



The Sequoia



Volume 21, No. 6

February 1972

BULLETIN OF THE SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEETINGS

- February 3 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Charles Newman, 25 Corte
Thursday Alegre, Millbrae. All Board members and committee chairmen
8:00 PM should attend. Other members are welcome.
- February 10 POTLUCK SUPPER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Ave.
Thursday Burlingame. Please bring your own table settings. Call one of
6:30 PM the following committee members to advise what you will bring:
 Ruth Crotchett 343-5226
 Gladys Herr 345-4559
- February 10 REGULAR MEETING, at Roosevelt School (address above)..
Thursday The "Pigmy Forest" of Mendocino County will be the subject
8:00 PM of Naturalist John Olmsted's slide lecture. This coastal area
 displays a five-step progression of ecological development
 from the Pacific surf to the forested hilltops. Mr. Olmsted,
 working with the "Institute for Man in Nature", is fighting
 for the preservation of this valuable area. His photographs
 and informed commentary are currently on display at the
 Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

FIELD TRIPS

Chairman: Jean Jones

344-9339

- February 12 FOSTER CITY
Saturday LEADER: Al Bergeron (349-2960)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet by the dredge in the Bay, on Beach Park Blv.
 The morning will be spent watching incoming ducks and shorebirds
 here and in the nearby sloughs and marshes. Bring binoculars,
 scopes, and warm coats.
- February 26 GRIZZLY AND JOYCE ISLANDS
Saturday LEADERS: NICK and KATHERINE KROLL (697-2051)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the West Texas Street Park, in Fairfield.
 Crossing the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge, turn left
 on Highway 80, turning off at Highway 12 into Fairfield. The
 Park is on the right-hand side of the road, shortly after
 you leave Highway 80. Grizzly and Joyce Islands are California
 Wildlife Management Areas, and we will be privileged to have
 Mr. Rolf Mall, Biologist, with us during the morning. Bring
 lunch for a full day of birding. In case of rain, call the
 Leaders for confirmation of the trip.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - December 26, 1971

This year's Christmas Count enjoyed the mildest weather of any in recent years possibly accounting for the lower-than-usual count in terms of both number of species and total number of birds.

Forty members participated in the count, reporting a total of over 37,000 birds, 150 species, down from last year's count of over 42,000 birds, 159 species. Of particular interest were observations of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a flight of White-fronted Geese at Waterdog Lake in Belmont, and a Swainson's Hawk. Notable by their absence were the large rafts of ducks usually seen on the Bay and on Crystal Springs Lakes. Very surprising, too, was the fact that not a single Shoveller was found - this duck is normally quite common here at this time of the year.

The day ended with the gathering of the participants at the Dickinson home, where hot soup and other goodies were served to about twenty people.

Neil Dickinson, Leader

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN CONFERENCE

Again we are privileged to have this conference held at Asilomar, at Pacific Grove - a convenient location for Bay area residents. The last such conference was held in April, 1968, and was enjoyed by many members of Sequoia Audubon. Bulletins outlining programs, features and costs have been sent to all members, so this notice is intended as a reminder, and to urge all who can attend to plan to do so.

These conferences give us the opportunity to meet many of the staff members of our National and Western headquarters, to hear the ideas and plans of prominent men involved in conservation work. They also bring together members of many branches, providing a rare chance to exchange ideas.

GO TO THE CONFERENCE IF YOU CAN --- YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT

NEW EDITOR FOR SEQUOIA AUDUBON

This will be your present editor's last issue of the Bulletin. Beginning next month your Editor will be Ed McElhany.

In announcing this change, I want to thank all members of Sequoia for the support they have given me, and for their patience with me as changes were made from time-to-time. I hope it is generally felt that improvements have resulted, and that the Bulletin provides the kind of information they want. I want to especially thank the many contributors, whose reliability has made the job easy for me.

In conclusion, may I say that it has been a real pleasure to have been your editor, and one of my real regrets on leaving this area will be that I will have less contact with my many Audubon friends. I know the many fine and worthwhile projects we have worked on together will be carried on to successful conclusions, and I will follow the progress through the Bulletin.

John L. Morrill, Editor, Retiring

CONSERVATION NOTES

"AT THE CROSSROAD"

G. Ray Arnett, State Fish and Wildlife Director, has announced publication of a report on nineteen California endangered species, including the following birds: California Brown Pelican, California Condor, Southern Bald Eagle, American Peregrine Falcon, California Clapper Rail, Yuma Clapper Rail, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and California Least Tern.

The report calls for a careful inventory of endangered species, their problems, and how their survival can be assured. It contains photographs and descriptions of the species and their habitats. It recommends specific protective programs including public purchase of crucial habitat acreage or laws to prohibit developments harmful to threatened animals.

Copies of the report in brochure form are available to schools and public libraries upon request -- address: Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1416 Knight Street, Sacramento.

ABAG AIRPORT SYSTEMS STUDY

The Regional Airport Systems Study Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has been conducting hearings in Fairfield, Oakland, and on January 10 in San Jose, to assess public opinion on proposed airport expansion. The committee states that three public needs will be weighed in finalizing the Airport Systems Plan: (1) aviation transportation and services; (2) economic vitality; (3) environmental quality; and has invited public response by printing a questionnaire in its publication "Aviation Future", available from ABAG, Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, 94705. Environmentalists should avail themselves of this opportunity and write for the questionnaire.

At the January 10 hearing, a regional super-airport on 1500 acres of Bayfill in the Alviso area (the location of an important site of the S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge) was solidly opposed. However, expansion of existing airports at San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose has heavy support from the airport officials, pilots, Chambers of Commerce, etc. Resident groups and conservation organizations oppose expansion as environmentally detrimental, and Dr. Kenneth Hayes of the Santa Clara County Medical Society has pointed out that noise levels already exceed proposed State standards and are high enough to effect temporary hearing loss of residents in the flight path.

COYOTE POINT

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission is proposing development of 715 acres at Coyote Point as a major Peninsula recreation area. The development would divide into three phases: the Peninsula Beach; the Wooded Knoll; and the Marina. The beach area would be expanded at the west end with the addition of about 20 acres of fill adjacent to the west boundary. The Knoll would be oriented toward picnic use. An Environmental Center would replace the existing Junior Museum. The plan would increase the number of marina boat berths from 473 at the present time to about 1000.

The plan was scheduled for presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on January 25.

Marian Lockwood, Co-chairman
Conservation Committee

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 welcome on field trips, bird walks, and monthly general meetings.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Charles H. Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae	697-5601
VICE-PRES.: Al T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct., Foster City	349-2960
TREASURER: Clifford Daniels, 1009 Haddon Drive, San Mateo	341-5366
SECRETARY: Ed McElhany, 1009 Laguna Ave., Burlingame	343-3219

DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Nelson, 1035 Lassen Drive, Belmont	593-7941
Marian Lockwood, 1043 Sonoma Avenue, Menlo Park	325-0517
John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Avenue	344-5497

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN EDITOR: Ed McElhany, 1009 Laguna Ave., Burlingame	343-3219
MEMBERSHIP: Adelaide Fichtner, 1334 Benito Ave., Burlingame	343-0751
PROGRAM: Al Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct., Foster City	349-2960
FIELD TRIPS: Jean Jones, 1417 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame	344-9339
CHRISTMAS COUNT: Neil Dickinson, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City	366-7661
and Alice Steele Johnson, 1109 Chula Vista, Burlingame	344-8317
CONSERVATION: Marian Lockwood, 1043 Sonoma Ave., Menlo Park	325-0517
and Maryann Danielson, 848 Edgehill Rd., Burlingame	342-6919

A CITIZEN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Legislative actions ARE influenced by public opinion. Tax-exempt, non-profit organizations such as ours are forbidden by law to attempt to influence legislation by urging their members to write to their representatives, while commercial interests are free to hire lobbyists and otherwise promote their private interests.

It is therefore the responsibility of all citizens to keep themselves informed of activities by governmental agencies which affect their welfare, and to make their wishes known to those who represent them by letter, wire, telephone, or personal visit.

Non-Profit Organization
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