



The Sequoia



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BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, A BRANCH OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Court, Foster City,
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MEETINGS:

DECEMBER 7, THURSDAY 7:30 PM -- BOARD MEETING at the home of President Bergeron. Board members and committee chairpersons should attend. Other members welcome.

DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY 6:30 PM -- FOTLUCK DINNER, Foster City, City Hall. NOTE NEW LOCATION. Please bring your own table setting. Please phone

Mrs. Pat Prime at 345-4968

and tell her what dish you plan to bring.

DECEMBER 14, THURSDAY 8:00 PM -- REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Foster City, City Hall. NOTE NEW LOCATION. Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt will present a slide show, "Land Birds of the Farallons." Dr. Mewaldt is Professor of Ornithology at San Jose State University and has been a director of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory for many years. The Observatory conducts a bird banding operation on the Farallons and has recorded a total of over 300 species of winged visitors including several first California records. This should be a most interesting and exciting program.

FIELD TRIPS

DECEMBER IS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT MONTH. With this in mind, the December field trips are based on our CBC areas. These counts always show how well the territories are scouted so we intend to take the whole group scouting. Also note that there will be two separate count days for the Crystal Springs Count. We are confident that because of the importance of the event, everybody will make the big effort to turn out for both days.

In addition this marks the first year that the Año Nuevo Count will be done in conjunction with Sequoia Audubon. This count will be a weekend event in an area that is ornithologically exciting.

DECEMBER 2, SATURDAY Pillar Point and other coastal locations.

Meeting place: The parking lot at the Princeton fishing pier
Time: 8:00 AM Leader: To be announced later. For further information please call the Nelsons at 593-7941.

December 9 SATURDAY Sawyer Camp Road

Meeting Place The water tank about half way along the road
Time: 8:00 AM Leader: Mark Zumsteg, Phone: 591-4332

DECEMBER 16 SATURDAY CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Call Mark Zumsteg preferably no later than December 8 as to your ability to help on any of the count days. Massive support is needed!

DECEMBER 23 SATURDAY -- Second attempt -- CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT See above.

DECEMBER 30, 31 SATURDAY and SUNDAY -- AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - A weekend assault on this fantastic birding area. Last year with seven observers we had one national high count. Since numbers seen increase with observers seeing, it should be even better this year.

Call Mark Zumsteg by December 28, please, to get your assignment.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

The Los Banos field trip, October 28 and 29. -- Some of us arrived at Los Banos at noon on the 27th and used the afternoon to good birding advantage, though the trip was scheduled only for the 28th and 29th. The weather was unusually good for this trip. We had no rain and no fog. We did have some wind on Saturday and Sunday. The birding was excellent. We visited the Merced National Wildlife Refuge, the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge and the California State Los Banos Wildlife Refuge. Probably the greatest thrill of the trip was the abundance of Sandhill Cranes, probably as many as three thousand in the entire weekend. Between us we chalked up ninety-four or ninety-five species of birds in the general area. The trip was about one month earlier than usual. Perhaps for that reason the Canada Geese, Ross' Geese and the Ibises were missing; but there were thrills enough. Hawks were especially numerous. We saw Cooper's Hawks, Marsh Hawks, one Prairie Falcon, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, one Sharp-shinned Hawk and Sparrow Hawks. We saw one immature Golden Eagle in the target area and the Nelsons saw several other Golden Eagles (mostly immature) not far away. No Swans were seen and only two White Pelicans greeted us. This was a great field trip!

--- J. Ed. McClellan

The Coyote Hills Regional Park trip, November 11. -- The trip was held on the heels of a heavy rain storm with 12 people gambling against the elements and winning. The day was cool and windy but more sunny than cloudy. Because of the heavy rains it was not possible to visit the Indian Mounds and Norm Kidder, our leader,

had to revise his plans. Even though many of the familiar small birds were not seen because of the wind, a total of 60 species was recorded. Observations included an American Bittern swimming and a flock of White Pelicans in the air. The after-lunch-group was treated to an especially good look at a Great Horned Owl.

--- Fran Nelson

SPECIAL NOTICE

A representative of the State Attorney General's office will be with us at the potluck supper, December 14, to talk to any members who have ever been users of San Francisco Bay (for boating, fishing, shore or marsh birding, or any other recreational or commercial activity) and who are willing to make a deposition regarding this use in the State vs. Westbay suit. Anyone who has been a Bay user but who cannot be at the meeting by 7:30 PM can contact Dr. Ruth Smith, 1231 Hoover St., Menlo Park 94025, phone 322-5279.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The glad news of the passage of the coastal protection initiative, Proposition 20, and our County parks measure, Proposition A, are the highlights of recent conservation developments. The 92nd Congress which adjourned October 18 did not achieve such a good record on environmental legislation.

Bills relating to the important large issues of land use, highway construction, and energy production policy never reached Congressional agreement and a strong House bill regulating strip mining died in the Senate. The Ullman bill increasing the allowable communication with legislators by tax-exempt organizations died in committee. On the positive side, however, a broad water pollution bill was passed over the President's veto and eight other environmentally important bills of interest to Audubon members were passed in the last hurried days before adjournment and were all signed into law by the President.

Two local recreation Areas -- the Golden Gate Urban Area in San Francisco and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Marin County were created as well as the Seal Beach Wildlife Refuge in Southern California. A strengthening law for eagle protection and a law protecting ocean mammals were both passed. So were the pesticide bill (unfortunately weakened by amendments) and a law controlling all dumping in the open ocean. A federal coastal zone management law also passed will supplement our new state law by making California eligible for federal funding.

The state Legislature should have recessed again by the end of November to allow for the veto session 30 days later. It is probable Governor Reagan will by then have signed Senator Behr's "Wild Rivers" bill (S.B. 107) and vetoed the ineffective one of Senator Collier's (S.B. 4). If he has not, letters still can be sent him asking him to do so.

TV SHOW ABOUT POPULATION COMMISSION REPORT. On November 29 the Public Broadcast Service will air a film depicting the major issues and conclusions of the Report of the U.S. Commission on

Population Growth and the American Future. at 8:00 pm, EST. (Consult your local TV schedule for time and station.) The one-hour film, outlining the subjects of population growth, birth control, etc., will be followed by an hour of panel discussion with members of the Commission, including John D. Rockefeller 3rd, the Commission Chairman. A free booklet on the findings of the report is available from National Audubon's Public Information Office in New York.

-- Ruth Smith
Conservation Chairman

OBSERVATIONS

Paradise Widowbird -- Native of tropical Africa, an escapee in our area. In Hillsborough by Norman G. Edwards. Colored photographs were submitted and the bird identified by reference to "Birds of the World."

Painted Bunting (female) -- Painted Buntings are commonly caged in Mexico and sometimes imported into the U.S. even though it is illegal to keep them in cages here. They are natives of southern United States and Northeast Mexico. Our local visitor was observed by Mrs. Edward Del Carlo at her backyard feeder in Burlingame. The bird visited the feeder for several days and seemed to be healthy and eating well.

-- J. Ed. McClellan

NEWS AND NOTES

THE MARINE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE is a private, non-profit organization founded in June, 1970 as an environmental center to obtain and disseminate objective information for the conservation, development and management of San Francisco Bay. Their objectives are approached through education, research and an information service.

It was our privilege recently to participate in a field trip aboard the Institute's 85-foot research vessel, the Inland Seas, and to observe a sample of their educational program. Up to 40 students and their teachers from 4th grade through college may be accommodated. Samples of fish and invertebrates are obtained by trawl net and carefully examined and studied. The Bay water is analyzed for chemical and physical properties and bottom samples are obtained by coring and grab bucket. Our students brought up some handsome perch and a two-foot leopard shark. Specimens are carefully returned to the Bay after studies are concluded. Trained instructors are aboard and guide the research being done by the students. Emphasis is given, however, to student participation. It was a very exciting and thrilling experience to see this eager group of students and their equally eager and enthusiastic instructors learn some of the "secrets" of salt water

ecology. We couldn't help but think that from these groups of young people would come the future leaders of the conservation effort.

In the school year 1971--1972 participation in this educational program grew to almost 11,000 students representing 172 schools and 17 colleges. The schools pay \$175 for a four hour field trip and the balance of \$225 of the total trip cost must come from other sources. A new organization, Friends of the Institute, will soon be formed to enable wider participation.

The Institute office is at 811 Harbor Boulevard in Redwood City and the Inland Seas is moored close by.

"BIRDS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY" AND "BIRDS OF PREY" are two weekend courses announced as part of University of California Extension's spring natural environment study program.

The Los Banos Wildlife Area will be the site of the San Joaquin Valley course, scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, March 3-4, with an introductory evening lecture Wednesday, February 28, at the UC Extension Center in San Francisco. The course, offered in cooperation with the State Department of Fish and Game, will give participants an opportunity to observe the migratory behavior of birds and to study flight patterns and routes, waterways, and the functions of wildlife refuges. James P. Mackey, professor of biology at Cal State-San Francisco, is the instructor.

Extension and the San Francisco Zoological Society are cooperating in the "Birds of Prey" course, to be held Friday evening, March 16, at the Extension Center and March 17-18 at the San Francisco Zoo. It will provide a study of the raptorial birds and will give some emphasis to their relationship with man--in falconry, and today in the problems of threatened habitats and pesticides. Zoologist Paul D. Maxwell, other staff members of the zoo, and additional authorities make up the course faculty.

Enrollment in the San Joaquin Valley course is limited. Further information about the content of the two courses, optional academic credit, registration fees, and enrollment procedures is contained in Extension's spring natural environment brochure, which also describes a wide variety of other activities, including overseas ecology study-tours to the Amazon Basin, the Galapagos Islands, and East Africa. To receive a copy write to University of California Extension, Natural Environment Studies, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720.

"--Just before dawn recently, hospital staff members at a Provo, Utah, emergency ward were startled to see an oil-drenched seagull 'just waddling down the hallway all dark and greasy.' The bird had apparently become mired with oil in a U.S. Steel holding tank and was unable to fly. He probably decided that the best way to get

out of his gooeey mess was simply to check into the local hospital. He had apparently wandered through an open door. After hospital personnel gave the bird a bath, food, and declared him healthy, he was put on the outpatient list and released by the Utah Fish and Game Department." (National Wildlife Federation Conservation News, 9/15/72)

PACIFIC DISCOVERY -- Magazine of the California Academy of Sciences for Sept/Oct, 1972 has a most interesting essay by Ernest R. Rook, Curator of Exhibits with splendid photographs by David Cavagnaro, resident biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch. A sample paragraph --

"We are free to explore life's intricacies and observe the changes; we are encouraged to copy and even make minor modifications.

But any attempt to alter natural laws significantly must fail as the giant cycle restores its own balance.

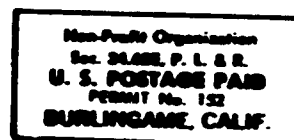
Our universe is governed by discoverable laws

and only within these laws can it function.

It is not nice to fool Mother Nature

---- not nice and very temporary."

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