' plan to fill 4,000 acres of the Bay.

April 10 - 8 PM - San Mateo City Hall, 330 West 20th Ave., San Mateo. Public hearing on the above subject.

April 13 - Napa River Cruise - conservation oriented. \$5.00 Sponsored by San Mateo County Junior Museum, phone 344-9911.

READING FOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Feb. 1969 issue of Reader's Digest:
"World Population - Is the Battle Lost?" by Dr. Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University
"America the (Formerly) Beautiful" by James Nathan Miller

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

SOUTH BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

With a bill in Congress (H. R. 2749), it is now imperative that we all get behind this effort, and inform the general public regarding the importance and real value of having a wildlife refuge in this region. This will require a major effort on the part of all of us. A committee comprised of representatives of all of the regional Audubon Branches has been formed, and is developing brochures to be distributed. This takes money, so your contribution is hereby solicited. Contributions for such purpose should be sent to:

Miss Maryann Danielson
San Mateo County Junior Museum
Coyote Point, San Mateo, California 94401

Non-Prof
Sec. 34.6
U. S. PO
PERM
BURLING

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
2270 Summit Dr.,
Hillsborough, Calif. 94010