



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 28, No. 2

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
October, 1978

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 3 TUESDAY, 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, OCTOBER 12, THURSDAY, 8:00 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center, located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo.

Farallones and Beyond is the name of a slide show to be presented by Mr. Ron LeValley, until recently attached to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. This beautiful presentation describes in detail the inter-play between the avifauna and the marine environment surrounding the southeast group of the Farallones. These islands appear so deceptively close to the peninsula on a clear day, but they are off-limits to all but a select few, so come see this spellbinding program and vicariously climb over the entire island. Watch the screaming gulls circle overhead as you make your way along a trail on the upper slopes. Bring friends to help you enjoy these neighbors to the west that impale the setting sun.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will present their customary bird-of-the-month.

FIELD TRIPS:

OCTOBER 10, TUESDAY -- TUESDAY BIRDERS TO MARIN HEADLANDS

Meet at Jean Jones' residence - 1417 Sanchez in Burlingame - at 9:00 AM sharp. Hawks will be the subject of the day. We will carpool to Hawk Mountain where we will be on the lookout for several species of migrating hawks. Bring a warm jacket and lunch.

OCTOBER 14, SATURDAY -- MARIN HEADLANDS

Meet at the parking lot at Rodeo Lagoon at 9:00 AM. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and immediately take the Alexander Avenue turnoff. About 0.2 miles turn left through the tunnel and proceed to the Rodeo Lagoon parking lot. We will bird this area for a while and then go to the mountain in search of migrating hawks and warblers. Bring lunch.

LEADERS: Frank Allen 593-9504 and Jean Jones 344-9339.

OCTOBER 24, TUESDAY -- TUESDAY BIRDERS

Meet at Jean Jones' residence - 1417 Sanchez in Burlingame - at 9:00 AM. We will spend the morning observing the beautiful shore birds that winter in San Francisco Bay.

PRESIDENT: Stephen L. Aldrich
74 Nevada Street
Redwood City, CA 94062
Phone: 366-3603

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

OCTOBER 28, SATURDAY -- PESCADERO MARSH

Meet at 9:00 AM in the large Pescadero Beach parking lot on the west side of the highway just south of the bridge. With the recent acquisition of another parcel of land at Pescadero Marsh, Sequoia members are anxious to see the whole area preserved and managed as a year-round viable marsh. For this educational field trip we are fortunate in having Bruce Elliott, Associate Wildlife Manager-Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game, as our leader. Bruce has made an extensive study of the marsh and we will walk the marsh with him until around 2:00 PM. Bring a lunch.

LEADER: Jean Jones 344-9339

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Pescadero Marsh - September 16

The climax of this field trip was the sighting of a female peregrine falcon in the parking lot at Pescadero Beach. Unfortunately, only four of the original thirty-five members were in the parking lot at the time. However, most of the participants were able to view the forty birds that were sighted at Pescadero Marsh and Pescadero Beach.

The birds sighted included red-breasted merganser, Heermann's gull, wandering tattler, surf bird, American bittern, Bairds' sandpiper, northern phalarope, yellowlegs, yellowthroat, and black turnstone.

--Frank & Lorraine Collins

CONSERVATION NEWS:

As Election Day approaches, both Congress and the State Legislature have been rushing to get home to start campaigning. Congress will have done almost no work this month by the early date (due to my vacation) of this writing, since both houses recessed for Labor Day. It is very possible a post-election "lame duck" session will have to be held to get through necessary legislation.

Several important environmental and conservation bills were still pending in both houses. Of particular interest to Audubon members is the Alaska Lands Bill in the Senate (S 1500). If this should not be passed, the President might well use his executive authority under the Antiquities Act to place 122 million acres under the protection of National Monument status or wilderness study under the Bureau of Land Management Organic Act. The 17 (d) (2) provision for lands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act will expire with the 95th Congress. Action to be prevented if at all possible, is any weakening compromise in the rush to meet an early October adjournment deadline.

The Senate had passed appropriations for most of the water projects opposed by President Carter, most of which were already included in the House version. There is, however, still the hope of the threatened Presidential veto. In the same spirit the Senate also passed a resolution instructing the Administration to order resumption of construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit, the North Dakota irrigation project halted by a National Audubon lawsuit. What legal force this will have is questionable, but possible compliance by the Administration could send the case back to court charging violation of the court decision requiring a new Environmental Impact statement.

The House was still working on its version of the Nongame Wildlife Bill (H.R. 10255) which may have a chance of approval in spite of Presidential opposition. It was still questionable which of four amendments would be included by the House in the Endangered Species Act which would not have been out of Committee markup until after the Labor Day recess. The Baker-Culver amendment approved by the Senate was the only one supported by NAS, the others being undesirable in varying degrees.

An unexpected action by the Senate has renewed the steel shot controversy. The Senate Appropriations Committee added a provision to the Interior Appropriations Bill prohibiting the expenditure of any funds to implement or enforce any rules requiring use of steel shot in hunting waterfowl anywhere in the United States. The accompanying statement supporting this action claims that studies on steel shot use are incomplete and implementation of the regulations for its use would "require complete retooling of the shot shell industry as well as a costly enforcement program." The National Wildlife Federation states that, based on seven years of study and research, they know the statement to be incorrect and that the Senate action is not in the best interests of either wild fowl or hunters and will negate the achievements of the program in the past two years. As the House passed the appropriations without this prohibition, the matter will have to be resolved by a House-Senate conference committee. It is to be hoped the Senate will withdraw its prohibition and concur with the House version.

The State Legislature, apparently even more in a hurry than Congress to get home, finished its session before Labor Day leaving unpassed by the Assembly the bill giving financial aid to the special districts and other city and county departments suffering from the drastic cutbacks of Proposition 13. This will mean even further reductions for the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW

-- by Fran Nelson

Today I have ventured back of the xylosma senticosa shrubs and usually when I do I am reminded by the birds that this is not my territory and that I am being terribly disruptive! There is a Brown Towhee scolding although he isn't near enough that I can be sure I am the target. I happen to look down and there, practically at my feet, crouches a cowering juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird! His rainment resembles that of a female House Finch more than that of a Cowbird at this stage. Sitting so still in all that leaf-litter, it is surprising to me that I have seen him.

The Brown Towhee comes closer and now I know I am his target! No mistake! As I glance up at him momentarily, I am hoping he has a young Towhee hidden nearby and that this Cowbird is not his big concern. Quickly, I look back at the Cowbird but it is already too late. He has rapidly taken advantage of that brief moment my eyes were diverted. All I see is the end of a fast moving tail as it vanishes through a small ground-level hole in the fence! Can this be one of the reasons I have seen so few young Towhees and so many young Cowbirds? I hope not!

Two days later comes the horrible truth -- the saddening, maddening, sickening sight of a Towhee feeding a Cowbird right under MY kitchen window! I keep hearing juvenile Towhee calls back of the fence but as yet I have not seen one. Hopefully, they are raising some of their own, too! But, those I hear may belong to another pair.

The next day finds me back of the xylosmas again. This time a Robin has lured me back here. How she has done it is another story. For now, the point is, I am back here looking over the fence to try to see what the Robin's problem is and suddenly there are two Brown Towhees scolding me unmercifully as they come between me and their precious Cowbird baby!

Finally, after a whole week of waiting to know if there is a Towhee family, one adult towhee is feeding a natural offspring here as the other flies off with a beakful of food. They must have at least two of their own because simultaneously with this activity, there are three very young Cowbirds eating from the seed dish. Two of them appear to be the same age and

the right age to "belong" to the Towhees. And I wonder if they have launched two instead of one!

I am not overjoyed at the thought of trading hard-working birds of this or any other species for these cunning parasites! Nature's evolutionary adaptations are most certainly fascinating but not always to our liking.

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 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 -- from Betty Boyd

Laurels for ACR'S VOLUNTEER COUNCIL! At the California Exposition at Sacramento this summer an award of merit was presented to the Volunteer Council of Audubon Canyon Ranch in recognition of their outstanding efforts for the preservation and enhancement of the environment of California.

Staff and volunteers experienced probably their busiest season to date with over 20,500 visitors in attendance - not just "locals" but from such far-away places as Bolivia, Holland, Italy, Japan, Denmark, England, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland and Mexico. Staff and volunteers are to be commended for a wonderful job.

With all the good news we are sad in noting that the Ranch has lost a very valued friend in the recent death of Allan Galloway. Mr. Galloway, a past president of the California Academy of Sciences, was a top authority on the fascinating geology of West Marin. He led many field trips along the San Andreas Fault in the Bear Valley area and contributed to the Ranch the geological display and the map of the geology of West Marin which he, himself, drew.

The Miwok display at the Ranch is richer for the donations of a metate, mortar and pestle from Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Churchill and their son, Bill; from Howard B. Allen a mortar and pestle and from Flora MacLise a small mortar for dyes, together with shell beads, a bird whistle and seven arrowheads. Our thanks and appreciation to all of you.

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

To Sequoia Audubon:

I want to thank Sequoia for awarding me the scholarship to Audubon Camp of the West. It was a fantastic experience for me. The program was truly an exceptional one and I learned an infinite amount of new things about the natural world around us.

Torrey Valley was a remarkable location for a camp designed for learning of the environment. Our session was one of extremes. The first day it rained heavily and hailed for a short while. The next week was warm with cool nights. On the night before our big day hike, we awoke to find the mountains around us beautifully covered with snow.

The staff and campers all worked perfectly together. I gained many friends through this experience. The amount of knowledge gained in these two weeks was amazing. We learned of every part of the natural environment, from golden eagles to the slimy rat-tailed maggot (a fly larvae) found in a pond. We learned how the plants and animals beautifully mesh together in harmony and what a delicate balance there is in nature.

The highlights of the trip included looking across acres of wild flowers on an alpine meadow, finding a herd of over 30 bighorn sheep on an alpine meadow covered with snow, seeing five life birds including the incredible prairie falcon and seeing other new plants and animals too numerous to name.

I would strongly suggest to anyone what a remarkable opportunity it is to participate in the Audubon Camp and encourage anyone interested in our environment to attend the Camp. I am just glad I was able to attend by a scholarship from Sequoia. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Andy Kratter

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING:

Springtime in Australia in October. Ted Chandik, naturalist and ornithologist for the city of Palo Alto, came to tell us about his 1977 trip to the eastern half of that island continent.

He and Mrs. Chandik, beginning their month-long expedition in Sydney, made a counter-clockwise trip including northern and central points which ended in southern Melbourne and Tasmania. The richly varied terrain and climate of the eastern half was chosen since wildlife is minimal in the remainder of that land. One year in preparation, the trip included expert help from local Australian birders. As Ted stated humorously, "The best way to find a bird is to find a birder who knows where that bird is."

Of the 700 plus species of birds recorded for Australia, 375 species were seen. Three hundred and twenty-three were "Life List" birds for Ted. The slides, some of which were his photography, were of strange and beautiful birds. Lamington National Park was the favorite spot. There the vividly colored, crimson Rosella parrot is very common but so beautiful that "it should be a rare bird." Also seen were the Honey Eater and the Bush Turkey. The Honey Eater (35 species observed) fills an ecological niche since there are no hummers in Australia.

The Bush Turkey builds and nests in the likes of a compost heap. The male bird checks daily on the temperature of the egg and covers and uncovers as needed. Does he have a thermometer in his mouth? Ted delights his audience with "bird anecdotes." There is the male Bower bird who dresses up his bower (to attract the female) by painting it with blue berry juice and hauling in various kinds of blue trash. There is the huge frog-mouthed bird which seems to be smiling absurdly for the camera.

Other outstanding birds shown were the beautiful Lyre, a fine imitator who excels the Mockingbird; the Kookaburra, the most famous bird of Australia; the Cassowary, perhaps five feet tall, a version of the ostrich, having powerful legs and large, clawed feet known to have killed humans; the yellow-tailed, black Cockatoo, one of the 88 species of parrots found here.

"I went to Australia to see this bird," Ted said of the Wandering Albatross with an 11 foot wing spread. A passenger on the chartered boat out of Sydney thought to bring along suet and several close-up pictures were obtained as well as aerial shots showing this magnificent bird. Twenty-three species of mammals were also observed on this trip including the charming miniature kangaroos and kuala bears. Thank you, Ted Chandik, for sharing your experiences with us.

Frank Allen introduced the Bird-of-the-Month, the Common (or Wilson) Snipe, which was observed and photographed on the field trip to Sierra Valley Marsh last June. We also heard a recording of its mournful call.

-- C.G.

SEPTEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular monthly meeting on September 5.

Hal Lucas was appointed by the board to serve as a director of Audubon Canyon Ranch. His term will expire in the fall of 1980. Ed McElhany was re-appointed to a three-year term.

Jean Jones reported that the Nunziati property at Pescadero Marsh has been acquired by the State. Maryann Danielson composed a letter from Sequoia Audubon to the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding our recommendations as to the management of the marsh. The letter suggested a new entrance area, new loop trails, observation blinds and a year-round volunteer docent program. A copy was sent to Richard Martyr, National Audubon Western Regional Representative in Sacramento and Maryann will follow up with a visit to Dr. Martyr in Sacramento. Charles Newman suggested that Sequoia consider underwriting the cost of a walkway in the marsh in memory of Dr. Norman Fox.

NATURE GUIDE:

The SPRING 1978 NATURE GUIDE is off the press. Produced by the Tahoma Audubon Society of Tacoma, Washington, with Ilene Marckx as Editor, this handy booklet, now professionally printed, is better than ever. For those of you not familiar with the booklet, a brief explanation:

NATURE GUIDE brings the nature-seeking traveler together with people who have registered themselves as willing to assist the traveler with information, or perhaps a short tour of good birding spots and other wildlife areas, worldwide.

Contained in the booklet are many sketches of wildlife, locations of nature centers in the United States and Canada, maps of the National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges, and of the Canadian National Parks. In addition to the United States list, NATURE GUIDE has now gone international with guides located in New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan, France, Italy, Norway, Argentina, South Africa, England, and Canada--nearly 1000 guides in all. Single copies are \$3.95. For further information, write to: Ms. Ilene Marchx, Editor, NATURE GUIDE, 34915 Fourth Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington 98003.

WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 388-2524

On Saturday, January 20, 1979, the National Audubon Society's Western Education Center will present their Third Annual Symposium. This year's program entitled "OWLS OF THE WEST: Their Ecology and Conservation" will be held at the California Academy of Sciences Morrison Auditorium in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Detailed program description, along with ticket information will be published in the upcoming issues of this newsletter.

The Marin County (Southern) Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Marin Audubon Society and the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is scheduled for Saturday, December 30, 1978. For information on the count please contact Phil Schaeffer at 388-2524.

The National Audubon Society has announced that effective September 1, 1978, there will be a 10% discount on most items in the store for members who show their up-to-date membership card at the time of purchase. With the holiday season ahead of us, please keep the BOOK NEST in mind when making your Christmas gift selection.

WANTED

October, 1978 THE SEQUOIA 7

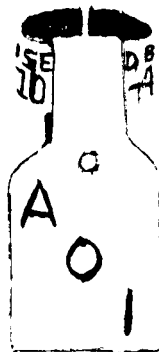
SIGHTINGS OF COLOR-BANDED HERONS AND EGRETS

Approximately 300 Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets and 50 Great Blue Herons have been color-banded in an effort to insure their survival in the south San Francisco Bay. Your help is urgently needed. If you see any of these birds would you write on a postcard —

1. Species seen, and location.
2. Number of tag (if visible).
3. Date and time of observation.
4. Behavior of bird (feeding, roosting, flying).

Please send observations to:

Michael Rigney
Avian Biology Laboratory
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192
U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory
Laurel, MD 20810

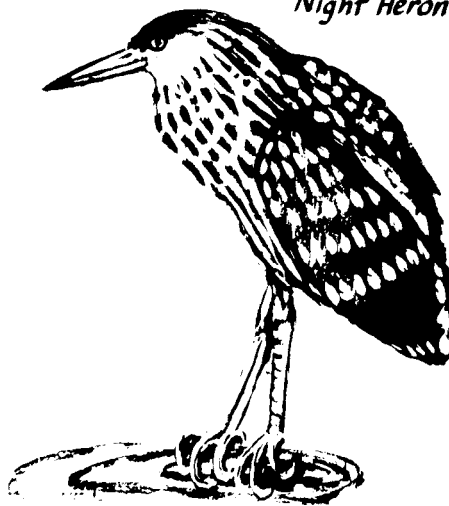


OR

Snowy Egret

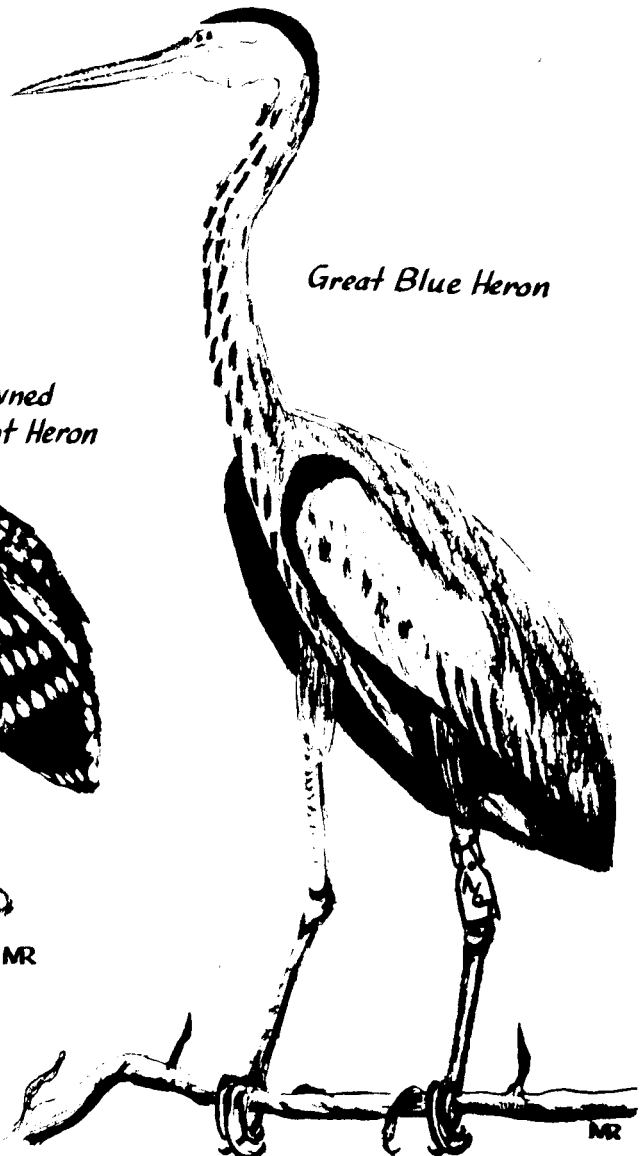


*Black-crowned
Night Heron*



MR

Great Blue Heron



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - NEW DUES SCHEDULE:

Effective September 1, 1978, National Audubon has raised the dues schedule to the following:

Student	\$13.50
Senior Citizen - Individual	13.50
Senior Citizen - Family	15.00
Individual	18.00
Family	21.00

Other categories - Sustaining, Supporting, Life, etc. - remain unchanged. (Membership in National Audubon includes membership in Sequoia Audubon Society.)

National Audubon sends to our chapter a portion of the above dues ranging from \$3.50 for Student to \$100.00 for Life memberships. However, this subvention is reduced by \$3.00 for first year memberships OR renewals later than 6 months after expiration unless the application indicates that it was obtained through the direct effort of Sequoia Audubon. It is therefore important that (1) new membership applications be identified as originating with Sequoia Audubon and (2) expiring memberships be renewed promptly. Please refer any questions to membership chairman, Jean Jones at 344-9339.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Local Chapter SEQUOIA New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____

Annual Membership Dues Effective September 1, 1978 (Check one)

Individual Senior Citizen	\$ 13.50	Sustaining	\$ 30.00
Family Senior Citizen	15.00	Supporting	50.00
Individual Student	13.50	Contributing	100.00
Individual	18.00	Donor	250.00
Family	21.00	Life	1000.00

(THE SEQUOIA - Newsletter of Sequoia Audubon Society)

A subscription to THE SEQUOIA for non-members is \$2.00 per year. There are ten issues each year, September through June.

If you are moving within San Mateo County please send the SEQUOIA editors your change of address so you will not miss any copies. (THE SEQUOIA is sent third-class mail and is not forwarded.) If you are moving away from San Mateo County and want to transfer your membership to your new Audubon Chapter, please include your request with your change of address to National as this transfer is made only upon specific request from the subscriber.

PESCADERO MARSH UPDATE: by Maryann Danielson

The State Public Works Board, at its last meeting, approved the expenditure of money to acquire an additional 172 acres of Pescader Marsh land. This leaves only one parcel of land, the marshy area along Pescadero Road, yet to be acquired. As many of you know, Sequoia Audubon contributed \$100,000 to the State for acquisition of this marsh.

In addition to the acquisition process, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been working on a development plan for the San Mateo Coastal areas, including Pescadero Marsh. Jean Jones and members of her committee have been attending the planning meetings to provide information and suggestions to help in marsh preservation, development and use. Committee members have requested that in addition to completing the acquisition as soon as possible, the State initiate a management plan for the marsh which would enhance the area, both for the birds and for the people. It is hoped that a good management plan will provide better views of the birds, perhaps by using screened trails and blinds, and by keeping the water levels at a height that will attract a wide variety of bird species.

Developing a plan to provide for recreation needs on the Coastside is not simple. An adequate water supply, parking areas and sanitary facilities are but some of the problems. Your committee is pressing to have Pescadero Marsh developed as an educational recreation area and hopes that Sequoia members will stand ready to help in this project.

There will be a field trip to the marsh on October 28 to explore the newly acquired section as well as to assess the other sections of the marsh. Bruce Elliott of the State Fish and Game Department and Dr. Richard Martyr, Audubon's Western Field Representative, will be there to join in on the discussion of problems and possibilities for the marsh. Why don't you plan to attend?

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY:

On Page 9 of the september SEQUOIA there appeared a description of the PRBO first annual BIRD-A-THON. This event, on October 7 will, it is hoped, provide some funds for various worthwhile PRBO projects. Phone PRBO at 868-1221 and find out how you can participate either as an observer or as a sponsor or both.

There will be a new roster of Sequoia officers, directors, committee chairmen and committee members in the November SEQUOIA. In the meantime, please correct the address for Ruth Smith on your September list to 120 Cornell Road, Menlo Park, 94025. Her telephone number remains the same.

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER SEQUOIA IS OCTOBER 15.

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

September 30 - Field Trip - Point Reyes (See Sept. SEQUOIA)

October 3 - Board Meeting
7 - Point Reyes Observatory Bird-A-Thon
10 - Tuesday Birders to Marin Headlands
12 - Monthly Meeting at the Garden Center
14 - Field Trip - Marin Headlands
24 - Tuesday Birders - San Francisco Bay
28 - Field Trip - Pescadero Marsh

November 7 - Board Meeting
9 - Monthly Meeting at the Garden Center

THE SEQUOIA October, 1978
Sequoia Audubon Society
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Burlingame, CA 94010

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