



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF THE SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY Volume 20, No. 1 September 1970

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: Charles Newman 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae 697-5601
Editor: John L. Morrill 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo 344-5497

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The struggle to save a part of our Bay Area open space and wetlands continues. Dedicated organizations like ourselves are making our presence felt by actions and deeds, and some progress is being made. However, a much greater effort will be necessary in the future, to withstand even greater assaults by commercial interests. Sequoia Audubon can best meet this challenge by keeping abreast, or preferably ahead, of developments; and as individuals, making our views known to government officials. This will take time and effort on our parts, but it should be well worth the small sacrifice. With continued membership growth and active participation of more individual members in the conservation effort, we have the best chance of achieving a measurable degree of success in our common goals.

Charles H. Newman, President

MEETINGS

Sept. 3 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Charles Newman, Thursday 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae. All Board members and committee 8:00 PM chairmen are requested to attend this first meeting of the new season, if possible. Other members who may wish to attend will be welcome.

Sept. 10 REGULAR MEETING at Roosevelt School, at Broadway and Van- Thursday couver in Burlingame. The program will again be the trad- 8:00 PM itional "KALEIDOSCOPE" showing of color slides taken by our members during their summer travels.

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting, courtesy of our Social Committee:

Bonnie McClellan
Amy McElhany
Marie Morgan

MEMBERS - AS SOON AS YOU READ THIS - please call or write to one of the program coordinators listed below, to arrange for the inclusion of up to fifteen of your pictures. This is not just for the experts - any subject may be submitted.

L. Alice Steele 344-8317
1109 Chula Vista, Burlingame
Ed McElhany 343-3219
1009 Laguna Ave., Burlingame

FIELD TRIPS

Chairman, Jean Jones

344-9339

- Sept. 6 DUMBARTON BRIDGE
Sunday LEADER: Neil Dickinson (366-7661)
8:00 AM MEETING PLACE: First parking spot on righthand side of
bridge approach. A family of Clapper Rails has been seen
at this location recently. Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes
should be seen, as well as other migratory shorebirds.
Lunch is optional.
- Sept. 19 RODEO LAGOON
Saturday LEADER: Jean Jones (344-9339)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Vista Point, the turnout just north of the
Golden Gate Bridge. This trip will be for Fall migration
of land and shorebirds. Bring lunch, wear warm clothes and
walking shoes.

FIELD TRIP REPORTSLIVERMORE VALLEY - May 16

Pete and Betsy Peterson lived up to their advertised trip to the Livermore Valley on May 16. All 27 persons who attended had good viewing of Lewis' Woodpeckers, Phainopeplas, and Yellow-billed Magpies, plus over 40 other species. Del Valle Lake Recreation Area appears to be a good birding area for any time of the year.

Jean Jones

POINT REYES, BEAR VALLEY TRAILS - June 13

About 22 people took this trip, encountering quite windy weather which affected the birding adversely. However, Red-shouldered Hawks were observed nesting in conifers at the Park headquarters. At noon time one of the hawks was seen bringing in a garter snake for lunch for the young ones. Other nests seen included those of Black-headed Grosbeaks, Black Phoebes, and Warbling Vireos.

Florence Richardson, Leader

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN EDITOR: John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo 94402
344-5497

MEMBERSHIP: Adelaide Fichtner, 1334 Benito Ave., Burlingame 94010
343-0751

PROGRAM: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Court, Foster City 94404
3492960

PUBLICITY: Ruth Canoles, 355 Primrose Road, Burlingame 94010 343-4943

CHRISTMAS COUNT: Neil Dickinson, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City 94062
366-7661

and L. Alice Steele, 1109 Chula Vista Ave., Burlingame 94010
344-8317

CONSERVATION: Marian Lockwood, 1043 Sonoma Ave., Menlo Park 94025
325-0517

and Maryann Danielson, 848 Edgehill Drive, Burlingame 94010
342-6919

SOCIAL EVENTS: Bonnie McClellan, 1356 Bernal Ave., Burlingame 94010
344-3486

and Amy McElhany, 1009 Laguna Ave., Burlingame 94010
343-3219

and Marie Morgan, 3 Emerald Court, San Mateo 94403
341-2552

CONSERVATION NOTES

"YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT"-----????????????????????

Ironically, in this "Year of the Environment," State legislative and County Supervisors' decisions on the large issues have not generally favored environmental protection or improvement. Apparently, the public lulled into belief that the prevalent political rhetoric supporting environmental quality would result in action relaxed its pressure on legislators while the exploiters intensified their lobbying.

In Sacramento, with pressure from the Utah Construction Company which plans a 28,000 population for Bay Farm Island, construction of the Southern Crossing was approved to begin late '71 or early '72; the Open Space Study bill was defeated; only the weakest of the bills (AB 2131) to protect the Pacific coastside has survived, but could be strengthened with expressions of public concern; the first attempt to divert State highway funds to smog research and rapid transit through a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot failed to pass the Assembly -- a second try will be made by Assemblyman George Milias.

At the County level, the Board of Supervisors: (1) unanimously authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with a detailed study of the Low Worley - Portola Dam reservoir combination on Pescadero Creek -- ostensibly for "flood control and agricultural irrigation," the project is being pushed by ex-county manager Robert Stallings and other environmental exploiters to provide water for urbanization of the Half Moon Bay area; (2) continue to leave the Bay Front Freeway on the county master plan despite its deletion by all west Bay city councils; Supervisor St. Clair has been quoted as saying "we may need it sometime" -- no doubt in anticipation of encircling the Bay with the proposed freeways #87 and #61 connecting with the Southern Crossing. The Bay Front Freeway would transect the proposed National Wildlife Refuge publically endorsed by the Board of Supervisors!

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Environmental Quality Subcommittee of the San Mateo County Regional Planning Committee held its fourth and final public hearing on environmental problems in Menlo Park, August 12. Residents and representatives of conservation groups have been given this opportunity to express concern over current and potential environmental degradation, to this governmental body chaired by John J. Murray, councilman, City of San Mateo.

After gathering this information, the EQS will set priorities for recommended action to the RPC. Beginning September 9, EQS meetings, open to the public, will be held at 7:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the City Hall, San Mateo. Letters on environmental matters may be addressed to: Environmental Quality Subcommittee, c/o San Mateo County Planning Office, County Government Center, Redwood City, 94063.

A reference by Mr. Murray as to the requirement for EQS to defer to local jurisdictions on environmental matters creates some uncertainty of the overall effectiveness of EQS -- however, it is the best agency so far where San Mateo County environmentalists may consolidate their concerns for transmittal to the Board of Supervisors. Audubon members are urged to attend the EQS meetings and keep informed on its planning.

Marian Lockwood
Conservation Chairman

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS _

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 1970-1971

PRESIDENT: Charles H. Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae 94030
697-5601

VICE-PRESIDENT: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Court, Foster
City 94404 349-2960

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VICE-PRESIDENT: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Court, Foster City
94404 349-2960

TREASURER: Clifford J. Daniels, 1009 Haddon Drive, San Mateo 94402
341-5366

SECRETARY: Ed P. McElhany, 1009 Laguna Ave., Burlingame 94010 343-3219

DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Nelson, 1035 Lassen Drive, Belmont 94002 593-7941

Marian Lockwood, 1043 Sonoma Avenue, Menlo Park 94025 325-0517

John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Avenue, San Mateo 94402 344-5497

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