



The Sequoia



Volume 21, No. 10

JUNE, 1972

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY A BRANCH OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Charles H. Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae, California 94030
Phone: 697-5601

MEETINGS:

JUNE 1, THURSDAY, 8:00 p.m. BOARD MEETING at the home of Secretary, Ed McElhany, 1009 Laguna Avenue, Burlingame. Board members and Committee Chairmen should attend. Other members welcome.

JUNE 8, THURSDAY, 6:30 p.m. POTLUCK SUPPER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenues in Burlingame. Please phone:

Amy McElhany - 343-3219 or Ruth Crotchett - 343-5226

and tell them what dish you plan to bring. Bring your table setting.

JUNE 8, THURSDAY, 8:00 p.m. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING and OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING. Traditionally the final program of the year has been comprised of the latest and best nature films that can be obtained. The program has been well attended and appreciated. This year will be no exception. Also we shall elect officers for the next term.

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE: Chairman: Jean Jones - Phone: 344-9339

JUNE 3, SATURDAY, 9:30 a.m. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Leaders: Florence Richardson and Jean Jones. Meeting Place: Audubon Canyon Ranch, about three miles north of Stinson Beach on California Highway 1. Join us for a day at the ranch, where we will see Great Blue Herons and Egrets on their nests. Bring binoculars, cameras, and lunch.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS: April 29, Sunol

It was a beautiful, sunny day as sixteen birders met at 8:00 a.m. for the Sunol water temple and regional park field trip. At the water temple the white throated swifts put on their usual aerial acrobatics. Black Phoebe flitted about and a few of the observers saw Blue Birds which were nesting in a hollow cavity in a large tree.

We went up Welch Creek road and there heard black headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles and Acorn Woodpeckers.

We visited the Park headquarters and admired the exhibits. The Black Phoebe were nesting on the light fixture above the side door, as they had last year.

We lunched at picnic tables and then walked down along the creek. Magpies were numerous as were Grosbeaks, Orioles, Jays and many other birds.

CONSERVATION NOTES:

WILDLIFE REFUGE - At this writing on May 15, the result of the May 17 Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is anxiously awaited. Should this committee approve H.R. 12143 as written the bill will have a good chance for full Senate okeh, which would assure passage in this congressional session, as the House of Representatives approved it last October.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - A new committee is being formed in the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club to work on the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. All persons--Sierra Club members or not--who are interested in wildlife problems and who might be interested in working on this new Wildlife Conservation Committee are asked to contact Gerald R. Grow, Chairman, Wildlife Conservation Committee, 420 James Road, Apt. 6, Palo Alto, Ca., 94306; phone: (415) 493-5427.

Marian Lockwood
Co-chairman, Conservation

JUNE 6 ELECTION - ENVIRONMENTAL BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 9 -- A very controversial measure. Study it and the pro and con arguments carefully.

PROPOSITION A -- A YES vote will permit construction of a Southern bay crossing (See May "Sequoia"). A NO vote will prohibit construction. Most conservation organizations strongly urge a NO vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS -- A program sponsored jointly by San Mateo County Junior Museum and the Peninsula Conservation Foundation to train interested adults and young people (high school students past 9th grade) in naturalist subjects. No charge but participants will be asked to do volunteer work in teaching others and in leading field trips. There will be two sessions, the first on Tuesday and Thursday; 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; July 11, 13, 18, 25, and 27. The second will start October 3 with nine morning sessions. Guest naturalists will be:

Josh Barkin, Supervising Naturalist, East Bay
Regional Park District

Robert Breen, Marine Biologist, San Mateo County
Park and Recreation Department

Mary Wicksten, Marine Biologist, San Mateo County
Park and Recreation Department

Lorene Sigal, Botanist, San Mateo County Jr. Museum

Call the San Mateo County Junior Museum (phone: 573-2595)
for information and application forms.

WILD BABY BIRDS REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE (From the Spring, 1972 Peninsula Humane Society Newsletter)

"It's spring and that means problems for some baby animals, especially baby birds that sometimes fall out of nests. Care of any baby animal is demanding, but care of baby wild birds is even more so. Should you or a friend find one, here are some pointers from the Peninsula Humane Society.

If you find a baby quail or pheasant while on a family outing leave it alone. Usually the mother is near by and will come out of hiding when you leave. These birds are very difficult to raise and usually do not survive in captivity.

(Continued)

WILD BABY BIRD CARE -- Continued --

When nests of baby birds fall from trees they should be replaced as near as possible to the place from which they fell, and the birds should be returned to their nests. Birds that fall out of a nest should be replaced in the nest. Usually the parent bird will return to care for the young.

In general, never attempt to care for nestlings unless the parent bird has been killed or the nest deserted or destroyed. If it becomes necessary to care for young birds, the original nest may be removed and used for their rearing.

If the bird is fully feathered and just learning to fly, he can be cared for like an adult bird. First--find out what he eats. In general, birds with thick, short bills eat seeds. Those with a longer, narrower bill eat insects or fruit. Feed seed-eaters wild bird seed, lettuce or greens, bits of applesauce, and some water. Insect eaters can have mockingbird food, mealworms, worms, some insects, hamburger, cooked egg, green vegetables, fruit applesauce and water. Water should be in a container that will not tip over.

Young nestlings however, require constant care. They must be kept warm; the best temperature is between 70 and 80 degrees. If an incubator is not available, you can use a lightbulb in the top of a box, but keep it about 18 inches from the birds. Sometimes this method confuses the birds about night and day, so you could use a heating pad wrapped in towels and turned to LOW.

These young nestlings must be fed about every half-hour from sunrise to sunset. You can get a prepared nestling food at pet stores which is a mixture of dried, ground mealworms, ant eggs, wasp grubs, blight beetles, caterpillars, spiders and flies. If this is not available (and you don't want to make your own!) you can use baby cereal (pablum) or cooked egg yolk and bread crumbs or mashed mynah bird pellets. Add water and cod liver oil to these things to make a paste. Soft bananas, applesauce and earthworm sections are also enjoyed.

Get a matchstick, coffee stirrer or other flat stick to feed the birds with. Place a little of the food on the end of the stick and place the food into the nestling's open mouth. Gently push it to the back of the bird's throat until he closes his mouth. Continue this until the bird becomes disinterested. If the bird will not open his mouth, you should rub the sides of his bill gently.

NEVER FEED A BABY BIRD WATER EVEN IN AN EYEDROPPER OR BOWL. The nestling will choke on water that is put into his mouth. He will get enough water in his food. Once a bird is old enough to perch, he can have water in a shallow container.

Remember that many baby birds are abandoned because there is something wrong with the bird which the parents can sense. If all attempts to feed the nestling fail, it would be better to have the bird humanely put to sleep than to have it suffer or starve to death.

Above all, before deciding that the mother has abandoned the baby, observe the bird or animal from a distance for several hours to make sure. The mother might just be absent for a short time and be coming back to the young one. It will stand a better chance of survival if raised by its mother."

BIRD "FOSTER PARENTS" - The Peninsula Humane Society keeps on file a list of names of volunteers who would be willing to care for

BIRD CARE VOLUNTEERS -- Continued --

young or injured birds who are brought to the shelter in need of help and require care for a while. As you can tell from the preceeding article, it is very time consuming, demanding care which frequently cannot be adequately handled by the busy staff at the shelter. If you would like to volunteer for this lifesaving aid to birds or other wild life, contact the Peninsula Humane Society, 1225 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo, California 94401. They will be very happy to hear from you.

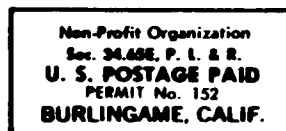
OPERATION NATURE GUIDE -- The Tahoma Audubon Society in Tacoma, Washington has compiled a list of Audubon members throughout the West and Hawaii who have volunteered to act as guides for visiting Audubon members. If you are going to travel in the West this summer and want a copy, phone the SEQUOIA editor and we will mail you one.

RECYCLING REPORT -- From the Napa Solano Audubon Society
Bulletin

Laurel and Leslie Harris, after combing their collie, Shanda, place tufts of long hairs on a nearby fence. Shortly nest-building birds arrive and carry it off for their new homes. There surely must be some cozy baby birds near the Harris's home.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS of SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY in July and August nor any SEQUOIA bulletins. We wish all of our readers a pleasant summer!

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