



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 19, No. 4

December 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

- December 4 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim
Thursday Drive, Hillsborough. Members of the Board and Committee Chairmen
8:00 P.M. should attend. Other members are welcome.
- December 11 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Washington School Cafeteria, 801 Howard Ave.,
Thursday Burlingame. Those planning to attend are requested to call the
6:30 P.M. Social Events Chairman, Amy McElhany (343-3219), to let her know
what you will bring.
- December 11 REGULAR MEETING at the Washington School Auditorium (address above).
Thursday Our guest speaker will be Dr. Harry Thier, Professor of Biology at
8:00 P.M. San Francisco State College, one of the Bay Area's leading Mycologists.
Dr. Thier will present a program entitled "MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS
OF THE BAY AREA", illustrating his talk with colored slides. This
is a timely subject, the rains bringing forth many fungi now. If
you find any unusual fungi you may want to bring them for identification
(they must be fresh, however).

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE - WE WILL MEET HERE THROUGH FEBRUARY

FIELD TRIPS

(Jean Jones, Chairman 344-9339)

- Dec. 5,6,7 MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Weekend trip LEADER: Bill Anderson (for additional information call Jean Jones
(344-9339) or Jack Morrill (344-5497), evenings.
MEETING PLACE: Canal Farm Inn at Los Banos. Birding trips will begin
at 12:00 noon on Friday, and at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday. If
you wish to stay overnight, either Friday or Saturday, make reservations
by calling Canal Farm Inn, Area Code 209, 826-5121. Make reservations
as soon as possible, as the hunting season will be open, and accommoda-
tions are at a premium. We expect to see Sandhill Cranes, Cackling and
Ross' Geese, White-fronted Geese, and many other land and water birds.
- December 13 COYOTE POINT AND BAYSHORE
Saturday LEADER: Alice Steele (344-8317)
9:00 A.M. MEETING PLACE: Meet in the parking lot of the Hyatt Theatre, on Old
Bayshore Highway, Burlingame. This trip will be mainly to observe
wintering shorebirds.
- December 27 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Saturday LEADERS: Neil Dickinson (366-7661) and Alice Steele (344-8317)
All Day TALLY: Oleta Dickinson (366-7661)
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!
If you can help in this important activity, please call either of
the leaders as soon as possible, so that assignments can be made
to cover our territory. If you prefer, you may write to one of
the leaders, giving your name, address, and phone number.
- Neil Dickinson Alice Steele
554 Oak Park Way 1109 Chula Vista Ave.
Redwood City 94062 Burlingame 94010

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATERSHED (October 25)

On a comfortable bus with an enthusiastic driver, furnished by the San Mateo Recreation Department, thirty-six people toured the perimeter road to Lake Pillaritos. The day was so clear we could see both San Francisco Bay and Pacifica from Portola's Discovery Site. Interesting sightings of the day included a large flock of Meadowlarks, hovering Red-tailed Hawks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Townsends Warblers. Many deer added to our most enjoyable day.

Jean Jones

LAKE HENNESSEY (November 8)

Fourteen intrepid birders, unperturbed by the foreboding skies, had a good day. Almost seventy species were reported, but nothing special showed up for us. However, we had excellent views of yellowlegs, Snipe and many species of water fowl.

Mark Zumsteg

GARDEN CLUB HELPS AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

A considerable part of the proceeds of the "TOUR DE NOEL" of the Garden Study Club of the Peninsula, to be held on December 12 and 13, from 1 to 5 P.M. are to be contributed to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Lagoon Display. The Garden Study Club will also be selling books from the Ranch's bookstore at the Hillsborough Racquet Club. Arrangements have been made to visit four outstanding homes and gardens. Tickets are available from:

Mrs. Fred Dean
2816 Hillside Drive
Burlingame 94010
Phone: 343-1169

A contribution of \$3.50 per ticket is requested. This is a most enjoyable event, and the proceeds go to a cause of especial interest to us all.

CONSERVATION NOTES

HOW CAN WE SAVE SAN FRANCISCO BAY?

The National Wildlife Refuge in South San Francisco Bay will receive the official recommendation of the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in January according to Edward Crozier, chief of the Bureau's team who studied the merits of the proposed 18,000 acre refuge which would take in the salt ponds and marshes of Fremont in the East Bay, Bair and Greco Islands in Redwood City and the Alviso drawbridge area in Santa Clara County.

Quoting "The Audubon View," November issue, page 148: "It is essential that the proposed South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge be acquired by the federal government, and that other federal and state funds, as well as private money, be brought to the task of anchoring the future of the Bay by buying back lands that the state should never have yielded to private interests."

There are other serious concerns: (1) The Bay Conservation and Development Commission will now be composed of elected officials from each of the nine counties that border the Bay, who are more vulnerable to pressure from developers than the environmental specialists who wrote the BCDC plan. A shocking example of what can happen is the nomination of Mayor Clark from Albany -- a Bay-fill supporter -- as the Association of Bay Area Governments representative to BCDC; (2) The California Water Plan's peripheral canal, now pending final approval by Gov. Reagan, diverting the fresh water of the Sacramento River from S. F. Bay which is totally dependent upon it for flushing action; (3) Construction of the Southern Crossing -- a "picket fence -- an ecological disaster" -- across the Bay from Indian Basin to Alameda-Bay Farm Island has been approved by BCDC. State Sen. Alfred Alquist of San Jose has promised to make every effort to stop construction of the controversial 15-mile bridge but hope is slim unless massive public pressure is brought to bear against it; (4) Construction of an International Jet Airport as proposed by the City of San Jose which would fill the sloughs and marshes of areas marked, hopefully, for the National Wildlife Refuge.

Public Interest and action are as critically needed now as in the battle to establish the BCDC. Each person concerned with the environmental quality of the Bay Area should feel a personal responsibility to protest these detrimental proposals.

To become thoroughly informed, register for the San San Francisco Bay Association Conference to be held December 6 at U. C. Boalt School of Law in Berkeley from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Registration and lunch is \$3.75. Send check to Save the Bay Association, P.O. Box 925, Berkeley, Calif., 94701.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

The second annual conference on the development of the Santa Cruz Mountains will be held December 6 from 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Cabrillo College Auditorium, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California. Resignation fee is \$5 (including lunch) to be mailed to: University of California Extension, Carriage House, Santa Cruz, Calif., 94060.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SHOULD HAVE REPRESENTATION AT BOTH OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONFERENCES.

Marian Lockwood
Conservation Chairman

SAN MATEO BIRD CHECK LISTS

SORRY - errors have been found in the new lists. Corrections will be made and they will be reprinted. Those people who purchased lists are requested to keep them until the new ones are ready, at which time they may be turned in for replacement.

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