

Sequoia Audubon Society is a branch of National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to enjoy and safeguard the wildlife of the Bay Area. All interested persons are welcomed at field trips, bird walks and monthly general meetings.

PRESIDENT: A. E. Montgomery 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough, Phone: DI 4-4249

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS

At our regular December meeting, our Society recognized our past presidents by the presentation to each of an official Audubon pin or button. Only the first president, Mr. Lionel B. King, and the last past president, Mrs. Eugenia Hebbroon (still incapacitated by a broken ankle) were absent. Present were Mr. J. Ed. McClellan, Dr. B. Neil Dickinson, Mrs. Donald Valentine, Mrs. Allen Lee and Miss Ruth Breckenridge.

An exceptionally large audience enjoyed an outstandingly beautiful and fascinatingly interesting movie of the Anna's Humming Bird shown by Tullio Pellegrini.

A. E. Montgomery

THE SPARROWS RETURN.

During the winter and spring of the 1961-62 season, 412 White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were banded and displaced by jet aircraft from a bird-banding station in San Jose, California, to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. By December 1, 1962, sixteen of these migratory native sparrows had found their way back the more than 1,800 miles to San Jose. These birds, which normally nest in northwestern Washington and in Canada and Alaska, and spend their winters in California, perform their annual spring and fall migrations at night. Scientists now think that these birds may use a form of bi-coordinate celestial navigation. The numbers of birds returning, of those which normally survive from one year to the next, make it highly unlikely that they returned by random search. The precision with which adult birds return year after year to the same few acres to spend the winter is one of the objects of this study supported in part by the Office of Naval Research and San Jose State College. The possibility that some of the younger birds returned to the vicinity of Baton Rouge, in Louisiana, is also being explored.

These are the red, green and blue-dyed sparrows in the news last spring and which THE SEQUOIA asked you to watch for. However, attempts to trace their movements by dyeing their feathers yielded inconclusive results.

The above information was supplied to us by the principal investigator on the project, Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, Biological Sciences Department, San Jose State College. THE SEQUOIA hopes to print additional details and progress of this continuing project in a future issue.

CONSERVATION AND POPULATION

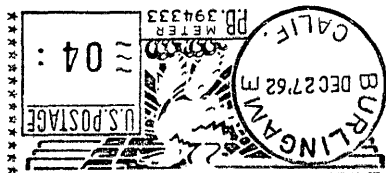
It is gratifying to many that we live in a state whose resources have made it the most populated in the Nation. But, we must not ignore the fact that with this influx of citizens we can expect also those who follow along to make a living by any means available. And what could be more available than exploitation of our vast unsettled areas, wilderness and seashore. Many of these immigrants will be shrewd, unethical and unpatriotic. To them the beauty of the hills, forests, seashores and flowers will mean nothing if it can be converted into money. We have a surplus of that element in the state now. We should give the increase serious thought.

We can be thankful for those far-seeing individuals and organizations who have given so much of their time, effort and money toward preserving many natural areas which we will enjoy for years to come, but we cannot expect to acquire more of these blessings in the future without increased resistance. It will behoove us to nail down by law any potential park, greenbelt or recreation area at the earliest opportunity. We should make this one of our objectives through existing organizations prepared to do these things.

Note the continual nibbling away at the shoreline marsh areas of the San Francisco Bay. Can you think of any project that would wreak more havoc than this intrusion on the natural rights of all people and, indeed, the birds and animal life of the Bay. It is unfortunate that long ago the high-tide line of the Bay was not established as a line beyond which no material change could be made by man so that the Bay could be preserved in toto.

W. C. Harman, Chairman
Conservation Committee

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
2270 Summit Dr.,
Hillsborough, Calif.



Return to: Sequoia Audubon Society Bulletin
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1356 Bernal Avenue
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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT

135 species, an estimated total of 19,000 birds were recorded by 15 seasoned S. A. S. birders in the annual Christmas Count December 22. Comparable figures for 1961 were 139 species and 12,000 birds. Count is made in area of 7-mile radius and figures forwarded to National Audubon Society to be compiled with those of branches throughout the United States. Watch for totals in Audubon Magazine.

Neil Dickinson, Chairman, and Oleta Dickinson, Statistician, report "Fog blanketed a great portion of our most productive areas throughout much of the day. The Audubon Warden thought it inadvisable to launch his boat to survey the Belmont Slough so our coverage of this area was sketchy". The number of ducks and robins is down sharply from previous years and the number of starlings is up.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE BAY

A Peninsula area organizing meeting of the "Save San Francisco Bay Association" is scheduled for 7 January 1963, at 8:00 P.M. at the H. L. Dobson home, 257 West 40th Avenue, San Mateo. When this group formed earlier this year, their appeal brought about 2,500 \$1 memberships. Their purpose is a public voice to prevent indiscriminate filling, largely for industrial developments, which may in future threaten over 70 percent of the present Bay. All interested are invited to the meeting. Incidentally, our own Mr. William Goodall is among the numerous leading conservationists who are active in the group.

Robert Lebkicher

MEETINGS

Jan. 3 BOARD MEETING at home of A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. Any Audubon member is welcome

Jan. 10 REGULAR MEETING at Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame. See FOUR CHARACTERS IN CANADA. From out of the north woods come Ruth Breckenridge, Jean Maxwell, Carol Boyd and Peg Smith to show 35 mm slides of their trip to Banff, Jasper and Yo Ho National Parks. DON'T MISS THIS!

FIELD TRIPS

Jan. 13 LAKE MERCED, San Francisco. Meet at Boat House (located near Skyline Blvd. entrance). Lunch optional. Leaders: Nick and Katherine Kroll (OX 7-2051).
Jan. 26 CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKE, meet at Pulgas Water Temple, Canada Road. Lunch optional. Leaders: Bill Colbert (JU 3-6141) and Mark Zumsteg-Jr. (OX 7-4358).

BIRD WALKS

Leader: Florence Richardson
(FI 5-4443)

Jan. 3 LAKE MERRITT - Meet at 8:30 A.M. outside Sanford's "Broiled Burger" coffee shop, Broadway and California Drive, Burlingame. OR meet at 9:30 A.M. at Duck Pond, Lakeside Park near Grand and Perkins, Oakland. We will have assistance of Park Naturalist to identify ducks, geese, grebes and cormorants, many at close range. Bring lunch.

Jan. 17 COYOTE POINT AND BAYSHORE Thursday Meet at Yacht Harbor, Coyote Point, San Mateo. Tide will be favorable for observing shore birds (1.8 ft. at 12:20 P.M.)



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MEETINGS

- Feb. 7 BOARD MEETING at home of Vice President
Thurs. Ulysses Gras, 425 Alder Lane, San Mateo.
8:00 PM Any Audubon member is welcome to attend.
- Feb. 14 POTLUCK SUPPER at Washington School Cafe-
Thurs. teria, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame. You and
6:30 PM friends are cordially invited. Tell Katherine
Kroll (OX 7-2051) or Florence Richardson
(FI 5-4443) what you will bring - salad, main
dish or dessert. Please bring your own place
setting.
- Feb. 14 REGULAR MEETING at Washington School
Thurs. Auditorium, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame.
8:00 PM A movie, "Prairie Wings" featuring ducks in
slow motion will be followed by a second film,
"Birds of Prey".

FIELD TRIPS

- Feb. 9 VILLA MONTALVO near Saratoga. Meet at
Saturday Half Moon Bay Road near Skyline Blvd.
8:30 AM Leader: Beatrice Brainard. Bring lunch.
- Feb. 24 SEARSVILLE LAKE near Woodside. Meet at
Sunday gate to Searsville Lake. Leader: J. Ed
8:30 AM McClellan, Bring lunch. There will be a 25¢
admission charge at the gate.

BIRD WALKS

- Feb. 7 GOLDEN GATE PARK - Meet in front of
Thurs. McLaren Lodge near Stanyan and Fell Streets.
9:30 AM Or, call Florence Richardson, leader
(FI 5-4443) for transportation. Bring lunch.
- Feb. 21 WATERDOG CANYON - Meet at Lee Bros.
Thurs. parking lot, Carlmont Shopping Center, Ralston
9:30 AM Ave. & Alameda de las Pulgas. Lunch op-
tional. Be prepared to walk.

SAVE-THE-BAY MEETS FEBRUARY 4

A meeting of the Save-San Francisco-Bay Association is scheduled for Monday, February 4 at 8:00 PM at the H. L. Dobson home, 257 West 40th Ave., San Mateo. Slides of bay sites in San Mateo County will be shown. Mrs. Norton Benner will be present for questions and discussion.

Bob Lebkicher

WILDERNESS CONFERENCE MARCH 8-10

"Tomorrow's Wilderness" is the provocative theme for the Eighth Biennial Wilderness Conference, March 8-9-10 at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco. The first two days, speakers and discussions will be concerned with the wilderness we have and its values, threats to wilderness, and ways of preserving the irreplaceables. On the third day, the conference will close with a field trip to the new Point Reyes National Seashore.

Among the distinguished conservationists participating will be Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior; Justice William O. Douglas, Supreme Court of the United States; Chauncey Leake, President, American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Carl Buchheister, President, National Audubon Society.

Conference costs are: registration fee - \$3 (students, \$1); Friday banquet March 8 - \$6; Saturday lunch March 9 - \$4. Twelve dollars will buy a special package of all three events. A separate cost of \$6 for the Sunday, March 10 Point Reyes field trip includes bus and box lunch.

For information and registration forms, phone or write Wilderness Conference YUkon 2-2822, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4, California.

READ SILENT SPRING

A copy of Rachel Carson's SILENT SPRING is available for loan to any Sequoia Audubon member. Phone Margaret Girouard - 345-3848.

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
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NOTES FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

We are reminded by the Wilderness Society journal that "wilderness wildlife is fighting for survival. The Whooping Crane, California Condor, Bald Eagle, Desert Bighorn, Grizzly Bear, Salmon and many of the smaller birds and animals are being lost as wilderness gives way and their living places are destroyed forever" by excessive hunting and air and water pollution. Salmon is disappearing as spawning places are reduced by dam building and exploitation of rivers. The San Francisco Bay Shrimp, prolific as it once was, is completely gone due to use of detergents, it is said.

Legislation by the Interior Department is being sought through the Golden Eagle Act (Public Law 87-884 of October 24, 1962) to provide protection for this bird. But the proposed Act still carries a provision allowing aerial gunning by professional hunters under the guise of protection to domestic animals. It is this paragraph (11.7) of the Act which I am protesting to the Secretary of the Interior: Not to curtail the farmer's right to kill the birds that are preying on his animals, but to clarify the proposed regulations and revise them to confine killing these eagles to the essential need and to eliminate the commercial and sporting possibilities in the Act.

We read with considerable interest in the S. F. Chronicle under the heading MAN'S IGNORANT TINKERING PERILS NATURE'S BALANCE that a Presidential Advisory Committee has warned that man is manipulating Nature at a dangerous rate. "The Committee noted that man is altering the balance of a relatively stable system by polluting the atmosphere and water supplies by de-forestation, by over-grazing grasslands, by irrigation, by draining swamps and building dams. The effects on man himself of the changes he has wrought in the balance of great natural forces and in the new micro-environment which he has created are but dimly perceived and not well understood", the Committee concluded. Rachel Carson has made a valiant effort to bring this problem out in the open in her second best-selling book, SILENT SPRING.

W. C. Harman
Conservation Chairman

WELCOME, NEW SEQUOIA MEMBERS

From Burlingame: Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Carl
From San Mateo: Miss June Blackford

FAVORED LAND - CAN WE KEEP IT SO?

Bob Lebkicher sends the following excerpt from the introduction of NATIVE TREES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION by Woodbridge Metcalf (U. C. Press, 1959, \$1.50):

"When you look from almost any vantage point in the ten-county area surrounding San Francisco Bay, you realize that trees are a notable feature of the landscape. They not only contribute beauty as individual specimens, groves or forest, but add greatly to the comfort of both humans and animals. Some of the finest timber and ornamental trees in North America and some of the largest, oldest and most beautiful trees in the world are found in this area and you will find it is a rewarding experience to make their acquaintance.

In the central coast country, north though Sonoma County and south through Santa Cruz County, is a meeting ground for many tree species from the north Pacific Coast that reach their southern limit in the Bay Region and others from southern California that reach their northern limit here."

"How deeply with beauty is beauty overlaid! The ground covered with crystals, the crystals with mosses and lichens and low-spreading grasses and flowers -- these with larger plants, leaf over leaf, with ever-changing color; the broad palm of the firs outspread over these; the azure dome over all like a bellflower, and star above star."

From John Muir, contributed by
Bob Lebkicher

ASILOMAR IN THE SPRING

Members and friends who attend Audubon Western Conference at Asilomar on beautiful Monterey Peninsula April 6-9, will enjoy a rich and varied program of events, discussions, exhibitions and trips by land and sea. For full Program and Registration Form send a card today to Audubon Western Conference, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California.

Expanded dining room facilities make it possible to accommodate persons living off the grounds or desiring to participate on a daily basis.