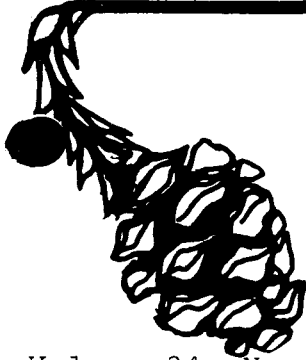




The SEQUOIA

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 24, No. 10

June, 1975

MEETINGS:

JUNE 5, THURSDAY 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of vice president John Prime, 848 West Hillsdale Boulevard in San Mateo. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

JUNE 12, THURSDAY 6:30 PM POTLUCK DINNER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver in Burlingame. Please bring your own table settings. Phone Eila Fox at 343-1406 and tell her what dish you plan to bring.

JUNE 12, THURSDAY 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at Roosevelt School, following the potluck dinner. Our program will feature a brand new movie on the coastal estuaries of California. Pescadero Marsh figures prominently in the movie. The producer is George Anderson, a well-known professional photographer. Funds were provided by the Wells Fargo Bank. Now is a particularly appropriate time for all of us to become fully acquainted with our coastal estuaries so that we may make informed comments and recommendations on the Coastal Plan. It will soon become necessary that we express ourselves loud and vigorously about the Plan.

Each month we look forward to Jed McClellan's interesting commentary and to the excellent slides produced by him and Bonnie all of which comprise our traditional Plant-of-the-Month. For June, Jed tells us: Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus Fremontii*) is almost but not quite one of the native trees of San Mateo County. There is, or has been, one such tree on San Francisquito Creek, on the borderline between San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties; and that's close. The tree is very common, however, in the great valleys of the state and extends eastward into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. It grows along rivers with its relatives, the willows, and around springs and lakes. It is now spreading its "cotton" upon the winds. It is the Plant-of-the-Month.

On our recent field trip to Jughandle Creek and MacKerricher Park, Roy Nelson (camera) and Charles Newman (sound) recorded the Western Meadowlark, Winter Wren and Savannah Sparrow. Roy's slides and Charles' tape recordings will constitute our second traditional feature--the Birdcall-of-the-Month.

The following nominating committee has been appointed to recommend candidates for the elected officers of Sequoia Audubon for the 1975-1976 term:

John Silliman--Chairman--	593-5323
Fran and Leroy Nelson	593-7941
A. E. Montgomery	344-4249

ESIDENT: Byron Davies
606 Cambridge Street
San Francisco, CA 94134
Phone: 334-2851

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

The committee urges Sequoia members to present names of prospective candidates or to volunteer themselves as candidates. It is essential that each year we have some new officers and directors with new ideas in order to insure the continued growth and success of Sequoia Audubon. Nominations from the floor are also encouraged but be sure your nominee has agreed to accept the nomination. The election will be held at the June 12 meeting and there will be elected a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and five directors.

FIELD TRIPS:

Fran Nelson, Chairman 593-7941

June 14 and 15, Yuba Pass area

The best way to get to Yuba Pass is to take Highway 80 to Truckee. Just past Truckee turn north on Highway 89. Drive about 25 miles to Sierraville. Take 89/49 west out of Sierraville. Go through Sattley (about 4 miles) and on up to Yuba Pass about 7 miles beyond Sattley.

We will set two meeting times for Saturday. The first will be 7:00 AM for anyone who arrived the night before and would like to begin the birding day early. The second time will be 9:00 AM. We'll meet at the Yuba Pass Summit both times in the large parking lot on the south side of the road.

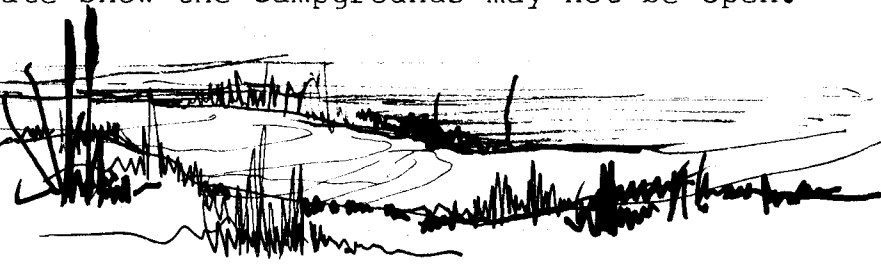
The meeting place Sunday will be on Highway A-23 across from the Sierra Valley Ranch sign approximately 1.8 miles from the junction of A-23 and we plan to proceed to the Sierra Valley Marsh. The road into the marsh is about 3 miles north of the Sierra/Plumas County line on A-23. It is Dyson Lane but it may not be marked.

The season is late this year so we may encounter wet ground conditions in some places. Be prepared with suitable footgear.

Some motels in the area are: Sierra Chalet 916-862-1110, Herrington's Sierra Pines 916-862-1151 and Canyon Ranch 916-994-3340. For further listings call 593-7941.

If you plan to camp, be sure to check with the U.S. Forest Service first. Due to late snow the campgrounds may not be open.

CONSERVATION
NEWS:



Several important local environmental issues are now in various stages of consideration and should be watched closely during the Sequoia's two-month summer vacation. Perhaps the most immediately important of these is the consideration by the Corps of Engineers of the feasibility of dredging Belmont Slough for the creation of Marinas for Belmont and Foster City. A third marina is also in the general plan of Redwood Shores. A public hearing scheduled for May 28 at 7PM in the Supervisors' Chambers in Redwood City will probably already have been held by the time this is read. Sequoia Audubon has already indicated opposition to all three of these projects as they would be environmentally extremely damaging to one of the few viable marshes left in the Bay. There is also grave question as to the economic feasibility of dredging, since the process must be repeated every few years due to inevitable siltation.

YES, I WANT TO HELP
SAVE SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

- ☐ Enclosed is a contribution to help with the campaign.
- ☐ Please send me ☐ bumper stickers.
- ☐ Please send me ☐ petitions.
- ☐ I can help out at the headquarters.
- ☐ I will help walk a precinct in my community.
- ☐ I will hold a coffee.
- ☐ You may use my name in advertising.

MAIL TO: SAVE SAN BRUNO
MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION, 92
KEARNY, SO. SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94080

San Bruno Mountain will be the subject of County Planning Commission hearings probably through June, starting with a study session on May 14. Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays starting at 9 AM in the Supervisors' Chambers in Redwood City. An all-out campaign is now being waged to save the Mountain, the last large piece of open land in the northern Peninsula, by the San Bruno Mountain Association. They are hopeful of state funding for help in creating a park on the mountain, and they are now working to stop the proposed development by Foremost-McKesson which will include a community of 25,000, 20-story highrises, and a Hillsdale-size shopping center. Help of all kinds is needed for this, particularly for a county-wide petition drive. Those who wish to help can get in touch with David Sanders or David Schooley at 589-1575, or in the south county with Herman Vandenberg at 322-5227 in Menlo Park, or better yet, this coupon can be filled out and sent in.

Another project of county-wide import is the proposed acquisition of the Filoli estate as a county park, which would comprise a cultural center in the present house, a 90-acre horticultural preserve made of the gardens, public park of 63 acres, and a public golf course of 183 acres. The remaining 1549 acres of steep terrain would be transferred to the adjoining San Francisco Watershed. The site picked for the golf course would be on both sides of Canada Road just north of Edgewood Road, some of which is notable bird habitat. This plan is under study by the committee which is also studying the plans for the Watershed, and at least one further hearing is expected to be held on it. The Nelsons have been following both very closely for SAS and are now joined by Howard Rathlesberger.

SAS members who are residents of the Redwood City area should be aware that the City is considering a \$/million development of Stulsaft Park according to a master plan created by a firm of landscape architects. The park lies along a lovely little canyon just south of the Farm Hill development and a few blocks west of Alameda de las Pulgas. It is still in a relatively natural condition, and those who would like to see it kept that way should get in touch with Steve and Miesje Aldrich at 366-3608.

SAS directors also oppose the proposed new Loma Mar Outdoor Education Center which would be used in place of the YMCA Camp in present use. It is felt that the new center would be unnecessarily expensive and the YMCA Camp could be up-graded to required standards at a fraction of the cost. Moreover, since the YMCA Camp would still be used by outside schools if local ones drop its use, the doubled numbers of campers would be detrimental to the fragile environment as well as increasing the drain on already burdened water resources and sewage disposal facilities.

The Coastal Plan, with whatever changes may result from the various regional hearings, will be adopted by the State Coastal Commission sometime in the summer. The San Mateo hearing was well attended by SAS members and

other conservationists. Unlike hearings in the northern counties, proceedings were well handled by the local Commission except that speakers for and against were alternated with no attempt to call them in the order of arrival, as promised. As a result Roy Nelson had to wait until almost the end of the meeting to speak, though he and Fran were among the first to arrive. SAS owes them a vote of thanks for their devotion there and even more for their work with the Watershed hearings.

Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

BEE PROBLEMS?

(From the LOMA PRIETAN, Bulletin of Loma Prietan Chapter, Sierra Club)

With the unfolding of spring growth, you'll soon be hearing the hum of the bees who pollinate the blossoms. We all recognize the vital part which honeybees plan ensuring fruit to flowers, trees and shrubs. But if you've ever been faced with the dilemma of coping with a swarm of bees who decided the spot for their honeymaking was under the eaves, dangling from the hummingbird feeder, in the glove compartment of your car or in your chimney--perhaps your equanimity paled under pressure.

Rule No. 1: Don't try to smoke them out and unless you're an experienced beekeeper, don't fight the problem. Rule No. 2: Be calm and remember they are not the enemy and do not require "extermination." They need to be encouraged to move, together with their old queen; this could be a relatively simple process for an apiarist who will replant them in a bee community of his choosing. They'll settle quickly into the routine of making honey in combs and you all know what a nutritious delicacy that is. So, give Mother Nature a hand!

If you know anyone who is faced with the problem of an unwanted swarm of bees, immediately call a local beekeeper, one of whom authenticated this article...Mr. E.K. Fisher, 324-1615.

LISTEN BIRDS

THESE SIGNS

COST MONEY

ROOST AWHILE

BUT DON'T

GET FUNNY

BURMA SHAVE

(From Inyo Museums News Bulletin to which it was contributed by L.T. Gotchy)

AÑO NUEVO STATE RESERVE:

If you have not yet been on an outing to Año Nuevo State Reserve you may be missing a rewarding experience. Many readers, I'm sure, are aware of the variety of natural features, including birdlife, at the Reserve. As the upland continues reversion to natural flora, the variety and number of wildlife is expected to increase thereby adding to the interest of the unit. Meandering mowed strips are planned through the upland (not the dunes) to serve as trails and provide fuel breaks and to increase edge effect which should further enhance variety and numbers of wildlife. Studies on plant and animal reversion/succession and planning for a self-guiding interpretive trail through the reverting lands are currently being conducted through cooperative interprograms with University of California at Santa Cruz staff and students. Such studies are intended to enhance management, planning and interpre-

tation. We also hope to extend interpretation through intern programs and budgeted staff increases to seasons other than elephant seal breeding season.

Public visitation during elephant seal season, December through March, is currently excessive and increasing. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to request readers to plan their outings to Año Nuevo at other times of the year unless the purpose of the visit is elephant seal viewing. To protect the public, the elephant seals and the other natural values of the Reserve, it becomes increasingly necessary to limit the numbers of users and the areas of use. It will be necessary to limit all use beyond the dunes edge to a specific route in the company of an interpretive guide during elephant seal season next year. We trust the readers will understand the need and cooperate and lend support to our goal of protecting these valuable and unique resources.

See you some day at Año Nuevo.

Roger W. Werts
Manager, San Mateo Coast Area
State Parks and Recreation

WESTERN BIRDS:

Western Birds, formerly California Birds, is a quarterly journal of field ornithology for active amateur birders and professional ornithologists. It contains information as to bird distribution, migration, abundance, behavior, ecology, identification and photographic essays as well as studies of pollution effects, need for habitat preservation and techniques for censusing, sound recordings and photographing birds. Membership in California Field Ornithologists, Inc., a non-profit organization, is open to individuals and dues include a subscription to Western Birds. Dues and contributions are tax deductible. Membership application and check, payable to California Field Ornithologists, may be sent to Clifford R. Lyons, Treasurer, Box 369, Del Mar, CA 92014.

Patron	\$ 1000	Contributing	\$10
Life	150	Regular	5
Supporting	20		

MARK CATESBY:

Anne Hall has sent us an excerpt from a southern newspaper describing and illustrating the work of Mark Catesby, an English naturalist who visited America in the early 18th century. Catesby produced more than 200 engraved copper plates of birds and fish of America. Prints were hand-colored and today are valued as high as \$300 to \$400 each. Catesby's work was done 100 years prior to John James Audubon and some people go so far as to refer to him as the "Father of American Ornithology." The University of Mississippi Library has two volumes of his works, 3rd edition, published in 1771, 22 years after his death.

Catesby's commentary is picturesque. About the polecat (skunk) he says that it, "emits such fetid effluvia that the atmosphere for a large space around shall be so infected with them that man and other animals are impatient till they are quit of it." Even 250 years ago pollution was a problem: "In February and March the Inhabitants have a custom of burning the woods which causes such a continual smoke, that not knowing the cause, it might be imagined to proceed from fog, or a

6 THE SEQUOIA June, 1975

natural thickness in the air. Likewise, the smoke of the Tar-Kilns contribute not a little to deceive strangers and possesses them with an ill-opinion of the air of Carolina."

We will display the article at the June meeting so that all may see the illustrations of Catesby's engravings.

THE MAY MEETING:

Jed and Bonnie McClellan showed us some fine slides taken with their new camera and telephoto lens: Agave deserti--the Century Plant. The plant only blooms once. It sends up a large stalk very much like a stalk of asparagus on the top of which bloom beautiful cream-colored flowers, then when the flowers die the whole plant dies. One such effort was captured to be part of Jed's fine collection of slides.

The Brown Creeper's pure high-pitched call notes were recorded by Charles Newman as the small brown bird that looks so much like a mouse as he braces himself with his hard tail as he climbs trees looking for food provided us with the Birdcall-of the-Month.

George Peyton, attorney and naturalist, showed us slides of a trip he led to East Africa last summer. Traveling seven or eight to a bus the tour members were able to get right among the animals and took some fine pictures starting with a magnificent sunrise seemingly freighted with sultry anticipation. If you have wondered why animals so often travel single file--the tail of the first one keeps the flies off the nose of the second, etc! Birds often ride on the backs of Rhinos, in particular, to eat insects and ticks off the animals' backs and act as sentinals because of the Rhinos' poor eyesight! From the beautiful starling to the stork with the pink knees to the giraffes who swing their necks at their neighbors, it was a fascinating day until it ended in a gorgeous sunset which, beautiful though it was, we hope was not an omen of what is to happen to these marvelous animals pursued by civilization and "progress."

BELMONT SLOUGH MARINA CHANNEL:

The issue of Belmont Slough wildlife habitat vs. marina development is once again boiling to the surface. The U.S. Corps of Engineers is currently directing studies and investigations of the pros and cons of development and conservation options. An important public hearing will be held on May 28 for the purpose of hearing public comments.

The compelling needs of the two bay-front communities to complete their economic development appears to be the driving force behind these projects. The only deterrence is arguments for environmental protection. If a marina is to be built, it is hoped that a site can be discovered which would minimize environmental impact while allowing access to the Bay for recreational purposes. An installation two to three miles up the meandering channel of Belmont Slough does not appear practical nor environmentally sound.

-- Al Bergeron

NUCLEAR POWER SYMPOSIUM:

Friends of the Earth are sponsoring a Nuclear Power Symposium and Teach In on Saturday, June 14 from 1:30 PM until 6:00, at the First Unitarian Church at Franklin and Geary in San Francisco. The speakers will be John Gofman, author of Poison Power; David Pesonen, an attorney; and Jim Harding and David Brower, from Friends of the Earth.

1974 SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY 1975

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SECRETARY:	Sheila Davies	"	Charles Newman
TREASURER:	Victor Crotchett	"	Howard Rathlesberger
DIRECTOR:	Albert Bergeron	"	Ruth Smith

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Conservation	Ruth Smith
Program	John Prime
Education	Jean Jones
Publicity	Nancy Bentz
Field Trips	Fran Nelson
Sightings & Christmas Count	Barry Sauppe
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Camp Promotion	Al Bergeron
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Audubon Canyon Ranch Directors: Al Bergeron
 Maryann Danielson
 Byron Davies
 Robert Friday
 Ed McElhany
 Charles Newman
 John Prime

Bay Area Audubon Council Representatives: Byron Davies
 Norman Fox
 Ruth Smith

Bentz, Nancy	593-5600	631 Wellington Dr. San Carlos 94070
Bergeron, Al	349-2960	251 Killdeer Ct. Foster City 94404
Crotchett, Victor	343-5226	1104 Balboa Ave. Burlingame 94010
Danielson, Maryann	342-6919	848 Edgehill Dr. Burlingame 94010
Davies, Byron & Sheila	334-2851	606 Cambridge St. San Francisco 94134
Fox, Norman & Eila	343-1406	51 W. Bellevue, San Mateo 94402
Friday, Robert	365-1194	80 Amber Ct. San Carlos 94070
Gurevitz, Liv	347-0912	1400 Southdown Rd. Hillsborough 94010
Jones, Jean	344-9339	1417 Sanchez Ave. Burlingame 94010
McElhany, Ed & Amy	343-3219	1009 Laguna Ave. Burlingame 94010
Nelson, Fran	593-7941	1035 Lassen Dr. Belmont 94002
Newman, Charles	697-5601	25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae 94030
Prime, John	345-4968	848 W. Hillsdale Blvd. San Mateo 94403
Rathlesberger, Howard	697-6611	1795 Hunt Dr. Burlingame 94010
Sauppe, Barry	349-8470	820 E. 19th Ave.--18, San Mateo 94403
Smith, Ruth	322-5279	1231 Hoover St. Menlo Park 94025

KENNETH L. CARLSON, ARTIST:

Sequoia member, Kenneth L. Carlson who illustrated the recent book, Birds of Western North America, has an excellent painting of a Yellow-headed blackbird inside the back cover of the May Audubon magazine. Be sure to note this fine work of art. Our congratulations to Mr. Carlson and our appreciation for his outstanding painting.

SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB PELAGIC TRIP:

The annual "albatross Trip" Monday, June 9. Meet at the Stagnaro landing on Santa Cruz municipal wharf before 8 AM. Free parking at Stagnaro's lot near wharf entrance. Bring warm clothing. Boat will be out until about noon. Make reservations in person or send \$6.00 and a stamped self-addressed envelope to R. Morgan, 3500 N. Main St., Soquel, CA 95073. There is a limit of 50 passengers.

HAPPY VACATION DAYS!

This issue concludes the 24th year of SEQUOIA. There will be no SEQUOIA published for July or August nor will there be any meetings during those months. The next board meeting will be on Thursday, September 4 and the next regular monthly meeting will be on Thursday, September 11. Consult the September SEQUOIA for times and places.

Your editors wish all of you a pleasant vacation season.

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

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