



The Sequoia



Volume 23, No. 5

January, 1974

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEETINGS:

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

JANUARY 10, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School Broadway and Vancouver in Burlingame. Byron Davies tells us that he has two spectacular programs fighting for the spot on our January agenda. The outcome is not yet determined but whichever emerges will be well worthwhile.

FIELD TRIPS:

Mark Zumsteg, Chairman
Phone: 343-7365

Due to the gasoline situation we will change some of our field trip policies. From now on we will have a local meeting place where we will pool our cars. Any long distance trips we take will be made by bus. Also, the number of field trips will be reduced. Sequoia Audubon must set an example for conservation rather than strike a blow against it.

PACIFICA FISHING PIER JANUARY 19 8:30 AM

Meeting Place: Parking lot at Bayside Park, Burlingame. This is east of Bayshore Freeway at the Broadway exit.

This new structure pokes 1000 feet into the Pacific giving us a closer look at the offshore birds. We should see loons, grebes, cormorants, various ducks, gulls, and, if we are lucky, shearwaters, fulmars, kittiwakes and alcids.

SIGHTINGS:

J. Ed McClellan, Chairman
Phone: 344-3486

Barry Sauppe reports: Bald eagle at lower reservoir, Crystal Springs Lakes on November 28.

Barrow's goldeneye in Foster City on November 27.
Saw-whet owl on Higgins Road in late November.

Paul Lechich reports: Peregrine falcon at Shelter Cove in Humboldt County on September 30. (Paul and Nancy had a good opportunity to see and watch this bird with a telescope.) Also a Peregrine or prairie falcon on December 2 near San Mateo/Santa Cruz County line.

A male wood duck was reported on one of the Spring Valley Lakes in

RESIDENT: 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

November and a few days later, on November 25, Barry Sauppe reported a male European widgeon on the Lower Reservoir near the north end of the lake. Bonnie and I went over in the rain and spotted the European Widgeon but failed to see the wood duck. In years past the wood ducks used to nest and raise young just north of the low dam at the north end of this lake about opposite the fence gate where the purple star thistle grows along Sawyer Camp Road.

Bill Anderson reports: A King eider at Monterey Bay in early December.

A Reliable Birder reports: A Brown thrasher has been visiting a feeding station in Fairfax.

Dr. Norman Fox reports: Two Clapper rails on the Burlingame waterfront.

FUNGUS FAIR

The Mycological Society of San Francisco will conduct their annual Fungus Fair on Sunday, January 6, in the African Hall of the California Academy of Sciences: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The customary Academy entrance fee applies. Many mushroom specimens will be displayed with experts on hand to field your questions.

WILD TURKEYS IN CALIFORNIA

Wild turkeys are not native to California but were introduced in 1908 by the Department of Fish & Game. Today, 24 of California's 58 counties have "hunnable" turkey populations and their range is being extended by DFG management. The wild turkey is North America's heaviest land bird; a good-sized "gobbler" (male) may weigh up to 25 pounds. The birds perch on roosts 30 to 40 feet high. The mating season extends from February through June. The hen lays from 5 to 17 eggs which take 28 days to hatch. The new-born "poults" are a downy yellowish brown and the wing feathers are prominent from the beginning. They eat insects and the green leaves of many plants. At two or three weeks of age they can make short flights and at four months they moult and gradually change to adult plumage. As they grow older they prefer acorns, which they swallow whole, grasshoppers, berries and seeds of grasses.

Wild turkeys are very wary and difficult to approach. They generally live in flocks and respond promptly to their danger signal -- a call resembling "pert!" It is fascinating to watch them run and hide, even on a fake alarm.

From "Outdoor California"

AUDUBON WORKSHOP OF THE WEST

National Audubon sponsors Audubon Workshop of the West at Dubois, Wyoming at four two-week sessions each summer. The fee is \$235 which covers meals, housing, field trips and instruction. Sequoia Audubon will sponsor two "scholarships" at the 1974 Workshop. Transportation to and from Dubois will be the responsibility of the recipients. The Sequoia Board of Directors will be pleased to receive nominations for these scholarships. A candidate must be 18 years of age or over, need not be a Sequoia member but should be a potential asset to the Audubon cause even though remotely or indirectly at this time. Sequoia has,

in the past, sponsored teachers, state park rangers and young naturalists. If you have someone in mind, write or phone President Bergeron.

Members interested in attending a workshop session may obtain a brochure from Audubon Workshop of the West, Box 3232, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

As with most volunteer organizations, the day-to-day workload in Sequoia Audubon is borne by a small minority of the membership. This is a most undesirable situation because it not only imposes an undue burden on a few dedicated people but it also denies to others the opportunity to share in the interesting and valuable work that Sequoia carries on. All of our committee chairpersons can use volunteers. Marc Zumsteg is doing an outstanding job in his field trip program but he needs help on his committee in organizing and leading field trips. Ruth Smith is carrying the whole load in Conservation matters and urgently needs assistance from volunteers who will attend meetings and represent the Audubon cause. And so on with all of the other Sequoia committees. Please phone Liv Gurevitz -- chairperson of the membership committee -- at 347-0912 and express your interest. She will arrange for a contact with the appropriate committee. Or, phone President Bergeron, the Sequoia editor or the committee chairperson direct -- but get in the act. You will not be asked to sign a contract so there is no irrevocable commitment. Set your own limit based on your interest, available time and your concern for the things that Audubon represents.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Open space seems to have been a prevailing theme in the past month. In November through the rest of the year the County Planning Commission and the Supervisors are holding hearings on the County Open Space Plan and Zoning Ordinance required to be submitted to the state by the year's end. The plan and ordinance submitted by the Planning Staff were reasonably good, though offering only the minimum of protection needed for adequate open space and agriculture in the county. There was strong opposition to these among coastal property owners who felt it endangered their "property rights" and wanted to see it amended to give much more freedom for development. Sequoia Audubon Directors and other environmental organizations supported the original plan. The Supervisors' final decision was not known when this was written.

At the state level, AB920, the bill to create a Park and Open Space Fund financed by a 1% tax on transfer of real property, which failed last year by one vote to clear the Committee for Revenue and Taxation, is still alive. Our north-county Assemblyman, Louis Papan, later voted for reconsideration, and his vote will be vital for its passage this year. Those interested can write him at the State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814. The bill would give probably some \$918,000 to San Mateo County to be divided between the county and the various cities in a year. Another 25 million would be available on application by any local jurisdiction for specific projects.

THE COASTAL ZONE BILL -- Proposition 20 -- has now passed its first year.

An evaluation of its progress in the November issue of "California Today" sounds fairly optimistic, but it warns that final success or failure will depend largely on the Coastal Zone Plan to be presented to the Legislature in January, 1976. Public support for the program will be needed. A present difficulty is lack of adequate funding due to lack of anticipated federal funds and Governor Reagan's veto of the \$250,000 for 1973-4 which had been approved by the Legislature. A similar funding augmentation will be badly needed next year and can be aided by supporting letters from voters to Legislators and the Governor.

HOLMES GROVE OF REDWOODS -- 80-acres on Alpine Road one mile east of the intersection with Pescadero Road -- has not as yet had a final hearing by the County. It is probable the county will give money for purchase of some part of this outstanding grove, but pretty surely it will also allow the rest to be cut unless private funds are forthcoming to save it. Tax-deductible donations can still be sent to:

The Holmes Grove Fund
Peninsula Conservation Foundation
1176 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chpn.

LETTERS TO CONGRESS OR CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Write as an individual -- not as a member of an organization. Don't enclose printed material.

U.S. Senators

Alan Cranston, John V. Tunney
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. House of Representatives

17th District

Paul N. McCloskey
205 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

11th District

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

California Assembly

26th District (South County) Dixon Arnett
27th District (North County) Louis Papan
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Senate

(San Mateo County) Arlen Gregorio
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

Ray Higgs of the Golden Gate Audubon Society presented an incredible variety of slides, especially of western migratory birds seen at this time of the year along California's marshes, bays and seacoast. Some of the less common were the Black and American oystercatchers, the fast-disappearing Clapper rails, Baird's sandpiper, Forster's tern, Bonaparte's gull, the rarely-seen Emperor goose, a gorgeous Wood duck,

and the handsome Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night herons. There were slides of songbirds captured in mid-song: the Long-billed Marsh wren, the Savannah sparrow, the Black-crowned sparrow, the sleek Barn swallow in flight, a Burrowing owl, a "Mr. and Mrs." Brewer's blackbird a Broad-billed hummingbird in mid-air, the beautiful Cooper's hawk, and many, many more. It was visual feast and Mr. Higg's narration was entertaining and interesting.

Jed McClellan showed us slides of our very own native California walnut, used as the root stock for all walnut orchards in California. I had always wondered, when driving through walnut orchards, why the trees had a dark, furrowed bark at the trunk which very abruptly became smoother and whiter, as though the bark had suddenly been peeled off. The reason for this, Jed explained, is that the English walnut is budded into the native tree, giving the tree longer life.

Byron Davies explained that Charles Newman was away in Mexico "recording more tweets!" We look forward to his return next month and a new mystery Bird Call of the Month.

-- Nancy Bentz

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The board voted to make the following contributions during 1974:

Audubon Canyon Ranch	\$750.00
Point Reyes Bird Observatory	100.00
Peninsula Conservation Fdn.	100.00
California Natural Areas Coordinating Council	50.00
Environmental Quality Coordinating Council	15.00

Due to the gasoline shortage, use of car pools will be encouraged for attendance at meetings and field trips.

NEW BIRD NAMES

In the November SEQUOIA we mentioned changes in certain bird names brought on by Supplement 32 to the check-list of North American Birds issued by AOU (American Ornithologists Union). For those interested in the details, there is an article in the November AUDUBON commencing on Page 36.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were added to Squoia Audubon Society during October and November: OCTOBER -- David and Cheryl Belitsky, Leslie A. Bunch, Ronald L. Champion, DDS, Doug and Kaye Devries, Ira M. Fielding, MD, Edward A. Firestone, Rebecca Friedman, Mrs. Walter H. Hales, Mrs. Lydia P. Hunt, Jim and Linda Landau, Garrett Phelan, Donald V. Reardon, Sharon Spencer, James E. Sterrett, Dr. Roger Wagner, Veronica L.C. Weir. NOVEMBER -- Mrs. Richard S. Andrews, Sherry Ballard, Hank Balough, Jr, Arthur Bodner, Mrs. Robert Bostick, Mrs. Stephen C. Brown, Mr & Mrs L. Cooperman & Family, Ursula Dietrich, DDS, Patricia E. Dixon, Richard Efting, Sherry and Sid Everett, Mrs. Peter Gallagher, John R. Giquette, Mrs. T. C. Hall, Sally Hall, Mrs. Hamilton, Ed and Claudia Hanson Family, Mrs. Ken Helms, Miss Leslie Hoffmann, Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. Hoggard Family, Mrs. Marcella Jacobson, Mr. Michael P. Kelly, Mr. Max

E. Kerstan, Alfred R. Kraig, Mrs. Hugh F. Morris, Edna Muegge, Hans H. Mueller, Patricia Muetting, Miss Doris E. Perce, Miss Marilyn A. Powell, Dr. Jon E. Rosell, Essie Sauer, Mary E. Schultz, Wayne and Brett Skinner, Mrs. Maria E. Stiles, T. Taylor, Gary G. Wagner, Karen Wiggins, Williams, Mrs. Paul L. Young, Jr.

SOME THOUGHTS OF A "CHRISTMAS COUNTER"

By Nancy Bentz

Last Saturday, the day of the Crystal Springs Bird Count, I was stationed at the causeway at which Highway #92 crosses Crystal Springs Reservoir, watching for a family of Bald Eagles that had been spotted there a week or so before. Even though I wasn't lucky enough to spot the Bald Eagles, I enjoyed the very rare experience of sitting alone in one spot, quietly watching a winter's day come and go before my eyes. I was hardly alone, though, with a friendly flock of Canada geese for companions all day, and a vivacious Belted kingfisher who sat on a nearby power line all afternoon, as scruffy and sentient as I leaving his perch only occasionally to fly zanily around and scold me with his rattley call. A graceful pair of aloof Red-tailed hawks glided over several times, eyeing me from a distance.

The morning was foggy and chilly until about noon, when the sun broke through, revealing myriads of gulls swirling above the middle of the water, their wings sparkling in the sun. All afternoon, I watched groups of them rise from the water and soar upward in a circular motion, then turn and fly west over the hills toward Half Moon Bay, in a slow, continual procession. It wasn't until sundown that the last of them had disappeared over the hills in the direction of a vivid pink sunset. Watching them, enviously, I thought of my own human's spirit's longing for freedom and flight. Strange, I thought, I watch birds and catch a glimpse of my own soul.

A few scoters glided contentedly on the now-deserted water, hardly disturbing its smooth surface. The geese were now up on the grassy shore, eating quietly, stretching their black necks to stare at me occasionally. Cars loaded with Christmas trees headed back from Half Moon Bay. As I got into my car and prepared to head for home, I watched a flock of blackbirds and marvelled at them, as usual. They swelled and danced voluptuously in the air, like a dark cloud moved along by the wind. They moved as one being, so beautifully in tune, as though flowing to some music only they could hear.

As I drove home, I thought what a creative afternoon it had been: to sit quietly and watch life converging on a lake, and to feel, more vividly, my own life's spirit.

BIRD SONG TAPE CASSETTE

Songs of California birds are available on a tape cassette entitled, CALIFORNIA MORNING. Order from R. J. Green, Sky Meadow, Box 3519, Fullerton, CA 92634. The 30-minute cassette is \$5.95; 60-minute \$7.95 and 90-minute \$9.95.

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

Chairpersons

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

Audubon Canyon Ranch Directors: Al Bergeron, Charles Newman, Maryann Danielson, Byron Davies, Ed McElhany, A. E. Montgomery, Charles Newman, John Prime

Bay Area Audubon Council: Norman Fox, Ruth Smith, Jon Tatomer

Bentz, Nancy	591 Cedar St. San Carlos	94070	592-2547
Bergeron, Albert	251 Killdeer Ct. Foster City	94404	349-2960
Daniels, Clifford	1009 Haddon Dr. San Mateo	94402	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	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, Jon	#4 East Carol Burlingame	94010	347-2020
Zumsteg, Mark	41 Arundel Rd. Burlingame	94010	343-7365

Want to have a look at the Sea Otters: Visit the coast at Monterey and south: Monterey Municipal Wharf #2, Monterey Fisherman's Wharf, Coast Guard breakwater, Otter Point, Pacific Grove, Cypress Point, 17 Mile Drive; Carmel Point, Point Lobos State Reserve shores, Soberantes Point, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Big Creek, Rockland Landing, Kirk Creek Campground, Alder Creek, Road stretching south of Pedros Blanco, Road stretching south of San Simeon for views of these friendly, fascinating creatures.

THE SEQUOIA is the news letter of Sequoia Audubon Society. A subscription is \$2.00 per year for 10 issues -- one each month, September through June. Membership in National Audubon Society includes a SEQUOIA subscription to members living within this area 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 \$12.00 for an individual membership of \$15.00 for family membership. Other classes of membership are available. Phone the editor of SEQUOIA 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.

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