



The Sequoia



Volume 23, No. 2

October, 1973

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

MEETINGS:

OCTOBER 4, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Bergeron. Board members and committee chairpersons should attend. Other members are welcome.

OCTOBER 11, THURSDAY, 6:30 PM POTLUCK DINNER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenue in Burlingame. Please bring your own table settings. Phone Mrs. Eila Fox at 343-1406 and tell her what dish you plan to bring. Guests are welcome.

OCTOBER 11, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School following the Potluck dinner. Mr. Phil Gordon, an active member of our sister chapter across the Bay, The Ohlone Audubon Society, will describe the efforts of a hardy group of naturalists who kept a full-time vigil over a Prairie Falcon aerie during the eight weeks required for the young to hatch, fledge, and become strong fliers. The purpose of this watch was not primarily for ornithological observations; it was to prevent the theft of young from the nest of a species already endangered by habitat destruction, pesticides, shooting and other threats.

FIELD TRIPS:

OCTOBER 7, SUNDAY THE MARIN HEADLAND 8:00 AM

Directions to the meeting place: Take 101 over the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Sausalito turnoff (the first turnoff past Vista Point). Now take the 2nd left turn (the first being the return to San Francisco) which brings you to a tunnel and proceed through said tunnel. Stop in the parking lot at the end as it is the official meeting place. 8:00 Sharp!

This headland is marvelous for migratory birds. After Dr. Binford's remarkable observations of last fall's migration were reported (3,843 falconiformes of 13 species including 18 Broad-winged Hawks) Pt. Diablo was referred to as a mini-Hawk Mt. by some.

LEADER: Byron Davies 334-2851

OCTOBER 13 SATURDAY 8:30 AM ECO-SERIES No. 2 GAZOS CREEK

Meeting place: Gazos Creek Coastal Fishing Access parking lot. This is about 8 miles south of Pescadero Marsh on the right side of Highway 1

Here is our eco-trip to see what goes on in the world of alders and willows. We will be examining food chains and other relations. Come and learn a viable scientific method of measuring relative density. Kids are especially welcome.

Continued --

PRESIDENT: Albert Bergeron
251 Killdeer Court
Foster City, CA 94404
Phone: 349-2960

EDITORS: Amy and Ed McElhany
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: 343-3219

OCTOBER 28 SUNDAY 8:30 AM DRAKE'S BAY

Meeting place: Two miles past Inverness (in Marin County) there is an intersection-- one road to Pt. Reyes, one road to Tomales Bay State Park and beyond. We meet alongside the intersection.

Another potentially good birding trip. So many interesting sightings have been made in this area that it is mind-boggling. Come and learn your birds.

LEADER: Mark Zumsteg 343-7365

LOOKING AHEAD.....November 10, Palo Alto Baylands; November 23-25 Sacramento and Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges. Missing this trip is unforgiveable!

MY ALARM CLOCK

James A. Taylor

Didja ever see a sooty crow with a goose's neck? With the bill of a Great Blue Heron? That hangs upside-down? And sounds like a trip-hammer? And has a great red head? I see one every day!

This is my alarm clock. At 6:45, more or less, this bird will arise, do a fine rat-atat-rat-a-tat-rat-a-tat on the inside wall of his bedroom, waking all the living and I am sure some of the dead!

Having satisfied himself that all sleeping creatures have been properly awakened, he pokes about a foot and a half of neck out the window of his tree-house to look about for a few moments. Then he emerges into the morning sun. As he climbs upward to the top of the tree, he gives a resounding WHONK as his bill is applied to the tree with great exuberance. At the top, or near the top, he will do his sit down call, a very loud ki-ki-ki-ki-ki. This is answered by the same, or perhaps by a passing friend, giving the flying call, ki----ki----ki----ki----ki----ki. He may do a WHONK or two on a nearby tree and then noisily flaps away, showing his white underwing bars.

The evening return to the roosting site is different. He doesn't land on his home-tree, but on one that is close by. As he comes in for a landing he will give the flying call, loud and clear. There will be no more calls until the next morning. He may WHONK a bit on the tree and then fly to his own tree-house and shinny down the tree until he gets to the entrance and pops in. Suddenly about a half-a-yard of neck pops out the exit hole and he surveys all of his domain. All is quiet, so the mighty neck is withdrawn and darkness creeps over the forest until tomorrow.

-----Jim Taylor is Supervising Ranger for Butano, Castle Rock and Portola Parks. He and Mrs. Taylor reside at Portola Park. For the identity of Jim's Alarm Clock, see Page 8.-----

SEPTEMBER MEETING By Nancy Bentz

Philip Schaeffer's special report on "Oil Sumps--the Deceptive Killers" at the September meeting was as grim as the title suggests. As he explained, the Pacific Flyway passes over the San Joaquin Valley where some 1,700 lethal oil sumps lure the migrating birds to land and drink. His aerial photographs show how tragically inviting the ponds must look to the birds flying over and the astounding variety of birds and even mammals that are victimized by these modern day "tar pits"--swans, geese, ducks, shorebirds, the rabbits and

mice--are seen floating in the sticky mess before they are completely sucked under. Most of the 150,000 birds and mammals caught each year in these oil pools die slowly of suffocation as they wait helplessly to be totally consumed. For a few, the cruelty is shortened when they are "mercy" killed by State Fish & Game employees.

For too long, the oil industry has either denied that any wildlife was being lost in these sumps or had made insincere promises to get the oil sumps cleaned up or covered over. Now, thanks to Phillip Schaeffer's dedication in bringing the problem to the public's attention, the situation, though still vulnerable is more encouraging.

A recent editorial in the Los Angeles Times attacking the oil sumps prompted an official of Atlantic-richfield to promise to Philip Schaeffer that all his company's oil sumps would be cleaned up in six weeks (the sincerity of his promise has not yet been verified). In Colorado, an oil company was fined (a meager \$150.00!) for the deaths of wildlife in open oil sumps there, the first enforcement of the Migratory Bird Act. The Environmental Defense Fund in conjunction with the National Audubon Society is preparing litigations against the oil industry.

Most encouraging in California, however, is Karabian's bill in the California Assembly which would establish criminal penalties for oil companies which do not cover or eliminate their open oil sumps in California, the penalty being that the oil operation involved would be forced to close down completely. The bill was expected to pass the State Senate September 14 and hopefully signed into law by the Governor. If not passed, the National Audubon Society is prepared to file legal suits with the U.S. Attorney.

The situation is a grim and tragic one, especially for the hundreds of thousands of beautiful and rare creatures already destroyed by the thoughtlessness of the oil industry. But the concern of a few like Philip Schaeffer to bring positive humane change is inspiring and exciting indeed, and brings hope and challenge to us all.

As customary, Jed McClellan presented his "Plant of the Month" and Charlie Newman "Bird Call of the Month." Jed's presentation, illustrated with several slides, described the Giant Chinquapin and the eleven-year search he and Bonnie undertook to find several specimens five feet in diameter and over 100 feet tall. The trees were finally located in Sonoma County. Charlie played his tape, recorded on July 1 at Audubon Canyon Ranch, of sounds of the heronry and of the song of a warbling Vireo.

(Ed. Note -- We hear that AB2209 did pass the legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. Much credit should go to Paul Howard, Phil Schaeffer and the Regional Staff of National Audubon in Sacramento for their research into the oil sump problem and for bringing the facts out into the open.)

-----Nancy Bentz is a college student majoring in writing and has volunteered to do some articles for SEQUOIA. She is also going to do our publicity work. In this connection she asks the assistance of SEQUOIA members in sending her clippings from local newspapers in which mention is made of SEQUOIA meetings. Volunteers are asked to phone her at 592-2547 to determine what coverage is required.-----

Lovebirds, White Doves and a Parakeet --

Liv Gurevitz reports a Parakeet in her garden in Hillsborough on September 6.

Alene Lorenz has had Lovebirds at her feeder all summer at her home in Burlingame and has had two white Doves there even longer, one all white and the other white with a black ring around its neck.

Sighting Committee Changes:

J. Ed. McClellan, Chairman, 344-3486

Avaline Butler, 593-4489

B. Neill Dickinson, 366-7661

Liv Gurevitz, 347-0912

Burlingame Shore Bird Sanctuary:

Progress is being made toward the establishment by the City of Burlingame of an official Shore Bird Sanctuary on the Bay front for convenient bird watching; and a program for use of the sanctuary is being arranged by Sequoia Audubon Society and the Burlingame Park Department. More information will come later.

-- J. Ed. McClellan

Ed. Note: Members are urged to phone one of the sighting committee members and report observation of interest. These reports make the SEQUOIA more interesting and we really need everyone's help in building a sighting list for each issue of the SEQUOIA. Sighting reports need not be confined to rare species or to San Mateo County. All that is required is that they are of general interest or perhaps somewhat unusual.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

Sequoia Audubon Society hopes to have a discussion at the Environmental Quality Coordinating Council October meeting of proposed future developments on Belmont Slough. This is a semi-official county group with membership for all who are interested, organized for the purpose of public discussion of timely environmental issues. S.A.S. is a member with, at present, the Conservation Chairperson as its official representative. Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00 PM in the San Carlos City Hall, 666 Elm Street. Any interested person is welcome to attend meetings.

President Bergeron and Jed McClellan attended a State Lands Commission meeting on August 30 to support the proposed Mobil Oil Estates (Redwood Shores) land swap with the State. In return for title to the 23-acre Phelps Slough bed, Mobil proposed to give the State 800 acres at the tip of Bair Island and 132 acres around the perimeter of Redwood Peninsula with study of another 800 acres at least 60 of which would be given later. The lands proposed for the State are prime bird nesting or habitat areas and on Bair Island adjoin the new Federal Wildlife Refuge. Opposition was voiced by Redwood City as well as some Sierra Club and Committee for Green Foothills members, mainly from the standpoint of lack of time provided to study the proposition. The Commission therefore delayed any decision and set a public hearing on the issue.

The August issue of "National Parks and Conservation Magazine" noted the Department of the Interior has not kept its promise to Audubon and other conservation organizations to make iron in place of lead shot mandatory in waterfowl hunting at least by the 1974-75 season. This would prevent the death by lead poisoning of some 2 to 3 million waterfowl who ingest the spent shot annually. The Department is now

CONSERVATION NEWS:

Page 5

further postponing any action and ignoring demands of the various conservation organizations, refusing further meetings with them. Concerned Audubon members can help by writing Hon. Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, and Hon. Russell E. Train, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, D.C. 20006 asking that use of iron shot in waterfowl hunting be made mandatory by 1974-75.

On the Washington scene chances look good for passage of HR 37, (the Endangered Species Act) by the House, but more pressure appears to be needed to get Predator Control bills moving in both houses. In the Senate a good bill, S819, will be considered by the Commerce Committee chaired by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). Our own Senator Tunney is also a member of this committee. The House version, HR 38, originally considered weak, has been much improved by amendments. It will be considered by the Fisheries & Wildlife Conservation Sub-Committee, chaired by John D. Dingell, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510. Congressman McCloskey is also on this Committee. To be effective the bill should not be amended further.

Joint Senate Committee meetings were held recently on S1751 which would license construction of deep water ports on the U.S. coast for super oil tankers. It does not coordinate with the Coastal Zone Management Act or consider land use and energy planning questions. National Audubon has agreed with the Center for Law and Social Policy which urges a moratorium on deep water port licensing or development until a coordinated approach and study can be made. San Francisco has been one of the sites seriously considered.

Senator Henry Jackson's S425 (address U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510)--a rather weak strip mining regulation bill is being considered by his Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Pressure will be needed to get it strengthened by Senator Lee Metcalf's amendments. A good bill - Print 3 - on this subject is being considered by the House Mines and Mining Committee.

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS: Sequoia member, Mrs. Theo C. Smith, has sent us a clipping from the September 1 Christian Science Monitor commentating on the effectiveness of Oregon's ban on non-returnable beverage containers. A sample study on a 25-mile stretch of Oregon highway showed the number of cans picked up reduced by one-half during the first four months of the new law. Similar laws are being considered in 37 other states. All costs considered, throwing away a 13-ounce beverage container is equivalent to pouring five ounces of gasoline on the ground.

BOARD MEETING REPORT -- September 6, 1973

Your Sequoia Board met at President Bergeron's house for the first meeting of the 1973-1974 year. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM and members are welcome to attend. The following items were discussed:

JUNIOR AUDUBON

A group of younger Sequoia members has been formed with John Tatomer as liaison between the group and the Board. A couple of hikes have been scheduled. It was felt that a better name than Junior Audubon should be developed. The Board's support of this group was enthusi-

astic. It is hoped that the organization can proceed to where we may have some definite news in the SEQUOIA as to objectives, membership, activities and related items.

MEETING PLACE

There was a feeling that perhaps a meeting place more central to Sequoia membership should be sought. Roosevelt School in Burlingame is actually on the northern fringe of Sequoia's territory and in fairness to all members a location in south San Mateo would be more nearly equitable. Further investigation will be undertaken.

PESCADERO MARSH

We are continuing our efforts toward a solution to this matter and hope to have some news within the next few months.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Observatory is experiencing some financial problems and a special contribution of \$100 was authorized.

SAN BLAS, MEXICO BIRDING TRIP:

Point Reyes Bird Observatory offers a 12-day outing to San Blas, Mexico and environs (December 7-19, 1973). Let our experienced birders (Bill Clow and Richard Stallcup) lead you through one of the best birding areas in Western Mexico. For details call or write Meryl Stewart, P.O. Box 442, Bolinas, CA 94924. Phone: 415-868-0696. Deadline for entry, November 1, 1973.

"An ant's an insect, so its got three parts," explained the 5th grader just back from a school trip to the woods in the company of a park naturalist. "It's got a head and a thorax and an Audubon."

--American Forests Magazine

"No man is an island unto himself, every man is a piece of the living continent; if a clod be washed away from the continent to the sea, every man is the less; any living thing's death diminishes me because I am involved in the living community entire, and therefore never need to know for whom the bulldozer roars; it roars for thee."

--Nature Conservancy News.

MUSHROOM COOKBOOK:

The Mycological Society of San Francisco has recently published a new edition of their mushroom cookbook. The book is about 95 pages spiral plastic bound, paper back, well-indexed and contains a great many gourmet recipes for the preparation of mushrooms -- commercial as well as wild varieties. Copies may be obtained for \$4.50 including tax and postage by addressing the Society at Box 904, San Francisco, CA 94101.

GERALD DURRELL LECTURE:

On Saturday, November 3, Gerald Durrell (author of "Zoo in my Luggage") will present an illustrated lecture "Stationary Ark" about the wildlife preservation sanctuary on the Isle of Jersey in the English Chanel for animals and birds which are becoming extinct. Tickets are available from the CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, Golden Gate Park. Tickets \$5.00 per person for reserved seats at Masonic Auditorium, San Francisco at 8:00 PM.

BAIR ISLAND CLEANUP:

Page 7

Volunteers are needed to clean up the shore line at Bair Island on Sunday, September 30. Meet at the east side of Holly Street exit from the Bayshore Freeway near San Carlos Airport at 9:00 AM. Some members signed up for this detail at the September 13 meeting and the "Junior Group" will turn out in force but more help is needed. No prior sign up is required -- just be there! Bring lunch and be prepared for muddy going.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS -- MARIN AUDUBON

October 7, 1973	Greg McMillan	"The Living Jungle"
November 4, 1973	Walter Berlet	"West Side Story--Mexico to Alaska"
January 27, 1974	Frank Heimans	"What Have You Done With My Country?"
February 24, 1974	Charles Hotchkiss	"Queen of the Cascades"
March 24, 1974	John Bulger	"Wild Tennessee"

Olney Hall, College of Marin, College Ave., Kentfield, Calif. 7:30 PM
Single General admission \$2.00, Season ticket \$6.00. Phone, 383-6051

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

PRBO, established in 1965, is a member-supported ecological research corporation operating two year-round stations, one at Pt. Reyes National Seashore near Bolinas and one on southeast Farallon Island. Headquarters near Bolinas is open to the public every day except Monday.

PRBO is the first bird observatory to be established in the U.S. and is the only full-time ornithological field research station on the continent. PRBO concerns itself with field studies to provide information on species and habitats about which little is known and also contributes to conservation and educational matters.

Private financial support through memberships and contributions is vital to the continued operation of this unique and valuable facility. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. Student membership is \$5.00, Regular \$7.50, Family \$10.00, Sustaining \$15.00, Contributing \$30.00, Life \$225, Patron \$1000.00. Make checks payable PRBO and mail to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY 1973-1974

President:	Albert Bergeron	Director:	Charles Newman
Vice Pres:	Byron Davies	"	Ruth Smith
Secretary:	Sheila Davies	"	John Tatomer
Treasurer:	Clifford Daniels	"	Norman Fox

Chairpersons:

Membership:	Liv Gurevitz	Sightings:	J.Ed. McClellan
Conservation:	Ruth Smith	Youth:	John Tatomer
Program:	Byron Davies	Habitat	
Education:	Jean Jones	Acquisition:	Charles Newman
Publicity:	Nancy Bentz	Social:	Eila Fox
Field Trip &		SEQUOIA:	Amy & Ed McElhany
Christmas Ct:	Mark Zumsteg	Audit & Tax:	Leroy Nelson

Audubon Canyon Ranch Directors: Al Bergeron, Roy Carlson, Maryann Danielson, Howard Gurevitz, Ed McElhany, A.E. Montgomery, John Pri
 Bay Area Audubon Council: Norman Fox, Ruth Smith, John Tatomer

Bentz, Nancy	591 Cedar St. San Carlos	94070	592-2547
Bergeron, Albert	251 Killdeer Ct. Foster City	94404	349-2960
Carlson, Roy	1833 Elizabeth St. San Carlos	94070	592-4976
Daniels, Clifford	1009 Haddon Dr. San Mateo	94403	341-5366
Danielson, Maryann	848 Edgehill Dr. Burlingame	94010	342-6919
Davies, Byron & Sheila	606 Cambridge St. San Francisco	94134	334-2851
Fox, Eila & Norman	51 W. Bellevue San Mateo	94402	343-1406
Gurevitz, Liv & Howard	1400 Southdown Rd. Hillsborough	94010	347-0912
Jones, Jean	1417 Sanchez Ave. Burlingame	94010	344-9339
McClellan, J. Ed.	1356 Bernal Ave. Burlingame	94010	344-3486
McElhany, Amy & Ed	1009 Laguna Ave. Burlingame	94010	343-3219
Montgomery, A.E.	2270 Summit Dr. Hillsborough	94010	344-4249
Nelson, Leroy	1035 Lassen Dr. Belmont	94002	593-7941
Newman, Charles	25 Corte Alegre Millbrae	94030	697-5601
Prime, John	848 W. Hillsdale Blvd. San Mateo	94403	345-4968
Smith, Ruth	1231 Hoover St. Menlo Park	94025	322-5279
Tatomer, John	#4 East Carol Burlingame	94010	
Zumsteg, Mark	41 Arundel Rd. Burlingame	94010	343-7365

Jim Taylor's alarm clock: A Pileated Woodpecker.....

FLORENCE RICHARDSON

We are very sorry to report that Florence Richardson passed away September 17. She was a long-time member of Sequoia Audubon and an expert and enthusiastic birder. Her many Audubon friends will certainly miss her.

THE SEQUOIA
 Sequoia Audubon Society
 1009 Laguna Avenue
 Burlingame, CA 94010

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 152
 Burlingame, CA 94010

Address Correction Requested

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
 2270 Summit Dr.,
 Hillsborough, Calif. 94010