

## Calendar for April

- April 12 Sunday -- Field trip, Moss Landing  
 April 25 Saturday -- Screen Tour, Sequoia H.S. Aud., Redwood City  
 May 2 Saturday -- Field trip, Stevens Creek

## FIELD TRIP - April 12.

Charles and Viola Anderson of the Monterey Peninsula and Golden Gate Audubon Societies have agreed to lead a field trip to the Moss Landing area for our Society on April 12. Meet at the main gate of Sequoia High School (El Camino and Broadway, Redwood City) for departure promptly at 8:00 a.m. Don't forget your lunch.

## SCREEN TOUR -- April 25. Sequoia High School Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.

Walter Shackleton will present his color film "Oddities in Nature." Walking ferns, shooting stars, flying squirrels, praying mantis--these are but four of the fifty-four varied "oddities" revealed in this film.

## FIELD TRIP - May 2

Aveline Butler is scouting the Stevens Creek region for a field trip, May 2. Assemble at the main gate of Sequoia High School at 8:30 a.m. Stevens Creek can offer unusual birding so it's worth while to bring your lunch for an all day trip.

## BUTANO FIELD TRIP

J. Ed. McClellan has promised to arrange a field trip to the Butano forest for some time in May.

If you desire transportation for field trips, call Emerson 6-7661.

## ASILOMAR CONVENTION

Mrs. Wesley Wright was the only member of the Sequoia Audubon Society whom we met at Asilomar during our two days but we hope others were able to attend some portion of this fine meeting. As expected, exhibits and discussion sessions were outstanding.

The tide pool trip, one of the features of the convention, retained its usual fascination. However, the real highlight of the field trips for us was the 21 sea otters which Charlie Anderson had pinpointed, riding comfortably on their backs in the rollers just a few hundred feet off the cliffs some three miles south of Pt. Lobos. In the 20x 'scope they were brought up close enough to permit inspection of their white whiskers and four stubby legs stuck straight up in the air. Members of our party who drove a few miles further south counted a total of 75 otters!

B. Neil Dickinson

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Members may wish to express an opinion soon to the California Fish and Game Commission (Sacramento) concerning the special permit granted to the San Diego Zoo for the capture of a pair of California Condors. There seems to be no good reason to jeopardize further the already precarious future of this native Californian merely for the aggrandizement of a zoo or its officials.

## SCREEN TOURS 1953-54

Word has been received from Wayne Short of the National Audubon Society that the request of our Society for the 1953-54 Audubon Screen Tours has been granted. Only 200 cities in the United States and Canada can be allowed this popular series during the coming season.

## REPORT ON FIELD TRIP, March 14, 1953.

## SHORE BIRDS

Members of the Society assembled in front of Hiller's Helicopter plant, Palo Alto, at 8:30 a.m. Neil Dickinson took the lead, across Dumbarton bridge to the eastern approach, where he directed us into good parking spaces with excellent views.

Wading and swimming birds were plentiful and often close enough for good naked eye observation. Spring plumage, aided by what must be a fine diet, has done a lot for these birds, especially the Avocets whose winter-grey heads and necks were now turned a handsome cinnamon beige.

The entourage drove on around the Bay by way of Milpitas to Zanker Road. There were no white-tailed kites, as expected, but they may have been lost in the flocks of short-billed gulls and black-bellied plovers following the plows. At one stop, from a nearby barnyard, an early mockingbird proclaimed his presence to the unbeliever.

Cinnamon teals, while personally ornate, have no aesthetic sense and blissfully paddled their beautiful bodies amid rusting tin cans and decaying garbage at Alviso. Shore birds and ducks hung around in numbers presumably waiting for the town to settle a few more inches so that high tide can spill over the dikes now protecting the village. Maybe water birds are ambitious to live in houses.

Birds observed: Western Grebe, Great blue Heron, Farallon Cormorant, American Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Redhead, Canvas-back, Scaup, American Golden-eye, Ruddy Duck, Kestrel, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, California Gull, Short-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Band-tailed Pigeon, Cliff Swallow, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Whitecrowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Mockingbird.

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP, Mar. 22. SKUNK CABBAGES - *Lysichiton kamschatcense*.

A group of members celebrated the First Day of Spring (actually March 20th this year) with a field trip rendezvous on Butano Creek. J. Ed. McClellan of Burlingame was leader and guided the group unerringly to the place where the Skunk Cabbages grow.

The clumps of large tropically lush green leaves stood in a wide sodden wet marshy terrace above the Butano Creek stream interspersed with occasional bunches of reed and nutgrass sedge, and accompanied in their show by hundreds of Peeper frogs all croaking at once. The Skunk Cabbages were in bloom, the one or two large yellow flowers somewhat resembling Calà lilies, for, as Mr. McClellan explained, they belong to the same family, the Arums (Araceae).

The Western Skunk Cabbage, one of the only two known native species of Arums found on the Pacific Coast, may grow in cool swampy places anywhere from California to Siberia but is quite rare in this area. An outstanding difference between its blossom and that of the yellow Calà is that the Skunk Cabbage blossom's spathe is separated from the spadix, while in the Calà the two parts are tightly connected. It is due to this peculiarity that the botanical name for the Western Sk.C., "*Lysichiton*", is a composite of two Greek words meaning "Loose Undershirt."

Redwood sorrel and wild ginger carpeted the canyon floor along with sessile and coast trilliums, yellow violets, blue hound's tongue, brown spotted mission bells (*fritillaria*) wild bleeding heart, fairy bells, slim solomon, and fat solomon. Of the shrubs, red elderberry and oso berry were in full bloom along with hazel and alder catkins.

Bird for the Day was the Winter Wren. A number of these rarely seen brown bits of birds sang, with high pitched delicacy and unexpected sweetness, from the mossy twigs and stumps under giant redwoods.

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President - B. Neil Dickinson -- Sec. Treas. - Mrs. J. H. Lorenz -- Editor - Dorothy Lilly  
EM. 6-7661 DI 3-9301 LY3-3504

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the Sequoia Audubon Society to be held on February 23, 1954, at 8:00 P.M., in the Junior Hall of the San Carlos Community Church at Arroyo and Walnuts Sts. in San Carlos.

Many important decisions must be made:

1. Election of Directors and Officers.
2. Shall we continue the Screen Tours?
3. Shall we incorporate our Society?
4. Do we wish to participate with the National Audubon Society in sponsoring the Greco Island Wildlife Sanctuary?

Be present if you possibly can to participate in directing the future of the Sequoia Audubon Society.

A nominating committee has been appointed consisting of Mrs. James Butler, Chairman, Mrs. David Sears, and Mrs. Donald Lilly.

If it is impossible for you to attend this meeting please fill out and mail the proxy form given below to B. Neil Dickinson, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City, California.

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P R O X Y

I, \_\_\_\_\_, member of the Sequoia Audubon Society, appoint Mrs. James Butler to act as my agent in transacting such business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting of the Sequoia Audubon Society to be held February 23, 1954, at 8:00 P.M. in the Junior Hall of the San Carlos Community Church, and to vote as my proxy in the election of Directors and other Officers provided for in the by-laws.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_