



# The Sequoia



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

- January 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. Board members and Committee Chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.  
Thursday 8:00 PM
- January 15 REGULAR MEETING at the Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. Wayne Roderick, native plant conservationist, explorer, and collector, will explain and demonstrate "Indian Uses of Native Plants". Mr. Roderick is in charge of the native plant section of U. C. Botanical Garden, and is also on the Board of Directors of the California Native Plant Society. Light refreshments will be served by our Social Committee following the program.  
Thursday 8:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: MEET AT WASHINGTON SCHOOL AGAIN. ALSO, DUE TO NEW YEARS DAY BEING ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, BOTH THE BOARD MEETING AND THE REGULAR MEETING HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED ONE WEEK LATER THAN NORMAL.

## FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

- January 17 LAKE MERCED (San Francisco)  
Saturday LEADER: Enes Millar  
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Parking lot at the Lake Merced Boat House. Take Skyline northward, and turn off at Harding Park Golf Course. Wear warm clothes and walking shoes. Bring lunch.
- January 24 FOSTER CITY  
Saturday LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443)  
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the lagoon on East Hillsdale Boulevard. We hope to have a close view of shorebirds and ducks in the Bay.
- January 31 ALUM ROCK PARK (San Jose)  
Saturday LEADER: A. E. Montgomery (344-4249)  
9:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet in the parking lot in front of the Junior Museum (Youth Science Institute) in Alum Rock Park. Alum Rock Park is about 36 miles from San Mateo, 3rd and Bayshore. Drive south on Bayshore (U. S. 101) to San Jose. Two and one-half miles after passing under the Nimitz Freeway, turn off at Santa Clara Street, and immediately cross over Bayshore. You are now on Alum Rock Avenue, which leads northeast 4 1/2 miles to the entrance to Alum Rock Park. Bring a lunch.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### LOS BANOS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - December 5 to 7, 1969

From Friday noon, December 5, to Sunday mid-afternoon, Dec. 7, the Los Banos field trip was an exciting success. Bill Anderson, our leader knows the area like a book, and took us through all three of the reserves, Los Banos, San Luis, and Merced. We saw many thousands of geese, and more American Bitterns than most of us had seen in our entire lives. The geese were Canada, Lesser Canada, Cackling, Snow, Ross' and White-fronted. We saw over two hundred Sandhill Cranes, including both varieties, Greater and Lesser. One of the highlights of the trip was watching a Prairie Falcon, which circled for us and enabled us to see very clearly his distinctive markings and manner of flight. In all, ninety-one species of birds were seen, including a Golden Eagle and a Red-shouldered Hawk observed by some of us after leaving for home. We were entertained in the evenings by beautiful bird moving pictures shown the first evening by Monty and Lillian Montgomery and by some Barn Owls living in the trees at Canal Farm Inn, where we were staying. The weather was fine all three days with the exception of a ground fog which appeared one morning, but cleared in two or three hours. Then, on Monday, when the field trip was over, it rained.

Jed McClellan

CONSERVATION NOTES

SUPPORT EQUIP

On January 13, the County Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal by Supervisor Gerald F. Day of Belmont to establish an "Environmental Quality Improvement Program."

A 15 member Commission, representing every segment of the county, especially groups already active in the environmental field and including three youth representatives, would investigate and call attention to defects in or hazards to the county's environment -- air, land, and water.

This proposal deserves and needs the active support of every Audubon member. Please let the Board of Supervisors know of your interest before January 13 in the establishment of this commission.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

On January 1, 1970:

- (1) A backyard burning ban goes into effect for San Mateo County which should reduce smog to some degree:
- (2) The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act will become operative. This Act, the most comprehensive water quality control law in the nation, completely revises the state's water pollution and water quality control laws. Changes in definition in Act place a stronger emphasis on water quality aspects, including the broadening of the definition of "beneficial uses" to include "esthetic enjoyment" and "preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife and other aquatic resources or preserves." Copies of the Study Project - Water Control Program titled "Recommended Changes in Water Quality Control" are available from the State Water Resources Control Board, Room 1140, Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, Calif., 95814. Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, 364 - 14th St., Oakland, 94612, is William C. Weber, who urges public interest in Board activities. James F. McCormick is the Board member representing Recreation and Wildlife.

THANK-YOU NOTES

Thank-you notes are in order from all of us to Senator George Murphy and to Congressman Don Clausen for their success in getting Congressional approval of funding for additional land purchase for the Pt. Reyes National Seashore. This treasured "island in time" narrowly missed falling to the developers, but has been saved for present and future nature-lovers by the concerted efforts of Murphy and Clausen.

NEW PAPERBACKS FOR CONSERVATIONISTS:

- "The Frail Ocean" - Wesley Marx - A Sierra Club-Ballantine Book .95¢  
"So Human an Animal" - Rene Dubos - Scribners - 1969 Pulitzer Price \$1.45  
"Redoing America" - Edmund K. Flatermayer - Collier Books \$1.95

Marian Lockwood, Conservation Chairman

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