



The SEQUOIA

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 25, No. 8

April, 1976

MEETINGS:

April 1, 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.

April 8, Thursday, 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way-- between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas, in San Mateo.

The Plant of the Month this month is the Lichen and will be presented by Betty Hart. Lichen, which consist of an alga and a fungus growing together, grow in acid soil on rocks and tree trunks. Betty has colored slides of lichen from various places the prettiest of which have been photographed in California.

The feature of our April program will be a half-hour movie, LAST DAYS OF THE DOLPHINS? This is a new film which shows in graphic terms the mass destruction of dolphins by tuna fishermen. It is narrated by Dick Cavett in his shirt sleeves talking from the deck of a tuna fishing boat and giving a factual, two-sided presentation including interviews with representatives of the tuna fishing industry and government as well as biologists and conservationists. The tuna industry tried to suppress portions of the film which presents background information to help in the solution of this problem. The film was produced by the Environmental Defense Fund and partially financed by the National Audubon Society.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will be on hand with a Birdcall of the Month, their traditional audio-visual presentation by slides and taped birdcalls.

FIELD TRIPS:

April 3, Saturday, 9:00 AM SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

We will meet at 9:00 at Guadalupe Parkway and Radio Road. This can be reached from Old Bayshore Highway by turning west at the top of the hill north of Brisbane.

This is a good opportunity to see the abundant species of San Bruno Mountain wildflowers many of which are unique to this area. Our very knowledgeable member, Enes Millar, will lead the trip. Lunch is optional but suggested for those who plan to stay into the afternoon.

April 10, Saturday, 9:00 AM FILOLI AREA

Meet at stone gates at intersection of Edgewood and Canada Roads.

PRESIDENT: 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

Be prepared to walk three miles birding, botanizing and surveying this area which is presently in the headlines. Our leader will be Maryann Danielson.

April 24, Saturday 9:00 AM PIGEON POINT AND COAST

The meeting place will be the Pigeon Point Light House. The purpose of this field trip is to acquaint people with the many ocean wonders that occur off our coast. Just bring a lunch and dress warmly. Leader: Barry Sauppe Phone 349-8470

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

February 28 - Golden Gate Park - Leader, Byron Davies

About 15 participants birded in the Park from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM on a calm but drizzly day and observed 42 species:
White-fronted Goose - Mallard - Cinnamon Teal - European and American Widgeon - Shoveler - Wood Duck - Ring-necked Duck - Canvasback - Lesser Scaup - Ruddy Duck - Sharp-shinned Hawk - California Quail - American Coot - Glaucous-winged, Herring, California Ring-billed and Mew Gulls - Rock and Mourning Doves - Anna's and Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds - Belted Kingfisher - Common Flicker - Black Phoebe - Steller's Jay - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Common Bushtit - White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches - Robin - Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Starling - Myrtle and Audubon's Warbler - Purple Finch - Pine Siskin - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees - Oregon Junco - White-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows and a thick-billed Parrot--Escaped?

March 13 - Palo Alto Yacht Harbor & Baylands - Leader Peter Metropulos

A group of fifteen birders enjoyed a pleasant spring-like day in the baylands. Many species of ducks, shorebirds, herons and gulls were studied at close range. A few migrating swallows (Barn, Cliff, Tree) were noted and other interesting birds included Gadwall, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Snipe and Bonaparte's Gull. Highlights of the trip were four Blue-winged Teal resting on a mudbar with other teal, an immature Glaucous Gull bathing on a pond (a lifer for many!) and later, two Short-eared Owls in the marsh.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH:

Audubon Canyon Ranch is a wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon about three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, February 28 through July 4 and during Easter week. For special visits phone 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. In 1969 the Ranch was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Registered Natural Landmark.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH - By Betty Boyd

Nature walks led by docents commence at 11: AM and 1:00 PM each Saturday and Sunday. April and May are the best months to visit the Ranch. The Heronry is in full swing with nesting activity at its height. A walk to the Heronry or on one of the beautiful trails will be rewarding with the lovely Spring wildflowers to be seen: Iris, Star Zygadene, Hounds Tongue, Ceanothus, to name but a few.

John Kipping reports that an immature bald eagle has taken up residency near Bolinas Lagoon and is seen often from the Clem Miller Overlook flying over Pine Creek Delta in search of unwary coots and shorebirds. Two other birds of prey, the Merlin and Peregrine falcon have

also been observed in this area in similar pursuits.

Cathy Kipping reports that on February 18 a Great Blue heron which had been shot and whose wing had been broken was rehabilitated by the Wildlife Services in Palo Alto and brought to the Ranch. It was banded with a Federal tag, #809-84926. Because of the lateness of the day and the fear that the Great Blue might have difficulty in flying, the decision was made to release the bird over the east side of the lagoon in the Pine Creek Gulch area where it might find better protection if unable to fly. But on release from the box it paused for a look around then flew off coming to rest 150 yards or so away.

The Ranch is grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Edmison and Ed Edmison, Nadine and Norton Hastings, Geri Kleyenber, Ed McElhany, Augie Pechener and Penny and Bradley Wright for their assist to the Kippings and Skip Schwartz in restoring Parsons' Pond and doing general cleanup work in the Garden Club Canyon.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The environmental scene in Sacramento is becoming active with summer deadlines looming for passage of bills in the Legislature. Besides the important Coastal Bill, SB1579, the bill to prevent development of prime agricultural land, AB 15, has squeaked through the Assembly and now faces even stiffer opposition in the Senate, where it will soon come before the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife. Members of this Committee are Senators John A. Nejedly (Chairman), Ruben S. Ayala, Ralph C. Dills, Clare Berryhill, Peter H. Behr, John F. Dunlap, Jerry Smith and Albert S. Rodda.

The same Committee is also now hearing the "Bottle Bill," SB 1384, to require deposits on all beer and soft drink containers, which is facing strong opposition from Industry.

Because of a study by the National Academy of Sciences soon to be released on the effect on the ozone of fluorocarbons in the atmosphere, Assemblyman Vasconcellos has agreed to hold his bill prohibiting the use of fluorocarbon aerosols, AB 1725, until release of the report before introducing it in the Senate. This bill had been passed by the Assembly at the end of January.

A resolution has recently been introduced in the Assembly, ACR 162, which would request the Department of Water Resources to report on water requirements of Suisun Marsh necessary to preserve waterfowl habitat and to affirm commitment to protect and enhance the same. This recognizes the fact that creation of a wildlife refuge in the marsh will have been of little use if sufficient water is not available.

Protection of Suisun Marsh also requires freedom from pollution of its air and waters, and for this among other reasons, legal action has been filed by an environmental coalition, including Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and People for Open Space, to halt Dow Chemical Company's \$500 million petro-chemical plant in the Delta. It will produce 40% of plastics made west of the Rockies and will double amounts of toxic substances shipped through Carquinez Straits, as well as producing massive amounts of air pollutants. Suit is based on inadequacy of the Environmental Impact Report.

In our own County outcomes of the two important issues before the Board of Supervisors should be known by the time this is read. After

further delay on San Bruno Mountain, the Board promised a decision for March 18, while decision on a plan for use of Filoli and the watershed lands was announced for March 16 at the last hearing held March 4. SAS was well represented at this hearing by Howard Rathlesberger, the Nelsons, and Marian Lockwood.

In Washington another Trans-Alaska pipeline is now proposed, this one to carry gas. Although Canadian and U.S. officials have concluded that no decision can be made before 1977 on the pipeline route, a bill has been introduced in Congress, HR 11273, giving immediate authorization of the Alaska-Canada route which traverses the Arctic National Wildlife Range. The bill bypasses all NEPA requirements and eliminates almost all possibility of its judicial review.

Woolgrowers are still working for return of the dangerous toxicant 1080 against predators, and are asking Interior Secretary Kleppe for revocation of the 1972 Executive Order ban on poisons for predator control. The allowing of use and sale of sodium cyanide last summer set the precedent for weakening the ban. If it is to be saved, letters opposing any use of 1080 must be sent to Thomas S. Kleppe, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

A final and local issue of interest particularly to residents of Redwood City is the formation of a group of concerned citizens there called "People for Intelligent City Planning." Membership includes SAS members, Miesje and Steve Aldrich. The group seeks to educate Redwood City residents about the importance of their City's General Plan, in particular in its protection of open space such as Bair Island through an adequate Open Space Element and Zoning as mandated by State laws. The organization has also filed suit against the City maintaining that the requirements for an Open Space Element and Open Space Zoning have not been legally met by Redwood City. They feel they have a good case, which could be a precedent to produce action in other cities. But, as always, suits are expensive and contributions will be welcomed by "People for Intelligent City Planning." They should be sent to P.O. Box 70, Redwood City 94063.

--- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

COASTAL CONSERVATION ACT:

Senator Anthony Beilenson has introduced into the Legislature the "Coastal Conservation Act of 1976" -- SB 1579 which would implement the mandate of Californians as expressed in passage of Proposition 20 in 1972 for protection of the Coast.

According to People for Open Space Regional Exchange: "Senator Beilenson is the first to warn that this Bill is going to be fiercely opposed. He predicts that SB 1579 will have 'an extremely difficult time getting through the Legislature builders, land developers, construction trade unions, utilities, oil companies and others seeking to protect their narrow self interests, will be out in force to defeat this Bill or weaken it with amendments.'

"As things stand now, those who gain from the degradation of the coast will win 'hands down.' Heroic efforts went into the passage of Prop 20 by a 55% majority. Heroic efforts have gone into the work of the Coast Commissions during the last 2 years. But the forces responsible for these magnificent gains seem exhausted, complacent or lul-

led into the belief that they have done their job. Letters to State Assemblymen and Senators are running 9-1 against Coast protection. Where is the massive citizen support?"

Those interested in efforts to save the coast may send contributions to: Sierra Club Coastal Task Force, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. (Phone: (415) 981-8634). The Sierra Club is actively campaigning to pass SB 1579. They need \$45,000 for expenses.

-- Marian Lockwood

CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICANS:

While the plight of the brown pelican in Louisiana captured national attention last summer when that state's population plummeted mysteriously, the recovery of the endangered bird's population in California is going well, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. This year, the Anacapa Island colony, located on two of the Channel Islands off Oxnard, produced 256 young during the 1975 nest season; last year it produced 305 young. In contrast to these reproductive successes of the last two years, only one young pelican was produced in 552 nesting attempts in 1970. During the past decade, the decline in the brown pelican population has been due to reproductive failures such as egg-shell thinnings, which have been attributed to ocean pollution by DDT. Residues of DDT in anchovies are reported to have decreased noticeably. And although abnormal eggs continue to be laid by some birds, biologists now find a lower frequency of them than in recent years.

--National Wildlife Federation's "Conservation News" 2/1/76

BIRDING FROM / KITCHEN WINDOW By Fran Nelson

Snow this morning! Roy's announcement jolts me awake much faster than usual and I hasten to check the humming feeder and the bird baths. Neither is frozen. The weather was bound to do something drastic--the acacia is blooming!

By the time the first birds arrive all the seeds but those under the deck are under a blanket of snow. In each of two places, a Golden-crowned Sparrow stands where the sunflower seeds should be, each looking very puzzled. A small flock, equally puzzled, stands where the scratch should be, on the gravel. Soon they discover that all they have this morning is what is under the deck and lose no more time over this revolting development. There are about 30 very busy sparrows under the deck at once.

The Hermit Thrush is here very early and this is unusual. He stands where the raisins should be--he finally pecks twice. I hope he is finding some peeking through the snow. Later, he is here again and this time I have mounded some raisins so he should have no trouble finding them.

Every branch and twig of the birch is covered with snow. It is beautifully dotted with House Finches, Robins and Cedar Waxwings--nature's own Christmas tree albeit a little late. A White-crowned Sparrow looks especially pretty standing on a baffle which has a thick layer of snow matching his white head-stripes.

A Mourning Dove seems hesitant to land in the tree and, tail fanned, looks over a few spots before deciding on one. Another Mourning Dove comes in and wants to land on the ground but can't quite make up his mind to land on that strange stuff. Again, the wedge-shaped tail is fanned. Design and color are striking against the snow.

At the front window, I hear a Mockingbird "chupping" loudly. I open the shutters too quickly and frighten a Meadowlark from the sycamore! I sometimes cheat myself by a hasty move. I don't often see Meadowlarks in our yard but hear them frequently at some distance belting out their cheerful, melodious songs. The white in his tail flashes as he heads for the stand of eucalyptus to the west.

I locate the Mockingbird on the utility line across the street. After "chupping" a while, he flies off displaying the white patches in his wings and the white lateral feathers in his tail--a lovely sight anytime but especially so with the snowy background. A bit later one of the Mockers comes to see about some raisins. I go out to replenish the supply and she (I think) meets me at the flax on one of the dead flower stalks which have been saved for perches. She has a few raisins and off she goes!

I am not set up to cope with snow so I make repeated trips out with a little more grain as it gets covered over. The first bird to discover that he could scratch that white stuff away for his food is a Brown Towhee. Soon all the birds of the sparrow family are industriously scratching for their food in the usual way. Others have discovered how to uncover the food in their respective ways.

The Hummingbirds' natural food is, of course, concealed by the snow, too, so I have replaced the sugar water with a special hummingbird healthfood so they will get some protein, minerals and vitamins to help tide them over.

I hear a flock of Bushtits nearby and there is a pair of Scrub Jays here. A Killdeer calls as he flies over.

A hundred or more Robins come in along with forty to fifty Cedar Waxwings and another forty or so in the trees back of us. There is much traffic to and from the snow-clad Indian Hawthorns. I always have the feeling that Indian Hawthorn berries are a last resort. At least, they aren't high on the preference list.

Lesser Goldfinches come for water and it has a peculiar slushy look to it by this time. After looking it over curiously, cocking their heads first one way and then the other, they decide to give it a try.

A Turkey Vulture surprises me by coming up just barely over the back fence as if he had been on the ground in the yard behind us and he soars on over the house.

I take note of a Starling's bill--half black and half yellow--vascillating between winter and spring just like the weather of late.

All in all I have seen twenty species of birds in and from our yard today not counting the steady stream of unidentified gulls.

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT:

Some months ago the Maricopa Audubon Society in Phoenix distributed a brochure describing the massive and catastrophic Central Arizona Project and soliciting funds for a law suit to stop the project. The project involves 4 dams which would destroy or seriously degrade most of the remaining fragments of streamside habitat on the major water course of the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Populations of Black Hawks, Zone-tailed Hawks, Gray Hawks and Bald Eagles will be very seriously affected--some to the point of extinction. Aside from the disastrous environmental effects, the project will waste water and energy and tremendous amounts of money. Contributions to the law suit fund may be made payable to C.A.P. Fund, Maricopa Audubon Society and mailed to Monica A. Szostak, Treasurer, Maricopa Audubon Society, 4242 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

SIGHTINGS:

Sixty Fulmars were seen from Pigeon Point, March 11. A Short-tailed Shearwater was carefully identified from Pigeon Point March 11; two Sooty Shearwaters were available for comparison. A total of 1309 Black Brant was censused at Pigeon Point as large flocks flew north on March 11. Three Oldsquaws were present in Princeton Harbor during February. Fifteen Common Mergansers were at southern Crystal Springs Reservoir March 5. A Red-shouldered Hawk, rare on the Peninsula, was at San Andreas Lake March 5. Two adult Bald Eagles were reported by Max Krueger at s. Crystal Springs Res., March 4. An Osprey was flying north over Halfmoon Bay March 5, and another was along the Bayshore Freeway near San Carlos, March 7. A Merlin was at the Port of Redwood City, February 16. Two American Golden Plovers were on a pasture north of Pigeon Point March 11. The ALBINO Willet discovered on the Foster City bayfront last winter, was seen again March 4. A Glaucous Gull was at the Menlo Park Sewage Facility March 13. Five Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Pigeon Point March 11, as were five Marbled Murrelets, two Ancient Murrelets and a Pigeon Guillemot. Two Yellow-billed Magpies were reported in a residential area of upper Burlingame during February by Mrs. Ahern. One Swamp Sparrow was still at Pilarcitos Creek mouth, March 5, and another was found north of the Halfmoon Bay Golf links March 12. Six Lincoln's Sparrows were also at the latter locality.

Please report occurrences of unusual birds to Barry Sauppe (349-8470) or Peter Metropulos (591-9898).

TALPA ASCENDENS SMITHII -- Climbing Mole

The scratching and scrabbling inside the wall of my second-half-story bedroom at bedtime a few weeks ago wasn't particularly exciting, as it apparently only heralded the return of *Mus musculus* (House mouse) to the house after an absence of a year or more. So both the cats and I went off to sleep after they had failed to locate anything in the triangular attic space between the bedroom wall and the eaves. But I left the attic door open so the cats could stay on patrol, and at 2:00 AM I woke to find they had apparently cornered the mouse in my bathroom.

It was an extremely large and sleek specimen with beautiful velvety dark gray fur, and it was quite alive and healthy, for the two cats were just sitting watching it, not offering to touch it. Its behavior, too, was strange, for instead of running away through the door to hide when the light went on it darted aimlessly about, running into every possible obstruction, apparently not seeing where it was going. Its appearance on further observation, was most peculiar for a mouse, with large, spade-like paws and a rudimentary tail only an inch or so long. I finally had to come to the conclusion it was not a rodent but an insectivore, and I began to think it was part of a wild dream till I came down unexpectedly on my recently skinned knee while trying to catch the animal in a bath towel. The way my knee felt was no dream!

The capture was finally accomplished, but the animal was extremely strong and motile, and at the head of the stairs it managed to wriggle out of its enveloping towel. Off it went blindly at an alarming rate over each stair, catapulting to the next one below as it came to each edge, and I was not able to get the towel about it again till it got into a corner of the lower hall. This time I hung on grimly till we both got out doors where I let it escape into a heap of dry leaves into which it dived like a swimmer. It apparently was none the worse for its night's misadventures, for when daylight came there was a fresh mole track the length of the garden.

I wasn't so lucky, for I lay awake most of the rest of the night trying to figure out how in the world a mole could possibly have got inside the roof of the house. For that is where it was when I first heard it, scrabbling down through the fiberglass insulation packed between the chingles of the roof and the sloping ceiling of the half-story bedroom. The place where it had fallen out onto the floor of the small attic space, bringing a large wad of the insulation with it, was unmistakable. From there the cats had probably herded it into the bathroom.

It must have started in the small triangular space under the ridgepole of the roof, but how could an earth-burrowing animal get so high? There are only two possible routes by which it could have got there. Either it would have to dig down more than a foot under the concrete foundation and then climb straight up inside the walls some 18 feet to the space under the ridgepole, or it would have to climb the same distance up the outside wall of the brick house to the brick-width openings into that space in each gable end of the house. On one side of the house this would be slightly facilitated by a thick growth of *Ficus repens* vine to the roof edge. Either mode of entry seems utterly fantastic for a mole to essay. Yet it seems even more impossible that it was brought by an owl or other bird of prey unhurt to that small gable opening. A cat could not have reached it, and moreover cats, as borne out by my pair, refuse to touch moles.

Will someone wiser in the ways of moles than I restore my peace of mind and solve the mystery?

-- Ruth Smith

AUDUBON WORKSHOP OF THE WEST:

Each summer National Audubon conducts a Workshop at Trail Lake Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming in the Wind River Range. The cost this year is \$275.00 per person which covers meals, housing, field trips and instruction. Transportation to Wyoming is not included. There are four two-week sessions. The opening session commences June 20 and the last session concludes on August 13 and each session is limited to 50 persons. A team of naturalists conducts field trips with emphasis on ecological relationships and there are evening seminars.

Sequoia Audubon customarily provides two scholarships valued at \$275 each and will do so again this year. These scholarships are available to anyone 18 years or more in age; membership in Audubon is not a prerequisite. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the individual's potential value to Audubon purposes. If you would like to apply for a scholarship or if you would like to nominate someone for a scholarship contact Al Bergeron, phone 349-2960.

DISTRIBUTION OF BREEDING BIRDS OF MARIN COUNTY 1976-1978:

Point Reyes Bird Observatory needs a minimum of 40 bird watchers who have any 6 days free between May and June 30, 1976 to begin a three year study of the distribution of breeding birds in Marin County. Using subdivisions of USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps, we have divided the county into 250 blocks each about 2.5 square miles. We want to know what species breed in each block. We are not after numbers. You don't have to count birds. All you have to do is cover the habitats in your block and obtain evidence of breeding for each species. When you finish you will have a list of species breeding in your block with evidence ranging from seeing a bird in suitable breeding habitat to finding a nest with young. We will do this for three years to ensure

good coverage. You don't have to participate for three years--just this year if you want. From these lists distributional maps will be made. Future studies will be conducted to detect changes in distribution. Such atlas projects have been completed in England and are underway in many countries of Europe. Maryland and Massachusetts have similar studies underway. Marin County could be a pilot project for other California Counties.

For those persons interested in more detail, come to any one of the following organizational meetings:

Sunday	4	April	1300	Point Reyes National Seashore, Bear Valley
Saturday	10	April	1300	Headquarters Information Building
Thursday	22	April	0730	" " "

These meetings will also include refresher sessions on songs and nest finding strategies. For those who would like more training we recommend PRBO courses "Birds of the Bay Area" April 24-25 and May 15-16, "Bird Song," May 1-2 and Landbird Ecology May 22-23.

This is a chance to use your birding abilities and also contribute in a cooperative way to our knowledge of Marin County birds. This breeding season should be particularly interesting because dry conditions should entice species usually breeding further south to coastal Marin.

WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC.

By Carol Hamilton

With each animal that is accepted for care by our organization goes a "Progress Note Form" that is filled out by the volunteer taking responsibility for the animal during its rehabilitation. The following was an unusual report but one that so typifies the spirit of our organization: "Species: Killdeer. Age: Minus one day. Condition when rec'd: In egg, peeping, low temp. Initial Treatment: Heat. Where Found: Palo Alto Baylands. Date Found: 7/27/75. Source: Mrs. Anderson, P.A. to W.R.T. Volunteer: Kathy Hobson. Notes: Date: Sun. 7/27. Mrs. Anderson called to say her son had picked up a seagull...egg. And it was now hatching. Her son had been collecting feathers for arrows and had found this egg laying on some rocks. 'Only one?', I asked, 'Yes, there was only one.'

It seemed strange that it would be a gull's egg. Could it be a duck egg? Yes, it could, she said. She agreed to keep it warm and bring it to me and she would bring her son and his friend. A half hour after they were due, I called... 'Was it dead?' 'No,' she had decided the boys should bring it to me all on their own...they should be responsible. Eric and Dean, both 12 years, rode their bikes from Louis and Charleston to Embarcadero.

The egg on arrival was cool, I put it on the heating pad. It was too small for a gull. It looked more like the size of a chicken egg. Too small for even a Mew Gull. I was afraid it was dead but there was a faint 'peep' coming from it. My first live egg. I've had calls on many eggs all of them were dead on arrival.

I drove the boys out to the duck pond to look for the nest, explaining to them that birds had a poor olfactory sense, and that the bird stood little chance of survival if we hatched it out.

We walked across the weeds near the edge of the road. On the right a Killdeer was putting on its broken wing act. Just as I remarked that there must be a nest nearby, the boys pointed out the nest on our left. There were 2 eggs, a newly hatched chick & space for the 'stolen' egg. They were all eggs when the boys had been there. It made an impression

on them to see a new chick where there had been an egg.

I replaced the egg and we backed off. The parent bird came up to guard the nest and we left.

It's a poor place for a nest...but since one of the chicks had just hatched and the others were due to hatch soon we hoped they would be all right until the chicks were up on their feet and able to seek a more covered area."

If you would like to take the three training classes to be a Wildlife Rescue Volunteer, send your name, address and phone number to: Linda Ettinger, 248 San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Contributions for financial support may be sent to: Phyllis Pierce, Treasurer, Wildlife Rescue, Inc., 494 Van Buren, Los Altos 94022.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING REPORT: -- by Sheila Davies

To some of us bird-brains, the Robin has a beautiful song. Some say it is a song that only another Robin could appreciate. At the March meeting we all thought about this as we listened to Frank Allen's tapes of the Robin's song, accompanied by color slides. The pictures were so excellent that we looked at this familiar bird with new vision.

The Plant-of-the Month by Jed McClellan was the Desert Evening Primrose, *Oenothera deltoides*. In close-up the Evening Primrose has a silky texture rather like a silk parachute. The flower is white but as it fades, it turns pink. One of Jed's shots showed a beautiful pink caterpillar on a fading blossom. Talk about color coordination...

Our own member, Maryann Danielson, took us on a photographic trip to Baja California. We had a trip of the sort seldom arranged by a travel agency, traveling by train, truck, and foot, far from freeways and motels. Vicariously, we walked on trails that were barely discernible and clung to cliffs as we inched around bends. But the views we had from the top were worth the effort of the climb. We had to wait for days for the ocean to be calm enough to set out in boats. We cooked fresh caught fish on the beach and watched amazing sunsets. We saw a wide range of the natural history of Baja, from Trigger fish to large numbers of pelicans, from Red-spotted Toads to mud crabs in mangrove swamps.

As our Vice-President, John Prime, said at the end of the presentation, "Maryann, you are one tough cookie."

MARINE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE:

MEI is a private non profit research and educational organization with headquarters in Redwood City. MEI volunteers visit various schools and acquaint the students from 4th grade on up, with various aspects of marine biology. Later, the students go aboard the 85-foot MEI research vessel, "Inland Seas," and make a half day cruise on the Bay. The students, under the guidance of trained instructors, operate the scientific equipment analyzing water, bottom samples and examining fish and other specimens. The cost of each trip is about \$400 half of which is born by the school and half through MEI "sponsors." Sequoia Audubon has forwarded a \$200 check to MEI to sponsor a student group from a San Mateo County school. Over 48,000 students have participated in this program. MEI has a decent training program (see Page 7 of the March, 1976 SEQUOIA) and other special programs. Contact Dotter Klyce at 364-2760 for more information.

CLIFF LINDQUIST:

At their March 4 meeting, the Sequoia Audubon Board of Directors

voted a \$250 scholarship to Cliff Lindquist to help him in his pursuit of a college degree in Wildlife Management. Cliff originally came to our attention through the raptor rehabilitation program which he and Max Krueger have conducted for several years. Cliff is a most dedicated and deserving young man and has a fine family that shares his goals. The purpose and principles of Audubon will be well served in providing whatever assistance we can toward Cliff's goals.

RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND EDUCATION CENTER:

376 Greenwood Beach Road in Tiburon. Turn off Highway 101 onto Tiburon Blvd. and about a mile later turn right onto Greenwood. Open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Wednesday through Sunday. Admission 50¢ except Audubon members free. Nature walks Sunday at 9:00 AM. Nature programs every Sunday at 3:00 PM. Also an excellent Book Store, THE BOOK NEST.

The 3:00 PM Sunday programs for the next few weeks:

- April 4 - The Lorax; a special film for children (fun for grown-ups too) all about Dr. Suess' characters and how they deal with the problems of their environment.
- April 11 - Closed for the Western Regional NAS conference at Asilomar.
- April 18 - Closed for the Easter holiday.
- April 25 - Wood Duck's World; a film about the beautiful wood duck and the wild creatures that share its world.
- May 2 - It Began With Birds; a film about the history and development of the National Audubon Society. This program will coincide with the opening of the newly restored Lyford House to the public.

HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER:

Explorer Post 821 located in the San Mateo Highlands Community is looking for adult leaders (18 or over) interested in accompanying the Post on weekend backpacking trips.

The Post has planned a series of one weekend trip per month for the next six months to local and distant (Sierra) wilderness areas.

The permanent advisor to the Post will be on all of the trips, but at least one or more associate advisors are urgently needed to provide adequate leadership support. As a volunteer leader, you may go on as few as one trip or on all trips.

Post 821 is a coed post and has 17 Explorers ranging in age from 14 to 18 years. If you can volunteer some time and are interested in backpacking, please call Al Mizuhara 341-5509 (After 5:00 PM) or the Highlands Rec Center 341-4251.

The Post is also in need of various backpacking equipment, new or used.

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM CLASSES:

May 15 1:30 -- 3:30

The Care and Feeding of Backyard Birds. We will build a hummingbird feeder, a suet feeder or a seed feeder or, if you want, all three. We will find out what kinds of plants the birds would like you to plant in your garden and learn about hummingbird juice, suet cakes and bird corn bread. There is a fee for the class of \$2.00 per person or \$4.00 per family.



The SEQUOIA

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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MEETINGS:

April 1, 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.

April 8, Thursday, 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way-- between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas, in San Mateo.

The Plant of the Month this month is the Lichen and will be presented by Betty Hart. Lichen, which consist of an alga and a fungus growing together, grow in acid soil on rocks and tree trunks. Betty has colored slides of lichen from various places the prettiest of which have been photographed in California.

The feature of our April program will be a half-hour movie, LAST DAYS OF THE DOLPHINS? This is a new film which shows in graphic terms the mass destruction of dolphins by tuna fishermen. It is narrated by Dick Cavett in his shirt sleeves talking from the deck of a tuna fishing boat and giving a factual, two-sided presentation including interviews with representatives of the tuna fishing industry and government as well as biologists and conservationists. The tuna industry tried to suppress portions of the film which presents background information to help in the solution of this problem. The film was produced by the Environmental Defense Fund and partially financed by the National Audubon Society.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will be on hand with a Birdcall of the Month, their traditional audio-visual presentation by slides and taped birdcalls.

FIELD TRIPS:

April 3, Saturday, 9:00 AM SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

We will meet at 9:00 at Guadalupe Parkway and Radio Road. This can be reached from Old Bayshore Highway by turning west at the top of the hill north of Brisbane.

This is a good opportunity to see the abundant species of San Bruno Mountain wildflowers many of which are unique to this area. Our very knowledgeable member, Enes Millar, will lead the trip. Lunch is optional but suggested for those who plan to stay into the afternoon.

April 10, Saturday, 9:00 AM FILOLI AREA

Meet at stone gates at intersection of Edgewood and Canada Roads.

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