



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

- May 1 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Thursday Hillsborough. Board members and Committee chairmen should attend. All 8:00 PM members are welcome.
- May 8 REGULAR MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. Thursday Mrs. Beula Edmiston, an executive officer for the Committee for the Preser- 8:00 PM vation of the Tule Elk will fly up from Los Angeles to tell us of "Our Living Heritage". Illustrated with colored slides, her program will feature the Tule Elk and other rare and endangered fauna and flora in the Owens Valley area. The annual election of directors and officers for the coming year will also be held at this meeting, so it is especially important that everyone comes if at all possible.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

- May 3 AL WOOL RANCH, La Honda Saturday LEADER: Ruth Haas or Jean Jones (344-9339) 9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet in the parking area at Baw's Fountain in the town of La Honda. Wear walking shoes and bring lunch. Again we are privileged to share with Al Wool the birds, flowers, and natural beauty of his ranch in the La Honda hills.
- May 10 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDENS, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. Saturday LEADER: Katherine Kroll (697-2051) 9:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet in the parking lot of the gardens on North Canyon Road. This is most easily reached by leaving Eastshore Freeway at Ashby Avenue and continuing to College Avenue. Turn left at College Avenue, then right on Channing Way to Prospect Street. Turn left on Prospect for about 1 block, then right for a very short distance on Bancroft to Canyon Road for only 1 block, then take the LEFT unmarked fork behind the stadium for about a block, and then turn right on NORTH CANYON ROAD for about 1 mile. The gardens feature horticultural plantings, a California native wildflower section, and attracts many birds. Bring lunch and wear walking shoes. NOTE: This is NOT the Tilden Park Botanical Gardens.
- May 17 TILDEN REGIONAL PARK, Berkeley Saturday LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443) 8:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 401 Spruce Street, Berkeley. This is at the corner of Spruce and Grizzly Peak Blvd. A convenient route is to leave Eastshore Freeway at University Avenue, turn left on Sacramento Street, then right on Cedar Street to Spruce. Turn left on Spruce and continue to the intersection with Grizzly Peak Blvd. The Jewel Lake and Laurel Canyon trails offer a variety of habitats, including fresh pond, stream, "farm", forest and woodland edge, and chaparral. Summer visitors, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, and various Flycatchers, Warblers and Vireos should be well established. Bring lunch and be prepared to walk.
- May 24 STANFORD CAMPUS, Palo Alto Saturday LEADERS: Frances Nelson (593-7941) and Florence Richardson (345-4443) 9:00 AM to MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Red Barn parking lot, which is west of Macy's at 12 Noon the Stanford Shopping Center. The campus has been an exceptional place to observe migrating and nesting birds.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

BUTANO CANYON - March 29. The roadside shrubs, ferns, and flowers are beginning to recover from the severe poisoning of several years ago. This year's heavy rains helped the flowers, but the hillsides, road cuts, and creeks all show land slides and serious erosion. Oso Berry, elderberry, pink current and skunk cabbage were especially fine. Trilliums, yellow violets, ginger, milk maids and bleeding hearts were all beautiful. Winter Wrens, Wilson's Warblers, an obliging Nuthatch, Roughwing, Violet-winged and Barn Swallows, and Red-breasted Mergansers were in Pescadero Marsh

Alice Steele, Leader

MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK - April 12. A good-sized group turned out to scale the awesome craggy peak. We went to the top early because of a forecast of later rain, but were met by swirling fog. Later in the Day, as we birded on the lower slopes, we looked up and - wouldn't you know - the crest was bright with sunshine. We saw several dry-land species, such as Lark Sparrow and Nuttall's Woodpecker, but missed the Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrows.

Ralph Hunter, Leader

SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK - April 19. A group of 25 enthusiastic birders gathered at an early hour at the Sunol Water Temple for what proved a memorable day - perfect weather, superb scenery, a lavish display of wild flowers, and continual bird interest. A total of 47 species were recorded - all land birds, if one includes a pair of Wood Ducks. White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows circled the Water Temple, where they nest. Several Bullock's Orioles and Western Kingbirds were observed en route and at Sunol Regional Park. While eating lunch at the Park, Yellow-billed Magpies gathered for scraps of our lunches. A most enjoyable day!!

Monty Montgomery

CONSERVATION NOTES

SAVE OUR BAY!

The Wall Street Journal, April 14, covered the precarious future of legislation which would protect San Francisco Bay from becoming cheap real estate by exploiters such as Westbay Community Associates and Leslie Salt. In relating information about how the Estero Municipal Improvement District, created by State legislation in 1960, helped Leslie Salt create Foster City on filled bayland, the Journal states "the Bay developers have allied themselves closely with local government. When a reporter recently telephoned a city official of Redwood City for information on his city's "improvement district," a reply later came from the president of the development company as well as the city official."

Still quoting the Journal: "State Sen Richard J. Dolwig, who introduced the legislation creating the Estero district within his constituency, San Mateo County, is chairman of the powerful Governmental Efficiency Committee that will pass on the bay commission's (BCDC) proposals. The committee already has declined to act on one bill that would extend the commission's life. Senator Dolwig has introduced legislation of his own that would extend the commission's life but revamp its membership. His bill would increase representation from local governments. Friends of the commission (BCDC) fear control would pass to the land developers and their allies."

Governor Reagan has expressed concern that special interest pressures apparently have stalled legislation to continue the life of BCDC. Reagan placed immediate blame on Assemblyman John T. Knox, D-Richmond, chairman of the Local Government Committee which has taken Bay conservation bills under submission for a later vote.

CAN THE PUBLIC AFFORD TO PERMIT SAN FRANCISCO BAY TO DETERIORATE THROUGH INACTION?

CITY OF SAN MATEO BAY FILL - AN ALTERNATE PLAN?

Thanks to Sequoia Audubon member, Mrs. Jean Maxwell, who, at the April 10 public hearing, inquired if the City of San Mateo planners had ever plotted a plan entailing minimum Bay fill, in contrast to their proposed plan diking 1500 acres of tidelands and filling 625 acres, the concerned residents of the City of San Mateo were advised at the meeting which was attended by about 150 persons, that they may formally request the City Council to direct the planners to make an alternate plan without fill for industrial parks, the convention center, motels and marinas. The City Council has scheduled a public meeting on May 5 which will be the deadline for San Mateo Residents to submit this formal request.

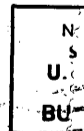
MORE APPROVALS FOR SOUTH BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

The following additional governmental bodies have recently approved establishment of the San Francisco South Bay National Wildlife Refuge as proposed in Congressional Bill H.R. 2749: San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

ACTION ON SOUTH BAY REFUGE

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will be asked to endorse the Wildlife Refuge Complex at their regular meeting on April 29th. Be there and also write a letter requesting their support. Letters to the Redwood City Council and the Menlo Park City Council are also urgently needed. Our opposition is mounting.



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