



The Sequoia



Volume 22, No. 8

APRIL, 1973

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

MEETINGS:

APRIL 5, THURSDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Bergeron. Board members and committee chairpersons should attend. Other members welcome.

APRIL 12, THURSDAY 6:30 PM POTLUCK DINNER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenue in Burlingame. Please bring your own table setting. Phone Mrs. Eila Fox at 343-1406 and tell her what dish you plan to bring.

APRIL 12 THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School following the Potluck Dinner. Our program will be a color slide illustrated lecture on the Reptiles and Amphibians of the Bay Area presented by Robert C. Drewes, Senior Scientific Assistant, Dept. of Herpetology, California Academy of Sciences. All the reptiles and amphibians of the Bay Area will be shown and discussed in addition to other interesting members of the Order to be found in California. Mr. Drewes is also an associate director of the Institute for Herpetological Research, Redwood City. He has published scientific and popular articles which have appeared both here and abroad.

FIELD TRIPS:

APRIL 8 SUNDAY 8:30 AM SAN PEDRO VALLEY

Meeting place: In Pacifica at the front of the parking lot of St. Peters Church, 700 Oddstad Blvd. Turn off from Highway 1 onto Linda Mar and go east to Oddstad.

Leader: Maryann Danielson Phone: 342-6919

We will explore the middle and south fork canyons, the site of our newest county park. In addition to the personal enjoyment of this area we can provide some valuable information to the Park people as to the birds to be seen here.

APRIL 14 SATURDAY 9:00 AM SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

Meeting place: Intersection of Guadalupe and Radio Road. This is fairly high on San Bruno Mountain and can be approached from east or west. Consult a map to find the easiest way for you.

Leader: Enes Millar Phone: 556-7000

It is important to our "conservation awareness" that we become familiar with areas that are threatened with development. The

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flora of San Bruno is very interesting and unique. Come and see what there is to save.

APRIL 20 FRIDAY 7:30 PM BUTANO PARK

Announcing! The first ever Sequoia Owl-hooting session. Meet at the kiosk at the entrance to Butano State Park, south of Pescadero off Cloverdale Road.

Leader: Mark Zumsteg Phone: 591-4332

Here is something new and exciting. Don't expect to see much, however, this is strictly one for the ears.

APRIL 28 SATURDAY 8:00 AM TENNESSEE COVE

Meeting place: Vista at north end of Golden Gate Bridge

Leader: Charles Newman Phone: 697-5601

Bring lunch. We usually see a variety of birds of sea, shore, field and forest.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Residents of San Mateo City will be voting April 17 on a park bond issue -- Measure "B" on the ballot -- which if passed will provide funding for preservation of present parks and acquisition of land for new ones. Matching funds will be available for this use only if the measure is passed. The last park bond issue passed by San Mateo was some 40 odd years ago.

Two bills on predator control will be having hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Environment: S.887 supported by the Administration, and S.819 introduced by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana. National Audubon will oppose the Administration bill as probably leading to further destruction of wildlife resources far beyond any possible control needed to prevent damage to livestock or crops. Our own Senator Tunney is a member of the Subcommittee, of which Senator Phillip A. Hart of Michigan is the Chairman. The Administration bill will also be introduced in the House, where Representative R. Lawrence Coughlin will also introduce his own bill which is much more acceptable to National Audubon.

The California Coastal Alliance, which was the prime mover in setting up and passing Proposition 20 last year, did not bow out with the consummation of this victory. It is alive and well and still in need of volunteers to help maintain what has been won. Anyone interested can write the California Coastal Alliance P.O. Box 4161, Woodside 94062 or phone 851-7418.

A further service to help prevent the dumping of the federal coastal law passed last fall into an all-inclusive land-use

bill can be rendered by those who want to see the federal coastal zone program kept intact and separate under the NOAA (as is required by the coastal law) by so indicating to their Congressmen and Senators.

Following is a letter which appeared in the Sierra Club "Loma Prieta":

"To the Editor:

We would like to urge fellow Sierra Club members to voice a concern about the devastation of the off-shore reefs at Ano Nuevo State Reserve in southern San Mateo County.

At every minus tide an army of eager clammers and abalone divers descends on Ano Nuevo Point. There is a local joke that it takes a half hour of digging to find each and every clam -- a half hour of digging! When the tide comes back in the whole reef is a shambles and the delicate tidepool life is almost completely destroyed.

Unfortunately the Dept. of Parks and Recreation has no jurisdiction over the tidelands below the average high tide line. So the control of hundreds and hundreds of yards of land exposed at low tides falls to the Dept. of Fish and Game -- who can only see that the cockles and abalone taken are within the legal size and number limits. Those of us who love this area are trying to get the State Lands Commission to create a protected Buffer Zone around the Point which would include all the land between the shore and the Island. The entire reef would then be protected within the Wildlife Reserve.

Go out to the Reserve one of these lovely spring days. Enjoy the elephant seals who sprawl around on the beach and in the dunes and the wildflowers and the wind.....

Janet and Merrill Bickford
Pescadero, California"

Those who agree with the Bickfords can write:

Houston I. Flourney, Chairman
State Lands Commission
1020 -- 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

to urge the
creation of this buffer zone.

FRIENDS OF THE SEA OTTER in Big Sur, are asking for a Marine Ecological Reserve of the waters around Pt. Lobos. Currently there is an urgent need for a reserve along Pt. Lobos shores to protect the waters adjoining Pt. Lobos Land Reserve. It will guard the sea otters' kelp beds which are their refuge and nurseries and which are also a canopy and food source for marine life below. Present increasing intrusions into the Pt. Lobos waters by boaters and skin divers are having an adverse effect on the natural environment so vital for the otters'

existence. If you share the growing concern write:

California Fish and Game

1416 19th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

before their April 6

meeting.

-- Ruth Smith, Chairperson
Conservation Committee

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

March 10 8:00 AM to Noon. Foster City, Belmont Slough and vicinity. 48 participants. Leader -- Al Bergeron. A staunch group, if there ever was one, braved rain and muddy going for a rewarding 53 species in four hours. The "old fishing pier" proved to be a good vantage point and is now open 24 hours a day. This trip should be planned to start one or two hours after high tide. Avocet, Brewer's Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Mourning Dove, Dunlin, Dowitcher, Bufflehead, Canvas Back, Golden Eye, Mallard, Pintail, Ruddy, Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Cinnamon Teal, Widgeon, Snowy Egret, Common Egret, House Finch, English Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Marbled Godwit, Western Grebe, Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Glaucous-winged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Western Gull, White-tailed Kite, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Red-throated Loon, Mockingbird, Burrowing Owl, Water Pipit, Black-bellied Plover, Snowy Plover, Robin, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Starling, Forster's Tern, Black Turnstone, Ruddy Turnstone, Myrtle Warbler, Whimbrel, Willet, White-throated Swift, Cliff Swallow.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

Tuesday, April 3 at 4:00 PM. Palo Alto High School Auditorium, 500 Embarcadero Road. "Twentieth Century Wilderness" Adults \$1.50.

AL ULM, our new columnist and Half Moon Bay State Park Ranger has been transferred to Riverside County. We wish Al well on his new assignment, but we will miss him.

SAN MATEO COUNTY WILDFLOWERS:

Some of the best places to look for wildflowers in San Mateo County are: San Bruno Mountain, Butano Creek Canyon, Sawyer Camp Road, Huddart Park, Memorial Park, Butano State Park, Portola State Park, on the sand dunes along Highway 1, at the Pescadero Marsh State Reserve, along Pescadero Creek and along Tunitas Creek Road. There are hundreds of species of wildflowers in our area! Some, like the Trilliums, Mission Bells, Clintonia, the Fat and Slim Solomons, the Wild Ginger and three of the five species of Violets, grow in the shade of woods and canyons. Some, like the Seaside Daisy, the Pink and Yellow Sand Verbenas, the Ice Plant, the Sea Rocket and the Lizzard Tail grow along the sand dunes. Some, like the Wallflower,

the Goldfields and the Thistles grow in the sunny fields. It would take a lifetime to learn to know them all; and the show changes from week to week.

-- J.Ed. McClellan

THE DESERT THIS SPRING

Bonnie, Ruth Hass, Jean Maxwell and I left Burlingame February 23 and arrived back in Burlingame March 5, this year. This was an early trip for the California deserts. We were afraid it might be too early. It turned out, however, to be very exciting and very successful. Most of the Mojave was still cold and in most of it we saw almost nothing in bloom except a few Joshua Trees. This is the so-called "High Desert." Very different was the "Low Desert", the Colorado Desert -- Imperial Valley. We headquartered at Borego Springs, at the foot of the mountains, west of Salton Sea. The trees (Palo Verde, Ironwood, Smoke Tree, Mesquite, etc.) were not yet in bloom; of the Cacti only an occasional Barrel Cactus was showing flowers, but otherwise the show was on -- and exceptionally beautiful. The Valley has had much more rain than usual and the flowers were responding! For example, none of us had ever seen so many Desert Lilies. Sand Verbena, Desert Dandelion, Desert Evening Primrose, Ocotillo, Beloperone, Phacelia, Brittlebush, and many other plants, were in full bloom. This is the year! Some rain was still falling while we were there so the show should continue for a few weeks. And the Mojave Desert is still to come!

-- J.Ed. McClellan

OBSERVATIONS:

On February 22 I observed closely four Evening Grosbeaks feeding in the Deodar Cedar in our San Carlos front yard -- the first I have seen there in over 20 years.

Early in February a friend told me she had startled a small flock of Orioles as she walked in the hills near her home in Redwood City. It was the flash of yellow and black that had caught her eye and she had not observed their bills. Flock seems a more likely term for Evening Grosbeaks and their yellow and black than for Orioles, especially at that season. It would be interesting to know if others in the Peninsula area have also observed Evening Grosbeaks this winter since they can be occasional winter visitants from farther north.

-- Aveline Butler, Chairperson
Observations Committee

White-faced Ibis: 60 at Los Banos Waterfowl Area, March 11.
European Widgeon: Male, at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor, Feb. 25
Pigeon Hawk: One attacking shorebirds at Palo Alto Harbor, Jan. 20
Golden Eagles: Three in Ukiah, Feb. 19
Short-eared Owl: Three at Belmont Slough, Jan. 1
Evening Grosbeak: Five in Belmont, March 13

White-throated Sparrow: One in Belmont on Jan. 5; one at feeder in San Mateo daily since December 13 (except on Christmas Count day!).

-- Peter Metropulos

Mrs. B. Samuel, of Atherton, had an albino Robin in her garden for several days. It was not all white and did not have pink eyes, but it was more white than brown and was very conspicuous, a handsome bird.

Bill Anderson reports a pair of Northern Roseringed Parakeets, from India, in the Los Gatos area, which may be nesting.

-- J.Ed. McClellan

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH HOSTS VOLUNTEERS

Phone Byron Davies (334-2851). Roy Carlson is in Houston, Texas for a prolonged business assignment.

NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA

Expedition V, June 25 -- July 16 and Expedition VI, July 16 -- August 5. \$1690 including RT air fare from Los Angeles. For further information contact Ted Chandik, 4238 Ruthelma Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Phone: 415-493-5330.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION -- DENVER, JUNE 7 -- 11

The Denver Audubon Society is organizing a Host Family Program in conjunction with the forthcoming N.A.S. convention in Denver. They are accumulating a file of D.A.S. members who would be willing to share spare bedrooms or other accommodations with visitors attending the convention. For information write Host Family Chairman, Mrs. Aleon DeVore, Star Route, Box 75-A, Littleton, Colorado 80120.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON TOUR -- AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

In late September, 1973, G.G.A.S. is sponsoring a "down under" ecological tour. On a similar tour in 1971, Los Angeles Audubon Society members identified 300 species of birds. George Peyton will be the leader. Participants limited to 15 people. Contact Golden Gate Audubon 1973 Tour, c/o Siemer & Hand Ltd., 1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111, or call Bud Seimon (415-788-7186).

CAMP DENALI WILDERNESS WORKSHOP -- MT. MCKINLEY PARK

An educational and wilderness workshop experience is available for Audubon members at Camp Denali. For information write Camp Denali, Box D, College, Alaska 99701.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY supports the broad, ongoing conservation programs of Audubon and brings the beautiful AUDUBON magazine to members six times each year. Membership in National Audubon also includes membership in your local society -- Sequoia Audubon in San Mateo County. Jean Dorst, a French scientist, has written in a recent book, "The National Audubon Society has done more to protect nature than any other private organization in the world."

The following classes of membership are available:

Student	--	\$ 6.00	Supporting	--	\$ 50.00
Regular	--	12.00	Contributing	--	100.00
Family	--	15.00	Donor	--	250.00
Sustaining	--	25.00	Life	--	1000.00

Applications indicating class of membership desired may be sent to Audubon, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President Albert Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct, Foster City,
CA 94404. Phone: 349-2960

Vice Pres. Roy Carlson, 1833 Elizabeth St., San Carlos,
CA 94070. Phone: 592-4976

Treasurer Clifford Daniels, 1009 Haddon Dr., San Mateo,
CA 94402. Phone: 341-5366

Secretary Carmen Gales, 2828 Edison St., #15, San Mateo,
CA 94403. Phone: 349-6927

Director Byron Davies, 606 Cambridge St., San Francisco,
CA 94134. Phone: 334-2851

Director Charles Newman, 25 Corte Allegre, Millbrae,
CA 94030. Phone: 697-5601

Director Dr. Ruth Smith, 1231 Hoover St., Menlo Park,
CA 94025. Phone: 322-5279

Director Dr. John Tatomer, 4 East Carol, Burlingame,
CA 94010.

Program (and Director) Roy Carlson, 1833 Elizabeth St.,
San Carlos, CA 94070. Phone: 592-4976

Conservation (and Director) Dr. Ruth Smith, 1231 Hoover St.,
Menlo Park, CA 94025 322-5279

Christmas Count and Field Trips Mark Zumsteg, 1004 Furlong St.,
Belmont, CA 94002 541-4332

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS Cont'd

<u>Education</u>	Jean Jones, 1417 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010. Phone: 344-9339
<u>Membership</u>	Adelaide Fichtner, 1334 Benito Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010. Phone: 343-0751
<u>Observations</u>	Aveline Butler, 769 Tamarack Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070. Phone: 593-4489
<u>Hospitality</u>	Eila Fox, 51 West Bellevue, San Mateo, CA 94402. Phone: 343-1406

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY meets at 8:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenue, Burlingame. The public is always welcome at our meetings and on our field trips.

THE SEQUOIA
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