

We are happy to announce that our Society will be represented at the San Mateo County Fiesta, August 6-13. Our booth will be No. 119 located in the Pacific Building and an Audubon Photography Tour will be on display there. If you can devote a few hours to help staff the booth, please telephone Mrs. Valentine, DI 3-3498.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS 1954-55

Mrs. Emily Valentine, Screen Tour Chairman, announces the following Audubon Screen Tour programs for the coming season:

Friday, October 29	William Waggoner, Jr.	WANDERLAND
Friday, November 19	Bert Harwell	CANADA WEST
Thursday, December 30	Charles Mohr	OUTDOOR ALMANAC
Friday, March 11	Fran Wm. Hall	SOUTH TO SIESTA LAND
Friday, April 1	O. Pettingill, Jr.	TIP O' THE MITTEN

WHAT ABOUT DINOSAUR?

It is still not too late to write to your Congressman on the Dinosaur National Monument issue. The showdown will come on the floor of the House.

Echo Park and Split Mountain dams are not necessary now, and will probably never be necessary. Alternate sites exist. The Yampa and Green River canyons, unimpaired, are necessary now and will undoubtedly become increasingly necessary for what they can do to thrill, inspire, and renew mankind.

PERSONAL NOTES

The Hooded Orioles are nesting in the weeping willow tree at the Monroe's in Redwood City for the third year. The female appeared for the first time this year on February 4. By April 9 the pair were nest building, but the first nest was destroyed by a high wind. A second nest was immediately constructed and two fledglings left the nest on June 15. The adult pair began construction of a new nest on July 2 and we hope will succeed in raising another brood as they did last year.

Mrs. James Butler is doing her usual strenuous round of Nature Counseling for Girl Scout Day Camps in this area. She and Mrs. Joseph Lorenz spent one day labeling plants on a nature trail at Woodhaven.

Mrs. Donald Wild invited a group of Girl Scouts who were studying for their Nature Merit Badges to visit her garden and study at close range the birds coming to her feeding trays.

Darryl Morrison, one of our high school members, prepared a discussion on "How to Build Bird Houses" for the Cub Scouts of San Carlos Community Church. He presented the Den Mothers with construction plans and specific measurements for bird houses for a number of different birds nesting on the Peninsula. Darryl is spending the summer as Junior Nature Counselor at Camp Unalayee, the inter-racial camp of the American Friends Society at Ben Lomond.

Dorothy Lilly reports that on June 28 she had the unusual experience of watching a pair of Yellow Warblers feed a Cowbird fledgling in her garden in San Carlos. The fledgling perched on a limb "blurbling" almost continuously while the Yellow Warblers rushed about at break-neck speed trying to collect enough aphids to satisfy the young monster three times the size of its foster parents.

We welcome as new members: Miss Carol Boyd, Mr. John Galten, Mrs. Harold G. Larsen, Mr. W. R. Keyes, Jr., Mrs. Richard R. Hanna, Mr. Donald G. Valentine, Mrs. W. P. Fuller, Jr., Mrs. Barbara D. Stirton, and new Junior members: Jim Larsen and Bart Kinne.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Monthly Meeting, Redwood City Public Library, March 25

Bob and Margaret Lebkicher showed colored wild flower slides they had taken in this area. Besides being beautiful pictures they were doubly interesting and entertaining as we had a chance to refresh our memories on the specimens seen on the Butano Canyon field trip. In order to emphasize the fact that a great deal of capital outlay is not involved in enjoying this hobby, Bob also exhibited and explained the equipment they had used in taking the pictures.

Before the program Jed McClellan showed some of his marvelous collection of books and pictures on wild flowers and native shrubs and trees.

Audubon Spring Conference, April 3-4

The Audubon Spring Conference at the YMCA Camp in La Honda was well attended by representatives from all of the Audubon Societies in Northern California. Men who are associated with national and state efforts to conserve and extend the natural resources and invaluable recreation areas of our country spoke of the efforts being made and the progress so far achieved.

Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the University of California, said: "I think that outdoor recreation already has established a place of permanence in the American way of life. Irrespective of economic pressures on resources of all kinds, our civilization is going to find a way of preserving the facilities for hunting, fishing and outdoor vacationa.... If our energies as defenders of these facilities will hold out during the remaining period of social growing up, they will ultimately be accepted as a completely defensible part of our mature culture."

Mr. Carl Buchheister, Vice-president of the National Audubon Society, spoke of the work of the Audubon camps, which, in teaching people to know and understand and love their environment, are contributing to and enlarging the interest of many people in conservation. When men understand the interrelation of all nature and its great usefulness to mankind, even what beauty does to the seeing eye and the receiving heart, they are less eager to destroy or to barter away the great heritage of our nation.

Our society was invited to decorate the tables for lunch and an attractive effect was achieved by using arrangements of branches on which were perched small felt handmade birds. (Orders for these birds may be placed with Karole Kinne, the proceeds accruing to the Sequoia Audubon Society.)

On Sunday, April 4, a large group enjoyed the field trip to San Mateo County Memorial Park and Pescadero Beach which was led by Sandy Sprunt of the San Francisco Audubon Office. This trip provided an excellent opportunity for becoming acquainted with Audubon members of other branches.

Field Trip, April 25

The Sunday afternoon trip to see the shore birds on the mud flats near Pan American Airport was most enjoyable. The weather was unusually mild and never was birding more easy. We sat on a sand bank and the incoming tide brought the birds in practically under our feet. Red-backed sandpipers were in their spring plumage. One of the interesting sights of the day was a mother and baby sea lion on a wharf out in the Bay.

Bird list for the day: marbled godwit, killdeer, housefinch, double-crested cormorant, red-tailed hawk, barn swallow, scaup, western grebe, coot, dowitcher, Forster's tern, red-backed, western, and least sandpipers, canvas-back, great blue heron, song sparrow, kestrel.

Field Trip, May 22

The popular trip to see the rhododendrons in Butano was well attended again this year. The day was perfect and the rhododendrons very showy. Jed McClellan's knowledge of plants always makes the trip educational as well as enjoyable. This time we went beyond the air strip into some of the more wooded areas of the forest. In the afternoon members and guests gathered in informal groups to picnic on the beach, explore Butano Ranch, or enjoy a return visit to Memorial Park.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

February 13: Saturday morning bird walk in the vicinity of Windsor Dr. and Devonshire Rd. in San Carlos. Aveline Butler has planned an easy walk to study the birds commonly seen on the Peninsula. This walk will be of particular interest to beginning bird watchers. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the Southern Pacific station at San Carlos Avenue and El Camino.

February 20: Audubon Screen Tour, Burlingame High School Auditorium, 8:00 P.M. In "Once Upon an Island" Robert Hermes brings us dramas of life upon miniature worlds set upon the waters. Stars of the show include: eider ducks, puffins, murre, cormorants and various terns, seals and whales.

February 23: Annual Meeting 8:00 P.M. in Junior Hall, San Carlos Community Church, Arroyo and Walnut Sts. in San Carlos. The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club will present a color motion picture of the Dinosaur National Monument, "Wilderness River Trail." This picture depicts the grandeur of the Yampa and Green Rivers where these streams cut through Dinosaur National Monument -- an area now threatened with inundation by a dam which could be more cheaply constructed elsewhere to provide a comparable amount of water storage capacity and hydroelectric power.

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.

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 _____

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

February 3: Annual Meeting in the San Mateo County Junior Museum at Coyote Point at 8:00 pm. This is a good time to see the nature exhibits, both live and otherwise, and to hear from Mr. Williams. There will be election of officers.

J. Ed McClellan will lead two field trips in February:

February 12: Along the Sawyer's Grove Road. Meet at 8:30 am. at Crystal Spring's Dam on Skyline (Skyline near Crystal Spring's Rd.) for a morning trip to look for water fowl and varied thrushes before they start northward, and perhaps to see some early arrivals from the south.

February 26: To San Mateo County Memorial Park. Jed believes that the fire willows should be near their prime about this date. Meet at 8:30 am. at La Honda Road on Skyline. Trip will end at noon but lunch may be advisable if you feel that you, too, will succumb and linger on with the group who always remain into the early afternoon.

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A nominating committee has been appointed consisting of Miss Ruth Breckenridge, Chairman, Mrs. Walter E. Bruns, and Mrs. Ida B. Smith. Suggestions for nominations for members of the Board of Directors and officers may be submitted to this committee by any member of the Society.

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

P R O X Y

I, _____, member of the Sequoia Audubon Society, appoint Miss Ruth Breckenridge 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 on February 3, 1955, at 8:00P.M. in the San Mateo County Junior Museum on Coyote Point, and to vote as my proxy in the election of Directors and other Officers provided for in the by-laws.

(Signed) _____

Date _____

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Your Board of Directors is happy to report that the Audubon Screen Tours have been well received this year. Mrs Emily Valentine has done an outstanding job as Screen Tour Chairman. In August, 1954, with the help of a good many members, she conducted a booth at the San Mateo County Fiesta which gave much publicity to the Sequoia Audubon Society and the Screen Tours! More than three hundred fifty people signed a request for Screen Tour information and/or membership blanks! Financially, the Screen Tours will, at least, break even this year, justifying our decision of a year ago to continue our efforts to bring this cultural contribution to the Peninsula.

There have been two evening meetings, in addition to the Screen Tours, since the annual meeting last February. On March 25, in the Redwood City Library, Bob and Margaret Lebkicher showed us the beautiful wild flower slides they have made in this area, and on September 23 Mr. Hice of the San Mateo County Junior Museum met with us in the San Mateo Library to tell us about the activities of the Junior Museum.

Of the many field trips of the year, the most popular was the one to Pulgas Temple and Crystal Spring's Lakes on November 13. About forty members and guests enjoyed the fine birding on this beautiful Saturday morning.

One of the most interesting field trips was the one to Memorial Park on October 16 when we saw the fruits of many of the plants we had observed in flower early in the spring.

The trip to the new Arroyo Court Sanctuary in San Mateo on March 6 also brought out a large group of members who were interested in seeing this area which has been set aside as a wildlife and native plant sanctuary by the city of San Mateo.

On March 20, we saw the Skunk Cabbages in Butano Canyon on a rainy Saturday and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip. It was our pleasure to have ten Scouts of Troup 165 and their leaders as our guests on that day.

Three very interesting trips were made to study shore birds: On April 25 to Pan American Airport, September 25 to Dumbarton Bridge, and October 31 to Millbrae Avenue at Old Bayshore Highway.

CONTINUING ATTACKS ON THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Attempts to secure congressional approval of the Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument will be renewed this session.

The Merced Irrigation District is reported to have revived plans for a hydro-electric power project on the south fork of the Merced River which would flood a portion of Yosemite National Park.

Still not rescinded is the Winter Park Authority Act set up by the California Legislature in 1945 permitting construction of a tramway up into the plateau where the primitive area of the San Jacinto State Park is located.

Pressure is constantly being exerted to exclude from the Olympic National Park, for lumbering purposes, the finest portion of its unique rain forest.

A total of twenty-six dams have been proposed inside the boundaries of National Parks and Monuments.

Do your State and National representatives know how you stand on these matters?

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Save one day - more if possible - for the West Coast Audubon Convention, April 2-5, at Asilomar.

Screen Tour Dates: March 11 and April 1. Bring your friends.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

April 1: Screen Tour, Burlingame High School Auditorium, 8:00 P.M. This is a last minute note to remind you to invite your family and friends to attend the final Audubon Screen Tour of this season. "Wildlife Down East" will be brought to us by Carl W. Buchheister, Vice-President of the National Audubon Society.

A dinner honoring Mr. Buchheister will be given preceding the Screen Tour. You will enjoy this opportunity to meet personally one of our fine Screen Tour lecturers and National Officers. For information concerning reservations telephone Mrs. Dickinson, EMerson 6-7661.

April 3-4: Audubon Spring Conference, San Francisco Y.M.C.A. Camp, near La Honda. The Sequoia Audubon Society is fortunate that the Audubon Spring Conference is being held in its backyard. Many of us will be able to attend one or both days.

We are not scheduling an evening meeting for April and will consider the April 4 field trip of the Conference as one of our field trips for April so that our April calendar will not be too full.

The conference on conservation on Saturday should be very inspiring and the field trip on Sunday with some of our National experts as leaders will be most enjoyable and informative.

The enclosed folder gives detailed information on the Conference. Mail your request for reservations promptly if you wish luncheon reservations for Saturday.

April 25: Sunday afternoon field trip to see the migrating shore birds on the mud flats near the airport. Meet at 1:30 P.M. at the flagpole in front of Pan American Airways administration building. Bob Lebkicher will be our leader. (This is the first day of Daylight Saving Time so remember to set your clock ahead so you won't be late.

Did you notice that March "Sunset" had a very interesting article on Shore Birds?

Your friends are always welcome at our meetings and on field trips. Persons working as counselors for Girl or Boy Scouts should find our activities particularly helpful for their nature projects.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Arroyo Court Sanctuary Visited

On March 6 Mrs. V. J. Knudsen led a group of about forty members and friends on an inspection trip of the newly created Sanctuary in San Mateo lying along Arroyo Court.

After a brief recapitulation, by Mrs. Knudsen, of the events leading to the establishment of the sanctuary, the group investigated the native trees and plants already growing along the creek and watched and listened for birds which were abundant although mostly out of sight in the growth. Perhaps the fact that the day was overcast kept the birds under cover, thus forcing us to depend upon our ears for identification.

Especially gratifying was the keen interest and the contributions made to the day's observations by the many junior members present. Bart Kinne and Joe Dickinson located a pair of titmice feeding young in a nest hole in a dead tree. They also found a bush-tit's nest in a tree situated near the creek bed. Feeding activities were also going on at this site. Finally, Joe and Bart observed a white-breasted nuthatch.

Noted during our morning tour of the Sanctuary were Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds, flicker, scrub-jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, bush-tit, slender-billed nuthatch, wren-tit, robin, varied thrush, hermit thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, Audubon's warbler, house finch, brown towhee, junco, white-crowned, golden-crowned, fox, and song sparrows.

San Mateo is to be congratulated upon possessing such a splendid nucleus around which to build a wildlife and native plant sanctuary and upon having a superintendent of their park system such as Mr. Pitcher who recognizes the value of maintaining a primitive area right in the heart of San Mateo.

Field Trip to Butano Canyon

In spite of the unpromising weather a caravan of eight cars (35 people) made the trek to Butano Canyon on March 20. Among our guests were Mrs. John Ziegler of the Girl Scouts and Scoutmasters Bill Abrill and Wesley Hoxie of Bou Scout Troup 165 of the San Carlos Community Church and ten of their Scouts who are studying for nature merit badges. The boys are to be commended for their excellent behavior as well as their interest and enthusiasm. We shall be happy to have them join us again.

The Skunk Cabbage were in full display although not full grown. As Jed McClellan explained, when the leaves have attained their full size of one-half to one and one-half feet in width and three to four feet in height the blossoms are hidden. The flowering spadix is one to three inches long enclosed in a bright yellow spathe similar to a Calla Lily.

Jed had given us each a list of fifth plants to look for in the canyon and we were able to find almost all of them as well as add a few others. In spite of the water dripping down the back of our necks we were all enthusiastic about what we had seen and learned.

S E Q U O I A A U D U B O N S O C I E T Y

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

March 6: Saturday morning bird walk to Arroyo Court Sanctuary. This is the new bird sanctuary which has been established through the cooperation of the Garden Study Club of the Peninsula, the Sequoia Audubon Society and the San Mateo City Council.

Meet at Third Ave. and Arroyo Court in San Mateo at 9:00 A.M. Third Ave. is the main street where the Benjamin Franklin Hotel is located. Turn west off El Camino onto Third and drive about one block to the junction of Arroyo Court. There we will park our cars and explore the sanctuary on foot with Mrs. V. H. Knudsen as our leader.

March 20: Annual trip to see the Skunk Cabbages. Jed McClellan's Butano Creek walk to see the skunk cabbages in bloom and other interesting plant life of this wilderness area is a must for anyone who has gone on it before. Come along and see if you don't feel the same way about this chance to see the first blossoms of spring in the company of a man who knows and appreciates them.

It seems advisable to concentrate our caravan. If possible, arrange to fill your car yourself or call the Dickinsons - EM 6-7661 and indicate that you wish transportation or that your car is available, so that arrangements can be made. The caravan of filled cars will rendezvous at 8:30 A.M. at the juncture of Skyline and the road to Half Moon Bay and follow Jed's car from there on. Might tuck a sandwich into your pocket in case we linger past noon.

March 25: Monthly Meeting. Redwood City Public Library, 8:00 P.M. Bob and Margaret Lebkicher will show their wild flower slides as a very appropriate aftermath of the Butano Forest walk. If you have slides of wildflowers in this area bring them along to share with us.

At our monthly meetings we plan to provide special exhibits of material about various nature interests. Members who have favorite books and pictures on western trees, flowers and plants in general, please bring them for the display table on the 25th and be ready to tell us about them.

April 1: Screen Tour. Burlingame High School Auditorium, 8:00 P.M. "Wildlife Down East" is the final Audubon Screen Tour of the 1953-54 series. Carl W. Buchheister, Vice-President of the National Audubon Society brings us the color and zest of "Down East" in New England; its birds, mammals, flowers; the sea-life and stream-life.

Our Screen Tours have not been a financial success this year but the interest is growing. Let's all rally round to spread the word of this fine educational entertainment. Do you know that many of the Audubon Screen Tour photographers have made pictures which appeared in Walt Disney's nature shorts? Tell your friends about the wonderful pictures they are missing, or, better yet, bring a friend on April 1.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Monthly Meeting, January 26, Junior Hall, San Carlos Community Church
Because there is a demand from Boy and Girl Scout leaders, schools, clubs and hobby programs for people who can share with others their nature hobbies, Aveline Butler arranged a program to emphasize two points:

1. You don't have to be an expert before you can share your interest in nature. If you know 5 birds; share 5 birds.
2. There is a wealth of material available to help you increase your knowledge and to help you interest others.

On large tables and screens she displayed bird books, pamphlets, mimeographed material, colorful Western Bird Cards and Western Wild Flower Cards and other interesting resource material which is available

at National Audubon Office, 693 Sutter St. in San Francisco. To top off the evening she showed and talked about colored slides of familiar birds. These slides, made from the Roger Tory Peterson paintings for the Western Bird Card series, can be rented or purchased from the San Francisco Audubon office for use in programs to increase awareness of our local bird life.

Beginners Birdwalk, February 13, Windsor Road, San Carlos

It was wonderful weather for ducks! The nine brave souls who turned out for the first local Saturday morning bird walk might have been more comfortable if they had had the oiled plumage of ducks. It did not seem to quench their enthusiasm though, a sure sign they were dyed in the wool bird watchers. Because of the almost steady downpour, we took refuge in the Nick Weber's garage at the foot of their wooded hillside on Windsor Drive. There, protected from the drip, we waited for Jed McClellan's bird caller to squeak the birds to us. It really happened just like that - the birds, unaware of our lurking there, came filtering down through the bare branches - chickadees, titmice, a ruby crowned kinglet. A scrub jay gleamed from the wet pavement and was joined by brown towhees. A spotted towhee stopped by to check on them and, wonder of wonders, varied thrushes hopped into the roadway or sat on low bare boughs in full view of our glasses and gave us the top thrill of the morning.

After an hour or so, since there was no let up in the rain, the group accepted the invitation to go to the Butlers' home for coffee and drier bird watching from their windows looking out on feeding stations.

List for the day - 17 out of the 30 reasonably hoped for:
chickadee, titmouse, ruby crowned kinglet, scrub jay, brown towhee, spotted towhee, varied thrush, thrasher(singing), golden crowned, white crowned and song sparrows, cedar waxwings, robin, green backed goldfinch, meadow lark, black phoebe, Anna hummingbird.

Annual Meeting, February 23, Junior Hall, San Carlos Community Church.

The Annual Meeting was well attended by an enthusiastic membership whose evident interest in the affairs of the Society augurs well for our future. Officers and Directors elected for the coming year are:

B. Neil Dickinson, President
Mrs. Emily Valentine, Vice-President
Bob Lebkicher, Treasurer
Mrs. Oleta Dickinson, Secretary
Directors: J. Ed McClellan
Mrs. Alice Lorenz
Mrs. Karole Linne

Despite the rather poor results obtained financially with the current Screen Tours it was decided to continue the series for another year. The feeling was general that we should not sacrifice the following which we have built up for the Tours. Bob Lebkicher offered to underwrite the whole of the working capital necessary to inaugurate the 1954-55 Tours - clear evidence of the importance which he and Margaret attach to this activity of the Society. It is up to the rest of us members to make good this faith in the Screen Tours.

Mrs. Emily Valentine will be the Screen Tour Chairman for the coming year. Other committee chairmen appointed were: Mrs. James Butler, Program, and Mrs. V. H. Gallichotte, Membership

Through the kindness of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club we were shown a color motion picture of a boat trip through the canyon of the Yampa in Dinosaur National Monument - "Wilderness River Trail". Mr. E. H. Covey of the Sierra Club presented the picture and answered questions from the audience. The wonderful scenery and Mr. Covey's capable presentation of the issues involved make us more than ever eager to preserve this outstanding part of our National Park System. Have you written your Congressman? (See our Feb. bulletin)

We welcome as new members: Mrs. Ida B. Smith, Mr. M. Mays Heiny, Mrs. Charles S. Martin, Mrs. Arlington Castagnino, Mrs. Granville Browning, Max R. Schreiber, Miss Ruth Breckenridge, Mr. Earl S. Coleman.

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Report of Activities

Field Trip to Moss Landing April 12

Moss Landing always provides superlative birding and under the expert guidance of Charles and Viola Anderson of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society another degree of comparison should be invented to describe the experience. The trip included the salt ponds and beach at Moss Landing, a site on the Pajaro River, and the Sea Cliff Drive at Santa Cruz. Perhaps the high lights of this day were the sight of a golden eagle floating down the Pajaro Valley and a colony of bank swallows diving into their nest holes in a sand bank bordering the Pajaro Valley.

List of birds for the day: brant; common loon; horned, eared, and western grebes; double crested and Baird's cormorants; great blue heron; American and snowy egrets; pigeon guillemot, Black-crowned night heron; pintail; cinnamon teal; shoveller; scaup; white-winged and surf scoters; brown pelican; turkey vulture; red-tailed, sparrow, and marsh hawks; golden eagle; California quail; coot; snowy, semipalmated, and black-bellied plovers; killdeer; sanderling; long-billed and Hudsonian curlews; willet; greater yellow-legs; least, red-backed, and western sandpipers; dowitcher; marbled godwit; avocet; glaucous-winged, western, herring, California, ring-billed, short-billed, and Bonaparte's gulls; Forster's tern; mourning dove; Anna's hummingbird; rufous hummingbird; California or Acorn woodpecker; black phoebe; violet-green, bank, rough-winged, and cliff swallows; scrub jay; crow; shrike; orange crowned and pileolated warblers; English sparrow; meadowlark; red-wing and Brewer's blackbirds; purple and house finches; goldfinch; brown towhee; savannah, white-crowned, and song sparrows.

J. Ed McClellan Conducts an Unusual Tour of the Butano Area May 24

Jed McClellan, past president of the Sequoia Audubon Society, led a trip into the highlands overlooking the primitive area of redwoods on Butano Creek which is slated (we hope) to be a future California State Park. The western rhododendrons, rare this far south, were in full bloom were the highlight of this field trip.

Birds were of secondary interest on this day. A few of those present made a return trip into the lower canyon of Butano Creek to see the Skunk Cabbage still blooming.

Jed is probably the best amateur botanist in the Bay Area and any tour which he arranges is well worth while for those who would like to know the common or scientific names of our California natives as well as a number of interesting facts about their use and position in the plant kingdom.

Sequoia Audubon Society has Exhibit at Woodside Flower Show May 31

Mr. and Mrs. Lionel B. King of Woodside arranged for exhibition space for your Society at the Village Flower Show in Woodside and also planned and helped arrange our exhibit which portrayed a bird sanctuary. Very few props were required to supplement the natural background of the creek adjacent to which our space was housed. Many visitors had a lively interest in the array of feeders, bird-baths, bird shelters, and books shown. Others good-naturedly conceded with Pogo that we were the "finest collection of bird brains" in San Mateo County.

Hooded Oriole Creates Precedent in Redwood City Area

Not so many years ago the absolute northern range for the hooded oriole was drawn at Santa Barbara. However, in recent times it has nested regularly as far north, at least, as the campus of San Jose State College.

Now, Mrs. Mm. Monroe of our Society has recorded a nesting pair in her yard in Redwood City.

Miss Emily Smith of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, who kindly drove up from Los Gatos to verify our identification, stated that the nesting site-- in a weeping willow tree -- had not, to her knowledge, been recorded before for the species. Palm trees provide the preferred locations for the nests of these birds. In this case, fibers from nearby palms had been employed to construct the nest. The male of the pair was not yet in adult plumage which made corroboration of our identification by an expert desirable.

Mrs. Monroe first noted signs of nesting activities by the orioles about April 19, 1953, and definitely located the nest in the mass of foliage on May 27.

Further, she is certain that the same species nested in her yard in 1952.

Recently, Mrs. Monroe just back from an Eastern trip called to report that the birds returned for a second nesting later in the year.

Report on ARROYO COURT BIRD SANCTUARY, San Mateo, California

On October 1, 1953, Mrs. V. H. Knudsen, President of the Garden Study Club of the Peninsula, called a meeting at her home, 1008 Harvard Road, San Mateo, to discuss the possibility of developing a bird sanctuary of an undeveloped bit of city property on Arroyo Court.

Present were Mr. Stanley Pitcher, Superintendent, San Mateo City Parks; Mrs. Knudsen; Mrs. Wm. Medina, Vice-president Garden Study Club; Mrs. Floyd Billman, Co-chairman of conservation for the Garden Study Club; Mrs. Iva Newman, Garden Editor, San Mateo Times and a Past-president of the Garden Study Club; Mrs. D. A. Pike, also a Past-president of Garden Study Club; representing the Sequoia Chapter of the National Audubon Society were Mr. B. Neil Dickinson, president, Mrs. D. R. Sears, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cranfill; Mrs. Albion Morrall, Mr. Wm. Connolly, and Mr. Laurence Heinle, residents of Arroyo Court.

The residents of Arroyo Court and visitors had become aware of an unusual number of birds in an undeveloped part of the creek, a plot approximately two blocks long running from El Camino to the junction of Crystal Springs Road and Arroyo Court and bordered on either side by the two latter streets. Included on this property is a Historical Society plaque designating a campsite of Portola. The property already belonged to the City of San Mateo.

It was proposed that a bird sanctuary be established here, cosponsored by the Garden Study Club of the Peninsula and the Sequoia Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The City Park Commission was to be asked to furnish water supply, and plantings of native shrubs and plants were to be undertaken by the Garden Study Club. The Audubon Society was to be a resource group for the present, financial assistance by them to be left to further developments.

On October 14th, Mrs. Billman, Mrs. Medina, and Mrs. Sears visited the meeting of the San Mateo Park Commission to answer questions on the proposal. The Park Commission voted to recommend to the City Council establishment of a bird sanctuary of the Arroyo Court property.

On October 19th, San Mateo City Council voted to establish a Bird Sanctuary on Arroyo Court, and a letter confirming this was sent to Mrs. Knudsen.

The Garden Study Club has voted to spend \$250 over a period of three years to develop this bird sanctuary. They propose to add native trees, shrubs and plants to attract more birds, a water bath, labels for trees, shrubs and plants, and possibly benches.

Trip to Steven's Creek May 2

The joke was on us for choosing the first day of fishing season for a bird walk to Steven's Creek. When the scoters enquired about permission to park cars in the parking area of a small tavern up the creek the hostess said, "Any other time, yes, but that day the creek will be black with cars and men" and so it was.

For that reason we felt quite content to bird walk, first, at our leisure, through the Sequoia High School campus. It was one of those magic mornings when courting, nest building and territory singing contests were going on all over the place. The big thrill was a Western Tanager singing as he stopped by on his way to the mountains. Black-headed Grosbeaks did their ventriloquist best to bewilder us with music that did not come from the spot it seemed to. A Junco singing, both Towhees, courting Mourning Doves, a dive bombing Anna Hummer, all did their part to make the morning interesting.

Eventually we drove out to Steven's Creek Reservoir which was anything but a peaceful spot. The thicket covered slope below it engaged our attention for a while. Then we actually found a place to park along the creek above the reservoir. Here, although cars full of fishermen seeking a luckier spot whizzed by in both directions, we saw black Phoebes, Quail, Red-tailed hawks, and, high spot of the day, a nesting Brown Creeper. We traced it by watching the busy flights to the nestlings ensconced under the loose bark of a sycamore tree on the creek's edge.

A friendly woman from the house across the creek chatted with us enthusiastically, when she heard we were birders, telling us about a strange brilliant yellow and black bird that came to her yard - no doubt an oriole but the picture of the Bullock Oriole did not suit her at all. Its head was orange she kept insisting - could it have been the Hooded Oriole which is increasingly being reported in this area?

List for the day: junco, spotted towhee, Anna's hummingbird, song sparrow, chestnut-backed chickadee, California quail, house finch, green-backed goldfinch, robin, violet-green swallow, mourning dove, blackheaded grosbeak, brown towhee, cedar waxwing, meadowlark, cliff swallow, Brewer's blackbird, olive sided flycatcher, black phoebe, yellow warbler, tufted titmouse, red-tailed hawk, wrentit, scrub jay, bush-tit, California woodpecker, ruby crowned kinglet, western flycatcher, brown creeper, turkey vulture, Cassin's vireo.

A Field Trip to Windfall Farm in Woodside June 6

Members of the Society spent a pleasant morning at the Windfall Farm of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. King in Woodside. It was overcast and warm after a light rain and birds were very plentiful around the King home.

A friendly little chipping sparrow was feeding beside the black-topped drive. Black-headed grosbeaks and spotted towhees were numerous in the mown meadows and fringes of trees. Olive-sided flycatchers made themselves evident by snapping their beaks as they rushed through the air in pursuit of insects.

A frightened barn owl blundered voisily through a thick growth of trees and shrubs.

Over a small valley a red-bellied hawk took flight screaming with annoyance we presumed, but alighted promptly in a tree to reveal his barred tail, rufous

belly, and red shoulders sharp and clear in good light.

Traffic was heavy among the cliff swallows as they dived in and out of their mud nests under the eaves of the King's house. An unconventional house finch incubated her eggs in a nest perched on top a chandelier in an outside room which the bird had appropriated. The Kings had very graciously conceded this one room to the finches, leaving an outer door open for their comings and goings.

Tiny quail chicks scurried in single file close to a brick wall edging a terrace upon which they had been surprised feeding. Apparently these were only day old chicks and quite unsophisticated. They had not yet learned the habits of young quail. We sat quietly on a bench nearby while the mother quail showed them very quickly how to gather into a corner where they looked exactly like a small heap of dead leaves. We would never have known what it was if we had not been watching.

In the garden a radiantly brilliant western bluebird carried food to a nesting box.

Other birds noted were: turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, mourning dove, Allen's humming bird, red-shafted flicker, acorn woodpecker, hairy and downy woodpeckers, ash-throated and western flycatchers, wood pewee, violet-green swallow, scrub jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, bush-tit, slender-billed nuthatch, wren-tit, Bewick's wren, California thrasher, robin, russet-backed thrush, warbling vireo, orange-crowned and yellow warblers, pileolated warbler, English sparrow, meadowlark, purple finch, green-backed goldfinch, brown towhee, Oregon junco, and song sparrow.

We regret that Mr. and Mrs. King have now sold their Woodside home and moved to Carmel. Not only have we lost two enthusiastic members of our Society but perhaps a choice spot to observe birds.

Dumbarton Bridge and Alviso Marshes Visited by Society.

This field trip on October 3, 1953, was noteworthy because the day was clear, warm, and calm, a combination unusual for this section of the Bay.

A high tide had scattered the shore birds which normally feed on the mud flats but there were good concentrations in the salt ponds.

List for the day: eared grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, black-crowned night heron, pintail, shoveller, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, coot, killdeer, black-bellied plover, willet, greater yellow-legs, least sandpiper, red-backed sandpiper, dowitcher, western sandpiper, marbled godwit, avocet, northern phalarope, California gull, ring-billed gull, Forster's tern, black phoebe, western meadowlark, Brewer's blackbird, savannah sparrow

The Thunderbird Cruises to Greco Island -- an area to become an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Only at the crest of the tide is there enough water under the hull for the Thunderbird to negotiate the Belmont Slough, so at 9 A.M. on November 11, 1953, she left her berth at the Belmont Sea Scout Base and eased out toward deeper water at reduced speed.

Dr. Sears was Skipper. Winona Sears and a number of smaller Seares were crew, and agile seamen they were.

An excellent turnout of both large and small fry swarmed over the craft.

The day turned warm, sunny, and calm after an unpropitious very early morning overcast.

Grebes dived to escape the Thunderbird bearing down upon them. Over the dikes bordering the channel, we glimpsed vast mud flats crowded with feeding birds. Black-crowned night herons were everywhere--crouched in the salt marsh grass, poking their heads out of the grass, and flying over the marsh in flocks.

Ducks were virtually absent all day. Probably resting in rafts on the Bay waiting for the gunners to go home.

"Sandy" Sprunt of the West Coast Office of the National Audubon Society joined us at the Port of Redwood City to conduct the tour to Greco Island just off the harbor.

Our Skipper laid the Thunderbird along the end of the catwalk projecting out into the water from the island and all hands fell to to exert the maximum pressure against a minimum of purchase to warp the stern around toward the channel in anticipation of lower water levels to come.

Greco Island was a joy -- a typical salt water marsh, alive with rails, and sparrows and with "peeps" feeding in the small mud flats interspersed among the salicornia.

The cat walk runs the length of the island permitting ready inspection of the area, without undue intrusion upon the wildlife or their habitat.

The southern portion of Greco Island which is separated from the salt marsh by a dike, teemed with a variety of shore birds and gulls feeding upon mud flats.

Fox sparrows of the dark wet-land type abounded in the marsh. And an Oregon junco found a bit of dry habitat on the dike. Most surprising of all was a varied thrush perched upon a power tower far from his usual wooded highland haunts.

A peregrine made two futile but breath-taking passes at feeding shorebirds which sent them scattering in disordered flights.

Greco Island will indeed be a fine wildlife sanctuary of the fast-vanishing salt marsh type and your Society along with the National Audubon Society will be a co-sponsor of the area under permit from the Ideal Cement Co. if certain technical difficulties can be overcome.

As the Thunderbird backed slowly into deep water her screw resting near the bottom "cut mud" vigorously.

The finale was a cruise out to the extensive mud flats on the north shore of the is and exposed by the lowering tide. Here the shore birds fed in a mass and a colony of harbor seals had climbed out of the water to sun themselves. Again there was much shouting about the Thunderbird "cutting mud". Skipper Sears very slowly backed her away from the mud bar close to which he had worked the craft so we could inspect the birds at close range.

Memory of the warm day, the bright colors, and the buoyant spirits will remain long with those fortunate enough to be on the Thunderbird.

The days list included, in addition to birds already noted, the following: horned, eared, and western grebes, and pied-billed grebes; great blue heron; American egret, pintail; lesser scaups; surfscoters; turkey vulture; red-tailed hawk (dead); marsh hawk; sparrow hawk; clapper rail; killdeer; black-bellied plover; Wilson's snipe; long-billed and Hudsonian curlews; spotted sandpiper; greater yellow-legs; sanderling; red-backed and western sandpipers; dowitchers; marbled godwit; avocet; California, ring-billed, and Bonaparte's gulls; Forster's and Caspian terns; marsh wren; varied thrush; American pipit; yellow-throat; meadowlark; Brewer's blackbird; savannah, fox, and song sparrows.

SCREEN TOUR Report

The biggest project of the Sequoia Audubon Society in 1953, at least the one that has taken the most courage and most work has been putting on the Audubon Screen Tours. The series, given in the Burlingame High School Auditorium, has been outstanding in quality and breathtaking in beauty. The naturalists who have shared their unusual pictures of amazing creatures have been interesting and entertaining commentators.

This is the second year the Screen Tours have been shown on the Peninsula and the first year the Sequoia Audubon Society has borne the entire financial risk and promotion. There has been excellent publicity with pictures in the four newspapers of this area for each program and a number of paid advertisements on the amusement page.

The Audubon Screen Tours are money makers all over the country in other places and should be here. As a new venture in this area they have not paid their way as yet and have had to be subsidized by the Sequoia Audubon Society whose goal is to bring to people opportunity to enjoy the wonders of nature and to become aware of the need for their protection. Our contact with P.T.A. Conservation Chairmen, schools, Scout organizations, people who should logically be most concerned and ready to welcome the Screen Tours, has not yet borne full fruit in support, we feel. There is, however, evidence of a growing response and interest in the Screen Tours in the increase in attendance each time and we feel another year they should be completely self supporting. We look forward to the time when here, as elsewhere, they become the means of providing scholarships to National Audubon Camps for those who work with youth, as well as for educational and conservation projects in the Peninsula area.

At this time we enlist your personal participation and enthusiasm to increase the audience for the last two of the series and thus decrease the amount the society will need to put in toward the cost of the series this year. The whole project is still a matter of spade work and we need your help.

The Threat to Dinosaur National Monument -- and the National Park System

This is a national emergency. The stakes are high - the future of all our national parks and monuments. No violation of any part of the National Park System should be considered except in extreme National need and after all alternatives have been exhausted. The precedent established by such a project would extend the harm to all our parks, monuments and wilderness areas.

THE THREAT: The Bureau of Reclamation includes in its plans for the comprehensive development of the upper Colorado River a dam inundating Echo Park, in the scenic heart of Dinosaur National Monument. Alternative sites exist, but they have not been even carefully studied. The Secretary of the Interior has recommended to the President and to Congress the plan as it now stands, including Echo Park Dam. If the Echo Park Dam is not deleted from the plan, we stand to lose not only the brilliant cliffs, thrilling river and inviting green living space along the canyon floor in Echo Park, but also the security of every last scenic preserve that contains anything with a possible dollar value to it.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to key men in Washington. Tell them that you want them to save Dinosaur National Monument by deleting Echo Park Dam from the upper Colorado project. If you only have time to write "Please save Dinosaur National Monument", then at least do that promptly. Your letter can help save our National Parks.

ADDRESSES:

- The Hon. William F. Knowland - Senate Office Bldg. ("Dear Mr. ...")
- The Hon. J. Arthur Younger - House Office Bldg. (Dear Mr. ...)
- The Hon. William H. Harrison, Chairman, Subcommittee on Irrigation & Reclamation. House Office Bldg. Washington D.C. (Dear Sir:)
- The Hon. A. L. Miller, Chairman of House Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs - House Office Building. (Dear Sir:)