



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 1969

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 347-0912 Editor, Mr. J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

MEETINGS

- November 6
Thursday
8:00 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1550 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.
- November 13
Thursday
8:00 PM REGULAR MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Ave. Bill Anderson, of the California Department of Fish and Game, will present the program: his topic, SAN FRANCISCO BAY AS WE SEE IT TODAY. Bill will bring us up to date on developments of importance regarding the Bay, and will look into the future, illustrating his discussion with his own color slides, and some from Dr. Howard Cogswell. Light refreshments will be served after the program, courtesy of our Social Committee.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

- November 8
Saturday
8:30 AM LAKE HENNESSEY (Near St. Helena)
LEADER: Mark Zumsteg (No phone, so call Jean Jones for information)
MEETING PLACE: Town of Rutherford.
Conn Dam is still for the Birders! Last year two of our members spotted a Pigmy Owl sitting on a low branch beside the road. Wood Ducks and Mergansers were seen last year, so let's go again. Quickest way there is Highway 101 (Sonoma, Napa, Vallejo) on to Highway 29. It takes two full hours, so plan an early start. Bring lunch or plan to eat at a good cafeteria in Rutherford. Water birds come here from all over since there is no hunting. It's a place for the birds, so be there on time.
- November 15
Saturday
9:30 AM PORTOLA STATE PARK
LEADERS: Katherine and Nick Kroll (697-2051)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the intersection of Skyline and La Honda Roads. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Portola Park is known for the many interesting varieties of mushrooms. We might see a Water Ouzel, besides other birds. In case of rain the trip will be cancelled.
- December 5,6,7
Weekend trip MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
LEADER: Bill Anderson (for additional information call Jean Jones (344-9339).
MEETING PLACE: Canal Farm Inn at Los Banos. Birding trips will begin at 12:00 noon Friday and at 9:00 AM Saturday and Sunday. If you wish to stay overnight Friday or Saturday, make reservations by calling Canal Farm Inn, Area Code 209, 826-5121. Make reservations early, as the hunting season will be on. We expect to see Sandhill Cranes, Cackling, Ross', and White-fronted Geese, and many other land and water birds.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR (October 4):

June could never boast a rarer day than October 4, when 37 Audubon members and friends turned out to see 56 species of birds. White Pelicans performed against the bluest of skies. A large assortment of Shorebirds were present, including a Least Bittern, several Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, Common and Showy Egrets and Greater Yellowlegs. Seen also were 6 species of Ducks and 3 of Grebes. Soaring Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks added pleasure to our day. Land birds seen included Savannah and Song Sparrows, a Cliff Swallow, Shrike, Red-shafted Flicker, and Meadowlarks. Nick Kroll introduced us to some old golfing buddies of his --- a trio of Burrowing Owls on the Palo Alto Golf Course. A sad note --- there is no longer any reason to take the South Nature Walk. Nature has been so disrupted by the dredging operation that there were no birds in evidence at all.

Roy and Fran Nelson

PILLAR POINT - PRINCETON (October 11):

There was a good turnout for this trip led by Bill Anderson, with help from Jean Jones. The numbers of birds along the cliffs were outstanding, and included such species as Varied Thrush, Lark, Golden-crowned, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, and Linnets. Common and Red-throated Loons were seen on the water. An unidentified owl was seen along the road out to Pillar Point. After lunching at Princeton, the group went southward along Half Moon Bay, observing Tricolored Redwings and Goldfinches at one of the ponds along the road, then up Tunitas Road, where a Sharpshinned Hawk was seen attacking a flock of Pine Siskins. A total of 78 species was logged for the day, 58 of them in the area around Princeton.

Alice Steele

CONSERVATION NOTES

S.O.S - SAVE OUR SEASHORE

"Point Reyes National Seashore, established with enthusiastic hurrahs seven years ago, has lapsed into a moribund state with more than half of the lands within its designated boundaries still in private ownership and in imminent danger of "development".

"Congressman Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, chairman of the House Interior committee and a friend of public park and recreation projects, has moved toward its salvation by calling a November meeting to consider appropriation of the \$38 million needed for acquisition of the threatened properties.

"With him in the rescue attempt are Senators Murphy and Cranston and numerous other members of Congress who are asking President Nixon to free appropriated park and recreation funds that his Budget Bureau is withholding. Bay Area citizens are urged to rally behind Aspinall and show their support."

from San Francisco Chronicle-Examiner,
Sunday, October 12.

"The Point Reyes Crisis," an article by Harold Gilliam in the same issue of the Sunday Chronicle-Examiner, This World section, carries the entire story about the uncertain fate of the much hoped for Point Reyes National Seashore.

"POLITICS OF URBAN GROWTH"

Audubon members are urged to attend the conference to be held Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Canada College on the subject "Politics of Urban Growth." Registration fee is \$3.75 without lunch or \$5.00 including a box lunch. Make checks payable to Canada College and mail to: Canada College, Community Education, 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, Redwood City, Calif. 94061. Do not postpone your participation in the campaign to demand environmental quality in Bay Area communities!

Marian Lockwood
Conservation Chairman

MARIN COUNTY NATURE TRAILS

Ida Geary, Editor of the REDWOOD LOG, the bulletin of the Marin Audubon Society, has written a book which should be of interest to all those who enjoy birding and nature walks in Marin County. It is also a guide to many favorite birding places in Marin County.

MARIN TRAILS, by Ida Geary, Tamal Land Press
Fairfax, California, \$2.95, and at some book stores.

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