



The Sequoia



Volume 22, No. 9

May, 1973

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

MEETINGS:

MAY 3, THURSDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Bergeron. Board members and committee chairpersons should attend. Other members welcome.

MAY 10, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenue in Burlingame. The program this month will be presented by David Cavagnaro and to use his own words: "The talk is entitled 'Audubon Canyon Ranch, a Way of Life.' It will be a slide program about the first two years Maggie and I have spent at the ranch as Resident Biologists and will cover our experiences with the changing natural history of the ranch through the seasons, our life style on the old homestead in Volunteer Canyon, something about the educational program we are developing, and the newly formed Research Associates Program. It will offer members of your society a glimpse of the ranch which may be entirely new to them and will bring them up-to-date on educational developments here." David Cavagnaro has written two books, LIVING WATER with Ernest Braun doing the photography and THIS LIVING EARTH in which he was both author and photographer. He and Maggie are working on a third book together.

FIELD TRIPS:

MAY 6, SUNDAY 9:00 AM SUNOL REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Byron Davies Phone: 334-2851

Meeting Place: Sunol Water Temple Arrive prior to 9:00 AM if you wish but at that time we will leave for the Alameda Creek bridge and Welsh Creek Road. We will lunch at the park tables then follow fancy's whim.

MAY 26, SATURDAY 9:00 AM COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Neil Dickinson Phone: 366-7661

Meeting Place: Parking lot just east of Dumbarton Bridge Toll Gate. Lunch optional.

JUNE 2,3 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY -- OVERNIGHT MYSTERY TRIP

Another overnight MYSTERY TRIP in a chartered Greyhound bus has been set for the week end of June 2, 3 with the route and destination known only to the leader, who promises, however,

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that participants will likely see some of California that they will not have seen before and that it will be an interesting, enjoyable and instructive trip. Time will be allowed for birding and botanizing.

There will be a limit of 32 persons, the same as taken last year. Sequoia Audubon members will receive preference. The cost, including bus fare, motel, dinner, breakfast and lunch (sack lunch on Saturday) is estimated at \$30 per person in a double room or \$34 in a single room. The exact cost and more details in the June bulletin. If you did not sign up at our April meeting do so at the May meeting or phone A.E. Montgomery, at 344-4249.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The federal government this year is giving much attention to wilderness preservation. One wilderness area proposal that should be of direct concern to all Audubon members is the designation of Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness. This island area is a unique ecological complex which is a haven for many rare and endangered species of wildlife. In the first decade of the century it was severely plundered of feathers, eggs, guano, shells, turtles and fish, and some of the species have not yet made a comeback. Designation as a wilderness area will give the Refuge vitally needed statutory protection.

The Refuge consists of 8 units spread across 800 miles of the Hawaiian Leeward Islands including some 302,400 acres of submerged lands associated with shallow reefs and shoals. The largest area, French Frigate Shoals, has only 65 acres of its total 107,505 acres above mean high tide. The largest island -- Laysan -- is the 1,020--acre home of the entire world population of Laysan teal -- about 175 birds. The Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife has concluded that all the area, (both land above high tide and submerged lands), is still in a natural state and qualifies as wilderness with the exception of Tern Island. This was permanently altered during W.W.II by construction of a seaplane channel and a 3,100 foot airplane runway.

A public hearing was held in Honolulu on April 14 on wilderness designation of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, but letters in support of this from all over the country are also needed. They should be sent to:

Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
P.O. Box 3737
Portland, Oregon 97208

The hearing record will remain open only until May 15, 1973, so write soon!

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Assemblyman Z'berg is now preparing for the reintroduction of his 1972 bill prohibiting open oil sumps, whose dangers to

wildlife you have been advised of in previous months. Last year the bill failed to get out of committee due to poor support and tremendous oil company opposition. We will be notified when the bill is introduced this year. Letters then sent to state senators and assemblymen will be a strong factor in deciding its passage in 1973, but do not write until the bill is introduced.

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There will be increasing numbers of state and national bills introduced about some of which members may want to write their legislators; the House of Representatives' bill as of early April numbered well over 6,000. It may therefore be helpful for those who do not have them to repeat the list of our local representatives in Congress and the state Legislature, as well as the President and Governor who usually have the final say.

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Governor Ronald Reagan
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senators: Alan Cranston
and John Tunney
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

State Senator Arlen Gregorio
Assemblyman Dixon Arnett
Assemblyman Louis Papan
State Capitol Bldg.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Representatives: Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.
205 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leo Ryan
1113 Longworth House Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On April 8, 21 of us visited the middle and south fork canyons at San Pedro Valley Park. The weather was sunny and warm and we birded from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The following species were observed:

Turkey vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Winter Wren, California Thrasher, Robin, Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and the Song Sparrow.

Warblers abounded in the riparian habitat while the wrentits and scrub jays were prevalent in the chaparral. The presence of Steller's jays where there are no large trees except some eucalyptus and a few madrones surprised us. Also the presence of golden-crowned kinglets. Those who did not visit the canyon of the south fork missed a spectacular display of ceanothus

(and poison oak). In the middle fork canyon the most spectacular plant was the horsetail rush -- in particular the reproductive structures which appear only in the spring.

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-- Maryann Danielson - Leader

About/participants visited San Bruno Mountain on Saturday, April 14 and witnessed an outstanding display of wildflowers. Fifty species were identified during the 9:00AM to 11:30 visit. This compares with 75 identified on the 1972 visit at which time, however, Bill Anderson was along to assist in identification. While the trip was primarily devoted to wild flowers, some 15 species of birds were observed.

-- Enas Millar - Leader

Field trip leaders will be mailed a bird check list prepared by Maryann Danielson at the San Mateo Junior Museum. The leaders will be asked to check the species observed, add other information of interest and mail the form back to the SEQUOIA editors. We will use the information for our field trip report and then send it to Maryann for her file. This information will be available at the Junior Museum for a variety of purposes including use in preparation of environmental impact statements.

GENERAL NEWS AND NOTESGOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA -- PUBLIC FORUM

Bay Area residents will have an opportunity to play a part in the planning of the newly-established Golden Gate National Recreation Area during a public forum to be presented on Saturday, May 12, by University Extension, U.C. Berkeley. The all-day forum will be held at Marina Junior High School, Chestnut and Fillmore Streets, San Francisco. A series of workshops will be held during the following week, May 14--17 at the U.C. Extension Center in San Francisco at Laguna and Market Streets, from 7:30 to 10:00 PM each evening.

Recommendations developed in the workshop sessions will be forwarded to the National Park Service and its officially designated Advisory Committee, which has been established to advise on planning, administration, and development of the new Recreation Area.

Speakers and discussion leaders will include Howard Chapman, director, Western Region, National Park Service; William Whelan, superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreational Area; Russell Porter, chief, Division of Grants and Statewide Studies, California Department of Parks and Recreation; Joseph Caverly, general manager, San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks; and David Karraker, chief of interpretation, Yosemite National Park. A number of Bay Area community leaders will also participate, and Gerald Adams, environmental writer (for the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle), will serve as moderator.

Enrollment fee for both the May 12 lecture program and the workshops is \$10. Further information is available from Continuing

Education in City, Regional, and Environmental Planning, University Extension, University of California, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California 94720, telephone 642-4811.

NEW BOOK -- THE ENDURING GIANTS

A natural history of the Sequoia Redwood (*Sequoia dendron giganteum*) by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr. of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Published by University of California Extension Service in cooperation with the Calaveras Grove Association, Save-the-Redwoods League and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The book contains full-color photos of the plants and animals of the forest community and other photos relating to the human history of the Calaveras area. It may be ordered from Department P, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. The price is \$3.00. Add 5½% sales tax for delivery to San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa counties and 5% to other California counties. Make check payable to The Regents of the University of California.

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In rebuttal to the claim that environmentalists opposed to a nuclear reactor "liked fish more and people less", Sydney J. Harris in his Sunday column in the Chronicle--Examiner says, "It is not a question of 'liking fish more' or 'liking people more.' It is a question of recognizing that the balance of nature calls for cooperation, not conflict; for cultivation, not eradication; for reverence, not ruthlessness; for respecting the basic fragility of the eco-system by making no changes that might have irreversible consequences."

"....."The best way to show that we like people more is by refusing to gratify our greedy desire for 'more' of everything, and by treating the globe we live on as a legacy we must pass on to the future."

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In the absence of any reported observations this month, your editors will mention that one morning recently they counted 31 band-tailed pigeons in their back yard. We have been feeding chick scratch to the birds over the past 6 or 7 years and this is the first time we have had band-tailed pigeon visitors. They appear a great deal more timid than our customary guests.

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SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB BOAT TRIP

Sequoia members are invited to "Mac's Albatross Expedition," an annual Santa Cruz Bird Club sponsored offshore trip to see the black-footed albatross and other pelagic birds on June 11,

Monday. A Stagnaro sport fishing boat will leave Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf at 7:30 AM. Make reservations by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2.00 for each ticket to V. Anderson, 227 Linden St., Santa Cruz, California 95060.

SEATTLE BIRD CLINIC

Each month the Seattle Audubon Society NOTES reports on the operation of the Bird Clinic and this is always a highlight among the exchange bulletins we are privileged to read. Certainly the people who operate the Bird Clinic are a dedicated and sensitive group. In April they report the release of three grebes who had arrived badly oiled. "We admit to mixed feelings in bidding goodbye to these birds, for our happiness in watching them swim strongly toward a rocky outcropping in the water was tempered by relief in knowing that from now on they would be feeding themselves! Most grebes have vile tempers, voracious appetites and vicious beaks -- and the volunteer who must hand-feed fish into their razor-sharp beaks seldom comes away without scars."

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH -- REDWING BLACKBIRDS

Some concern has been expressed over the possibility that school children using the new catwalk in front of the Ranch-house at Audubon Canyon might disturb nesting Redwing Blackbirds.

The Volunteer Council has used the Garden Club Canyon pond instead this spring, reserving the catwalk for fall use, so that we can accurately survey the Blackbird nesting pattern. On the basis of what we learn, we will decide when the Audubon Canyon marshes can be used for teaching.

THE SEQUOIA is the news letter of Sequoia Audubon Society. A subscription is \$2.00 per year for 10 issues -- 1 each month September through June. Membership in National Audubon Society includes a SEQUOIA subscription and membership in Sequoia Audubon Society. Application for such membership may be sent to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, together with remittance of \$12 for an individual membership, \$15 for family membership. Other classes of membership are available. Phone the editor for details. The public is invited to Sequoia Audubon meetings and field trips. Board meetings are held at the home of the president on the first Thursday of each month. Regular monthly meetings are at Roosevelt School, Vancouver Avenue and Broadway in Burlingame on the second Thursday of each month. There are no meetings in July or August. Closing date for the SEQUOIA is the 15th of each month.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

President: Albert Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct., Foster City,
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CA 94402. Phone: 341-5366

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

Conservation: Dr. Ruth Smith, 1231 Hoover St., Menlo Park,
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Christmas Count and Field Trips: Mark Zumsteg, 1004 Furlong
St., Belmont, CA 94002. Phone: 541-4332

Education: Jean Jones, 1417 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame,
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Membership: Adelaide Fichtner, 1334 Benito Ave., Burlingame,
CA 94010. Phone: 343-0751

Observations: Aveline Butler, 769 Tamarack Ave., San Carlos,
CA 94070. Phone: 593-4489

THE SEQUOIA
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