



The Sequoia



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BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 18, No. 10

June 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

- June 5
Thursday
8:00 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. Board members and committee chairmen should plan to attend. Other members of Sequoia are welcome.
- June 12
Thursday
6:30 PM POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. All who plan to attend are requested to call Anne Hall, Chairman of the Social Committee (341-5198), to let her know what you will bring. You are also asked to bring your own utensils and plates.
- June 12
Thursday
8:00 PM REGULAR MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, following the Potluck Supper. Our June program will be an all sound movie presentation of outstanding films of special interest to Audubon members and nature lovers. Featured will be "The Private Life of the Kingfisher", "Whitethroat", and other short films. Plan to attend and bring guests for pure entertainment of a lighter touch than usual.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

- June 14
Saturday
9:30 AM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH
LEADER: Monty Montgomery (344-4249)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at Audubon Canyon Ranch, about three miles north of Stinson Beach, on California Highway 1. There will be morning and afternoon hikes. Both Great Blue Herons and Egrets will be on their nests. Bring lunch and plan to stay all day.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

TENNESSEE COVE (April 26): A beautiful day was enjoyed by about 25 members. Permission to enter this beautiful area was kindly provided by Mr. Dean Witter, through whose property one must pass in order to reach this secluded spot. Fifty-two species of birds were tallied by Peter Metropulos, the list including birds of prey, sea and shore birds and many species of field and forest.

Charles Newman and Peter Metropulos

AL WOOL RANCH (May 3): Neither wind nor washed-out bridges, not hay-pitchers arriving could spoil the enjoyment of the beautiful Al Wool Ranch. Mrs. Wool and son Howard led us first through the nearby canyon, then on to the ranch. Outstanding sightings of the day included four species of Flycatchers, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, and the Pigmy Nuthatch.

Jean Jones

U. C. BOTANICAL GARDEN, Berkeley (May 10): The weather was perfect; the surrounding hills fresh and green; the flowers very beautiful and the birds quite numerous—we could hear their voices and songs from all directions. Many were sighted, among them: thrushes, warblers, finches, a thrasher, a Western Tanager, and others.

Katherine Kroll

TILDEN PARK, Berkeley (May 17): 46 species of birds were logged. At least six Bullock's Orioles nests were sighted in the model farm area. Black-headed Grosbeaks were abundant and nesting. One Robin's nest was ornately decorated with yellow tissue. House Wrens were home-making - Berwick's Wrens nearby. Olive-sided Flycatchers called for "three beers" from the highest trees. Hummingbirds and warblers were scarce, but Orange-crowned and the seldom seen MacGillivray's were seen and heard in Laurel Canyon.

Florence Richardson

ANNUAL ELECTION

At the May meeting, the nominating committee recommended that we re-elect the same Directors and Officers as served during the present year, and presented this as their slate of nominees. There being no dissent, nor other nominations, the members in attendance then re-elected this slate. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Board and Officers will appear in the September Sequoia Bulletin, as will the newly appointed committee chairmen.

SOUTHBAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Redwood City Council will hold a public hearing on the subject of the South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge on June 9, at 7:30 PM, in the County Supervisors' Chambers at the Government Center in Redwood City. Letters to this Council would be helpful, as would a strong attendance. This is one of the crucial areas being considered for the Refuge, as it includes Greco Island (an Audubon Sanctuary) and the section of Bair Island where there is a large nesting area for herons and egrets. ATTEND THIS MEETING!!

344-1314

CONSERVATION NOTES

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

At this writing, Sentaor Richard Dolwig, San Mateo County's state senator, impervious to public demand for a strong bill to protect San Francisco Bay from destruction by fill, has prepared a bill containing flaws that could stymie final action on a bill during this session of the legislature. Unless the life of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission is extended in this session, the bay will be immediately vulnerable to massive fill projects by developers. While the bill is delayed in committee, developers reportedly are working to gather votes of Southern California legislators for a bill favoring the exploiters.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

During May, presentations of the proposed National Wildlife Refuge were made to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and to the Menlo Park City Council. Both agencies expressed approval of the concept conditional upon consideration of their previous plans for the acreage involved. Recommended by the U. S. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife for acquisition in San Mateo county are: Greco Island; the portion of Bair Island containing the egret and heron rookery; and Ravenswood Point, choice marshland in Menlo Park.

Individually, we should express appreciation to these two agencies for their consideration and urge their complete support.

DDT - "Death, Destruction and Terror"

Distressing beyond words are the warning signals coming from biologists on the effects of DDT now appearing in California Wildlife. DDT is killing infant San Francisco crabs according to Richard Pool, biologist with the Marine Resources Laboratory of the State Division of Fish and Game; he said other economically important ocean-food animals might also be suffering from DDT. Dr. Robert W. Risebrough, Institute of Marine Research at University of California has found that heavy concentrations of DDT emptying from rivers in farm areas of California are causing near disastrous nesting failures among pelicans. DDT scooped from plankton and small fish upsets an intricate hormone-enzyme relationship and causes the pelicans to lay eggs so deficient in calcium that they fall apart, he explained. On Anacapa, one of the Channel islands off Oxnard, California, his research group found only twelve intact eggs in 298 nests and hundreds of broken eggshells littering the ground. Many still contained yolk material found in laboratory tests to be heavily infested with DDT. On a return visit days later, all of the 12 originally intact eggs were found broken. Many other varieties of sea birds also are being affected by the toxic flows, including cormorants, Risebrough said. Virtually the entire Stanford biology department, from professors to graduate students, issued a statement denouncing the continued use of DDT and related pesticides and deploring "recent efforts by the agricultural chemical industry and its trade publications to discredit responsible scientists who are calling attention to the dangers of dispersal and accumulation of these chemical compounds."

Dr. Charles Wurster, chairman of the Environmental Defense Fund, told 500 members of the Committee for Green Foothills and the Stanford Environmental Population Forum, May 19, the interesting account of EDF's success in banning DDT from the State of Michigan and Suffolk County in New York by court action; hearings are in progress in Wisconsin. DDT has been banned in Sweden.

CALIFORNIA DDT-BAN BILL INTRODUCED: S.B. 1740, by Senator Nejedly, Walnut Creek. Prohibits sales, use or possession of DDT and certain other pesticides. (This bill will require strong public support to counteract lobbying action by the pesticide manufacturers and farmers).

EAR POLLUTION

The article, "Ear Pollution" in the May '69 issue of Audubon could have been written for residents of the mid-Peninsula -- our overhead roars are becoming almost unbearable and the SST is still to be added unless U. S. Congressional action cancels the project.

Some relief is found in expressing objection. Who to contact? Sound Abatement Center, San Francisco Airport, San Mateo, 94128; phone 589-3100. For objection to sonic boom: Hamilton Air Force Base, phone: 883-7711 and the Citizens League Against the Sonic Boom, 19 Appleton St., Cambridge, Mass., 02138.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

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