



The SEQUOIA

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 25, No. 2

October, 1975

MEETINGS:

OCTOBER 2, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM, BOARD MEETING at the home of Eila and Norman Fox, 51 West Bellevue in San Mateo. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

OCTOBER 15, WEDNESDAY, 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. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE.

OCTOBER 15, WEDNESDAY, 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING--PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE--at Roosevelt School following Potluck.

Our October program will feature a slide lecture by John Lister-Kaye, a visiting Scottish naturalist who will tell us about the Scottish Highland and island environment--wildlife, flowers, plants, and scenery. John's slides include the nesting Eider, Slavonian (Horned) Grebes and Red-throated Loons, "Bonxies," "Tysties" and Puffins, Razor-bills, Guillemots, Gannets, Shags and Kittiwakes. This is truly an outstanding program about a fascinating area of the world. NOTE: Our meeting date has been changed for October only from the usual second Thursday of the month in order that we can obtain this fine speaker.

Jed McClellan tells us the Flower of the Month is the Pink Honey-suckle, *Lonicera hispidula*, an attractive, wild, climbing shrub, common in our area; you can see it anywhere in the hills. It is timely this month not for its pretty pink flowers but for its scarlet berries which are not edible but quite beautiful.

Charles Newman and Frank Allen will present their usual fine taped Birdcall of the Month.

FIELD TRIPS:

OCTOBER 11, SATURDAY MARIN HEADLANDS

We will meet at 8:30 AM. Take the Alexander Avenue off-ramp just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Proceed one quarter mile making a left turn and go through the tunnel. Meet at the parking lot at the west end of the tunnel. We will do some land and water birding early in the morning and then observe migrating raptors as the day progresses. The leader will be Barry Sauppe, phone: 349-8470.

OCTOBER 18, SATURDAY COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 9:00 AM. Cross Dumbarton bridge and take first left after the toll plaza onto Jarvis. Take another left at the signal at the shopping center onto Newark. Shortly after crossing the railroad tracks turn left into Patterson Ranch Road. Continue past park entrance and meet at

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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 first big parking lot on the left. (Quarry parking lot?) This is not the lot at the entrance nor the one at road end. Bring lunch. The leader will be Peter Allen, phone: 781-0148.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Higgins--Purisma Road, September 13, 1975 Leader, Byron Davies:

Twenty two observers birded from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM under overcast skies in calm weather. Part of the group spent an hour at the coast. Birds were not active but some 62 species were observed. Normally present blue birds were missing this day--

Arctic and Red-throated Loons, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Egret, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow, California Quail, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Sanderling, Western and Heermann's Gulls, Common Murre, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock and Mourning Dove, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Steller's and Scrub Jays, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Mockingbird, Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

In line with what seems to be a general trend, the State Legislature will be working shorter time for more pay, having voted themselves a raise before starting a 15 weeks' vacation. AB 2329, the parks and open space appropriations bill sponsored by the late Assemblyman Z'berg was being considered by the Finance Committee at the time of his death, was put aside to be taken up again in January. The bill had just been amended to include a \$4 million appropriation for the acquisition of San Bruno Mountain. Had the Assembly passed the bill before adjournment, Senate action could not have been expected till January, so it is hoped this will mean a delay of only a month or so in its final consideration. The untimely death of Assemblyman Edwin Z'berg of Sacramento on August 26 is a real loss to the cause of conservation.



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Local decision on the developers' request for rezoning of San Bruno Mountain may have been reached by the San Mateo County Planning Commission's at the final hearing in September or may be held over till the Commission's October meetings, In any case the Supervisors will then have the final say, and all who want to see this unique area preserved should make their wishes known at the appropriate time. The likelihood of State financing should help reduce opposition on the score of lack of County funds for acquisition of the Mountain for a park.

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Question of the ability of the Charter for Parks Plan to cover the costs of the proposed concept plan for full development and maintenance of the Filoli Estate, (including the golf course) caused the County Parks

and Recreation Commission at its September 10 meeting to return the plan to its Staff for more detailed estimates of costs. Certainly the plan was in no way "defeated," as was proclaimed by a Palo Alto Times headline the next day, and it is not a bad thing that the Commission is considering developmental costs. However, this should not lead to too much delay in decision on acquisition of the property, the cost of which would be a relatively small part of the expense. Development could then proceed in stages as funding became available.

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Last spring the increased percent of park funds slated this year for development was defended on the grounds of increasing maintenance costs of even undeveloped open space. This is largely for needed protection of park property from increasing injury by various improper and illegal users. Such costs might possibly be reduced by methods used by conservation groups (such as Audubon) which own open space property, involving use of resident caretakers and volunteer patrols.

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Defeat last year of Proposition 17 which would have prevented the high rise New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River has led to Congressional appropriation for building the dam. This has passed the House and in September was being considered by the Senate. Even if the appropriation is passed, it is the policy of the Corps of Engineers not to proceed with any projects opposed by the Governor of the project state. Governor Brown endorsed Proposition 17 before his election and will hopefully listen to majority citizen wishes. A recent poll has showed that 60% of those voting against Proposition 17 thought they were "saving" the River because of the confusing wording of the Proposition. There is still hope for this if enough people write Governor Brown urging opposition to the New Melones Dam. He should be addressed at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

--- Ruth Smith
Conservation Chairman

SIGHTINGS:

Pescadero Marsh again produced an interesting variety of migrant waterbirds. Twenty-three species of shorebirds were observed here during August and early September. They included two Pectoral and one Baird's Sandpipers on August 27, four Lesser Yellowlegs on August 28, and two Solitary Sandpipers on September 2. (This is a very rare bird in California.)

Ano Nuevo Point is another prime locality for studying waterbirds. Twelve Surfbirds, six Wandering Tattlers, four Ruddy Turnstones, three Baird's Sandpipers, and eight Elegant Terns were here on August 28 as was an adult Snowy Plover with a newly hatched chick.

An Osprey was seen fishing at Pescadero Creek and off the nearby beach September 2--9.

Two Purple Martins were at Ano Nuevo August 28, two were at Pescadero September 2 and one was at Princeton September 13.

A Blackpoll Warbler was in a willow thicket at the northwest side of Princeton Harbor on September 4. Another was there September 13.

American Redstarts were discovered at four localities along the coast: one at San Gregorio, August 27, one at Pilarcitos Creek on September 9--10, one at Frenchman's Creek on September 9 and three were at Princeton September 13. A Magnolia Warbler was at Frenchman's Creek, Half Moon Bay, September 11. A Tennessee Warbler and a Chestnut-sided

Warbler were at Princeton on September 13.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was at College of San Mateo, September 10.

A Bobolink and two Blue Grosbeaks were at Pilarcitos Creek, September 12. Another Bobolink and a Vesper Sparrow were at Princeton, September 7. Five Lark Sparrows were at the same locality September 9 and a single bird was there September 13.

-- Barry Sauppe
Peter Metropulos

INDIAN SUMMER NATURE PROGRAM: First walk SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th

Nature walks for children and beginners. (Parents welcome also.) We will discover the marshes, coast and bay area ecosystems. Designed for the beginners and youth of our Audubon Chapter.

First Trip: A Marsh Walk. Meet at the Junior Museum, San Mateo at 9:00 AM sharp. Walk will last until 11:00.
Leader: Nancy Huff, phone: 355-7635.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

To the people of Sequoia Audubon Society,

Thank you for sponsoring me to the Camp of the West. It was wonderful experiencing new lands and different wildlife communities. I could not have been able to go without the help and interest of the Sequoia Audubon.

-- Nancy Huff.

Dear Sirs:

I was very disturbed upon reading Helen Pratt's account of the Audubon Canyon Ranch activities. As a nature lover, I too, would have been alarmed by the death and destruction of chicks and eggs. However, I can't ignore the fact that there may be five raccoon families without a provider and protector as a result of our action. Furthermore, their arbitrary release into a new area may have exposed the feathered inhabitants of this area to a totally unexpected threat. (Is it possible that the introduction of the raccoons to the ranch was the result of someone else's displacement operation?)

I believe if interference is necessary in the future, it should be in the form of protection for the birds rather than an offense against the predator.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Lum
Menlo Park

Dear McElhany's,

An Exaltation of Larks, a charming book by James Lipton (1968, Grossman Publishers, 125A East 19th Street, NY, NY 10003) includes group terms for many people, professions, things, and animals, including many birds. All were authentic terms in the past and some are still used. Printing them in THE SEQUOIA might be amusing and interesting to other members.

Bruce A. Brown
San Bruno

A peep	of chickens	A murder	of crows
A dule	of doves	A charm	of finches
A stand	of flamingoes	A gaggle	of geese - if they are in the water,

A skein	of geese - if they are in the air		
A cast	of hawks	A seige	of herons
A deceipt	of lapwings	An exaltation	of larks
A tidings	of magpies	A watch	of nightingales
A parliament	of owls	A covey	of partridges
An ostentation	of peacocks	A bouquet	of pheasants
A congregation	of plovers	An unkindness	of ravens
A building	of rooks	A walk	of snipes
A host	of sparrows	A murmuration	of starlings
A mustering	of storks	A flight	of swallows
A spring	of teal	A rafter	of turkeys
A pitying	of turtledoves	A fall	of woodcocks
A descent	of woodpeckers		

NONGAME DECALS:

The last two issues of AUDUBON CONSERVATION TOPICS, WEST have carried stories about the California Department of Fish & Game's Wildlife Decal Program. This program, the Native Species Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1974, is intended to provide funds for conservation and enhancement of nongame species. Money will be raised by public contribution. Each contribution of \$5 or more will be acknowledged by an attractive decal which can be displayed with satisfaction and pride.

Of particular concern is the habitat for 49 species of native fish and wildlife that the State has already declared rare or endangered. Included are pelicans, condors, eagles, falcons, rails, and terns.

License fees, paid by some seven hundred and fifty thousand hunters and 2.4 million fishermen out of California's population of around 21 million produce about \$22 million in revenue for the DFG. Of this, about \$1.4 million will be used in nongame species work but to do an adequate job could require as much as \$8 million a year. Sportsmen pay increasing fees and see their game habitat disappearing and access to boating and fishing areas declining. They feel that the other 18 million people of California should contribute their share. Send your check or money order to:

DECAL
Box D.F.G.
Sacramento, CA 95801



BLUE GROUSE:

The Blue Grouse is the largest of the wood grouse found in North America. It is a bird of western mountains and lives generally at some distance from centers of human population. In California it is found in the north coastal counties, the Sierra Nevada Range south through the Tehachapis and in the Warner Mountains in Modoc County. Although it is widespread in distribution, it is not abundant anywhere in its range. All grouse populations fluctuate with weather and feed conditions.

There are minor geographical variations in the colors of the blue grouse,

but generally the male is a mottled dark gray bird. The tail is blackish with a light gray band at the tip. It has a red or red-orange naked patch above and below the eye. The female is similar to the male, except the upper parts are more brownish in appearance and the female's stomach feathers are white mixed with gray.

The blue grouse is next in size to the sage grouse and weighs from 2½ to 3½ pounds. It is from 15 to 19 inches long, the male being larger than the hen. It is variously called blue grouse, hooter, sooty grouse and Sierra grouse.

This big grouse may be distinguished at some distance from the sage grouse by its round tail plus the fact that seldom if ever is it found in the same habitat as the sage grouse, which lives in open sage brush country.

In summer the birds live in fairly open pine and fir forests, along streams near aspen, alder and willow thickets. In winter they move up to ridge tops at higher elevations to seek dense stands of virgin or second growth fir timber that affords protection from severe winter storms. Unlike the mountain quail, they do not migrate down to winter below the snow line.

In the spring and early summer, usually towards the end of May when most of the snow is gone, the male claims a territory consisting of several acres, which he defends by giving a hooting call to warn off all intruders. He takes a solitary position on a limb 50 or 60 feet up in a pine tree, standing close to the trunk.

He will hold such a position continuously for hours, from one day to another, sending forth at intervals his reverberant booming, a sound that could be likened to striking a water-logged tub--boont, boont, boont, boont, boont.

The booming has a ventriloquial quality, seemingly as loud at a distance as when heard close at hand. On certain days several birds may be heard simultaneously. It requires considerable patience and a sharp eye to locate one in a tree.

Once the male has established his territory, his constant hooting attracts the females and he will choose more than one mate during the season. When actually wooing a mate he struts about with his tail erect and wings drooping. At this time the fiery wattle patches above his eyes are distended and he will inflate the air sac in his throat and neck, emitting a deep resonant boom, boom, booming sound.

The female builds her nest in a shallow depression on the ground and lines it with dry grass, leaves, twigs and feathers. The nest is usually under the protective cover of a bush log or rock. She lays from five to seven pale buff-colored eggs speckled with reddish-brown spots and sits on them for 24 days. As the time approaches for the eggs to hatch, she is so attentive to the nest that you can nearly touch her before she slips to one side.

Late one evening this writer unrolled his sleeping bag within a few feet of a nesting grouse, and while busying about to prepare a light supper a continuous but intermittent low, soft, flutelike sound caught my ears. It took nearly a half minute to locate the beautifully camouflaged female sitting on her nest at the base of a tree. Apparently she had decided I was too close and was complaining. I obliged by moving my camp about 20

feet away, and the next morning when I broke camp she was still on her nest.

When the eggs hatch and as soon as the chicks are dry the hen leads them away, proud as a peacock, and shows them where to find the little bugs and leafy things that baby grouse need to eat. The male takes no part in the incubation or care of the young.

While the chicks are small the female prefers to keep them in and near meadows where the ground cover of leafy weeds and grasses is at least 10 inches tall and usually near water. Later, as the chicks are able to fly, they expand their range to find a diet of insects, fruits, berries and tender leaves. In winter they subsist for weeks in a grove of fir trees, feeding entirely on the tips of fir needles.

Since the grouse is found in the most difficult place to hunt, the present regulations are adequate to protect this interesting bird. Wilderness hikers and hunters alike will still find pleasure in the unusual sound of the boont, boont, boont of the blue grouse.

--OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA, July-August, 1975

CITY OF PALO ALTO BIRD SURVEY:

The Nature and Science Department of the City of Palo Alto would like to extend an invitation to all bird-watchers to assist in a survey of the bird population in the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin during the coming year. For those not familiar with the area, it is located on the Bayside of the Bayshore Freeway (Rt.101) between Matadero and Adobe Creeks in Palo Alto. It consists of about 600 acres of freshwater and salt marshes, open water, and grassland meadows, surrounded by man-made levees. It is accessible from the Frontage Rd. (East Bayshore Rd.) north of the San Antonio Red. overpass or south of the Embarcadero Rd. overpass, by the levee surrounding it, or by the old dirt road down the middle of it between the two large ponds along Frontage Rd. The surrounding levee is also accessible across from the re-cycling center near the Palo Alto refuse dump.

Report forms and instruction sheets for filling them out have been made up to standardize the reporting of observations and simplify the summarizing. Anyone interested and willing to volunteer some time to participate in the project please pick up (and return) these forms from the Baylands Nature Interpretive Center at the east end of Embarcadero Rd. between 1:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Sat., Sun., and holidays or between 2:00 and 5:00 PM on Mon. through Fri. or at the Palo Alto Junior Museum, 1451 Middlefield Rd. between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Tues. through Sat. (except during 12 noon to 1:00 PM) and between 1:00 and 4:00 PM on Sun.

The purpose of the survey is simply to determine the bird species and their approximate numbers using the different habitats in the Flood Control Basin throughout the year. Interested persons may conduct sample counts on any day, at any time, for any length of time. More than one person may conduct a count at one time as long as they combine their information on one reporting form to avoid duplication as much as possible. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the summary report.

-- Ted Chandik

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH:

During the summer Audubon Canyon Ranch received three bequests from former friends who thought during their lives of how they could help the

ranch after they had gone. Erma Murray, Hilda Palache and Mabel T. Carley remembered ACR in their wills. Their gifts have gone to increase the ranch's Endowment Fund and will, for as long as we can foresee, help to keep Canyon Ranch running. We hope that all our friends will take this painless way of assuring a longer, safer existence to the vitality and beauty of ACR. It is with real gratitude that we add the names of these benefactors to the list, permanently posted at the ranch of our Sponsors.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY:

Fall Courses Offered:

BIRDS OF SAN BLAS, NAYARIT - November 21-29 is already filled but the course will be given again December 16-24. This is a field course for people with some experience as bird watchers. San Blas on the coast of Western Mexico is a birding paradise. Here over 255 species winter in an area dominated by mangrove and jungle. Three 5-hour boat trips will provide close looks at many Mexican species. This is a real learning experience. Even good birders will improve their skills in a week with leaders Bill Clow and Art Earle. Cost does not include lodging and dinner meals. From Mazatlan - \$250.

BIRDS OF THE BARRANCAS, MEXICO - December 5-12. This field excursion in Mexico is designed for enthusiastic birders, who enjoy moderate hikes. Shorter alternative hikes will be planned for those who wish them. The Durango Highway east of Mazatlan provides access to two unique avifaunas: the highland species of the Mexican Sierra and the lowland species of the Coast. Cost does not include lodging or dinner meals. \$200. Leaders are Bill Clow and Art Earle.

For further information write Meryl Stewart, POB 442, Bolinas, CA 94924.

ORNITHOLOGY COURSE - There is still room in PRBO's ornithology course 13 September--15 November (10 Saturdays from 0900-1200). Cost \$30.

PRBO FALL BIRD WALKS - Bob Stewart offers a series of free walks starting at 0900 on the following Sundays:

14 September: Deer Park to Phoenix Lake - meet at Deer Park school. Take Sir Francis Drake to Bolinas Ave, Fairfax. Then left on Porteous to the school.

21 September: Bear Valley Trail - meet PRNS headquarters (dirt parking lot near the trailhead).

28 September: Bolinas Ridge - meet at corner of Sir Francis Drake on Highway One at Olema.

5 October: PRBO headquarters and Arroyo Hondo Creek - meet at PRBO headquarters.

12 October: Muddy Hollow - Limantour Estero - meet at Limantour parking lot.

26 October: Bolinas Lagoon - meet NW corner Bolinas Lagoon on the Bolinas Fairfax Rd., bring knee boots.

2 November: Abbott's Lagoon - meet Abbott's Lagoon parking area on the Pierce Point Rd.

Bring - knapsack lunch, cup and binoculars.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY - The First Ten Years - By John Smail

The idea of Point Reyes Bird Observatory closely followed the establishment of the Point Reyes National Seashore. Bird observatories are always situated in places that are important to birds. Since the Point Reyes area with its fine variety of habitats was clearly such a place, why not set up an observatory there?

Much of the original impetus for this idea came from C. John Ralph, then working as a seasonal aide on the newly created National Seashore. With the blessing of Supt. Fred W. Binnewies and his successor, Leslie Arnberger, and the backing of the Western Bird-Banding Association and particularly Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, PRBO, first bird observatory in the United States, was born on 1 March 1965.

The original quarters, on the Heims Ranch near the head of Schooner Bay, were not exactly ideal. Banding operations sometimes had to compete directly with the whims of grazing livestock. But the fledgling organization could not possibly have survived without this free accommodation, and a start was a start.

After only a year, Seashore plans called for the demolition of the building at Heims Ranch, and the Observatory had to move. Fortunately, the school buildings of the Church of the Golden Rule settlement at the extreme southern end of the National Seashore were vacant and available. We purchased them from the U.S. Government for just over \$100 in May 1966 and these buildings have remained the nerve center of PRBO for nine years.

In the early years, PRBO was largely a banding station. The Zonotrichia project examined various aspects of the biology of the crowned sparrows and other ground-feeding birds, and Operation Transient and later programs monitored landbird migration. From the beginning, however, there were also other jobs to do. The National Park Service was a little suspicious at the eagerness of its 1965 master-planners to devastate Limantour Estero, and the Observatory was contracted to make a study to assess just how important the estuary was; our fascination with this and other estuaries has remained with us ever since.

A great turning point in the Observatory's history came in 1967 with the first expeditions to the Farallon Islands. Our expectations fueled by the many enthusiastic outpourings of earlier visitors, we went to the Farallones as to a place of pilgrimage. Eight years later we still do. In retrospect it seems that no actual human decision was made to establish a Farallon station. The islands called and we came. Our original negotiations to work on the island had been with the U.S. Coast Guard, but when the main island became a National Wildlife Refuge a year later, we began an association with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through refuge manager Richard Bauer that led in 1972 to the signing of a unique cooperative agreement under which we now work. Until we established a station on Southeast Farallon in 1968 it might have been possible for the Observatory to continue as a one or two-man operation. Now at one stroke our commitments and responsibilities were doubled. We had to expand; there were no two ways about it. Our expenditure doubled between 1967 and 1968 and redoubled in 1969.

The intention from the beginning had been to maintain a professional staff working closely with amateurs. Clearly, continuity was an important element, but it was particularly difficult to achieve in an organization that could not afford anything like competitive salaries. During the first year there were three biologists: Paul DeBenedictis, Richard Stallcup, and Willet T. Van Velzen. Fortunately, in 1966 C. John Ralph

took over the reins and acted as administrative officer for three years. His initiative helped bring about a considerable expansion of the program; the Farallon station especially was his creation. When "C.J." left in 1969 to pursue a Ph.D., Fred Sibley was hired from the Fish and Wildlife Service to take his place. Fred remained only a year before being lured away by Yale University, and I was promoted from the ranks to fill the position now entitled Executive Director.

The volunteer tradition at PRBO has been strong and if anything it is getting stronger. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to those who have chosen to have the course of their private lives changed and their academic careers interrupted to take part in the adventure of PRBO. The necessity of volunteer participation in field work has been obvious, but we exploit a number of other talents that are just as important. Some of the most valuable services, in fact, are contributed away from the Observatory itself in fields as diverse as photography, graphics, editing, radio repair, and the Oceanic Society's ever necessary boat transportation. Like many non-profit organizations we tread a fine line just short of outright exploitation; nevertheless, we are seldom at a loss for volunteers.

Very early in the Observatory's history a kind of apprenticeship tradition became established in hiring. Under the spell of PRBO a prospective staff member could eschew all worldly wealth and work for a smile and a song. Although this system produced some remarkably valuable and dedicated workers, notably Jim Lewis and Bob Stewart, there came a time when a more direct infusion of new blood was called for. Late in 1970 we received a very generous grant from the Charles E. Merrill Trust which was intended to improve conditions for the staff and to make possible an expansion of the program. Given confidence by these funds we were able to hire two very capable biologists, David Ainley and Gary Page.

The main contribution of these new staff members was in research design. Both took existing projects and study areas and conceived ambitious but realistic programs of research. The Farallon program developed into a broad-scale survey of a dozen breeding species while the shorebird study blossomed from a modest program of census-taking and banding into a fuller examination of food habits, raptor predation and other factors in shorebird ecology. The landbird program had already surged ahead under two years of Bob Stewart's direction. The combined momentum of the three programs became very strong indeed.

Scientific productivity has naturally been one of our major goals. The staff expansion of 1971 set us firmly on the road to establishing the required publishing record. Early in 1975 the 100th "contribution of PRBO" appeared in print, and there is every indication that the flow will be steady.

The educational program of the Observatory blends harmoniously with our scientific goals. We have the unusual advantage of being able to present classes actually tied in with active research programs. Our conservation function is also clear; it is not our role to be a political action group, but when we have scientific knowledge to add to an environmental issue, we do so without fear. Our work on the Farallon Islands and at Limantour Estero certainly qualify as major wildlife conservation achievements.

Although we are evolving constantly and will continue to do so, much more consistent goals and directions are discernible now than in the past. We are not short of ideas or talent; the problem during the next ten years will be to find the means to reach our potential. To begin

with, we obviously need now headquarters. We have simply outgrown our Palomarin buildings, and our administrative office has become too public. We must also become more stable financially so that our staff can enjoy fully professional status and working conditions.

We are proud that by the end of our first decade we had "arrived" in the eyes of our public. Perhaps in the next ten years we can achieve stability without losing our fire. There is no reason why our second decade should not be even more exciting than our first.

Membership in Point Reyes Bird Observatory is open to any interested person and all memberships, donations and contributions are tax-deductible. Each quarter the Observatory issues an informative and interesting Newsletter and each year they send the membership an annual report summarizing the year's activities. The Observatory is located on Mesa Road out of Bolinas. PRBO needs and merits the support of all Audubon members. The following classes of memberships are available:

Student	\$5.00	per year
Regular	7.50	" "
Family	10.00	" "
Sustaining	15.00	" "
Contributing	30.00	" "
Life	225.00	(Can be made in 3 annual payments of \$75 each.)

Make checks payable to PRBO and send to:
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Box 321
Bolinas, CA 94924

NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION:

Phone 556-6030 in San Francisco for a recorded message on park, weather and campground information at Yosemite, Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Lassen Parks.

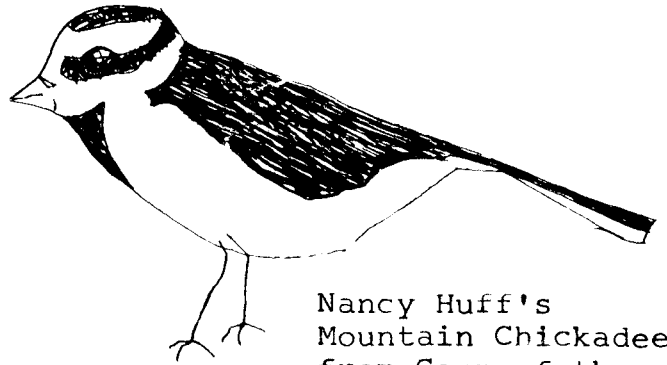
OUR THANKS to Pat Pringle who designed our new page one heading first used for the March SEQUOIA. Pat also sends us pen and ink line drawings now and then which you see in the SEQUOIA. Pat is a commercial artist and has been a Sequoia Audubon member for less than a year. We are grateful to her for the time and effort she devotes toward making your SEQUOIA more interesting and attractive.

-- the Editors

"Earth gives life and seeks the man who walks gently upon it."

-- Hopi Indian Lore.

Young-timers, first-timers and
all others--don't forget the
first walk of our new INDIAN
SUMMER NATURE PROGRAM with
Nancy Huff on Saturday, October 18.
(Please see page 4 of this issue)



Nancy Huff's
Mountain Chickadee
from Camp of the
West.

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

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Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
2270 Summit Dr.,
Hillsborough, Calif. 94010