



The Sequoia



Bulletin of the SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
San Mateo, California

VOL. 12 No. 9

DECEMBER 1959

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/2 - 12/12 - 12/16 - 1/2/60

(NO REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING IN DEC.)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 8:30 A.M. -
Bird Study class. Meet at Borel Ave.
and El Camino. G. Hebbbron, Leader.
Di 3-0415.

SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 9 A.M. - Field Trip.
Meet at Stow Lake boat house.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 8:30 A.M. -
Bird Study Class. Meet at Borel Ave.
and El Camino. G. Hebbbron, Leader.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2, 8:30 A.M. Bird census.
Meet at Pulgas Water Temple on Canada
Road. For special advance assignment
phone Neil or Oleta Dickinson:
Em 6-7661.

We welcome the following new and
reinstated members:

Mrs. Walter Powell
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rawls
Miss Charlotte Klock
Mrs. Methyl Shearer

Bird notes: Mrs. Montgomery reports

Cowbirds in her garden; also, a Junco
with an infant Cowbird. She saw an
orange-crowned warbler on Sept. 8.

***** Gene Hebbbron reports the arrival
of a White Crowned Sparrow, Sept. 24;
Gold Crowned Sparrows on Sept. 28. She
saw three pairs of Wood Ducks on
Crystal Springs Lake on October 4.

(Editor's Note - We welcome your
interesting bird observations)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Ruth Breckenridge)

At this season our thoughts and
energies are concerned with Christmas
giving. "What Christmas gifts will
please our loved ones most?" we wonder;
or, moved by the plight of those whose
Christmas will be meager without our
help, we weigh one charity against the
other attempting to decide which is
more worthy of our helping hands.

The seasonal concern with giving is a
fine thing, for indeed, "It is more
blessed to give than to receive." I
wonder, however, how many Audubon Soci-
ety members have thought about the
fact that we, probably more than any
other group, are in a position to give
almost priceless gifts -- gifts, bought
not with money, but with the deep under-
standing within our hearts. Our un-
derstanding and appreciation of our
natural heritage can become a priceless
gift, which, when passed along to some-
one else less fortunate, in no way dim-
inishes our own rich store.

Have you realized how many of our fellow-
men, knowing only the pavement of city
streets, are unaware of the wonders that
lie beyond? Perhaps just a little story
that you might tell of a tiny bird given
protection against the winter's storm, or
of a little mammal given succor in time
of need, or of the miracle that lies
within an unfolding flower, could open
a whole new world to a pavement-bound
soul. Truly, ours is all the earth and
the sky above. With such great riches
our Christmas season should indeed be a
wonderful one, especially, if we share
our wealth with the less fortunate.

FIELD TRIP, GAZOS CREEK, OCT.24,1959

We parked our cars near the old wooden bridge and deserted house at the junction of Gazos Creek Road and Cloverdale Road on Saturday morning, October 24, 1959. The weather was warm and bright. We were greeted immediately by a show staged by a red-tailed hawk circling over our heads and a sparrow hawk which came in like an arrow to charge the larger hawk repeatedly and, determinedly, the red-tail fled to the far side of the mountain. When the red-tail reappeared, he was out of the sparrow hawk's territory.

After the show, we all climbed into three cars and drove up the canyon to the site of the old burned lumber mill. Then we walked through the woods and down to the creek, looking at ruins, birds and animal tracks. At the creek we saw tracks of racoons and deer; and on the road we saw the tracks of a cougar.

From there we drove back down the canyon, stopping from time to time to watch birds or examine an interesting plant. The canyon was beautiful!

We ate lunch in the creek bottom below the bridge where we had left the cars. In the deep pools we saw two large crayfish.

After lunch, we drove on down the creek to the ocean, coming out a short distance south of Pigeon Point. On the way we stopped to look at a patch of salmon berry and to admire some fine maple trees and, also, to look for wild pigeons.

While we watched, a flock of band-tailed pigeons flew in and started feeding on a hillside in plain view, frequently rising from the shrubbery to a large tree and fluttering down again. In the short up-and-down flights the birds spread their tails out into large fans, and, the sun being just right, we had an exceptional opportunity to observe the broad white bands that give the birds their name.

Other birds seen in the canyon were: ruby-crowned kinglet, chickadee, brown towhee, phoebe, junco, Stellar's jay, wren-tit, cedar wax-wing, and marsh hawk. - J. Ed (Jed) McClellan

"ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLES" - SCREEN TOUR - OCTOBER 28, 1959

After the usual delicious pot-luck dinner, members and friends of the Sequoia Audubon Society enjoyed the second Screen Tour of the season when Mr. Emerson Scott took us on a ramble through the Colorado Rockies.

Our journey started on the plains of Eastern Colorado where we saw an interesting medley of fauna--bison, Indian dancers, prairie chickens whose booming can be heard about a mile, and antelopes which are capable of running at 45 miles per hour.

As our jeep rambled westward into the mountains, we saw beavers, western chipmunks, elk, dusky and ruffed grouse, ptarmigans, and marmots. As we climbed the crags above our base camp, we were fascinated by the sure-footed big-horn sheep. We fell in love with the tiny big-horn lamb who was literally following in his mother's footsteps along precipitous mountain cliffs where one false move would mean instant death among the rocks hundreds of feet below.

Continuing westward, we reached the Sand Dunes National Monument which presented an entirely different terrain. Here we saw such desert species as yucca and cacti.

A fitting finale to our Rocky Mountain Rambles was a trip down the Yampa River in a rubber boat. On this adventurous journey we shot treacherous rapids which alternated with broad and serene waters bordered by high cliffs.

Mr. Emerson's fine presentations, plus the interesting variety of scenery, made "Rocky Mountain Rambles" a most enjoyable presentation.

-- Ruth Breckenridge.

Plan to come to our next pot luck dinner and screen tour on Thursday, January 21. Howard L. Orians will present "The Land the Glaciers Forgot." The setting, Wisconsin.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Kathleen Weber

MORE ABOUT POINT REYES

Mrs. Eric Reynolds, who presented our first Audubon screen tour this fall, is developing a documentary film on the area's scenic and recreational possibilities for showing to clubs, schools and other groups. Most of the footage has already been shot by Mrs. Reynolds, a distinguished wildlife photographer.

The park project has been endorsed by San Francisco Bay area newspapers and civic groups. Opposition comes from Point Reyes dairymen, farmers, and property owners who are afraid that a park would interfere with dairying and agriculture; also from potential subdividers, and from some residents who want the peninsula to remain as it is--a futile hope in view of the march of "progress" toward the area. Some of the opposition might be overcome if it were understood that national parks have proved to be a financial stimulus to the areas around them.

CONSERVATION ACTION

Conservationists are optimistic. They simply believe that we can all use our resources more wisely than we are doing at present. Twentieth Century man has at his disposal enough scientifically tested knowledge of natural laws and of his place in Nature to be able to do an intelligent job of adjusting his demands to the Earth's ability to continue yielding a good life. The continued prosperity and attractiveness of our country--and the world--in the years to come will depend very much on how soon more of us learn the "natural principles of land use," and how well we conform to them in exploring the earth's natural resources.

This is the conservation problem. It is many-faceted. It is the greatest challenge of our day. This problem can be met successfully if the leaders in our communities will rise to the occasion by acquainting themselves with the facts and modifying individual and group practices accordingly.

(1) We must set up a Sustained Yield economy as regards renewable natural resources. This is the problem of maintaining productivity by wisely managing our soils, waters, grassland, and forests, and fish and wildlife. This has so far been almost the sole area of activity for conservationists. We need to broaden our horizons.

(2) The non-renewal resources (ores, fossils fuels) must be fairly allocated and prudently used. This is a matter of regulation. We must question whether our national devotion to the concept of a continually expanding economy is responsible for inflation, the waste of resources, and international tensions.

(3) We must question the impact of human population growth on the following:

- a. Human health
- b. Taxes
- c. Recreational and aesthetic needs
- d. Reverence for life

--National Audubon Soc.

Have you read the interesting story in the November National Geographic on "Whooping Cranes Flight for Survival"?

"Plan now for a HIGH SIERRA ADVENTURE in 1960. Bring a friend and attend the Audubon Camp of California. Five two-week sessions between June 19 and August 27. Descriptive information available through Audubon Camp, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California."

Seeking the unusual gifts for the outdoor enthusiast? Send for SPECIAL gift lists from the Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California. REMEMBER, any purchase helps support the wide conservation programs of the National Audubon Soc.

-- Bill Goodall

Pacific Representative
National Audubon Society

NOV. 12 MEETING

Mr. and Mrs. Hebbbron carried on their good work with bird recognition. Gene showed the bird slides she had shown at our previous meeting and added a few new ones giving us helpful hints regarding size, color, habits, etc. With the trip to Los Banos in view, she showed water birds we might expect to see.

Mr. Bill Nelson, Superintendent of Peninsula Humane Society, spoke on his work in the field of caring for the animals which come to the shelter and which seem quite frequently to end in the Nelson home. He told us about the fawn which he raised. Its mother was killed on Skyline Boulevard, and many of you probably saw the pathetic picture in the newspaper of the tiny fawn standing by its dead mother. He took the fawn home where it quickly became a house pet and a member of the family. Now that the fawn is too big to stay in the house he is sleeping in a large dog house, but Mr. Nelson is seeking a permanent home for him. He is too tame to be turned loose and survive, so he will probably have to go to a park or zoo.

Mr. Nelson told us some rather shocking cases of cruelty to animals which had taken place in our county. He has been instrumental in stopping much of it, but not all. He is aware that there are both cock fights and dog fights in the area, and although both are illegal, they have so far kept out of reach of the law.

It was interesting to learn that whenever an animal arrives from a foreign country, Mr. Nelson sees that they receive humane treatment. If an overnight lay-over is necessary, the animals are taken to the animal shelter for the night. The shelter has some strange guests including three orangoutangs, many tropical birds, kangaroos, etc.

Mr. Nelson pointed out the great need for leaders to help educate our youngsters in all areas of conservation. He feels this would be a fine project for the Audubon Club to assume. He often takes groups of young people on nature walks, but is very pressed for time and wants our help. I sincerely hope we will be able to give it.

--- Ida Smith

CRUISE OF THE THUNDERBIRD FIELD TRIP

NOV. 14

A warm, clear, sparkling day added zest to our adventures in the Belmont estuaries. A group of about 40 eager Audubon members gathered at the Belmont Sea Scout base, all ready to go birding on the bay. This number, of course, was far too large for the "Thunderbird." The efficient girl Sea Scout crew under the able direction of Sequoia Audubon member, Mrs. Winona Sears, took half the group to a good vantage point for bird observations, and returned for the remainder of the group. At this point, the old adage that "time and tide wait for no man" (not even when he is a Sequoia Audubon member) proved itself to be true. The ebbing tide made the estuary too shallow for the "Thunderbird." Undaunted by such a minor problem, our valiant "sailorettes" manned the oars of a large row boat, and rowed us to a nearby levee which afforded excellent birding.

The still, protected waters provided technicolor reflections of the brilliant sweaters and "crazy pants" of our visitors from Notre Dame College as they hiked along the cat-walks. The reflections of the many avocets, often standing on one leg in true avocet fashion, caused many admiring comments and rueful wishings for cameras left at home.

A combination of the lists of the two groups included the following birds: robin, meadowlark, great blue heron, American egret, snowy egret, clapper rail, greater yellowlegs, kingfisher, sparrow hawk, dowitcher, marsh hawk, white-tailed kite, Bonaparte gull, avocet, sanderling, Forsters tern, Brewer black bird, western sandpiper, redbacked sandpiper, curlew, willet, ruddy duck, savannah sparrow, snowy plover, black-bellied plover, pipit, song sparrow, black-crowned night heron, coot, western grebe, scaup killdeer, linnet, and double-crested cormorant.

We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Winona Sears and her Sea Scouts who made this interesting trip possible for us.

--- Ruth Breckenridge

The following is quoted from Defenders of Furbearers, Winter 1959. It shows one what woman did to lessen cruelty to animals and the power of the pen in waging war against cruel practices. This is a reprint from Courier-Journal 9-17-58, Louisville, Ky.

"LUCY FURMAN

"Lucy Furman, called the 'Steel Trap Woman,' because she waged a four-year campaign in the 1930's to prevent needless cruelty to fur-bearing animals passed away on August 24, 1958, in the home of relatives at Cranford, New Jersey at the age of 89.

"Miss Lucy acquired her title when she began to lobby in Frankfort, in 1934, against the common steel trap. Later, she toured the state, urging women's groups to join the cause.

"Early in the 1900's Miss Lucy went to Hindman Settlement School in Knott County. There while working in fields, gardens and orchards, she heard mountain boys tell of animals gnawing off their legs to escape from steel traps.

"In the 1920's, she became ill and moved to Florida. In 1928 she wrote an article about the cruelty of steel traps for the Atlantic Monthly.

Its publication caused her to be made a vice-president of the Anti-Steel Trap League at Washington, D. C. She returned to Kentucky in 1934, and offered the first anti-steel trap bill to the General Assembly.

"It wasn't until 1938, that a law was passed to take effect in 1940. A new type of trap had been devised, a chain-loop affair that secured an animal's leg, but didn't hurt or maim him. Miss Lucy then toured the state demonstrating the new trap. She would even put her own hand in it to show that it didn't hurt.

"Aside from her interest in animals, Miss Furman was widely known as an author. Among her works were, "The Square Women," "The Glass Window," and "Mothering on Perilous," all dealing with her experiences in the

mountains.

"She won the 1932 George Fort Milton Award, offered to the Southern woman writer who accomplished the most for her sex."

Dinosaur National Monument, is being considered as the 30th National Park. A few days after Congress convened in January 1959, Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado told the Senate, "Mr. President, I introduce a bill, S. 160 to establish Dinosaur National Park. It would encompass the area now operated as a national monument in Utah and Colorado. In this area, the Green and Yampa Rivers slash through picturesque gorges to come together deep in a canyon to form the Great Colorado River."

Secretary of the Interior Seaton reported favorably on S-160 for the Executive Branch, and recommends passage by the Senate with provisions for changing borders and altering wording. Nothing further can happen until the Committees on Interior Affairs of the Senate and the House consider this and other bills introduced on this subject. With the Interior Department's report in hand, each Committee can report the bill out to the floor for a vote. Therefore, it is important that the Chairmen of these Committees hear from the people of the country that Dinosaur (so worthy of National Park status and not having scenery of its kind duplicated in any other national park area) should be made a park. Your opinion on this will help the bill along.

Therefore, please write to the following Chairmen: (as soon as possible)

The Hon. James E. Murray
The United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

The Hon. Wayne N. Aspinall
The House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

that the Bill be taken out of Committee and acted upon.

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(Note: Please have your items for
the December issue in by Dec. 26 as
deadline)

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(Form 3547 Requested)



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