

# The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 16, Number 9

May 1967

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, Mr. A.E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Dr., Hillsborough 344-4249 - Editor, Mr. J.L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

## MEETINGS

May 4 BOARD MEETING at the home of President A. E. Thursday  
7:45 P.M. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. Committee chairmen should attend if possible. Other members are welcome.

May 11 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Washington Thursday  
8:00 P.M. School Auditorium, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame. The program will be presented by our own Mr. U. E. Gras. Uke will show color slides of his trip to the Hawaiian Islands, including birds, flowers and scenes of four of the islands. The annual election of officers and directors for the coming year will be held at this meeting. The evening will conclude with light refreshments, served by our Social Committee.

## FIELD TRIPS (Chairman: Nick Kroll 697-2051)

May 6 AL WOOL RANCH Saturday  
9:00 A.M. LEADER: Mrs. Ruth Hass (345-9089) MEETING PLACE: Baw's Store, at La Honda Bring lunch. A trip through the varied and interesting terrain of this large ranch with its abundance of plant and animal life, led by Al Wool, a genial host and outstanding naturalist, is always interesting.

May 13 POINT REYES AND TOMALES BAY STATE PARK Saturday  
8:30 A.M. LEADER: Nick Kroll (697-2051) MEETING PLACE: Parking area at Vista Point, at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge, at 8:30 A.M. Bring lunch and wear warm clothing, for an all day outing.

May 21 FARALLON ISLAND BOAT TRIP Sunday  
6:30 A.M. LEADER: A. E. Montgomery (344-4249) MEETING PLACE: Princeton Pier (north of Miramar and a short distance south of Hazel's Pier). The boat, "Miss Princeton", will leave the pier at 7:00 A.M. sharp, to permit return about mid-afternoon. Be there early to allow time for parking and boarding. No landing will be made on the islands, but the boat will circle as close as is practical. Arrangements have been made to have bait on board to attract birds. This will afford an opportunity to see oceanic birds seldom seen from shore, such as Puffins, Auklets, Guillemots, Murres, Shearwaters, and possibly Albatross.

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY: The number of persons going will be limited to thirty.

COST: \$6.00 per person, to cover cost of boat, crew, and bait.

HOW TO RESERVE PASSAGE: Write to Mr. A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough 94010, enclosing a check and a self-addressed envelope for receipt confirmation. When thirty reservations have been received no more can be accepted, so act promptly. For further information call Mr. Montgomery.

HOW TO DRESS: Wear warm clothes, including warm footwear and head gear, and wear wind-proof clothing. The wind and spray can be very cold, so dress as warmly as possible. Sunburn lotion may be desirable for some, and sea-sick pills if thought necessary. Bring binoculars and

LUNCH.

## SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB TRIP

Leavitt McQuesten will conduct an offshore-birding trip on Monday, June 19. This is an annual event sponsored by the Santa Cruz Bird Club. The boat will leave Stagnaro's Landing on the Municipal Wharf in Santa Cruz at 7:30 A.M. and return about noon. Tickets are \$1.50 and participants limited to fifty. Make reservations with Mr. McQuesten, 120 Otis Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060. or phone 423-2989.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Although this Spring has been exceptionally rainy, so far, several outstanding Field Trips have been enjoyed. Space does not permit detailed reports on each, this month, but following are brief summaries:

### March 18-25, Arizona Trip

Ten of our members enjoyed wonderful birding in the Tucson area, with many new birds being added to life lists. It is being proposed that this should become an annual event. Among the more interesting and unusual birds seen were Black Hawks, Pyrrhuloxia, Phainopepla, Painted Redstart, Bridled Titmouse, and various warblers, sparrows, and wrens.

### March 25, Tunitas Road and San Gregorio Beach

Fourteen members took advantage of a brief respite in the wet weather to visit this area. They were rewarded by seeing Marsh Wrens, American Bitterns, and other marsh and shore birds. Altogether, 59 species were recorded.

### April 1, Butano Canyon

Leader Jed McClellan used his magic powers to give us good weather all morning, during this most interesting trip. Many species of birds were seen, although the Trumpeter Swan was not in sight at Pescadero Creek, and the Skunk Cabbage was in good display. Other Spring flowers were also observed, such as Trillium, Mission Bells, Yellow Stream Violets, and Wild Ginger. As we finished lunch, and left for home, Jed allowed the rain to return.

### April 8, Audubon Canyon Ranch and Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory

Again, there was just enough break in the weather to allow us to have a really fine outing at these Marin County sites. A good turnout enjoyed seeing the many Egrets and Great Blue Herons on their nests, and there was a great variety of bird life seen on the trail and in Bolinas Lagoon. A total of 69 nests have been counted in the rookery, and the birds were in full breeding plumage. A number of young Herons were seen, in the nests, and the egrets were setting on their eggs.

The walk along the Bert Harwell Trail, in Garden Club Canyon, was most pleasant, and all were grateful for the efforts of nature lovers who by their donations have made it possible to save this region and its bird and plant life.

After lunch, we visited the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, where a member of the staff took us around and showed us how they catch and band birds for study, and told us of the complete records kept of this activity, and its value.

### April 16, Angel Island

We were again fortunate to enjoy a good day, weather-wise, for this delightful trip to the Island. As usual on this trip, many birds and a good number of flowering plants and wildflowers were observed.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

**Audubon Canyon Ranch:** In these days when many of our most treasured areas of unspoiled natural beauty are endangered and destroyed before our eyes, it is most consoling and reassuring to visit Audubon Canyon Ranch, a marvelous wildlife sanctuary in existence through the joint efforts of Marin and Golden Gate Audubon Societies. The Ranch, comprised of 569 acres of rolling grasslands, chaparral, deciduous woodlands, and two canyons forested by redwood and Douglas fir, was purchased at a cost of \$386,000. Audubon Canyon Ranch contains the last major rookery of great blue herons and American egrets in Marin County. The egrets were brought to the verge of extinction by hunters for the millinery trade at the turn of the century. Today both species, like so many other large birds in America, are threatened by a more formidable danger: the loss of their habitat. At Audubon Canyon Ranch each spring (March through June) the great birds nest in the tops of the tall redwood trees of the canyon and may be observed from an overlook above the treetops. It is an unforgettable sight! This grove of trees provides an exceptionally fine and protected nesting site. The egrets and herons find food for themselves and their young in the shallow water, swamp, and tide-lands of nearby Bolinas Lagoon. Recently, the Lagoon, which besides providing food for the nesting egrets and herons, is a vital link in the Pacific Flyway for wintering waterfowl and and migrant shorebirds, has been critically threatened by plans of the Bolinas Harbor District to build a 1600-boat harbor and marina in the lagoon. Through the expedient action of Audubon representatives, the Nature Conservancy, and Marin Conservation League, a down payment has been made on Kent Island, the key to the development plan. Full price of the Island was \$85,000 plus legal fees of \$2,000 which must now be raised by public subscription. Each Sequoia Audubon member will be given an opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause when he receives in the mail a small brochure giving details of the fund drive.

**Crystal Springs Lake:** Think of the pristine beauty of Crystal Springs Lake as it is today and then visualize a freeway along its shore. The lake-side routing of the Junipero Serra Freeway running through virgin watershed land owned by the City of San Francisco which serves as a reservoir for the northern end of the Peninsula is the route approved by the State Highway Commission, although San Francisco demands that the freeway be looped eastward to the ridge line away from the drinking water. An editorial in the April 9 San Francisco Examiner gives the following reasons why the ridge route should be approved instead of the lake-side routing: approximately 1,000 acres of beautiful open space would be protected against the encroachments of civilization; the danger of water pollution would be further minimized; continued use of the area as a wildlife refuge, and its further development for riders and hikers would be encouraged; better service would be provided for planned state and junior colleges nearby. The ridge route gained an eminent supporter on April 14 when Interior Secretary Stewart Udall wrote a five-page letter to Alan Boyd, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, in which he said "I strongly recommend the adoption of San Francisco's proposal for a ridge route." Boyd is the federal official who holds the purse strings in the matter and who personally knows the area and its aspirations

and the Examiner "anticipates the favorable exercise of his authority in making a judgment." We earnestly hope the Examiner's prediction is fulfilled.

**Public Ownership:** In addressing the Sierra Club's 10th biennial Wilderness Conference in April, Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman indicated that public ownership by purchase of such natural resources as San Francisco Bay and San Bruno Mountain may be the only means of protecting them from development as housing or industrial sites. He did not indicate any belief that development of such properties could long be stalled, even by such agencies as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, without establishing some public right to the property that would exceed existing private property rights.

**San Rafael Wilderness:** Secretary Freeman was again in the news on April 12 when he endorsed designation of 143,000 acres in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County as the San Rafael Wilderness. Testifying before a Senate Interior subcommittee, he called for enactment of a bill by California Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, providing for the designation, which would be the first addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System since it was created by Congress in 1964.

**Estuarine Areas Bill:** In testimony that pulled no punches about "a public give-away that borders on scandal," the National Audubon Society urged passage of the Estuarine Areas Bill at a public hearing March 8 in Washington before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. The statement was read by Exec. Vice President Charles H. Callison. The bill, H. R. 25, would afford protection to estuaries, bays, tidal marshes and other waters plus the Great Lakes and connecting waterways. To an increasing extent these areas are being destroyed by dredging and filling. Bay bottoms are dredged and the material is used to fill in shallow areas or marshes for real estate development. Mr. Callison said, "The crimes against our estuarine resources have been committed for a variety of short-sighted purposes, but in most cases the crime has benefitted some special interest at the expense of the public interest." To protect the public's interest in estuarine areas, he urged passage of the bill. He also suggested that it be amended to cover all navigable waters, so this protection would cover more fresh-water wetlands, as well as the coastal salt-water areas.

**DDT:** A bill, S. 1025, to prohibit the sale of DDT, or shipment of it for use anywhere in the United States, was introduced by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin. He pointed out that the great danger of DDT is its persistency -- that much of its toxic quality persists for years, accumulating in the soil, in plants and animals. And in humans. At a somewhat higher cost, far safer substitutes are available, he said. Wisconsin and the Forest Service have stopped spraying their forests with DDT, he added. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

**Billboards:** More than a million billboards will have to be removed under regulations to implement the Highway Beautification Act if current proposals of the new U. S. Department of Transportation are approved by Congress. States must comply by 1970 or face loss of federal highway funds.

Submitted by,

Marian Lockwood, Chairman  
Conservation Committee



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