



Volume 24 No. 5

The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

January, 1975

MEETINGS:

JANUARY 9, THURSDAY 7:00 PM BOARD MEETING at Roosevelt School prior to the regular monthly membership meeting. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

JANUARY 9, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver, Burlingame. Our program will feature a presentation by David Roderick of Nature Expeditions International. Mr. Roderick will tell us of a Nature Expedition to the Pacific Offshore Islands and Lagoons of Baja, California. Our speaker is a co-founder of Nature Expeditions International and is on leave from Foothill College. His specialties include oceanography, natural history and photography. Charley Newman, just returned from a birding trip to Mexico, should have some interesting recorded bird calls for his Bird Call of the Month. "To put a bright face on the New Year, right at the start," reports Jed McClellan, "I am reaching down to the desert for the January Plant of the Month: Chuparosa (*Beloperone californica*). It has a pretty, bright-colored flower and it is in bloom now."

FIELD TRIPS: Fran Nelson, Chairman 593-7941

January 11, Saturday - Coyote Hills Regional Park

Meet at the parking area just inside the gate at 8:30 AM. Be prepared for possible wet weather and considerable although mostly easy walking. Take a lunch.

Directions from Dumbarton Bridge: Take the first left after the toll plaza onto Jarvis Avenue, turn left at the traffic signal at the shopping center onto Newark Blvd. Shortly after you cross the railroad tracks, turn left onto Patterson Ranch Road which is marked with a Coyote Hills Regional Park sign. The sign is fairly small. Continue on to the parking lot at the park entrance. Leaders will be Leroy and Fran Nelson.

January 25, Saturday - Foster City

We will meet at the Werder Fishing Pier parking lot on East Hillsdale Boulevard at the foot of the San Mateo Bridge at 8:00 AM. Ten o'clock will find us at the old Foster City dredge site near Marlin Avenue and Beach Park Boulevard, then on to the lagoon intake site near Cutter and Beach Park Boulevard on Belmont Slough. We can take our lunch on the veranda of the Foster City Recreation Center while checking out the main lake for wintering waterfowl. Snacks are available at the Center and there is a restaurant on the premises also. For those who

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are still eager, we will go and find the Burrowing Owl. Remember, muddy feet are a standard part of a Foster City bird walk, so bring boots or overshoes or an extra pair of shoes to wear on the way home.

Leader: Al Bergeron

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

SANTA CRUZ - November 23 - R. Morgan, Leader.

Fifteen participants birded under cloudless skies and calm weather from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM observing 83 species. Plenty of water birds were on hand including four Canada Geese and two wintering Green Herons at Corcoran Lagoon. The species seen:

Common, Arctic and Red-throated Loons; Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Brown Pelican; Double-cr., Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants; Great Blue and Green Heron; Common and Snowy Egrets; Canada Geese; Mallard; Pintail; Shoveler; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; White-winged and Surf Scoters; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; American Coot; Semipalmated and Snowy Plovers; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Black Turnstone; Long-billed Curlew; Spotted Sandpiper; Willet; Greater Yellowlegs; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Sanderling; American Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls; Forster's Tern; Rock and Mourning Doves; Anna's Hummingbird; Acorn Woodpecker; Violet-green Swallow; Scrub Jay; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Water Pipit; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Redwinged Blackbird; Brewer's Blackbird; House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-Crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows; Belted Kingfisher; American Flamingo.

DECEMBER MEETING:

Bob Gill, a wildlife biologist in the Department of Fish and Game, presented a slide talk on five endangered birds of the San Francisco Bay Area. He devoted a portion of his talk to each bird, the habitat, food nest, etc. The birds discussed were the Black Rail, Clapper Rail, Brown Pelican, Peregrine Falcon and the Least Tern. Of the various factors contributing to the endangered status of these birds, alterations to the environment is the most significant. All of the birds he mentioned are beautiful and interesting creatures and worthy of our efforts to preserve them in our environment.

Jed McClellan presented his regular Plant of the Month--this time the Tansy Ragwort, *Senecio Jacobaea*, a poisonous import from Europe. It has characteristic yellow Compositae blossoms which one might regard as attractive if its habits and properties were less obnoxious. It is found from Mendocino County north along the coast into Canada.

Frank Allen, filling in most capably for travelling Charley Newman, presented a Bird Call of the Month--the California Thrasher. Frank says if you think you hear a Mockingbird out of season, look for the California Thrasher because their songs are very similar.

A highlight of the evening was the visit of a boarder from the Cliff Lindquist/Max Krueger Raptor Rehabilitation Program. Cliff and Max have custody of a beautiful male Prairie Falcon pending the outcome of a court case. The bird's name is "Custody" or "Cus" for short. Because of his nervous disposition Cus appeared with his hood over his head but when it was removed he appeared at ease and carefully inspected

all of the Sequoia members and guests. As he departed he uttered several Prairie Falcon calls as though to wish all of us seasons greetings.

Zelda Levin presided at the Potluck Dinner which in our gastronomic opinion was outstanding in a long line of outstanding Potluck Dinners.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

As I contrast December 1974 with that of a year ago, it seems the public in general has reverted fairly completely to its former life style, forgetting the total world fuel supply is even less than it was then by the amount we have used in the past year. Therefore the following item from the Audubon Leader for November 29, 1974 deserves reprinting in full for us all to take to heart:

A PLEA TO ALL GOOD CONSERVATIONISTS: LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW WE REALLY MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY WE WANT ENERGY CONSERVATION--EVEN IF IT HURTS A LITTLE. There has been plenty of pious talk in Washington in recent weeks about the need for more energy conservation--talk which conservationists certainly welcome--but for the most part there is still little enthusiasm for firm action. Understandably, Administration and Congressional leaders are reluctant to propose programs that could alter American living habits: higher taxes on big cars and on gasoline, curbing of non-returnables and other packaging wastes, laws to affect the kind of houses we build and where we build them, changes in our transportation methods, and so on. Naturally, political leaders tend to seek painless, minimal answers and to question whether the ordinary citizen is ready for tougher ones.

National Audubon believes conservation must be a basic part of the nation's policy, to reduce energy needs and to buy time for safe, orderly development of new energy sources. The problems are immense and complex and must be slowly worked out during the months and years ahead. The Leader will, when it can, give its readers reports on specific proposals as they occur. But meanwhile, we urge chapters and individual members to let their political leaders know this basic fact: We conservationists are "ready." We believe energy conservation is absolutely essential to America's and the world's future, and we will fully support sound programs to accomplish it--even though we know this will mean some basic changes in our life style.

There is nothing to report on the legislative scene, as all unpassed bills have to start over again in the new two-year sessions of Congress and the Legislature.

A good plan along the lines of the Palo Alto Baylands for the creation of a park for Menlo Park from the Marsh Road Dump has been given its first public hearing before the City Planning Commission, though its realization is some years away. The County Planning Commission held a routine hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Pedro Valley Park in Pacifica proposed on the South and Middle Forks of San Pedro Creek. It too proposes a park left essentially in its natural state except for rather extensive lawn turfing of the present cultivated valley bottom. SAS opposes this as giving neither food nor shelter to the native wildlife and as wasting water and fertilizer.

The County Parks and Recreation Commission has held hearings on the controversial San Bruno Mountain Park, which most conservationists feel does not include a large enough area. A further hearing will be held January 8 at 2 PM in the County Government Center. The hearing will also consider the 10-year Acquisition Program and attempt to allot priorities for use of available funds. The Wunderlich Park plan will have had a hearing on December 18, while a time is still to be set for consideration of creation of a park along Crystal Springs Road in San Mateo. The danger of development of town houses in this area is apparently over, at least for the present.

-- Ruth Smith, Chairman, Conservation Com.

CALIFORNIA SEA OTTER:

The University of California, Berkeley, is sponsoring an extension course, The California Sea Otter X451 at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, January 17--19, (7:30 PM Friday to 5:00 PM Sunday). The cost is \$60 per person. For information, contact University Extension, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, CA 94720.

There is an organization called FRIENDS OF THE SEA OTTER at Big Sur, California 93920, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Sea Otter. They have a membership of almost 4000. Additional members would be most welcome and valuable at this time because the California Department of Fish and Game is advocating restriction of the Sea Otter range in order to protect the abalone, one of the otter's food sources. The membership schedule is:

Yearly Membership	\$ 4.00
Sponsor "	10.00
Patron "	50.00
Life "	100.00

All members receive the OTTER RAFT, an interesting newsletter published several times each year.

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM:

EXPLORING THE HILLS AND VALLEYS OF SAN MATEO. This is an opportunity to learn about local plants and animals, their habitats and their interrelationships. One unit of college credit available through Canada College Community Services Division. Classes will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12 Noon for six weeks starting February 4, 1975 at the Coyote Point Museum. This will be a combination of field trips and lectures. Fee: \$8.00. Phone: 573-2595.

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM DOCENT TRAINING. If you are concerned about our environment, want to learn more about the world around you, like children and wish to share your knowledge, concerns, and enthusiasm with them, being a Coyote Point Museum Docent is for you. Docents are trained volunteers working under the direction of Museum staff who provide tours and work sessions for school and youth groups.

This spring's leader training will concentrate on two major areas-- local native animals and our foothill communities. These classes will provide practical training in both ecology and tour leadership. Participants will be expected to work with various groups during the year.

Foothill training will be on Thursdays for six weeks from 9:30 to 12

starting February 13. Guest naturalists Josh Barkin, East Bay Regional Park District and Diane Conradson, San Jose State University, will supplement the Museum staff. Sessions will include classroom and field work. The first class will meet at 3804 Alameda, San Mateo. Come dressed to go out on the trail.

Animal docent training will also be on Thursdays starting February 20 at Coyote Point Museum, 9:30 to 12 noon. This training program will center around our native animals, their characteristics, habitats and adaptations to their environment. Communications skills and techniques for handling the animals are an integral part of the training.

Endangered Species Docent Training will be 2 sessions, April 3 and 10 from 9:30 to noon. It will introduce you to the various endangered animals and plants, how to do a slide presentation and communications skills.

"Exploring the Hills and Valleys of San Mateo County" is required for those who wish to become Foothill, Animal or Endangered Species Docents unless applicants already have extensive background experience in these areas. For information or registration please call the museum: 573-2595.

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.

If you move from our area (San Mateo County) but want to continue to receive the SEQUOIA, please notify the editors and we shall be happy to send it to you. Otherwise, we shall assume you would prefer to receive the newsletter of the Chapter in the area to which you have moved and shall automatically remove your name from our subscriber list.

Application for National Audubon membership may be sent to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. The following dues schedule is effective September 1, 1974. The figures in parenthesis indicate the amount remitted by National to the local chapter.

Student	\$7	(\$1)	Donor	\$250	(\$60)
Regular	\$15	(\$5)	Patron	\$500	(\$100)
Family	\$18	(\$7)	Life	\$1000	(\$100)
Sustaining	\$30	(\$13)	Affiliated Club	\$50	---
Supporting	\$50	(\$20)	AUDUBON		
Contributing	\$100	(\$40)	Subscription	\$13	---

The public is invited to Sequoia Audubon meetings and field trips. Board Meetings are held at meeting places announced each month in the SEQUOIA, 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.

The closing date for the SEQUOIA is the 15th of each month.

THE SEQUOIA
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