

The Birds & Beasts were
Margaret Miller

The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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, Dr. Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Dr., Hillsborough 342-3620 - Editor, Mr. J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

MEETINGS

- March 7 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. All members welcome.
- March 14 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue.
- Thursday 8:00 PM Mr. C. W. Aumwalt, naturalist at Audubon Canyon Ranch will present a lecture, illustrated by color slides, on Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas Lagoon, Kent Island, and San Francisco Bay.

FIELD TRIPS

Florence Richardson, Chairman 345-4443

- March 14 SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN
- Thursday 9:00 AM LEADER: Bonnie McClellan (344-3486)
- MEETING PLACE: Meet at the end of Guadalupe Parkway, at Radio Road. From Mission Street, Daly City, turn right (east) on Market St. (Colma) and continue to Guadalupe Parkway.
- March 16 BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDENS
- Saturday 8:30 AM LEADERS: Katherine & Nick Kroll (697-2051)
- MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Southern Pacific parking lot at Broadway & California in Burlingame. Car pools can be arranged here for the drive to Berkeley. Those who prefer may meet the group at the Gardens at approximately 9:30 AM. Bring lunch. Expect to see a variety of Spring birds and interesting plants (very fine cactus garden).
- March 30 AUDUBON CANYON RANCH and POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY
- Saturday 9:00 AM LEADER: Monty Montgomery (344-4249)
- MEETING PLACE: Audubon Canyon Ranch, about 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on California Highway 1. Bring lunch. Persons wishing to ride with others phone Monty, who will make arrangements. At the Overlook we will see the Great Blue Herons and American Egrets on their nests. From the new birding-blind pier we will see the water birds on Bolinas Lagoon. After lunch at picnic tables, and a birding and Spring-flower visit to lovely Garden Club Canyon, we will drive to Point Reyes Bird Observatory where a naturalist will demonstrate their procedures and tell of their statistical and biological studies. Bring friends on this outstanding trip.

April 3 BUTANO AREA

Wednesday LEADER: Ruth B. Hass (345-9089)

10:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Town of Pescadero at the intersection of the main street and Pescadero Road. Wear warm clothing and hiking shoes. Bring lunch.

SPECIAL EVENT

On May 4, Saturday, a "SURPRISE TRIP" is being planned. This will be an all-day trip by Bus to an unannounced destination. We will leave from a convenient point at about 6 AM, drive to our destination, stopping along the way at any points of interest, enjoy about four hours of birding and "wild-flowering", then return home, arriving back at about 7 PM. Plan on a picnic lunch, some hiking, and an exciting outing. This trip will cost \$5.00 each. Please make reservations early by sending the fee to either of the co-leaders:

Ruth Hass 205 Santa Clara Way San Mateo 94403
Jack Morrill 505 Costa Rica Ave. San Mateo 94402

BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK

March 23 Area to be determined later.

Saturday LEADER: Jean Jones (344-9339)

9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Parking lot at the Bank of America at 3rd and El Camino, San Mateo. This will be a half-day walk to observe land birds. Wear walking shoes and warm clothes. Bring binoculars, field guide, note-book and pencil.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

RICHARDSON BAY AUDUBON SANCTUARY January 27

Nine avid birdwatchers braved the icy rain and wind to observe about 52 species and listen to the interesting comments of Fred Ross.

The pintails were on hand for their free hand-out. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Western Grebes, Ruddy Ducks and Scooters were everywhere on the Bay. Harbor Seals were busy courting and the grebes were beginning to dance.

Paul Lechich

GOLDEN GATE PARK February 10

The sky was overcast, but it was warm and calm. Twenty-six people showed up, to enjoy quite a long walk around the Chain-of-Lakes. The count of birds seen reached 48 species. The outstanding sightings were Virginia Rail, Varied Thrushes, Pigmy Nuthatches, and especially worth mentioning, European Widgeon and Summer Tanager. All present seemed to be satisfied and had a good time.

Nick Kroll

CONSERVATION NOTES

Is There Intelligent Life on Earth?

Dr. Thomas Harvey posed this question to the attendees of the February 5 lecture entitled "The Ecological Crisis" which followed the Audubon Nature Film series. One would be inclined to answer negatively when considering highlights of his talk: world population is increasing at the rate of 2% per year (70,000,000 increase this year); some parts of the world already suffer food scarcity; the U. S. is approaching its limit on available water; 400 acres of land in California each day are removed from open space and agriculture for housing and other buildings; agriculture is removed to dry inland valleys, necessitating vast quantities of water to be furnished for irrigation; one million acres per year of U. S. land are being paved; radio-active fallout moves through the food chain from plants to man, as well as DDT and other pesticides which are used extensively and remain intact for several decades within living organisms; most critical of the pollution problems is air pollution--and in the Bay area, 90% comes from automobiles, yet we continue to pave acres of land freeways and parking lots to accommodate even more automobiles; there is \$10,000,000 smog damage each year to California agriculture; the rate of the dread lung disease, emphysema, in the cities is twice that of rural communities.

Dr. Harvey said that in his opinion a person could serve no greater purpose than conservation in this age of the ecological crisis when not only the habitat of wildlife, but man's planet Earth, is being ruined. Dr. Harvey is Professor of Biology and Ecology at San Jose State College, and a former president of the Santa Clara Audubon Society, and is consultant to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. We wish that our elected representatives who are anti-conservationists and who make decisions concerning the quality of our environment on the Peninsula would enroll in Dr. Harvey's courses!

Revise U. S. Law for Sake of Open Space

U. S. Congressman Paul McCloskey has introduced a bill into the House of Representatives to designate Skyline Boulevard a National Scenic Parkway: this is a companion bill to Senator Kuchel's Senate Bill No. 2616. On February 8, following dedication of Skyline Blvd. (22 miles from Half Moon Bay Road south to the Santa Clara County line) as State Scenic Highway No. 2. Congressman McCloskey spoke to an audience of several hundred San Mateo County residents on means of financing the proposed parkway.

Based on 1,000 foot extensions on each side of the highway there would be a need to acquire 4,800 acres from private owners at an estimated cost of \$5,000 per acre, or a total of \$24,000,000.

Congressman McCloskey proposed for consideration a change in the law of eminent domain and creation of an Urban Open Space Bank; tremendous increases in land value derived from public government action would serve the purposes of the Urban Open Space Bank rather than aggrandizement of private owners. Congressman McCloskey observed that this would recognize the property rights but would, however, take away from the free enterprise concept the right to become wealthy on land ownership. It would provide a means of holding some open space in trust for future generations.

Projects: Tree Planting and Count of D.O.R's

Dr. William Freedman, a member of Sequoia Audubon's Conservation Committee, has two projects in mind which he will direct following response from members who wish to participate:

- 1) Tree planting in burned out areas
- 2) Count of individual wild animals killed on Peninsula highways - D.O.R's (Dead on Road). After collection of significant data a request would be made to the State Highway Department to provide underpasses for wildlife (see National Geographic Magazine, Feb. 1968, page 196).

Members who wish to participate, or want further information, are asked to contact Dr. Freedman, 40 Terrier Place, Hillsborough, 94010, or phone 344-7774.

Magazine Articles of Interest to Conservationists

- "Song of San Francisco Bay" by Malvina Reynolds
Natural History Magazine - January 1968
- "Call Them Human Life Refuges" by Stewart Udall
Audubon Magazine - January - February 1968

(Also, in this issue of Audubon Magazine, please note a new column, page 72, "The Audubon Cause" -- there are interesting items, one of which is a comment on our conservation night for political candidates.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

NATIONAL AUDUBON WESTERN CONFERENCE

Mr. Masishi Yoshii, Secretary of the Ornithological Society of Japan, will present an illustrated address at the Asilomar Conference on April 9. Details on enrollment for this April 6 - 9 conference are in the February SEQUOIA Bulletin.

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