



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 26, No. ~~6~~ 7

March, 1977

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, MARCH 3, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings & Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARCH 10, 8:00 PM 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 Pulags in San Mateo.

John Kipping will present a slide talk, "The Flora and Fauna of Audubon Canyon Ranch." John is the Naturalist-Biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch and presented his "Uses of Plants by California Indians" at our September, 1974 meeting. John and Mrs Kipping (Kathy) have lived in Volunteer Canyon at Audubon Canyon Ranch since January, 1976. They conduct the Ranch education program and are popular, enthusiastic and well-informed naturalists.

Skip Schwartz, manager of Audubon Canyon Ranch, will present some background information about the Ranch, its history, purposes and programs and aspirations. Skip and Mrs. Schwartz (Karen) live, with their three children, in the Main Canyon at the Ranch.

FIELD TRIPS:

For Field trip ride sharing phone Pearl Morgenstern at 341-2510.

MARCH 12, SATURDAY PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR

This field trip is for school age people but all beginning birders are welcome to join us. Our groups in the past have included families, Scout troops and every stray youth I have found in my neighborhood. Join us for a pleasant morning visiting marsh and shore birds. Nancy Horn will be the leader. 342-9902

MARCH 13, SUNDAY, ALUM ROCK PARK, SAN JOSE

Meet in the parking lot in front of the Junior Museum in Alum Rock Park. From San Mateo drive south on Bayshore (U.S. 101) to San Jose. Two and one-half miles after passing under the Nimitz Freeway, turn off at Santa Clara Street and immediately cross over Bayshore. On Alum Rock Avenue now, drive 4½ miles to the entrance to Alum Rock Park. Bring a lunch for a pleasant day of birding in this park, where we have

RESIDENT: John Prime
848 W. Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94403
Phone: 573-5889

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

see Canyon Wrens, Dippers and Golden Eagles.

Leader: Andy Kratter 343-2391

MARCH 26, SATURDAY, JASPER RIDGE, Near Woodside

Meet at 9:00 AM at the parking lot west of Portola Road about a mile south of the Sandhill Road/Whiskey Hill Road junction (Just shortly beyond the Mt. Home Road/Portola Road junction). A sign "Searsville" is on the left. We will be the guests of Jasper Ridge Tours and guided by docents Herb Bengler, Winky Lennihan and Ann Robertson.

APRIL 2, SATURDAY, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

Meet at 9:00 AM at Guadalupe Parkway and Radio Road. This point is conveniently reached by turning left northbound on the Old Bayshore Highway near the top of the hill just north of Brisbane. There should be many wildflowers.

Our leader will be Enes Millar. 566-6119

APRIL 12--MAY 1, MEXICO

Charles Newman's January trip to Mexico was so successful that he is hoping to lead another in April when the birding should be even better, if that is possible. Tentative plans are to depart Tuesday, April 12, and return Sunday, May 1, a total of 19 days. As well as the San Blas, Nayarit area, so rich in bird life, several days will be spent in the spectacular Sierra Madre Occidental, where at elevations up to 7,000 feet, in ideal climate, there is a fascinating mixture of nearctic and neotropical birds, including the rare and beautiful Tufted Jay, usually seen on these journeys. Heard, for sure, and hopefully seen, will be the Mountain Trogon, Russet Crowned Motmot, the Slate Throated Redstart and the Brown Backed Solitaire, with his incredible upward cascading song. Recognition of sound and song will be emphasized on this trip. Rather than crowd all the activity into the usual 10 or 14 days, Charles is extending this trip by several days, so that the pace will be a little more leisurely than in the past. There will even be a free day in Mazatlan.

The cost, assuming that rates and prices are the same in April as they were in January, is tentatively figured to be \$650 per person for the 19 days, plus or minus \$25.00. This will include air fare to and from Mazatlan, accommodations in excellent hotels on a double occupancy basis, all meals, two boat trips and ground transportation by Volkswagon bus.

Charles will take only 7 persons. Those wishing more information may contact him during the day at 755-6808 or during the evening at 697-5601.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

January 22, 1977, Filoli and Lower Watershed Leader: Max Krueger

A large crowd of 58 people turned out on this sunny, cool day to bird in the San Francisco Watershed lands and to view the area known as Filoli Estate. Those who stayed to the end had a total of 63 species for the day. They were also proud to see Max and the Warden pick up three men and confiscate three rifles for shooting at Pintails and Canada Geese on the Crystal Springs Lake. Good going, Max!

Species for the day: Horned, Eared and Pied-billed Grebes - Double-cr. Cormorant - Great Blue Heron - Whistling Swan - Canada Goose - Mallard Pintail - Green-winged Teal - American Widgeon - Shoveler - Ring-necked Duck - Canvasback - Scaup - Common Goldeneye - Ruddy Duck - Common Merganser - Turkey Vulture - White-tailed Kite - Sharp-shinned and

Red-tailed Hawks - Golden Eagle - Marsh Hawk - American Kestrel - California Quail - American Coot - Killdeer - Spotted Sandpiper - Herring, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls - Band-tailed Pigeon - Mourning Dove - Anna's Hummingbird - Common Flicker - Downy Woodpecker - Black Phoebe - Steller's and Scrub Jays - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Palin Titmouse - White-breasted Nuthatch - Wrentit - Long-billed Marsh Wren - Robin - Hermit Thrush - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Water Pipit - Loggerhead Shrike - Starling - Yellow-rumped Warbler - Western Meadowlark - Redwinged Blackbird - Brewer's Blackbird - House Finch - Lesser Goldfinch - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee - Savannah Sparrow - Dark-eyed Junco - White-throated Sparrow - Song Sparrow.

January 16, 1977, Año Nuevo State Reserve. Leader: Howard Rathlesberger

The visit to Ano Nuevo was a great success. We had at least 50 eager elephant seal watchers who snuck in a little bird watching as well. Many seals, male and female, were seen at close range and in action at times too. Perhaps even more gratifying than seeing the seals was to witness the State Park and Recreation organization in operating the Reserve and the care taken so as not to disturb these most interesting mammals any more than necessary. I believe we were all delighted to see the results of active conservation.

February 5, 1977, Lake Merced and Golden Gate Park
Leader, Enes Millar

On Field Trip day the weather was partly cloudy, no wind, temperature approximately 56°F. A total of 58 species were sighted. The group consisted of 22 participants who were treated to a rare sight--a Tropical Kingbird.

The species sighted at both locations included: Common and Arctic Loons - Grebes, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed - Double-crested Cormorant - Black Crowned Night Heron - Ducks, Mallard, Eurasian and American Widgeon, Shoveler, Wood, Ring-necked, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Ruddy, and Red-breasted Merganser - Hawks, Sharp-shinned and Sparrow - California Quail - Common Gallinule - American Coot - Killdeer - Gulls, Western, Herring California, Ring-billed, Mew and Heermann's - Mourning Dove - Anna's Hummingbird - Belted Kingfisher - Red-shafted and Red-headed Woodpeckers - Tropical Kingbird - Black Phoebe - Violet-green Swallow - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatch - Wrentit - Long-billed Marsh Wren - Robin - Yellow-rumped Warbler - House Sparrow - Red-winged Blackbird - Brewer's Blackbird - House Finch - American Goldfinch - Rufous-sided Towhee - Sparrows, White-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's and Song.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The primary conservation issue for everyone is now the critical and ever-increasing water shortage. It is being faced quietly and realistically, with the invaluable aid of the local newspapers. It is hoped that voluntary reduction in water usage will prevent the need here for mandatory rationing such as is in force in Marin County. That voluntary control is working is born out by a 10% reduction in the load at the Menlo Park sewage treatment plant. Water agencies are nevertheless preparing for possible rationing as summer approaches. All good Auduboners should certainly do their very best to help if for no other reason than to keep a little water in Crystal Springs Lakes for the birds.

The Union Plumbing Contractors of San Mateo County and the Belmont County Water District are recommending the following measures which they say can save the average family 9% of its water use by reducing shower flow and 3,500 gallons per year in reducing water used in toilet flushing. This last is done simply by filling with water a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gallon plastic container such as is used for bleach, and placing it in the toilet tank with a weight in it, after removing the ball float from its arm. The float is then replaced. For showers a disc restrictor is used. In those with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe, the showerhead is unscrewed and the restrictor is inserted, then plumbing sealant or bar soap is applied to the threads and the showerhead re-attached. In showers with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe, a larger disc is used and the above instructions followed except the gasket is removed to insert the restrictor.

Though the Legislature is concerned with problems arising from the drought, Senator Rains has been tackling the various problems of throw-away containers. His bill, SB4, requiring a deposit on beer and soft drink containers, will have gone to the Senate Natural Resources Committee at the end of February. It will apparently need all the support it can get as similar legislation has been defeated in the past. Senator Rains also introduced bills SB253 to prohibit sale of beverages or fruit juices in non-reusable containers after January 1, 1980 and, of particular interest to birders, SB219 to require that devices connecting beverage containers be of certified biodegradable material. This would prevent the bird injuries caused by the present plastic 6-pack devices. Bills prohibiting manufacture or sale of cans using fluorocarbon aerosol propellants have been introduced by Assemblyman Vasconcellos (AB236) and Senator Dunlap (SB153).

In Congress the strip-mining regulation bill, twice passed by the last Congress and vetoed, was introduced again by Representative Morris K. Udall as HR2. It is predicted that some segments of the coal industry will try to weaken the bill.

Efforts are again being made to weaken the Clean Water Act, especially Section 404 which protects wetlands. This is being attempted at least in part through amendments to bills for needed grant funding for water pollution control projects which will run out June 30 in 32 states. Such funding is provided in Senator Muskie's bill S57 or alternatively by amendment to the Public Works Jobs Bill S.427. In the House a single bill, HR3199, combines both the needed funding and weakening amendments to the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Campaign Coalition, of which the Sierra Club is a member, promises to fight any such bills combining funding with amendments which would weaken the Clean Water Act.

Senator Gary Hart of Colorado planned to introduce a bill at the end of February for a federal aid program to the states for protection of non-game wildlife on a matching basis, and hoped to get as many as possible of senators from other states to become co-sponsors.

Most recent of County conservation issues is the State proposal of a minimum-security women's prison on the abandoned Hassler Health Home site in San Carlos. That city is hoping to get the Midpeninsula Regional Park District to acquire the property.

Three preliminary hearings have been held on concept plans for Wunderlich Park. These have brought out requests for some separate trails for horse riders and hikers, and a plea for use of the top 250 acres for motorcyclists. This area includes the steepest and most inaccessible parts of the Park. The question of retention of the stable as a boarding stable by a concessioner also arose. The present contract is for boarding a maximum of 40 horses and the fragile area certainly cannot stand any heavier usage. It is questionable whether the County should be involved at all in such an enterprise. Further hearings will be held when the master plan is completed and before it is presented to the Supervisors, probably in June.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW: By Fran Nelson

Three weeks have passed since I frightened away the covey of Quail. I was so sad about it but now they are giving me the second chance I had hoped for! One note from a Quail had alerted me and I looked up to see a parade of them walking across the back fence. Now to get some scratch out before they come in too close! I am barely back in the house when they begin to emerge from the shrubs. Only three of them are interested in eating. The others seem only to want to rest or hide. The necessity of getting some work done takes me from the window but off and on all afternoon I pass it, each time checking for sight or sound of Quail. Nothing! Being quite sure they are gone, I decide to give the Robin who is here some raisins and to put out some lettuce to see if any of the White-crowned or Golden-crowned Sparrows who are here are those who liked our salad culls last winter. I am putting the lettuce in two places so they will have more chances to see it before it wilts. The second place is at the edge of the xylosma senticosa which surrounds the acacia. Suddenly it seems as if the whole acacia is air-borne! I've done it again! This will surely be the last of the Quail! And all they had wanted was a restful hidaway!

About two weeks later, here they come! They have brought with them their ravenous appetites this time. Nine of at least twenty-three have taken over the House Sparrow dust-bath area. They are enlarging the dust-bowls, scratching rapidly and finding things to eat as they progress. Some are walking on the backs of others who are already deep into their dust-bowls. What a dust storm they are creating!

Others are scratching for cracked corn in the gravel. The crowned-sparrows do not love having them here. Their crests are up as they anxiously watch their food supplies dwindle. A Brown Towhee stands in a crouched position. He looks up at me as if to ask why I allow this.

Meanwhile, back at the dust-bowls--more Quail have joined this solid wriggling, squirming mass. It is difficult to see where one ends and another begins. Some are on one side and some on the other. Some are on their bellies and others almost on their backs. Some are pushing against the sides or backs of others with both feet. It's quite a sight! The closeness is obviously a mutual assistance operation. They use each other freely with no altercations erupting. Just when I think I know how many are in the mass, another head comes up for air between two other bodies! There appears to be thirteen!

A female House Sparrow bounces on an overhanging flax stalk for an overview, then goes to the baffle above. The thought of a dust bath now is too overwhelming. A male House Sparrow, as if to show his brav-

ery, flies down and takes a dust bath! Well, maybe it was pretty brief and off to one side of all those big birds but maybe she didn't notice that!

Two hours elapse and all of the Quail depart. The House Sparrows hurry to reclaim their dust-bowls. They are standing there--just looking at the devastation! The small bowls have become huge craters! I go out with the rake to make things all better. They can hardly wait to make new ones their size!

Two months have gone by since the first Quail visitation. First there was the exploding-from-the-yard stage followed by the hiding-in-the-farthest-from-me shrubs followed by the hiding-in-the-nearest-to-me shrubs. And now, today, I am taking out some seeds and my startled eyes behold a company of six Quail running eagerly to meet me! The Quail and I have come a long way!

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is a 1000-acre wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on weekends and holidays from March 1 through July 4 each year. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 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

The Ranch will open this year on Saturday, March 5 and will continue to be open for visitors on weekends, holidays and during Easter Week through the fourth of July. Guided tours for group visits during the week can be scheduled by calling Edris Cole at 383-1644.

New service arrangements have been made with Golden Gate Transit Company for bus service to the Ranch. Those interested in using this method of transportation can call 332-6600 for schedules and further information.

We are happy to report that the first of the two water tanks to be installed is in place at Volunteer Canyon. That at the Main Canyon will go in at a later date.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is particularly grateful to the Frances R. Dewing Foundation of Cambridge, Mass. and to the C. A. Webster Foundation of Linden, California, two family foundations which recently, as well as in the past, have made generous contributions in support of the Ranch's programs.

The Ranch is grateful to the following persons and organizations for their contributions: Amy and Ed McElhany in honor of Stan Picher - John and Barbara Polach in memory of Isabelle Hulett - Dr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Shipman in memory of Eli Orshansky - Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Auerbach in memory of Mona Girard, Charles Cameron, Ray Giacomelli - Glenview Woman's Club - Peacock Gap Garden Club - Orinda Garden Club - and to the "Tuesday Turtles" of Audubon Cypress Grove for their contribution honoring Clifford Conly, Jr. on his birthday.

EACH YEAR THE THREE SPONSORING AUDUBON SOCIETIES, Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia, provide volunteers hosts each Saturday, Sunday and holiday during the open season at the Ranch. This year Sequoia will provide hosts for the period April 16 through May 22--a total of 12 days. Four hosts are required for each day.

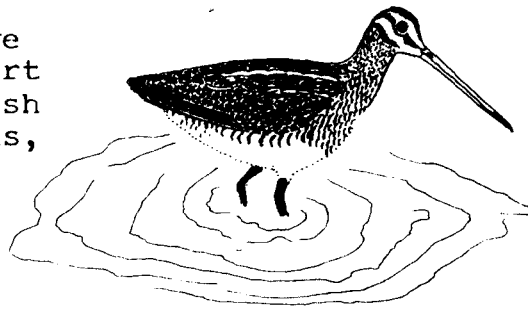
Host duty is an enjoyable and interesting experience and requires no special expertise or knowledge. It consists of greeting the visitors, directing them to the parking area and other Ranch facilities, signing up the visitors and being generally useful. Hours are from just before 10 AM to just after 4 PM. Here is an opportunity to visit a unique and remarkable nature sanctuary with its fascinating heronry, display building, book store, trails, wild flowers, and picnic area.

Shirley Sampson is coordinating our sign-up for host duty. Phone her at 591-8046 and get your name on the list. There will also be a sign-up sheet at our March 10 and April 14 meetings.

PESCADERO MARSH RANGER REPORT:

January has seen several beautiful additions to the marsh; one a small flock of cinnamon teal which can be seen feeding near the highway in the north lagoon in the company of green winged teal, shovelers, various grebes, coots, ruddy ducks, mallards and canvasbacks. Another beautiful addition comes in the form of two display panels furnished by the State Parks Interpretive Planning Unit. The art work on the panels is outstanding and depicts many of the marsh inhabitants.

A morning walk in the marsh recently revealed a snipe. Best recognized by its flight, it would have the birds' counterpart. The birds in the marsh wonderful, vociferous, without a calendar, still winter?



low, rapid, zigzag to be described as for a jackrabbit. lately are in a springlike mood, for who can tell it is

-- John Hart
State Park Ranger.

SIGHTINGS:

A Red-necked Grebe was at Pigeon Point, Jan. 27. Three Oldsquaws were seen together in Princeton Harbor, Feb. 2. A Green Heron was at Searsville Lake (almost dry), Jan. 30. The only Cattle Egret seen this year in the County was along Highway 92 near Half Moon Bay, Jan. 13. Rare along the Coast, a Snow Goose was on the Bay at Foster City, Jan. 29. With it were one Canada and one White-fronted Goose. Another White-fronted was seen at Lake Lucerne, Jan. 19. A Whistling Swan which is also rare along the Coast, was seen at Crystal Springs Reservoir, Jan 22-Jan. 26.

A pair of European Wigeon were at Belmont Slough, Feb. 11-12.

A Hooded Merganser was at Mariner's Isle, Foster City, Jan. 29.

A Peregrine Falcon was seen along the Bayshore in Burlingame, Feb. 14. A Merlin was at Half Moon Bay, Jan. 12. Another one was sitting in the cypresses at Pigeon Point, Feb. 3.

The Rock Sandpiper present on the jetty at Princeton Harbor and nearby Pillar Point since early December, was seen again Feb 12. Another one that has been present at Pebble Beach since Dec. 12 was seen again Feb. 3.

A Glaucous Gull was in a large flock of gulls at Gazos Creek mouth, Jan. 21. Another Glaucous was at San Gregorio Beach, Jan. 19.

The Elegant Tern discovered in Princeton Harbor, Dec. 17, was seen and photographed on Jan 25; one of the few winter records for the U.S.A.

Three Short-eared Owls have been present throughout the winter in

the open fields at Año Nuevo Point. Two Pygmy Owls were calling at dusk near the entrance to Butano State Park, Feb. 3. Three Saw-whet Owls were calling the same night along Canyon Road.

A Common Merganser was at southern Crystal Springs Reservoir, Feb. 12.

Three Lesser Yellowlegs were at Belmont Slough, Feb. 12. The first reported Allen's Hummingbird was seen in San Mateo, Feb. 1.

A Common Crow was seen in Millbrae, Jan. 1.

A pair of Red Crossbills were in poplars at the water tank at Sawyer Camp Road, Feb. 12. On Feb. 3, 67 were seen flying over Bear Gulch Road.

An Evening Grosbeak was also seen along Bear Gulch Road on Jan. 27.

MRS. GEORGE HOMEM

Friends of Mrs. George (Vi) Homem will be saddened to learn that she passed away on January 23 after a prolonged illness. Mrs. Homem was a long time member of Golden Gate Audubon Society and served as editor of their bulletin, THE GULL, for many years and later as Observations Chairman and as librarian. She was also a director of the Nature Conservancy. She and Mr. Homem are well known for their outdoor photography and conservation work. At our November, 1971 meeting they presented an outstanding slide lecture "Nature Trails of Western Canada," and in June, 1968 another interesting slide show, "Telephoto Birding in the Bay Area."

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION - June 9-12, Estes Park, Colorado (See Page 8 of the February SEQUOIA)

Registration deadline has now been extended to April 29. U.S. Senator Gary Hart of Colorado will address the convention. He is sponsor of the Federal-Aid for Non-Game Wildlife bill.

President John Prime has some brochures describing the convention and will be glad to send you one. (573-5889). They will also be available at the March 10 and April 14 meetings or you can write National Audubon Society at 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, or phone your editors (343-3219).

The YMCA Camp of the Rockies is one of the most beautiful conference centers in the country. It was selected because of its low cost and because Auduboners love the spectacular natural settings. There are accommodations for most every budget--and children are welcome. Birds, nature, conservation, environmental protection are all motives for Audubon membership. However, one of the principal pleasures is the association with a fine group of sincere, friendly and enthusiastic people. Come to the Convention and see for yourself!

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM VOLUNTEER DAY:

We invite you to take a "mini" field trip during our Volunteer Day at Coyote Point. We'll tell you about our current programs and show you plans for our exciting new Environmental Museum.

We feel that it is important for the school children of San Mateo County to learn to enjoy and protect our unique environment here. In order to fill the many requests we get from schools for field trip leaders, we need more docents. If you enjoy nature and working with children, we offer a most interesting training program. Please join us either on Friday, March 25 or Saturday, March 26 at the Captain's House, Coyote Point, From 9:30 to noon.

-- Helen Kratter (343-2391)

RAPTOR REHABILITATION PROGRAM -- A program conducted by Max Kruger and Cliff Lindquist, with some financial support by Sequoia Audubon, for the purpose of the rehabilitation of distressed raptors and their eventual release to natural habitats.

The young female Harris' Hawk who was our guest at the February meeting is now ready for release. Through some good work by Dr. Norman Fox it appears that Hughes Airwest will contribute transportation for the bird and attendant to Tuscon. Charles Newman is endeavoring to arrange a reception party and release details.

Our thanks to all of you who have submitted names for this beautiful bird. A list of names submitted and the one selected will be included in our next issue.

CALIFORNIA NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Until recently practically all of the funds available to the Department of Fish and Game were obtained from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. It was sometimes difficult therefore, to justify the use of such funds for the enhancement of nongame wildlife. That situation has now been changed and those of us whose primary interest is nongame species can make contributions for their benefit. Dr. Norman Fox has nongame decals for sale at each meeting for \$5 each. Contributions of \$5 or more may also be made payable to "Nongame Wildlife" and mailed to Wildlife, Box DFG, Sacramento, CA 95801. Contributions are tax exempt and are used for vital nongame enhancement needs.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY:

Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas

Many factors such as climatic changes, natural evolution and degeneration of habitats and alterations in land-use affect changes in status of breeding distribution of birds. Human activities are to an increasing extent a major force in altering natural habitats. It is important to have an accurate record of present-day distributions of birds (the most easily seen vertebrates which are quite sensitive to habitat changes) as a baseline for future comparison. Marin County, an important nature reserve and recreation ground adjacent to northern California's largest metropolitan area, was divided into 220 2.5 km squares in 1976; 53 persons covered 87 squares finding evidence for 129 species including such uncommon birds as Audubon's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Sage Sparrow and Golden Eagle. This year we need more people to help with this three year project. If you are interested in bird watching, you may want to become involved in this worthwhile study.

Bob Stewart, PRBO biologist, will offer the following bird sessions in the field: Wed. March 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4 or Thursdays March 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5. On Wednesdays meet at the corner of Sir Francis Drake Blvd and Pierce Point Road near Tomales Bay State Park. On Thursdays meet at the Inverness Store parking lot in Inverness (0830-1130).

The purpose of these field sessions is to stimulate interest in the Breeding Bird Atlas and at the same time improve birding skills with special emphasis on breeding behavior and song. If there is anyone who is interested in the Atlas Project who can't make these sessions why not come to dinner at La Petite behind the Strawberry Shopping in Mill Valley on Thursday March 17 at 6:30 PM. We will have an owl

walk to Phoenix Lake afterward. Please contact Bob if you plan to come to any of these outings: 4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach, California 94970.

PRBO offers an extensive program of bird study courses ranging from the birds of Bolinas Lagoon, High Sierra, San Blas, Mexico to Costa Rica and Guatemala. Write for their schedule: PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular meeting on February 3.

Dr. Norman Fox reported that he had collected \$70 from the sale of nongame wildlife decals.

Sequoia Audubon will be the host for the July meeting of the Bay Area Audubon Council.

Al Bergeron reported that he had eleven applicants for the two Sequoia scholarships to Audubon Camp of the West.

Dr. Ruth Smith will attend the National Audubon Society Convention in Estes Park, Colorado in June and will be our official delegate.

Sequoia Audubon will undertake a bird census of the Filoli area. Max Krueger agreed to be the chairman of a committee to do this work. Other members will be John Prime and Bob Friday. The committee will recruit the assistance of Barry Sauppe and Peter Metropulos.

Leroy Nelson displayed a copy of Bill Anderson's "Procedure--Pescadero Marsh Project." Mr. Anderson has outlined his suggestions as to how Pescadero Marsh should be handled and developed as a wildlife sanctuary. Charles Newman will distribute copies to appropriate public officials.

There was some discussion about the Citizens Advisory Committee for State Beaches and Parks. Sequoia was represented on this committee some years ago.

The board expressed its gratitude to Jean Jones for her contribution to the Education Fund of her speaking honorarium from the Beresford Garden Club.

The proposed site of the Marina in Belmont Slough has now been moved closer to the Bay and reduced from 600 to 285 berths. The original site will be returned to marsh land.

It was felt that "get well" messages should be sent as appropriate to members of Sequoia Audubon who are ill. Jean Jones volunteered to make the necessary arrangements as such cases are called to her attention.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING: By Sheila Davies

After a brief business meeting, February's program opened with a visit from Audubon No-Name, the Harris' hawk being rehabilitated to return to the wild state under the raptor program conducted by Max Krueger and Cliff Lindquist. Although Cliff brought her into the meeting cradled in his arms because she was a nervous bird, she behaved with perfect poise when placed on Cliff's gloved hand. She graciously allowed us to see her back and tail markings. This mature female is now flying well and will soon be released in southern Arizona to her natural habitat.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman selected the Magpie Jay as the Bird-of-the-Month, illustrated by slides and tapes taken on their recent trip to Mexico. The Magpie Jay is recognized by its long tail, beautiful colors and showy crest. Its call is typically jay-like,

hardly melodious but perhaps sweet to the ears of other jays.

Highlights from recent Sequoia field trips were shown by Roy Nelson: napping Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo, Canada geese over Filoli, and a Tropical Kingbird on the tip of a Bufano penguin beak at Lake Merced.

The "Travels of a Drop of Water" were graphically described by Clerin Zumwalt who is environmental adviser to the Marin Municipal Water District. Marin County residents are restricted to 46 gallons of water per day per person because of the serious drought in Northern California. Mr. Zumwalt says that Marin is setting the pace for all the western states in learning how to ration water. The subject of water conservation is very timely and Mr. Zumwalt feels that it will become increasingly important throughout California.

A tiny drop of water on a blade of grass must travel a long way and go through many processes before it comes out of your kitchen tap. Mr. Zumwalt wasn't "gloom and doom" but did make us aware of the importance of water to the life of our planet and the need to use this resource thriftily. The intricate processes of nature's recycling events, man's water treatment plants, and the return of the water to our bays through waste treatment plants were all clearly explained in layman's language. I thought I was being careful with water but I went home and put a dishpan in my washbasin to collect the cold water while waiting for the water to run hot.

1976

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

1977

Steve Aldrich	366-3603	Vice President, Program Chmn.
Al Bergeron	349-2960	Scholarship Chmn., ACR Director
Victor Crotchett	343-5226	Treasurer
Maryann Danielson	342-6919	ACR Director
Byron Davies	334-2851	Director, ACR Director
Louise Fletcher	591-6804	Secretary
Eila Fox	343-1406	Membership Chmn.
Norman Fox	343-1406	Director
Bob Friday	365-1194	ACR Director
Carmen Gales	349-6927	Publicity Chmn.
Liv Gurevitz	347-0912	Membership Committee
Nancy Horn	342-9902	Education Chmn.
Jean Jones	344-9339	Director
Max Krueger	593-2501	Filoli Census Chmn.
Amy McElhany	343-3219	Co-editor
Ed McElhany	343-3219	Co-editor, Director
Peter Metropulos	591-9898	Sightings Committee
A. E. Montgomery	344-4249	Chmn. Finance
Marie Morgan	341-2552	Hospitality Chmn.
Pearl Morgenstern	341-2510	Field Trip Car Pooling
Fran and Leroy Nelson	593-7941	Field Trip Committee
Charles Newman	697-5601	Habitat Acquisition Chmn., ACR Director
John Prime	573-5889	President, ACR Director
Howard Rathlesberger	697-6611	Chmn. Field Trips, Director
Barry Sauppe	349-8470	Sightings Comm., Christmas Count Chmn.
John Silliman	593-5323	Director
Ruth Smith	322-5279	Director, Conservation Chmn.

Sequoia Chapter Phone: 755-3221

Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 843-2211

CALENDAR

- March 3 Board Meeting, No. Calif. S & L, Burlingame
5 Audubon Canyon Ranch - Opening Day
10 Regular Monthly Meeting - Garden Center
12 Field Trip - Palo Alto Yacht Harbor - Beginners
13 Field Trip - Alum Rock Park
26 Field Trip - Jasper Ridge
- April 2 Field Trip - San Bruno Mountain
7 Board Meeting
12 Field Trip - Mexico - Charles Newman
14 Regular Month Meeting - Will feature Paul Howard,
National Audubon Western Representative, and his
presentation on Alaska
16 Audubon Canyon Ranch - 1st Day for Sequoia Hosts
23 Field Trip - Filoli Gardens (Cost \$3)
30 Field Trip - Mt. Diablo

THE SEQUOIA March, 1977
Sequoia Audubon Society
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010

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