



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
San Mateo, Calif.

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APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/23 - 5/1

There will be no regular meeting in April, since it would come during Easter week when many of our members will be out of town.

SATURDAY, April 23 - Meet at San Mateo Creek Dam; on Skyline Blvd., near Crystal Springs Road, at 8:30 A.M.

BOAT TRIP TO FARALLON ISLANDS

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1960. 6:00 A.M., from "Hazel's," at Princeton, San Mateo County.

RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

To go on this trip it will be necessary to reserve passage by sending name and address and Six Dollars (\$6.00) to Miss Beatrice Brainard, P. O. Box 113, Moss Beach, Calif.

The number of passengers is limited to thirty in order that we may move freely about the boat (which is licensed to carry forty-two persons). So - when thirty reservations have been received no more may be accepted.

The boat will leave the pier at 6:30 A.M. sharp. Therefore, be at the pier ready to go aboard by 6:00 A.M.

TAKE LUNCH and plenty of warm clothing.

The boat owner suggests taking marazine (one on rising and one on boarding boat) to prevent seasickness. We expect to

be back at Princeton by 5:00 P.M.

-- J. Ed (Jed) McClellan

Also, on account of Easter vacation, there will be no bird walks conducted by Gene Hebbbron during April.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Regretfully, we have watched the season's Screen Tours come to an end. As in previous years, they have been beautiful and have inspired us with their insight into the wonderful ways of nature. Now rising costs and poor attendance compel us to cancel the Tours for next season.

We shall miss our Tours, but organizations as well as individuals, must look to the future, not to the past. Sequoia Audubon Society, a part of a great conservation organization, must look forward to activities which will take the place of the Screen Tours, and which will be of interest and help to the members of our community. In planning such a program, the Board of Directors needs your help. What suggestions do YCU have? PLEASE let us hear from you!

HEADQUARTERS!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, Dr. Norton Benner, Sequoia Audubon Society now has a "home." Dr. Benner has given us space in his building at 30 So. El Camino Real, San Mateo. At last our fine library will come out of cartons and will be available to you.

(cont'd. page 2)

President's Message (contd.)

Now it's up to you, the members of Sequoia Audubon Society, to help furnish our new "home." Do you have a bookcase, a chair, a floor lamp which you could spare? If so, please contact a member of the "house-hunting" committee--Mrs. Margaret Bump, Mr. J. Ed. McClellan, Mr. Will Harman, or any officer or director.

-- Ruth Breckenridge

BACK LOG OF EVENTS

GAZOS CREEK FIELD TRIP - On Saturday, February 27, 1960, we met at the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Half Moon Bay Road, went south along Skyline Boulevard to the Tunitas Creek Road, drove down the Tunitas Creek Road to the coast and then south along the coast past Pigeon Point to the mouth of Gazos Creek. Then we went up Gazos Creek to the site of the old burned saw mill, back down Gazos Creek to the Cloverdale Road, and out to the coast through Pescadero.

We ate picnic lunch at the salmon berry patch on Gazos Creek.

Both Tunitas Creek Canyon and Gazos Creek Canyon were beautiful and we had good birding.

We came back with a bird list of thirty species. Probably the most exciting bird-watching incident of the day was studying Audubon warblers and brilliantly colored bluebirds in a field along the Tunitas Creek Road.

Though this spring is considerably behind last year, we saw many spring wild flowers. Among these were salmon berry Indian paint brush and coltsfoot.

-- J. Ed (Jed) McClellan

Contributions to Audubon Sanctuary Fund are now being solicited. Please don't overlook your annual request. A happy thought - your gift is tax deductible!

Audubon Camp - June 19 - August 27. For information write to Audubon Camp, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4.

REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 10 - Gene Hebborn showed her bird slides, and we now have a list of 21 birds. I wonder how many other viewers try to say the name before Gene does. It's such fun where you're right.

J. Ed. (Jed) McClellan was the main speaker, and described seven of "Nature's Own Gardens," which he had found and considered perfect and unforgettable.

The first garden at Glen Ellen Falls, in a side canyon of the San Bernardino Mountains, was a lovely waterfall with a backdrop of five finger ferns all in a carefully concealed spot. It was here that he saw a blood red rock which proved to be a swarm of lady bird beetle. Jed pointed out that we could see such interesting swarms in Muir Woods.

The second garden was in a "wash" between Colton and San Bernardino. The "wash" was covered with evening primroses turning from white to pink.

The third garden was the same "wash" in spring with acres of cholla and opuntia in bloom - a riot of yellows, oranges and magentas.

Jed's fourth garden was at the foot of the mountains on a road near El Centro. On one side of the road were many species of cacti in bloom while on the other side of the road was an entirely different cactus - a straw-colored cholla. It was on the "cholla" side that Jed saw the "vanishing" rabbits. These clever creatures, while seeming to suddenly vanish into the thin air, actually assumed a sort of "cholla position" and became a part of the cholla vista.

The fifth garden between Polhemus Road and Skyline Boulevard is now the Bohannon Estates, and thus exists only in memory -- a memory of spring and acres of wild flowers showing a different combination of colors each weekend - including the rare white fritillary, cream cups, shooting stars, royal larkspur and poppies.

The last two gardens are ones we can all still enjoy. The closest one

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"Nature's Own Gardens" (cont'd)

is a rocky cliff on the old Bunker Hill Road - a cliff where Nature has generously, and, as always artistically, covered with stone crop, wind poppies, coffee fern, blue bush lupin and lichens.

The other garden is in Butano Creek Canyon which many of us have enjoyed on Jed's spring field trip. Here is a box of skunk cabbage with its beautiful show of yellow amidst the big green leaves. Here, too, one sees the pink oxalis, yellow violet, trillium, ginger, denteria, fritillary, and many others.

After the talk, many in the audience were heard saying, "That reminds me of a beautiful little spot I once stumbled upon," and then followed the description.

Many enjoyed browsing over the books and pictures of wild flowers Jed had brought and all in all it was a delightful evening.

-- Ida Smith

SCREEN TOUR -- SECRETS OF THE SEA, MAR. 22

Dr. G. Clifford Carl first introduced us to his beautiful home "town," Victoria, British Columbia. From there Dr. Carl took us on an extensive journey to probe the secrets of the sea. We saw many excellent pictures of such tide-pool and deep water denizens as mussels, starfishes, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea anemones, crabs, shrimps, nudibranchs, jellyfishes, and octopi.

Dr. Carl's pictures and his accompanying lecture gave his audience an unusual opportunity to see the varied ways in which these animals have adapted themselves to their environment. We saw barnacles with their feathery feet waving to draw in food particles from the water; we saw the strange mutual aid developed between a hermit crab and a sponge which envelopes it; when we stared into the open shell of a pecten, we saw the pecten stare right back at us with a few of his several dozen eyes!

Among the many kinds of true fish shown

in the film, the "candle fish" of the Northwest was most interesting. These little fish swim up the river in great numbers to spawn. After spawning they gradually die as they drift downstream. The Indians collect the little bodies and after drying them extract the oil which is both a delicacy and a vitamin-packed nutrient. The Indians also make torches from the dried "candle fish," and on occasion Indian chiefs make bonfires of them to impress visitors with the fact that they have "fish to burn."

On little islands South of Alaska we saw many interesting pelagic birds including murrets, glaucous-winged gulls, guillemots, pelagic cormorants, puffins, petrels, murrelets, kittewakes, and Pacific fulmars.

On the Pribilof Islands, two tiny dots in the Bering Sea, we saw what is considered the greatest example of conservation in the world today - the fur seal rookeries.

Dr. Caril's fine presentation, with its wealth of information and inspiration was a fitting finale to our Screen Tours.

-- Ruth Breckenridge

MERCED LAKE OBSERVATIONS

As a resident of the westlake area of Daly City, which adjoins Lake Merced on the south, I can attest that normally the lake offers excellent birding.

About this time of year birding is at its peak. In a very few hours last week-end, and with the expenditure of very little effort, I listed 45 species of water, shore and land birds. One advantage to bird-watching here is that most of the viewing can be done from the automobile (if one is so inclined).

Tri-color blackbirds are now revisiting the lake on their return migration (thousands of the flocked in in late September and early October last year), and this weekend I also noted a scattering of redwings and a flock of Brewers apparently having it out over nesting sites. (Cont'd on page 4)

Merced Lake Observations (cont'd)

Also noted, was a mingling of Myrtle warblers with the Audubons which have wintered with us.

Notable for its absence was the loon which I had seen in the early part of the winter.

The first swallows (violet-green) are beginning to arrive.

During the course of almost a full year I have compiled a list of the birds seen at Lake Merced, and have also kept lists for each visit. Any member interested in this information may have it for the asking.

--Mona R. Trigg
201 So. Mayfair Avenue
Daly City, Calif.

SPECIAL SESSION -CAMP DENALI

Camp Denali, a wilderness Resort in the McKinley Park region of Alaska, is offering three special sessions this summer that may be of interest to Audubon members. The Wilderness Workshop, June 20-30, is set up along the line of Audubon Camps, to explore and study the nature lore of the arctic-alpine tundra. Tundra Treks, Aug. 10-22, will attract those interested in hiking in the back country of McKinley Park and the adjacent Kantishna region from comfortable base camps along the McKinley Park Road. The Shutter Safari is designed for the serious wildlife photographer who wants to record spectacular animal and bird life along with the mountain scenery for which McKinley Park is famous. For those just interested in a relaxing vacation in this region, the regular facilities of Camp Denali will be open to all from July 1 to August 8. For brochure and other information write Camp Denali, Box 526, College, Alaska.

-- Celia M. Hunter
Camp Denali, Inc.

Audubon News Release 3/5/60

Washington, D. C.-- The National Audubon Society has urged Congress to appropriate more money for water pollution control despite President Eisenhower's recent veto of a bill to expand federal assistance in sewage treatment.

In a statement to an appropriations subcommittee, Society President Carl W. Buchheister recommended \$45 million next year for sewage-treatment grants to municipalities instead of the \$20 million proposed by the Bureau of the Budget.

"Far more vigorous programs are needed at all levels of government," Buchheister said, "if we are to overcome the vast backlog of untreated wastes that now contaminate the nation's streams. The federal government, the states, and municipalities all must redouble their efforts.

"Unless brought under control," the conservation leader said, "water pollution can spell disaster for America!

"The widespread and progressive despoliation of our streams, lakes and beaches with human sewage and industrial wastes not only destroys wildlife and recreational opportunities for all the people; it inhibits economic growth by rendering water unusable for industrial, municipal and agricultural purposes."

Bucheister presented his statement at hearings conducted by Rep. John Fogarty (R.I.), chairman of the House subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare appropriations. In addition to supporting sewage-treatment grants, the Audubon Society had urged increased funds to the U. S. Public Health Service for enforcement of pollution abatement in interstate streams, for research, and for control of pollution caused by radioactive waste.

NEWS RELEASE - NAT'L. AUDUBON SOCIETY
 MAR. 1960. DALLAS, TEXAS -- President Carl W. Buchheister of the National Audubon Society told an audience of wildlife administrators today that mass killing of blackbirds or other wild bird populations with chemical poisons would be a serious mistake, like the aerial spraying of chemical insecticides when research has not been completed to disclose the long-range effects.

Taking part in a panel discussion of "problem birds" at the North American Wildlife Conference, Buchheister urged more research into farming practices that can themselves reduce the depredations.

He told of a farmer who protected his crops and foiled hungry birds by switching to a variety of hybrid corn with an ear set deep in the husks.

Admitting that starlings have increased, the Audubon Society president asserted that biological studies to date have found no evidence to support claims of increases in redwing blackbirds and grackles.

"We do recognize there are more depredations in certain corn and rice growing areas from fall concentrations of blackbirds," he said, "but we suggest these concentrations may be due to farming practices that tend to bait the birds. These are two very different sources of trouble and ought to be considered as such."

Pointing out that more than half of the nation's milled rice stocks are now in surpluses owned by the federal government, he questioned the wisdom of price supports that encourage over-production on the one hand, while resulting in demands the government cure other headaches; e.g., bird depredations, caused by over-planting.

The Audubon Society, Buchheister declared, "will oppose any relaxation of policy that would relieve the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the responsibility it now must exercise in prosecuting for unwarranted or careless killing operations."

NORTHERN CALIF. COAST RANGE PRESERVE
 (Reprint from March 1960 Santa Clara Audubon Soc. Bulletin - The Avocet)
 Allen H. Morgan, Executive Vice President, Massachusetts Audubon Society, is responsible for the statement now so widely quoted by conservation groups over the country: "What we save in the next few years is all that will be saved." Audubon Wildlife in Sanctuaries are an important part of this natural preserve. A relatively young group, The Nature Conservancy, has likewise been acquiring "living museums" - 18 areas in six states so far with twenty-one others in process of acquisition.

This society has made the down payment of \$25,000 on the Northern California Coast Range Preserve of redwoods. Ultimately, they hope to complete purchase of 6500 acres in this Mendocino County area.

See the January 1960 article in Reader's Digest - "Save a Beauty Spot for America":
"loggers and roadbuilders have all but wiped out the Coast Range wilderness. Yet, by happy fate, they have left untouched the whole of the drainage basin of the Elder River. At the heart of this project is a tract of some 300 acres sold to Nature Conservancy by its generous owner (Mr. Heath Angelo, Wilderness Road, Branscombe, Calif.) at a price that is but a small fraction of its actual value. The Conservancy hopes to lease additional tracts of adjoining land. The total project will involve much money. But think what it will bring: the whole undisturbed natural basin of a river, from its source to its mouth!" Santa Clara Audubon Soc. and Marin Audubon Soc. have each recently contributed \$33 for an acre in the Preserve.

Contributions in any amount from individuals are especially welcome now since only \$15,000 of the \$25,000 due on May 7 has been raised. The address is:

Nature Conservancy
 Western Regional Office
 1711-A Grove Street
 Berkeley 9, Calif.

--- J. Todd.

Editor's note -- It would be fine if Sequoia chapter could also contribute \$33 for an acre in the Preserve.

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(Items for May Bulletin due April 20)

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(Form 3547 Requested)



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