



The Sequoia



Volume 23, No. 6

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BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEETINGS:

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

FEBRUARY 14, THURSDAY 6:30 PM POTLUCK DINNER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver 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.

FEBRUARY 14, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School following the Potluck Dinner.

Our program will feature the California Orchid slide show of Bonnie and Jed McClellan. While Jed describes this show merely as an "expanded plant of the month" presentation we note that it has been, or will be, presented to the California Spring Blossom and Wild Flower Association, the California Botanical Club and two chapters of the California Native Plant Society so it must be pretty special. The McClellan pictures are always technically accurate and complete so as to please the botanists in the audience and artistic to appeal to those less scientifically inclined. Jed's comments, likewise, are balanced so as to be enjoyed by all. Come, and learn about the California Orchids!

FIELD TRIPS:

Mark Zumsteg, Chairman 343-7365

OWL PROWL AND RAIL WAIL February 16, Saturday 7:30 PM (back no later than midnight).

Meet at parking lot for Crystal Springs Dam, San Mateo. We will be going to a couple of fairly consistent locations for these primarily nighttime critters. What will we hear? Barn, Great Horned, Saw-whet, and Short-eared Owls, Virginia and Sora Rails. If there is enough time we can try for Screech Owls as well.

BELMONT SLOUGH AND FOSTER CITY Sunday, February 24, 7:00 AM on. There are very few places around here where more than a hundred species can be listed in one day. This trip takes us to one of the best areas for 100+ days and it is right here on our doorstep! This is also a good opportunity to see what kinds of plans are planned for this great area -- namely obliteration. Come and see lots of birds and get mad at the developers. If you can't make it at 7:00 come later and look for us at Belmont Slough which forms the southern boundary of Foster City. You will be most welcome at any

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hour. MEETING PLACE will be at the parking lot for Werder Pier (the old San Mateo--Hayward Bridge) in Foster City.

SIGHTINGS:

J.Ed. McClellan, Chairperson 344-3486

Bald Eagles: Several people have seen Bald Eagles in San Mateo County recently. Apparently there were altogether two adults and two immature. Most of the sightings have been along the Spring Valley Lakes, but on December 23, Brandt Jobst saw one near the old San Gregorio store.

Hawks: On January 8, Bonnie and I saw a Swainson's Hawk circling lazily over North Burlingame. On January 12, Charles Newman reported a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting in a street tree in San Francisco, eating a Pigeon. Several people have noticed an unusual number of Rough-legged Hawks along the Coast and on January 10, Robert Sandel reported one at Foster City. John Giguette saw one, also, at Belmont Slough, on December 29.

White-tailed Kites: In December, Mrs. Fred Dodge reported seeing two White-tailed Kites in Menlo Park. Neil Dickinson checked out the sighting and saw three. John Giguette saw a White-tailed Kite on December 29 at Belmont Slough.

Clapper Rails: Dr. Fox recently saw a Clapper Rail on the Burlingame bay front and John Giguette saw one at Belmont Slough.

Albino Blackbird: On January 10, Bonnie and I saw a Blackbird in Golden Gate Park that was almost completely white. It was flying and feeding in a flock of normal Blackbirds.

J.Ed. McClellan

Following is a report from Peter Metropulos:

Yellow-billed Loon: One beautiful specimen at Monterey Fisherman's Wharf on January 9. *(B.A., P.M.)

American Golden Plover: Five at Drakes Beach Rd., Point Reyes, January 6. *(R.C., P.M., B.S.)

Red Phalarope: 4,000 at Pacific Grove, January 11. (P.M., B.S.)

Northern Shrike: One at Gray Lodge, W.M.A., January 2. (P.M.)

One Brown Thrasher and two Snow Buntings at Honey Lake, December 28. (P.M.)

Harris' Sparrow: Four, located in a flock of Golden-crowned at Putah Creek, Yolo County, December 29. (P.M.)

**Snowy Owl: One, at Año Nuevo Point, January 13. (P.M., B.S.)

*Observers: Roy Carlson, Bill Anderson, Peter Metropulos, Barry Sauppe.

** Many others have seen the Snowy Owl, so many, in fact, that some have expressed concern that so many people moving in on him may keep him from hunting food and suggest that observers watch him from as great a distance as possible. He is a daytime feeder and probably came this far from his arctic habitat because of scarcity of food.

WESTERN AUDUBON CONFERENCE:

By now all members should have received "Audubon Conservation Topics, West" describing the Asilomar Conference on April 6--9, 1974. Let us know if you have not and we will see if we can get you a copy.

THE ENERGY CRISIS, probably the most popular topic at present, may be annoying for most of us and even more serious for some. But it does have its good side, too. Gasoline shortages and high prices should lessen air pollution even with relaxed air standards. And pressure is rapidly building up to bring the mass transit conservationists have long been advocating. A county-wide bus system similar to that in Santa Clara County is in the foreseeable future, as is a mini-bus system for Menlo Park. Having been forced temporarily to become a non-driver, I have been using the Redwood City municipal bus system and find it both comfortable and convenient. I can therefore wholeheartedly urge all Sequoia Audubon Society members to support their local bus whenever possible.

Another plus on the energy scene is the naming of National Audubon's Executive Vice-President, Charles Callison, as a member of the eight-man advisory board to Federal Energy Administrator, William Simon.

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Oregon's Senator Mark Hatfield is sponsoring a federal bill (S.2062) which would OUTLAW NONRETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, as does Oregon's own state law. The Senate Commerce Committee will be holding hearings on it probably in February. Letters concerning the bill can be sent to SENATOR JOHN TUNNEY, SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510, who is a member of the Committee.

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On the local scene, our CENTRAL COASTAL COMMISSION is starting a series of hearings to promote public input for planning concepts for the Coast. The first will have already been held in Pescadero in January. A second has been scheduled on the marine environment which should be of particular interest to Sequoia members. It will be held February 6 at 7:30 PM at Skyline College, San Bruno.

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Those little Mercury Batteries found in cameras, watches and hearing aids have been polluting our environment by the hundreds of thousands. The 383-000-member Telephone Pioneers of America, national organization of retired telephone workers, has a program to recycle them. Counter-top collectors are available to its own chapters and other groups for 60¢ each from Pioneer Battery Project, c/o Cindy Ludwig, Rm. 1504, Northwestern Bell, 100 S. 19th St., Omaha, Neb. 68102.

-- Ruth Smith, Chairperson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -- January 3, 1974

David Keyston has submitted a Burlingame bay front development plan to the City of Burlingame. Sequoia members are urged to study this plan and consider commenting on it at the appropriate time.

A commitment of \$50 was made to the Boy Scouts as encouragement for a contemplated Burlingame tideland clean-up.

President Bergeron saw a preview of George Anderson's new movie on the marshes and estuaries of California -- including Pescadero Marsh. This seems to be an excellent picture. It will be shown at the April Asilomar conference.

Our Crystal Springs (main) Christmas Count should post about 166 species and the año Nuevo Count perhaps 146. The post count "Soup Feed" arranged by the Social committee was a great success.

Charles Newman reported receipt of a generous contribution to our Land Acquisition Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Elwood of Hillsborough. The Board gratefully acknowledged and accepted this gift.

JANUARY REGULAR MEETING

-- January 10, 1974

Larry Green, West Coast Field Editor of the magazine Field and Stream, showed us a series of interesting and artistic slides of water birds. For the most part, these pictures were the surplus shots Larry took as illustrations for his magazine articles. Larry is an excellent photographer, a careful observer and a charming speaker. He mentioned that he has evolved from a hunter of birds to an "appreciator" and that his shooting now is with his camera. He is an Audubon member and considers his magazine, Field and Stream, a good advocate of conservation.

Larry told us that his working career has included 37 different occupations and that he had been fired from 35 of them. One of the first, at age 16, was as a professional "bird caller" for wild fowl hunters. His activities at present include teaching nature subjects at Skyline College night classes.

It was suggested by Larry that Sequoia members who wish to "bird" in the Lake Camanche area or in the Delta area generally, contact Dick Gaumer at 2431 Rutledge Way in Stockton, CA 95207, phone 209-478-1469. Mr. Gaumer is well informed on current birding conditions and will be glad to share his knowledge. The password is that Larry Green referred you at the January Sequoia Audubon meeting.

Jed McClellan's plant of the month was the Western Sycamore. His pictures and commentary were of the usual high quality we have come to expect and appreciate. While this tree is wide-spread in California, it is not native in San Mateo County. We recall a beautiful stand along the Nacimiento River just east of Nacimiento Summit in Monterey County.

Charles Newman, using the same tape recording equipment as President Nixon, didn't have any blanks on his tape of Mexican birds. He played for us the calls of the Sora Rail, Streak-backed Oriole and the Bright-rumped Attila which he had recorded in San Blas on his December trip.

NATURAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS TO EAST AFRICA

Natural History and Nature Photography. Mt. Kenya and the Northern Frontier. A tenting safari led by Dr. Leslie Brown of Kenya and David Roderick of Foothill College. July 8-29, 1974. \$2090 including air fare from the west coast.

Natural History and Ornithology. The Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, and the Kenya Coast. A luxury tenting safari in association with Abercrombie and Kent Safaris Ltd. of Kenya led by Ted Chandik, Naturalist with the city of Palo Alto, California. August 1-23, 1974. \$2290 including

airfare from the west coast.

For further information or reservation forms write or phone Nature Expeditions International, P.O. Box 1173, Los Altos, CA 94022. (415-941-2910)

NATURAL HISTORY OF HAWAII:

The natural history of Hawaii--its geology, evolutionary history, and its native plants and animals--will be explored this spring in a nine-day study tour presented by University of California Extension as part of its Natural Environment Studies program. The study tour is scheduled May 18-26, and enrollment is open to any adult interested in the wild heritage of the islands.

Focusing on the aesthetic qualities and scientific value of Hawaii and Maui, the program takes participants from the great active volcano of Kilauea to the rarely seen upper verge of east Maui's lush rain forests. Leading authorities on island biology will conduct the expedition, which traverses the native forests of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, the unique dry forests and the luxuriant puus of leeward Hawaii, and windward high slopes of Haleakala. Special attention will be given to native plants and birds and to the significance of human impact on the island ecosystems.

Additional information and enrollment forms are available from Dept. H-4, University extension, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, CA 94720.

"FUTURE WITHOUT SHOCK"

New book by Louis B. Lundborg, an Audubon Director and former Chairman of Bank of America. The property owners right to use his land as he sees fit is yielding to a new concept: the public has a right to determine the uses of its environment. \$6.95, W.W. Norton & Co.

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"As I read and listen to advertisements, it is my very strong impression that there is a well-organized campaign afoot to propagandize the public into believing that our environmental concerns have been overstated and oversold and are the cause of major economic and energy problems. This is hot air -- pure and simple. The public should be alert to this campaign and recognize it for what it is -- simply an effort to slow down or avoid getting on with the job of cleaning up pollution. It is a fear campaign which seeks to capitalize on the anxieties and uncertainties of the public concerning our energy problems. It probably signals a major assault on the Clean Air Act."

-- Russell E. Train, Administrator,
Environmental Protection Agency.

NATURE STUDY COURSES:

"Ocean Birds of the Pacific Coast." Three classes at College of San Mateo. April 15, 22, 29. 6:30 to 9:30 PM. One field trip to the Farallons on Sunday, May 5. Instructors are Bruce Elliott and Ted Chandik. Fee is \$18.

"California Desert Ecology" Two classes at College of San Mateo.

April 1 and 4. 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Field trip to Joshua Tree National Monument, April 8--12. Instructors are Bruce Elliott and Roger Clemens. Fee is \$30. (Plus expenses).

For Additional information, phone Community Services,
College of San Mateo. (574-6544)

"The Peninsula: A Changing Ecology." Six classes at Coyote Point Junior Museum. 7:30 to 9:30 PM on successive Tuesdays commencing February 19. Field trip later. Lecturers include Maryann Danielson, Bruce Elliott. Fee \$8.

For Additional information, phone Community Services,
Cañada College (364-1212 extension 236).

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 or \$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
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