



THE ALPINE LAKE (AND WAY POINTS) TRIP

Ruth Breckenridge

On that golden and sparkling day which marked the end of September, 27 enthusiastic Audubonites met at Vista Point, all looking forward to the exploration of new territory. Nick and Catherine Kroll proved to be ideal leaders for such an expedition! Nick and Catherine guided us first to Fairfax and then along the Bolinas-Fairfax road leading to Alpine Lake. An unexpected "detour" (pre-planned by Nick to surprise us) brought us to tree-lined Lake Lagunitas. A stroll through the woods along the lake produced a variety of plant life, several deer, and a number of birds including a kingfisher and a ruby-crowned kinglet. After enjoying our lunch in a tree-shaded picnic area, we went on our way again. This

e another "detour" brought us to the sparkling blue waters of Bon Tempe Lake. Our next destination was the dam at Alpine Lake. As we drove along, we were impressed by the tall stems and large leaves of aralias. (This native species is not common in San Mateo County). After viewing Alpine Lake from the Dam, we followed the Alpine Dam Road until it joined the Bolinas Ridge Highway in Tamalpais State Park. This clear day provided breath-taking vistas of Bolinas Lagoon, the adjacent coast line, and the Farallon Islands. A few miles more of riding, and we left our cars to walk into the beautiful, quiet area surrounding the Mountain Theater. On our way Nick pointed out several dead trees with thousands of acorns imbedded in their trunks, the store-houses of the Acorn woodpecker. As we sat on the stone terraces of the Mountain Theater alternately watching the afternoon sun turn distant San Francisco into a fairy-land city of alabaster beauty, or raising our eyes to watch a marsh hawk's wheeling flight, we were grateful that we had spent this day in such relaxing and beautiful surroundings.

THE DUMBARTON BRIDGE TRIP

Ruth Breckenridge

Undeterred by heat and hunters, seventeen people met at the approach to Dumbarton Bridge on Sizzling Sunday, October 15. Perhaps due to the unseasonable weather and opening of hunting season, the birds were less numerous than usual for this time of year, and they were harder to see. Although our able leader, Neil Dickinson, felt keen disappointment because of the paucity of birds, the rest of us were happy to welcome back our old "friends" including: American egrets, several beautiful flights of white pelicans, cormorants, avocets, Bonaparte gulls, Forsters terns, black-bellied plovers, redbacked sandpipers, willets, phalaropes, yellowlegs, curlews,

and ruddy ducks. Perhaps the most unusual birds observed (to us "amatoors", at least) were a clapper rail and a number of black-necked stilts. As noon approached, the heat drove the observers to the hills. After eating lunch at Pulgas Water Temple, a quick observation of the Spring Valley Lakes revealed several kinds of ducks, and, on the far shore, a flock of about thirty Canada geese.

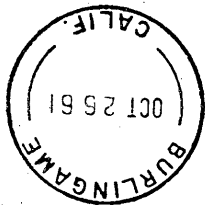
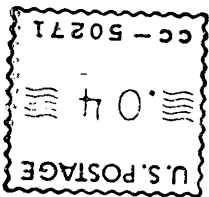
FIELD TRIPS

- November 4 **RICHARDSON BAY WILD-LIFE SANCTUARY:** Meet at Vista Point north of Marin County end of Golden Gate Bridge at 9:00 A.M. Take lunch. Leader: Mrs. Lennon of Marin Audubon Society. (For information call Di. 3-4216). This trip should prove to be a very interesting one for birding and for giving Sequoia Audubon members and friends an opportunity to visit the historic and charming old house which is an important feature of the sanctuary.
- November 19 **FOOTHILLS ABOVE REDWOOD CITY:** Meet at Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road at 8:30 A.M. Take lunch. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. B. Neil Dickinson. (Em. 6-7661).

MEETINGS

- November 2 **BOARD MEETING** at Eugenia Hebbbron's home, 1055 Black Mountain Road, Hillsborough, at 8:00 P.M.
- November 9 **REGULAR MEETING** at Washington School, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame, at 8 P.M. An outstanding program is promised. Dr. John P. Harville, Professor of Biology and Science Education at San Jose State College, will show his moving picture film "THE ALASKA RED SALMON". Dr. Harville spent four months in Alaska last year with the Fisheries Research Institute, a branch of the University of Washington. This film is recommended enthusiastically by those who have seen it.
- December **NO REGULAR MEETING** will be held in December.

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dickinson
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