



The Sequoia



Volume 20, No. 6

February 1971

BULLETIN OF THE SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 welcome on 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

MEETINGS

Program Chairman: Al Bergeron

- February 4 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Charles Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.
Thursday 8:00 PM
- February 11 POTLUCK SUPPER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Ave., Burlingame. Please call one of the following Social Committee members to advise what you will bring:
Thursday 6:30 PM
Ruth Crotchett 343-5226
Marie Morgan 341-2552
- February 11 REGULAR MEETING at Roosevelt School, address above. Monty and Lillian Montgomery will present a program of color slides and motion pictures based upon Lillian's most recent trip to Africa. The subject will be "Animal and Bird Life of South and East Africa". From past experience, we are assured of a fine evening of entertainment, illustrated with expert photography.
Thursday 8:00 PM

FIELD TRIPS

Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339

- Feb. 13, 14 SAN LUIS ISLAND GAME REFUGE
Sat., Sunday LEADERS: Enes Millar and Bill Anderson
MEETING PLACE: Canal Farm Inn at Los Banos. Birding trips will begin at 10:00 AM Saturday, 9:00 AM Sunday, and 9:00 AM Monday for those who can stay over. Make reservations immediately by calling Canal Farm Inn, (209) 826-5121, identifying yourself as a member of the Audubon group so we will all be placed in the same area. We should expect to see a great variety of land and water birds on this weekend trip.
- February 27 LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR (between Orinda and Lafayette)
Saturday 9:00 AM LEADERS: Victor and Ruth Crotchett (343-5226)
MEETING PLACE: Parking lot at Lafayette Reservoir. Off Highway 24 take Mt. Diablo Blvd. and watch for right turn into recreation area. Bring a lunch you can carry, as we will eat somewhere on our walk around the lake while birding in this beautiful area. There is a 50¢ parking fee. Allow an hour driving time from San Mateo.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - January 2

On a clear, cold and windy day, 52 hardy souls turned out for the annual count. In spite of the bitter weather, a total of 159 species were tallied, down from last year's count of 169. However, the total number tabulated was up about 8,000 to 42, 172. Among the more interesting sightings reported were Long-billed Dowitchers, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Red-necked Grebe, Thayer's Gull (sub-race of Herring Gull), Swainson's Hawk, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and Wandering Tattlers. A Puffin, not identified as to species, was also observed over the Bay north of Coyote Point.

Our thanks are due to the leaders of this annual project, Neil and Oleta Dickinson and Alice Steele.

J. L. Morrill

FOSTER CITY - January 16

A threat of rain wasn't enough to keep Sequoia Audubon birders from getting "out-among 'em". Foster City's Central Park Lake, the outer shoreline, Belmont marsh and miscellaneous ponds produced 46 species before noontime. It almost takes a Burrowing Owl to find a Burrowing Owl these days, but we managed to turn up 3 - two in a rubber tire and one in a pipe. Crazy world we live in!

What is not a Sanderling, not a Dowitcher, and not a Dunlin? A Knot, of course - and it was!

Aside from the ordinary species that we always expect, we were pleased to find Knots, Forster's Terns, White-tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Pintail, Widgeon and Shovellers, Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, Water Pipits and Horned Larks. Also a Blue-winged Teal.

Al Bergeron, Leader

RARE AND UNUSUAL SIGHTING

For several days, around January 11 to 14, a rare California Condor was seen by many persons in the vicinity of Highway 280 and Alpine Road. It was reported that as many as 100 people gathered to watch for the Condor, possibly causing it to leave for more remote regions. Enough experienced observers saw the bird so that there appears to be no doubt as to the authenticity of the report.

AUDUBON AIDS IN NATURAL SCIENCE

We have been advised by Paul Howard, Western Region Representative for the National Audubon Society, that requests for Audubon Aids should be made to the following:

Bay Area Educational Services
National Audubon Society
1749-A Grove Street
Berkeley, California 94709
Miss Mary Jefferds, Director

Orders will be filled the same day as received, thus assuring no delay.

CONSERVATION NOTES

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, 1971

(As determined at a recent meeting of the Regional Representatives in Greenwich, Connecticut)

- * I. Advocate stabilization of human population as basic to the preservation of environmental quality.
- * II. Work for abatement and prevention of all forms of environmental pollution, including debasement of the atmosphere, the waters of the earth, and the landscape.
- * III. Preserve our vital, productive, and eco-essential estuarine and wetland resources.
- * IV. Change our national transportation policy, shifting the emphasis in public investment and public subsidy from highways to mass transportation.
- ** V. Eliminate the use of DDT, dieldrin, aldrin, endrin, toxaphene, and other persistent (long-lasting) organo-chlorine pesticides that pollute the environment, poison food-chains, and endanger many species of wildlife.
- ** VI. Protect the Public Land resources of the United States. Prepare to meet and turn back the expected raids by exploitive interests who will try to gain special advantages from the 1970 report of the Public Land Law Review Commission. (This report, "One Third of the Nation's Land" - Catalog No. Y3.P96/7:2, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 20402, for \$4.50).
- ** VII. Illuminate and resist "stream channelization," a destructive engineering fad supported by federal funds that threatens the ecology and beauty of scores of natural streams in the United States. (See "Crisis on our Rivers," Readers Digest, Dec. 1970).
- ** VIII. Seek federal protection for the hawks and owls.
- ** IX. Seek reform and reduction of the federal program that results in the widespread, ecologically unsound and generally unnecessary poisoning and trapping of carnivorous wild animals.
- * Continuing long range goal.
- ** Special action priority in 1971.

Marian Lockwood

Conservation Chairman

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Charles H. Newman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae 94030 697-5601
VICE-PRES.: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct., Foster City 349-2960
TREASURER: Clifford Daniels, 1009 Haddon Dr., San Mateo 94402 341-5366
SECRETARY: Ed 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 Ave., San Mateo 94402 344-5497

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BULLETIN EDITOR: J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo 344-5497
MEMBERSHIP: Adelaide Fichtner, 1334 Benito Ave., Burlingame 343-0751
PROGRAM: Albert T. Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Ct., Foster City 349-2960
FIELD TRIPS: Jean Jones, 1417 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame 344-9339
CHRISTMAS COUNT: Neil Dickinson, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City 366-7661
and Alice Steele, 1109 Chula Vista Ave., Burlingame 344-8317
CONSERVATION: Marian Lockwood, 1043 Sonoma Ave., Menlo Park 325-0517
and Maryann Danielson, 848 Edgehill Road, Burlingame 342-6919
SOCIAL EVENTS: Ruth Crotchett, 1104 Balboa Ave., Burlingame 343-5226
and Marie Morgan, 3 Emerald Court, San Mateo 341-2552

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