



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Nov. 9 - Field Trip in the San Carlos Carimont vicinity. Colonies of black-crowned night herons and acorn woodpeckers will be observed. Meet at the San Carlos S. P. Station at 8:30 A.M.
- Nov. 14 - Regular evening meeting, Burlingame Recreation Center, 8:00 P.M. Mr. C. L. Sleeper of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will give an illustrated talk on "Bird Study Methods".
- Nov. 16 - Field Trip to Los Banos Game and Wildlife Refuge. Meet at "Tiny's" Restaurant on State Highway 152 in Los Banos at 8:30 A. M. This is a wonderful opportunity to see hundreds of ducks, snow geese and sand hill cranes. If you wish, or can offer, transportation, call Oleta Dickinson, Em 6-7661, as we should arrange to take as few cars as possible.
- Nov. 18 - Screen Tour, San Mateo High School Auditorium, 8:00 P.M. Muri Deusing presents "Adventure in Africa".
- Dec. 7 - Field Trip to Arroyo Court Sanctuary and San Mateo Park. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at Arroyo Court just off El Camino in San Mateo. Winter visitors will be with us and this should prove a good scouting trip for the Christmas Count.
- Dec. 12 - Regular evening meeting, Burlingame Recreation Center, 8:00 P.M. Mr. John Larson, Warden of the Greco Island Sanctuary and of Green Island Sanctuary in Texas will tell us about "Life on an Audubon Refuge".
- Dec. 28 - The Christmas Count. If you would like to help in this interesting activity this year please phone Nell Dickinson, Em 6-7661, and arrange to work in the area you would most enjoy, or give a report on visitors to your own feeding tray. We need a lot of help to turn in a really good count.
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- Opening dates for the five 2-week sessions at the AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA in 1958 will be June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3 and August 17. Ten Year Anniversary Season! Register now for the session of your choice.

KALEIDOSCOPE
September 12, 1957

At their first fall meeting, members of Sequoia Chapter had a most enjoyable time sharing vacation experiences.

By means of slides and interesting first-hand reports, those attending had the vicarious and varied experiences of going on mule-back with Mr. and Mrs. James Butler down the precipitous and spectacular trail of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to beautiful Phantom Ranch. Equally enjoyable were Nell and Oleta Dickinson's slides on Glacier National Park, Mr. Nicholas Kroll's slides on wild-flowers and cacti, Mr. Allen Lee's slides of Peru, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kerstan's fine movies of their bird guests at the spring on their summer cabin property near Calaveras Grove, and Ruth Breckenridge's report on her trip to seven western national parks.

When Oleta Dickinson, Program Chairman, asked those attending if they wanted another "kaleidoscope" next year, the answer was a spontaneous and enthusiastic "Yes!" So next year, let's plan to have more members participate in Kaleidoscope. Such a program is really tops in fun and entertainment.

-- Ruth Breckenridge

BROWN PELICAN ON SHORE LEAVE

"On Monday, September 23," relates Jed McClellan, "I saw a brown pelican on Clear Lake. In Audubon Water Bird Guide, 1951, p. 27, appears the statement 'The brown pelican is strictly a coastal species, never occurring inland, or out of sight of shore'. Never before have I seen an exception to this rule. I have seen hundreds of white pelicans on Clear Lake and in many other inland places, but this one lone brown pelican really startled me. I saw it in flight and on the water."

FIELD TRIP TO DUMBARTON BRIDGE
September 14, 1957

As members of the Sequoia Chapter assembled at the Hiller Helicopter Plant on Sept. 14, they were pleasantly surprised to find that members of the Santa Clara Chapter were doing likewise. By coincidence, both chapters had picked the "same time, same station" to meet in preparation for observing shore birds at Dumbarton Bridge. Members of both groups enjoyed renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Mr. Les Sleeper, leader of the Santa Clara group, was promptly adopted by the Sequolans as their leader, also, and his expert knowledge and help in identification was very much appreciated.

The trip proved to be rewarding in "birding" as it was in renewing of friendships. Among the birds seen and identified were: Long-billed Curlew, Forster's Tern, Godwit, Black-necked Stilt, Brown Pelican, White Pelican, Dowitcher, Willet, Brewer Blackbird, Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Western Sandpiper, Killdeer, Pintail Duck, Ruddy Duck, Phalarope, Snowy Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Cormorant, and Mallard Duck.

-- Ruth Breckenridge

REMINDEES

Have you been keeping your "Birder Individual Questionnaire" sent to you last spring up-to-date? The year is drawing to a close when it is to be returned to Fred Evenden, 1336 Fitch Way, Sacramento (25).

Pacific Coast BIENNIAL CONVENTION -
Asilomar, California, March 21, 22, 23
& 24, 1959. Save the dates now.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are looking forward to our second Audubon Screen Tour on Monday, November 18, at 8 p.m., at San Mateo High School Auditorium. The photographer and narrator is Murl Deusing, a noted naturalist, and the picture is entitled, "Adventure in Africa." It promises to be another excellent evening's entertainment.

We must have a larger attendance at these fine screen tours, so let each member publicize them in all organizations in which he participates, among friends and in his neighborhood--acting as a special publicity agent. We do want more people to have the benefit of these wonderful tours.

We extend a hearty welcome to everyone to come to our increasingly popular "pot luck" dinner which precedes the screen tour. We meet at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue, at 6 p.m. for dinner, and after dinner go to the San Mateo High School Auditorium for the screen tour at 8 p.m.

So do mark your calendar for this date, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18. We hope to see many new faces as well as our old friends. We really have a jolly time and it is a good way to get better acquainted. For reservations for the dinner, call Alice Steele, Di 4-8317, or Oleta Dickinson, Em 6-7661

We are grateful to all of our members for their help in Sequoia Audubon Society. Special praise for faithful work in our Society should go to the following members:

To Ruth Breckenridge for her participation as assistant editor in writing for our bulletin. She has done a grand job; to Oleta Dickinson for planning our programs--a lot of thought goes into this sort of work; to Alice Steele and others who help with the planning of the pot luck dinners; to Gene Hebbbron for managing our correspondence and filing cards for our mailing list; to Jed McClellan for leading

our field trips and his offer to write an article for future issues of the bulletin on wildflowers, trees and shrubs that we might expect to see during each month of the year; to our Editor, Elizabeth Baker, who even though a busy person, takes time to compile the information for the Bulletin; to Alice Lyttaker for making our Bulletin stencils.

--- Mabel Lee
President

SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS

Thanks to those who sent cards on the arrival of white crowned and golden crowned sparrows. I have kept records for several years and the dates lie between September 20 and 25, and they evidently met their schedule again this year. Doubtless the 5-day leeway has more to do with our observing than with their delayed arrival. The Golden Crowns come from their breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle and it always seems miraculous to me that they come and go almost to the day each year. Probably our wintering white crowns are from far north of here also and the ones on Skyline and East Bay and Union Square, San Francisco, are resident breeders who migrate little if at all. One of the Golden Crowns in my yard this year varies his 1-2-3 descending scale, "Three Blind Mice" song pattern to a 1-3-2.

I wonder if our early rains will bring the varied thrush earlier this year. Let me know dates and location of the first you see. The red berry crop is so very luxuriant this year that the Robins and Cedar Waxwings will have a field day, and we will, too, watching their antics.

There have been two reports of Russet-back Thrushes in San Carlos yards, as well as the familiar winter visitant, the Hermit Thrush. Several have reported long-flying wedges of migrating waterfowl going over and Crystal Spring Lakes show increasing concentrations of them.

-- Aveline Butler

FIRST SCREEN TOUR - "Forgotten Country"

On October 10, our annual screen tours opened with Bert Harwell's beautiful and entertaining "Forgotten Country." Mr. Harwell was introduced by Mrs. Donald Valentine, past president of Sequoia Audubon Society.

The "Forgotten Country" is a vast area lying between the Rocky and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and extending from Mexico north to the Canadian border. Most people look upon these great stretches, many miles of which are desert-like, as country to cross in a hurry in order to get somewhere else.

This great "Forgotten Country" seemed to be waiting for Bert Harwell to discover it. He penetrated into its distant vastnesses to find a wealth of plant and animal life, fantastic rock formations, and here and there ghost towns filled with the fascinating lore of the past.

Mr. Harwell's imitations of bird songs were as astonishingly realistic as ever and brought an enthusiastic number of requests for favorite bird imitations from the audience.

The 30-odd members who attended the pot luck dinner before the screen tour were inspired by Mr. Harwell's vibrant personality. He has a great zest for living, and his enthusiasm proved contagious. Whatever his years, he is still a young man in spirit, energy and enthusiasm.

--Ruth Breckenridge

LISTEN FOR THE MOCKING BIRD!

"For two or three years" writes "Jed" McClellan, "occasional solitary mocking birds have been seen in Burlingame, and some of us looked forward to the day when they would settle here and begin to sing. A few days ago (early October) I heard the delightful song in the rain - and this morning (Oct. 5, 1957) I heard the song again and saw the singer. He was perched, mockingbird style on the chimney of the house across the street from mine on Bernal Avenue,

singing lustily. At last Burlingame is now mocking bird territory. For 28 years I have missed that cheery song, and I'm glad to hear it again near my home.

FIELD TRIP TO SAN MATEO COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK

Fifteen Sequoia Audubon Society members met on October 19 for a field trip to San Mateo County Memorial Park. Aply led by "Jed" McClellan, the group roamed along the nature trail and to some of the delightful areas adjacent the picnic grounds.

The special beauty of fall was everywhere--bright red Poison Oak climbing high into the trees, or growing on shrubs along the trail; clear bright red Honeysuckle berries vying with the Poison Oak; golden tones of the Big-leaf Maples.

The brilliant beauty of autumn coloring did not distract the group from appreciating some of the more unusual plants found in Memorial Park. Among them is the Fire Willow which Jed "discovered" in Memorial Park a few years ago. This willow gets its name from the fact that it tends to grow in burned-over areas. Another uncommon plant is the Price Oak which is an intermediate tree between the Coast live Oak and the Interior Live Oak.

The nature trail took the group through lovely woodsy areas. Due in part to the early rains the ferns were abundant and beautiful. Among the ferns identified were: Wood Fern, Brake Fern, Licorice Fern, Gold-back Fern, and Sword Fern. (Members of the group who later explored along the creek also found Five-fingered Fern).

Perhaps the recent rains also helped to make more conspicuous the "wee gnomes" of the plant world, for on all sides was an abundance of interesting mosses, fungi, and lichens. One strange little spheroid fungus was of a bronzy metallic hue, and was promptly christened "Sputnik," of course! (continued on next page)

As the group climbed higher along the nature trail, it was afforded the topsy-turvy experience of going up to the Upper Sonoran (Chaparral) Zone from the Transition (Forest) Zone. Normally, the Upper Sonoran Zone lies below the Transition Zone, but often in our California mountains, the more open and sunny terrain near hilltops produces this upside-down condition. In the Transition Zone the trail wound beneath towering Douglas Firs through a rich "woody" undercover. As the group climbed higher and emerged into the more open areas, the vegetation changed to the chaparral plants of the Upper Sonoran Zone. Here the most conspicuous plant was the Coyote Brush which is now in flower--the male plants producing yellow blooms and the female plants, white blooms.

The birds were difficult to see, but the persistent watchers of the group recorded the following species: Meadowlark, Linnet, Red-shafted Flicker, Vulture, Oregon Junco, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Stellar Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Hutton Vireo, and Winter Wren. To those who gathered for lunch around the picnic tables came the opportunity of really close acquaintanceship with Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Flocks of these little fellows gathered in the trees above the picnickers, and some of the more daring even flew down onto the tables in order to get their share of picnic crumbs.

All in all, it was a most rewarding trip led by an excellent leader through a beautiful and interesting part of our country.

-- Ruth Breckenridge.

Your purchases (books, gifts, binoculars, teaching aids, educational games, records, bird feeders) from the Berkeley Office - 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 --assist in supporting the wide conservation education program of the National Society.

CONSERVATION -- To use wisely without using up.

SUNDAY MORNING OBSERVATION

On the very rainy morning of Sunday, October 13, there gathered at the bird feeder the following birds: three Oregon Juncos, one White Crown Sparrow, one Song Sparrow, eight Gold Crown Sparrows, four Brown Towhees, numerous English Sparrows and Linnets, and one Robin. In the bed of cosmos, which I plant late each year just for them, a band of Greenback Finches were busy picking off the seeds. Overhead I saw a band of Sea Gulls winging their way from the Bay to Crystal Springs Lake, and a Mocking Bird (who is a newcomer in this neighborhood) was singing cheerfully in a downpour of rain.

-- Gene Hebborn

ROBIN BROTHERS

The Robin brothers
Enjoy their lunches
Of Toyon berries
In big red bunches,

Or barberry, hawthorne,
Or cotoneaster.
If there's too much to eat
Then they have to eat faster.

Not a moment to rest
Not a bite-time to tarry
When the waxwings arrive
They'll clean up every berry.

-- Dorothy Lilly.

WILDERNESS BILL

The National Wilderness Bill is considered the most important in scenic-resource conservation since the National Park Act of 1916. It will establish: (1) a National Wilderness Preservation System--giving Congressional recognition and added protection to the best of our vanishing wilderness, and (2) an Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission to watch future needs for parks and wildlife preservation.

The National Audubon Society urges you to help pass the bill. Write your congressmen and urge the passage of the Wilderness Bill.

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