



The Sequoia



Volume 23, No. 9

May, 1974

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEETINGS:

MAY 2, THURSDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Bergeron. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

MAY 9, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Avenue in Burlingame. Mr. Martin Dias, Head of the Aviary at Fleishhacker Zoo in San Francisco, will present slides of his just-completed trip to Africa. He will also discuss the goals of modern zoos.

FIELD TRIPS:

Al Wool has regretfully had to cancel the previously announced trip to his ranch on May 4.

MAY 11 and 12, SATURDAY and SUNDAY

THE MYSTERY TRIP

The Bus will leave at 8:30 AM from the corner of Oak Grove and California Drive in Burlingame for its mysterious destination. We will be visiting some very good birding areas, having a terrific time together, and relaxing. It is now almost too late to make motel reservations, but it would be worth a try for you late-deciders. Campers are especially welcome. Camping facilities are first-rate. They are in a beautiful location and have everything including showers. Those people desiring to go should send a check for \$12.00 payable to Sequoia Audubon to Mark Zumsteg, 41 Arundel Road, Burlingame, 94010. The fee covers the cost of the bus and Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch. Those people not desiring to go should proceed directly to a psychiatrist to have their heads examined.

MAY 18, SATURDAY, 9:00 AM PESCADERO MARSH

Meet in the parking lot directly west of the intersection of Highway 1 and Pescadero Road.

Sequoia has taken the financial initiative to save this critical marshland. Plan on familiarizing yourself with the location and its denizens. This marsh has a price tag of \$50,000 for Sequoia. You should get over there and see why it is worth that much to conservationists.

MAY 25, SATURDAY, 8:30 AM CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK

Meet at the parking lot in front of the store at Skylonda (the intersection of Skyline and Woodside Road).

This fairly recent addition to the State Park system is along the crest

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of the Santa Cruz Mountains in a heavily wooded area. We will be taking moderate hike of about 5 miles, so bring your walking shoes and a packable lunch.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:Belmont Slough (Foster City) February 24, 1974.

One of the high points of Sequoia's field trip year occurred on this trip as we watched for no less than an hour and a half an adult Peregrine Falcon. We watched him stoop at a duck, play with a Kestrel and watch us. Everyone got a good look at this incredibly noble and rapidly disappearing bird.

Weather was clear -- about 60° -- no wind. We birded from 7:00 AM until 1:30 PM and saw 76 species as follows:

Red-throated loons; Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Double-crested cormorants; Great Blue herons; Common and Snowy egrets; a Bl.-cr. Night heron; Mallard and Pintail ducks; Green-winged and Cinnamon teal; American widgeon; Shoveler ducks; Canvasback ducks; Greater and Lesser scaup; Common goldeneyes; Buffleheads; White-winged and Surf scoters; Ruddy ducks; Red-breasted mergansers; a Turkey vulture; White-tailed kites; Red-tailed Hawks; Marsh hawks; a Peregrine falcon; Sparrow hawks; a Clapper rail; American coots; Black-bellied plovers; a Ruddy turnstone; Black turnstones; a Long-billed curlew; Willets; a Greater yellowlegs; Least sandpipers; Dunlins; Long-billed Dowitchers; Western sandpipers; Marbled godwits; American avocets; Glaucous-winged, Herring, California, Ring-billed gulls and a Bonaparte's gull; Forster's terns; Mourning doves; Anna's hummingbirds and an Allen's; a Belted kingfisher; Black Phoebes; Horned larks; Long-billed Marsh wrens; a Mockingbird; Robins; Water pipits; Starlings; House sparrows; Western meadowlarks; Redwinged blackbirds; Brewer's blackbirds; a Brown-headed cowbird; House finches; American goldfinches; Lesser goldfinches; Brown towhees; Savannah sparrows; White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song sparrows.

Sawyer Camp Road March 9, 1974

Weather was clear and warm -- maybe 61° -- with a gentle NW breeze. We birded from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM and observed 61 species. Also of interest was a very early blooming striped coral root orchid (*Corallorhiza striata*). This orchid generally does not come into bloom until April. Indian warrier (*Pedicularis densiflora*) literally covered the ground. Ten Cooper's hawks were sighted -- probably migrating. Others were:

Common loons; Horned, Eared and Pied-billed grebes; Mallards; Wood ducks; Ring-necked ducks; Lesser scaups; Common goldeneyes; Buffleheads; Turkey vultures; a Sharp-shinned hawk; Cooper's and Red-tailed hawks; a Sparrow hawk; California quail; American coots; Killdeer; Spotted sandpiper; California gulls; Band-tailed pigeons; Mourning doves; Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds; Red-shafted flickers; Acorn woodpeckers; a Hairy woodpecker; Violet-green swallows; Steller's and Scrub jays; Chestnut-backed chickadee; Plain titmouse; Common Bush-tits; a Pygmy nuthatch; Brown creepers; Wrentits; Bewick's wrens; a Mockingbird; a California thrasher; Robins; Varied and Hermit thrushes; Ruby-crowned kinglets; Starlings; Hutton's vireos; Orange-crowned and Audubon's warblers; House sparrows; a Meadowlark; Red-

winged blackbirds; a Brown-headed cowbird; Purple and House finches; Lesser goldfinches; Rufous-sided and Brown towhees; Oregon juncos; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song sparrows.

Butano State Park, March 30, 1974

We observed 23 species in the rain from 9:30 AM until 11:30. Wind SW maybe 10/12 mph.

Most interesting was the multitude of emerging California newts. They covered the ground. We couldn't understand the absence of Rough-skinned newts at this prime location. Poor birding was not due to the inclement weather but the habitat itself. There just are not many birds in the Redwoods.

Red-tailed hawks; Band-tailed pigeons; a Great Horned owl; Anna's hummingbirds and an Allen's; a Belted kingfisher; Western flycatchers; Steller's and Scrub jays; Chestnut-backed chickadees; Brown creepers; Wrentits; Winter and Bewick's wrens; a Robin; Golden-crowned kinglets; Orange-crowned warblers; a Wilson's warbler; Purple finches; Pine siskens (see page 5); Lesser goldfinches; Oregon juncos; Song sparrows and a Fox sparrow.

SIGHTINGS:

Flamingo, again. On April 4, 1974, a Flamingo was seen again in the Belmont Slough area.

White-throated Swift; rare visitor from the sky. The White-throated swift may not be a stranger to our local sky, but it is not a bird of the trees and seldom comes to earth except in the wild mountain canyons and sea cliffs where it nests. To hold such a bird in one's hand is a very rare treat. Bonnie and I and Liv Gurevitz had such a treat on April 12. The bird had flown against a window of a building on Trousdale Drive in Burlingame and had been picked up by Mrs. Mohn who heard the thump from her nearby desk. Realizing that she was holding a very strange bird, she called the Audubon Society telephone number and was referred to me. In the meantime she had taken the bird to her home in Menlo Park. Bonnie and I went to her home and had our first close look at a White-throated swift, a black and white bird about seven inches long but with narrow, stiff wings with a spread of nearly fourteen inches. It was clinging to the draperies in a room in which Mrs. Mohn had turned it loose. When approached, it climbed dexterously up the drapery with its amazing feet, bracing itself with its stiff, woodpecker-like tail. It was not equipped for perching; its strong feet looked like tiny replicas of a bear's feet. All four toes of the foot pointed forward, side by side, each equipped with a black curved claw. The top of each foot was covered with tiny black feathers suggesting the black hair on a bear's foot and the bottom of the foot was bare with a definite sole and even a heel! The bird had a crescent of black stiff feathers like eyelashes in front of each black eye. The White-throated swift is said to be probably the fastest-flying American bird (The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds, p.260).

Mrs. Mohn suggested that Bonnie and I take the bird since she had no way of feeding it. We took it to the Gurevitz home, knowing that Liv has had experience with captive birds. She produced some very nourishing hummingbird syrup which I fed to the bird with a spoon.

We placed the bird on the sloping trunk of a Coast Liveoak tree where it rested holding on with its strong claws and its stiff tail. Soon Bonnie and I left. Liv walked to the car with us and then returned, but the White-troated Swift had gone, no doubt back to the sky from whence it had come.

-- J.Ed. McClellan

Andy Kratter visited Pescadero Marsh on April 13 and reported a Common gallinule and several Rough-legged hawks. He also observed a Marsh hawk fighting with a Red-tailed hawk. Andy is fourteen years old. We especially appreciate reports from our young birders and hope Andy will continue to phone in his interesting observations.

The Sighting Committee:

J.Ed. McClellan, Chairman	344-3486
Aveline Butler	593-4489
Neil Dickinson	366-7661
Liv Gurevitz	347-0912

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The most exciting news on the conservation front came out of the National Audubon Western Regional Conference at Asilomar, April 6 to 9, which a goodly number of Sequoia members attended. A few of the highlights:

National President, Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, gave a stirring keynote address on "The Environment in the Energy Crisis," and called special attention to the article in the March issue of "Audubon" titled "Project Jonah." This describes the dangers of nuclear energy and the very safe potentials of solar energy. Better go back for another look if you missed it.

The next night Executive Vice President Charles H. Callison spoke on what the National Audubon Society has done from its inception for the cause of conservation. He stated that the Society is a real power in influencing national legislation, since members all over the country become involved, not just those locally concerned. He cited three projects presently threatening the wetlands and waterfowl of the mid-United States which are all unnecessary and overly costly. The Cache River channelization by the Corps of Engineers in Arkansas will drain vital wetlands. The Nebraska Midstate Diversion of the Platte River by the Bureau of Reclamation would destroy the largest resting area of the sandhill crane migration and a major duck and goose flyway. The Garrison Diversion also by the Bureau of Reclamation in North Dakota will flood seven wildlife refuges and hundreds of farms, as well as polluting two Canadian rivers, merely to create irrigation for essentially the same number of new farms. Public opinion from all over the country in the form of protest letters to the Bureau of Reclamation (Ellis L. Armstrong, Commissioner, Dept of the Interior, C St. between 18th and 19th N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240) or to Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, and to the Corps of Engineers (Lt. General F.J. Clarke, Chief, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310) can hopefully stop these destructive "pork-barrel" projects.

The last evening Mr. Judson E. Vandevere, Researcher in Residence at the Hopkins Marine Station and an authority on the sea otter, spoke on threats to its survival. Although this year's count of 900 is down from last year, federal and state officials are being pressured to kill off some of the otters and reduce the population still further. "Friends of the Sea Otter" based in Big Sur are circulating a petition to be sent to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Director of the

State Department of Fish and Game opposing any range restriction, drastic manipulation, or cropping of the otters. This was supported by Conference participants who were privileged to see these delightful animals on all three of the field trips.

On the legislative front it appears the Federal Land Use Bill, H.R. 10294, may not be completely sunk since pressure is on the House Rules Committee to reconsider it. Citizens who want to see this happen can write Rep. James A. Haley, Chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and Rep. Morris K. Udall, Chairman of its Environmental Subcommittee. Both can be addressed at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

The Environmental Protection Agency has made the statement that there is energy in solid waste (garbage) now thrown away equivalent to 150 million barrels of oil a year. Twenty-one cities have either started or are planning to start using such waste as auxiliary fuel to produce electricity. Our own P.G. & E. is funding a trial project in San Francisco to convert solid waste either into methane gas or a liquid resembling crude oil, both of which could be burned to produce energy. The company should be complimented on this program.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

NOTES OF A BIRDWATCHER -- The Pine Siskin:

The Pine siskin is a small, heavily-streaked finch showing varying amounts of yellow in its wings and at the tail base. Its bill is slender and its tail deeply notched. Both sexes look alike and there is no seasonal variation in plumage.

The siskin is a common resident of parts of San Mateo County and is usually seen in good-sized flocks. Its flight is extremely undulating. Each individual moves slightly out of "step" with his companions which gives the flock a look which differentiates it from the precision fliers even at a distance.

The siskin's song and calls are goldfinch-like but buzzy, huskier and lower in pitch. It has a sound different from that of any other bird, a rasping screech with a rising inflection "... like the sound made by blowing through a comb covered with thin paper." (Hoffman: Birds of the Pacific States.)

The siskin feeds primarily on the seeds of coniferous trees and on the catkins of alders, birches and willows. It also eats a variety of weed seeds and small insects and insect larvae. Like the chickadee, it often hangs upside down when feeding.

The siskin "nests nearly always in evergreen trees, in the San Francisco area including San Mateo County, nearly always in Monterey Cypress trees." (Dawson: Birds of California)

-- Liv Gurevitz

SEQUOIA -- THE NAME

Last month we looked into the origin of the name, Sequoia. We found that it was assigned to our Redwoods by an eminent Austrian botanist and scholar, Stephen Ladislaus Endlicher, to honor a Cherokee Indian genius, Sequoyah, for his monumental work in developing an alphabet for his tribe.

This month we shall take note of the trees themselves. There are three genera in which Sequoia appears: Sequoia (Redwood), Sequoiadendron (Bigtree of the Sierra Nevada) and Metasequoia (Dawn Redwood).

On October 10, 1769, Fray Juan Crespi, with the Portola expedition, reported the sighting near Watsonville of, "very high trees of a red color, not known to us. They have a very different leaf from cedars, and although the wood resembles cedar somewhat in color, it is very different and has not the same odor; moreover the wood of the trees that we have found is very brittle. In this region there is a great abundance of these trees and because none of the expedition recognizes them they are named palo colorado (redwood) from their color."

The botanical discovery of Redwood was made by Archibald Menzies of the Vancouver expedition in 1794 at or near Santa Cruz. His specimen was described by Aylmar Bourke Lambert (1761--1842), an English botanist, in 1823. Lambert called the new species *Taxodium sempervirens*. This designation continued until 1847 when Endlicher created his new genus, *Sequoia*, and the Redwood became *Sequoia sempervirens*.

For many years our coastal Redwood shared the *Sequoia* genus with the Bigtree of the Sierra Nevada, *Sequoia gigantea*. However, in 1939, John Theodore Buchholz (1888--1951), an Illinois botanist, established that the Bigtree should be in a separate genus. He thereupon created the genus, *Sequoiadendron* and classified the Bigtree as *Sequoiadendron giganteum* which would probably translate something like, "giant Sequoia tree." The Bigtree was discovered by the white man in 1852 when a hunter, A.T. Dowd, pursued a grizzly bear into Calaveras Grove. Other white men (especially the gold-seekers) had doubtless observed these magnificent trees before Dowd but other matters appeared to them more important and their reports and accounts paid small heed to the great trees. Specimens were sent to Professor John Lindley (1799--1865) in London, who named the new tree *Wellingtonia gigantea* in 1853. However, a French botanist, Joseph Decaisne (1887--1882) recognized the tree as of the genus *Sequoia* and reclassified it as *Sequoia gigantea*.

In 1944 T. Wang, a forester of the Chinese National Government, discovered a hitherto unrecorded tree in the province of Szechuan in Central China. Examination disclosed that it was identical with fossil specimens of the ancient *Metasequoia*, a tree thought to have become extinct 20 million years ago. The tree became known as the Dawn Redwood. Unlike the Bigtree and the Coast Redwood, *Metasequoia* is deciduous; it sheds its leaves in the fall and acquires a new crop in the spring. The generic name, *Metasequoia*, was established on the basis of fossil specimens discovered in northern Siberia, Spitzbergen, Greenland, Alaska and northern Canada. It was thought, originally, that these fossil specimens represented trees identical to our present living Redwoods but in 1941 a Japanese botanist, Dr. Shigeru Miki, pointed out some essential differences and the *Metasequoia* genus was established.

As a result of a visit in 1948 by Ralph W. Chaney of the University of California to the site of the Chinese trees, plantings of *Metasequoia* have been made in widespread areas in the western hemisphere including our own Peninsula.

In Burlingame's Washington Park and in the area in front of Burlingame High School, specimens of all three trees may be found.

We should be grateful to Stephen Endlicher for his gesture of honor to Sequoyah. Were it not for this act Sequoia Audubon might have become Taxodium Audubon.

THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING:

By Nancy Bentz

Charles Newman's Bird-Call-of-the-Month was one of incredible quality and special significance. The recording was made at Pescadero Marsh on April 5, 1973, one year to the day before Sequoia Audubon announced, at the Western National Audubon Conference at Asilomar, their commitment to the marsh. The sounds were rich and varied, from the frogs and coots to the familiar Red-winged blackbird to the rich melodies of the Marsh wren and Wilson's warbler.

The film Mzima Spring, by Alan and Joan Root, was a beautiful and exciting movie which captured, with the help of underwater photography, the varied animal life inhabiting this freshwater spring in the dry and barren lava desert of East Africa. The spring is formed when rainwater filters down through the permeable lava mountains and flows underground until it rises to the surface some twenty miles away. The freshwater spring attracts mammals to its lush shores for drinking, including zebras, impala, elephants and baboons. There are 150 fascinating species of diving birds thriving on the lavish fish life. The center of life at the spring is, of course, the giant hippopotamus, who consumes 200 pounds of vegetation by night and dozes languidly by day in the water, depositing huge amounts of undigested material into the water which provides a rich source of food for the fish. The crocodile is another dominant member of the Mzima community, who captures mammals drinking at the shore and drags them into the water, providing food not only for himself but for the fishes, terrapins and eels. There are even Spotted-necked otters, with typical otter playfulness and "eyes bigger than their stomachs," who leave left-over food for the others. The film portrayed dramatically the ecology of this perfectly-balanced community of water, plants and animals, untouched by man's meddling.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH "HOSTS HONOR ROLL"

Angle, Bentz, Bergeron, Boone, Burmeister, Christofferson, Daniels, Davies, Fee, Fletcher, Fremont, Hall, Hansen, Hart, Hawley, Jaten, Kaiser, King, Kraig, Lighterink, McElhany, Neff, Nelson, Prime, Sain, Sampson, Stromsness.

--- There are still a few spots open for singles or twosomes, mostly. CHECK THESE DATES: April 20 and 21, May 5, 11 and 27. Call: Pat or John Prime 345-4968 and get in on this.

SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB BOAT TRIP

The annual offshore trip to look for albatrosses will be sponsored by the Santa Cruz Bird Club on Monday, June 10. Tickets \$2.50. A Stagnaro sport fishing boat will leave Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf at 7:30 AM, destination 12 miles out in the Pacific, returning about noon. For reservations, send check and self-addressed envelope to Viola Anderson, 227 Linden Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

Ralph Nader and Oregon Governor Tom McCall will keynote the Planning and Conservation League's 1974 Annual Meeting.

The one-day conference will be held in San Francisco, on Saturday, June 8, at the San Francisco Hilton. The conference theme is "The Urban Environment."

The meeting is open to the public. For more information write:
The Planning and Conservation League, 1225 Eighth Street, Suite 310,
Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone: 916/444-8726.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY EDUCATIONAL COURSE

TRANSECT OF CALIFORNIA -- 21--27 June or 12--18 July

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is offering an exciting way to learn more about the natural history of California's major habitats on an east-west transect from Mono Lake to Monterey. Last year 233 species of birds and 46 other vertebrate species were observed. The course includes mammals, reptiles, birds, trees and flowers--all in unpopulated areas of California. Only 16 people with leaders Rich Stallcup, Bill Clow, Bob Stewart and Art Earle! \$185

For Further Information: Write Meryl Stewart, Box 442,
Bolin, California 94924

BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

The following amendments to Sequoia Audubon Society by-laws will be proposed to the membership at our official annual meeting in June:

1. Amend By-laws Article V, paragraph 2 to read:
The Board shall include the elected or designated officers and six other members in good standing including the immediate Past President.
2. Amend By-laws Article V, paragraph 7 to read:
Five Directors shall constitute a quorum for conduct of business.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

June is our official "annual" meeting and officers for the ensuing year will be elected at this meeting. The nominating committee:

Fran Nelson, Chairman
Jean Jones

A. E. Montgomery will present their report but nominations from the floor are also welcome.

BOARD MEETING REPORT -- APRIL 4

Dr. Elvis Stahr, president of National Audubon, and others from National Headquarters in company with President Bergeron and others from Sequoia Audubon visited Pescadero Marsh and Holmes Grove in early April. Glen and Margaret Christoffersen lent their van for transportation and the Board voted them a gift membership in Audubon as a token of appreciation.

Explorer Scout Troop 806 has completed their clean-up project at the Burlingame Bayfront Marsh and the Board directed payment of \$50 previously committed in appreciation of this work.

The newspapers have recently carried an article reporting the gift to San Mateo County of 942 acres of land on Bear Gulch Road east of Skyline from Martin and E. Murielle Wunderlich. The value of the pro-

perty was reported to be about 2½ million dollars. The Board directed that a letter be written to the Wunderlichs expressing the appreciation of Sequoia Audubon for this marvelous gift.

BE KIND TO ANIMALS DAY

Visit Marine World on Saturday, May 11, Be Kind to Animals Day, pay the usual admission and 15% of the ticket price will be contributed to Peninsula Humane Society's Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund -- if you present the coupon printed below:

Please take this coupon to gate.
15% of your ticket price will go to
PHS's Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund

Please Come!

Join PHS and Marine World-Africa USA
in a special
Be Kind To Animals Day
At
Marine World Parkway
Saturday, May 11, 10-Dusk

Marine World is in Redwood City, exits marked from Hgwy. 101
See the fabulous animals! Watch the special shows!

This coupon is for _____ adults and _____ youths.

Late last year the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo County and the International Bird Rescue in Berkeley, the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum in Walnut Creek, The San Francisco Zoo Wildlife Rescue Program, Paul Maxwell, representing Marin County Schools, and Marin Museum of Science formed the Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. Now many other professional organizations are becoming involved in this five-county effort to rehabilitate injured wild creatures and to return them to their wild habitats upon recovery. They

have treated and released sea creatures and birds, raccoons, opossums, deer, ferrets, squirrels and nestling birds. Personnel at the Coyote Point shelter involved in this work are Doug Morris, PHS Animal Control Officer, Cliff Lindquist who is licensed by the State to rehabilitate wild birds of prey and Dr. Sheila Shannon, PHS veterinarian. As might be expected, funds are a problem in such a program as this. They are looking for a low-cost or donated van to be used in wildlife rescue.

New memberships in Peninsula Humane Society are always welcome and quite likely if you phone 344-7643 an application would be sent to you. Among other things, membership brings you their interesting newsletter, THE PET SET.

SNOWY OWLS

The April Los Angeles Audubon publication, THE WESTERN Tanager, reports that 16 Snowy owls visited California this year and that 6 of them were shot. Our immediate reaction is one of indignation and resentment that anyone could be so depraved as to take the life of such a magnificent and unusual visitor. Maybe, however, a more constructive reaction would be our realization that we need to get the conservation and the Audubon message more widely abroad so that more and more people will find enjoyment in their binoculars instead of their guns.

The Z'berg--Collier Bond Act will be submitted to the voters on June 4, 1974. It provides \$250 million for State and local park acquisition and development. We can't presume to tell you how to vote on this proposition but we urge that you become acquainted with its features and then broadcast to all of your friends and acquaintances how you feel about it.

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

We have heard reports over the past year that the red coloring commonly added to the food solution for hummingbirds is harmful to the birds and should be avoided. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory reports in their March newsletter that with no coloring at all they can hardly refill their feeders fast enough. They also report that a 20% solution as recommended by the San Diego Zoo and others has not lessened the vigor of a daily customer at PRBO, a male Anna's hummingbird banded in 1969. This is in the face of a rumor that the mixture should not contain more than about 10% sugar. These mixtures are on the basis of volume.

We note that John K. Terres in his SONGBIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN says that the use of honey is not recommended. Honey easily can become contaminated and it does ferment quickly. In either condition it is unpalatable and harmful.

MIGRATION

The January--February magazine of the California Department of Fish and Game, OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA, contains an interesting article by John B. Cowan, manager of the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, on the migration of waterfowl.

The migrating birds normally travel at elevations of 1000 to 5000 feet, 3000 feet being the most common. Geese have been recorded at 26000 feet in Asia.

The longest single flight of waterfowl was recorded when a flock of blue geese left James Bay at the south end of Hudson Bay and flew 1800 miles to Louisiana in 50 hours.

The longest recorded waterfowl flight was by a hen pintail. The bird was banded at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and was shot six years later near the Black Sea in Russia for an assumed flight of about 9000 miles.

Normal flight speed of ducks and geese in migration is about 35 to 40 miles per hour. Canvasback, our fastest duck, may average 50 m.p.h.

Ducks and geese migrate both day and night. The coot, however, is a nighttime migrant and consequently is seldom seen in migration. Individual flocks of migrating birds are seldom of mixed species.

Ducks and geese string out in a "V" formation and thereby avoid the slipstream of rough air produced by the birds ahead.

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE PLANTS

This new book by Peter Tompkins and Christofer Bird is a popularized treatise on plant characteristics, "reaction" and "behavior." Arthur W. Galston, biology teacher at Yale University, in a review in the March NATURAL HISTORY magazine, attacks the book for its unscientific methods and its false and misleading conclusions. He states that the book bears the same relation to scientific botany as astrology does to astronomy.

Paul Lechich who has brought to our attention at Sequoia meetings so many of the good books available at the Burlingame Library has kindly consented to review a book for THE SEQUOIA now and then. We sincerely hope he will be able to find time enough to make this a regular feature:

OWLS OF THE WORLD, THEIR EVOLUTION, STRUCTURE AND ECOLOGY
Ed. by John Burton, \$17.95, Dutton, 1973

This is undoubtedly the most interesting, most informative and best printed bird book of the year. Those of us who are enchanted with owls will not only want to read this superb compilation of some of the best writers and researchers, but will also want to have it on hand for reference and the coffee table.

Most humans have an interest in owls, and if conversation lags, whoever picks up this beautifully illustrated collection of "every famous species of owl" will find its lively and informative text conducive to remembering when one of our most spectacular birds crossed their path.

Its appendices, maps, bibliography and index make this a "must" book for all of us owl watchers--or should I say "listeners"?

MARSTON BATES

Marston Bates, prominent naturalist, environmentalist, author and professor emeritus of Zoology at the University of Michigan, died on April 3, 1974, at age 67. In 1960 he published THE FOREST AND THE SEA, a book which should be in every conservationist's library. His concluding paragraph in that book is almost a motto for the environmental cause:

In defying nature, in destroying nature, in building an arrogantly selfish, man-centered, artificial world, I do not see how man can gain peace or freedom or joy. I have faith in man's future, faith in the possibilities latent in the human experiment: but it is faith in man as a part of nature, working with the forces that govern the forests and the seas; faith in man sharing life, not destroying it.

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.

A MEMORIAL GIFT has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Phil H. Reilly in memory of Mr. Roy J. Burton. This gift will be placed in our Pescadero Marsh Fund.

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:	
Education:	Jean Jones		Charles Newman
Publicity:	Nancy Bentz	Social:	Eila Fox
Field Trip & Christmas Count:		SEQUOIA:	Ed & Amy McElhany
	Mark Zumsteg	Audit & Tax:	Leroy Nelson

Audubon Canyon Ranch Directors:

Al Bergeron, Charles Newman, Byron
Davies, Maryann Danielson, Ed
McElhany, A.E. Montgomery, John
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Bay Area Audubon Council:

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Address Correction Requested

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