



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 26, No. 10

June, 1977

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, JUNE 2, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM in the Conference room of Northern California Savings & Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

POTLUCK DINNER, JUNE 9 THURSDAY, 6:30 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center, located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. This is our last meeting until September. Phone Barbara Lucas at 344-3796 and tell her what dish you plan to bring. Please bring your own table settings. Guests are always welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, JUNE 9, THURSDAY, 8:00 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center following the potluck dinner.

Mr. Gerald George, executive director of Coyote Point Museum will tell us about the Museum--its history, present program and the plans for the new building. Have you visited the Museum lately? Do you know that its program is now directed to all ages and that the previous "Junior Museum" tag has been discarded? Do you know that plans are well along for a new 23,000 sq. ft. building? Come and learn about this interesting facility in our midst. There will be slides and the architect's rendering of the new building. Mr. George is a native Northern Californian, received his degree in ecology and systematic biology from San Francisco State and has worked at the Oakland Museum and the Nature Conservancy. His hobbies are back packing and sailing.

FIELD TRIPS:

For field trip ride sharing phone Pearl Morgenstern at 341-2510

JUNE 4, SATURDAY, AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Meet at Audubon Canyon Ranch at 10:00 AM. The Ranch is located on Shoreline Highway (Route #1) about three miles north of Stinson Beach. If you find you are early there is interesting birding on Bolinas Lagoon shortly before reaching the Ranch. Bring a picnic lunch to be eaten in the picnic area at the Ranch.

The leader will be A.E. "Monty" Montgomery. Phone: 344-4249.

JUNE 11, SATURDAY, TILDEN PARK

Meet at the corner of Spruce and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley, at 8:00 AM. Take University Avenue to a left on Sacramento Street, then

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right on Cedar to Spruce. Turn left on Spruce and continue to Grizzly Peak Blvd.

The Jewel Lake and Laurel Canyon trails offer a variety of habitats including pond, stream, forest and woodland edge, and chaparral. Bring a lunch and be prepared to walk. The leaders will be Jerry and Georgia Perkins. Phone: 583-7815.

JUNE 18, SATURDAY, SOUTH SAN MATEO COAST

Meet at the Gazos Creek Coastal Access parking lot at 8:00 AM. After carpooling (if necessary) we will drive a few miles up Gazos Creek Road, stopping occasionally to look and listen for singing woodland birds. Later we'll go south to Año Nuevo Point to look at nesting Bank Swallows and Cormorants. Be prepared for some hiking. Lunch optional.

Leader: Peter Metropulos, Phone: 591-9898

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

San Bruno Mountain, April 2. Enes Millar, Leader

On a windy Saturday, April 2nd, 15 persons braved the elements to see the flora of San Bruno Mountain. The following is a list of the plants seen on that day: Hottentot Fig - Poison Oak - English Ivy - Coast Barberry - Chickweed - Yarrow - Coast Agoseris - Pearly Everlasting - California Sagebrush - Coyote Bush - Goldfields - Australian Fireweed - Seaside Daisy - Lizard Tail - Gum Plant - Morning Glory - Bluff Lettuce - Coast Rock Cress - Field Mustard - Franciscan Wallflower - Pepper Grass - Wild Radish - Wild Cucumber - Manzanita - Red-stemmed Filaree - Crimson Sage - Bush Lupine - Gorse - Tree Mallow - Cheeseweed - Checker Bloom - Suncup - California Plantain - Miner's Lettuce - Scarlet Pimpernal - California Buttercup - Ceanothus (Blue Blossom) - Coffee Berry - Toyon - Cinquefoil - Blackberry - Wight's Paint Brush - Sticky Monkey Flower - Bee Plant - Nightshade - Poison Hemlock - Sweet Fennel - Cow Parsnip - Coast Sanicle - Blue Violet - Foxtail - Iris - Blue-eyed Grass - Rush - Soap Plant.

Ed Note: We will be happy to supply botanical names of the above on request. Sorry there was not room to list them.

April 12--May 1 Mexico

¡El viaje de Carlos Newman fue maravilloso! With Charles at the wheel of a V.W. Bus, six of us birded the "hot spots" on the western side of Mexico. We had four days of birding in the cool mountains off the Durango highway and three days around the beautiful marshes near Mazatlán (61 new species at this point for this reporter). Next came eight days of birding from San Blas--at the ocean, in savannah, jungle, and river habitats. (My new bird count rose to 103.) Then we drove back to the 6,000 foot mountains for another chance at the birds we heard but didn't see during our first stay there. By May 1st this traveler had tallied a total of 120 species. When Charles takes you birding you find them! He knows the Mexican birds by sound as well as sight and expends all his energy showing them to you.

-- Jean Jones

May 14 and 15 The Mystery Trip Al Bergeron, Leader

We know from past experience that Mystery Trippers are a happy lot, easy to please, appreciative and eager for adventure. They are also devious, sly and frequently tardy. They have been known to go to

considerable lengths to discover the secret destination of a Mystery Trip. This year's "Trippers" ran true to form as they set out to discover Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton; marvelled at a Lewis' Woodpecker on Mines Road; savoured the wines at Wente; appreciated the richness of Caswell State Park; feasted at the Sonora Inn and relaxed in the pastoral twilight at the Questo Ranch where the Miwuk once resided.

Undaunted by a restless night in unfamiliar surroundings (Dorothy Herrington didn't get to sleep until midnight) the group sallied forth on Sunday to tour the Columbia Junior College campus under the guidance of biology instructor Blaine Rogers. Then, on to Eden Sky Ranch where Alice and Paul Goodier and friend, Meredith, treated us to an eagle's eye view of the Stanislaus River Canyon from their timely grown vegetable garden. Our last stop was at Columbia State Park where all enjoyed the giant pretzels and divinity fudge and the authentic Gold Rush town. All in all, it was a great trip. The birding was good with some of our most experienced participants adding new birds to their Life Lists. Enes Millar was available to help with the identification of many spring wildflowers.

Andy Kratter reports the following species seen: Great Blue Heron - Common and Snowy Egret - American Bittern - Mallard - Redhead - Lesser Scaup - Turkey Vulture - White-tailed Kite - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawk - Marsh Hawk - Sparrow Hawk - California Quail - Ring-necked Pheasant - Killdeer - American Avocet - Black-necked Stilt - California Gull - Forster's and Caspian Tern - Band-tailed Pigeon - Rock and Mourning Dove - White-throated Swift - Anna's Hummingbird - Belted Kingfisher - Red-shafted Flicker - Acorn and Lewis' Woodpecker - Hairy, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpecker - Western Flycatcher - Western Wood Pewee - Olive-sided Flycatcher - Violet-green, Tree, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows - Steller's and Scrub Jay - Yellow-billed Magpie - Common Raven - Common Crow - Plain Titmouse - Common Bushtit - Brown Creeper - Wrentit - House and Bewick's Wren - Mockingbird - California Thrasher - Robin - Western Bluebird - Cedar Waxwing - Loggerhead Shrike - Starling - Warbling Vireo - Orange-crowned, Nashville and Yellow Warbler - Yellow-breasted Chat - Wilson's Warbler - House Sparrow - Western Meadowlark - Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbird - Hooded and Bullock's Oriole - Brewer's Blackbird - Brown-headed Cowbird - Western Tanager - Black-headed Grosbeak - Lazuli Bunting - Purple and House Finch - Pine Siskin - American, Lesser, and Lawrence's Goldfinch - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee - Lark Sparrow - Oregon Junco - Chipping and Song Sparrow.

Mount Diablo April 30 Leader, Jean Richmond

A group of 18 arrived half way up Mount Diablo under the leadership of Jean Richmond of the Mount Diablo Audubon Society. The group was extremely fortunate in having Jean as our leader, and to top it off, practically in her own back yard. Jean is a resident of Danville, at the foot of Mt. Diablo and is a very dedicated birder. We appreciated very much the fact that she chose to lead our group, despite the fact that her own chapter was going on a trip to Mines Road, near Livermore. THANK YOU, JEAN.

As we started looking for birds, we didn't have to wait long. One of the group called out "LAZULI'S BUNTING." As soon as we had recovered from this great sighting, another called out "BLACK CHINNED SPARROW." and then another sighting, and then another, and then another: SAGE

SPARROW, ASH THROATED FLYCATCHER, RUFOUS CROWNED SPARROW, ANNA'S, ALLEN'S AND RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS.

Further on up the mountain, we entered Diablo State Park into the "Wonderful World of Warblers." Even the old timers couldn't believe the number of these terrific little birds. Would you believe TOWNSEND'S HERMIT, BLACK-THROATED GRAY, WILSON'S, TENNESSEE and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS????.....ALL within 2 hours.

We knocked off at approximately 5 PM and headed for home, dead tired, completely satisfied with our day and eager to go again. If I have another day like this at Eagle Lake, they may not be able to get me home. It is just too much.

-- Hal Lucas

CONSERVATION NEWS:

This month's news will regrettably be a little less timely than usual; it has been written to conform with a May 11th departure for New York. At that date there was not a great deal of legislative action to report in either Sacramento or Washington, but at least the Senate-House conference separated the controversial Water Pollution Control Act amendments from the Public Works bill. The latter will probably have already gone on to passage, while water issues may be delayed into the fall, possibly jeopardizing needed sewage treatment plants in 34 states where funding will be running out. This postponement of action on the Clean Water amendments means letters are still needed to your Representative and both Senators opposing any weakening of Section 404, which gives the Corps of Engineers protective jurisdiction over most of the nation's wetlands.

President Carter is still supporting deletion from the budget of 1st wasteful, unsafe, or economically or environmentally unsound water projects, in spite of Congressional disagreement with his first list. Still included are many that NAS has long opposed such as the Garrison Diversion and the Central Arizona Project, and California's possibly unsafe Auburn Dam. He still needs letters supporting his stand, as well as letters to members' Representatives and both Senators. Senator Cranston has apparently reversed his original support of deletion of Auburn Dam.

Presidential support should also be asked for routing of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline by utilizing existing transportation corridors rather than crossing the Arctic National Wildlife Range which would have a serious environmental impact. The decision will be up to President Carter, as the Federal Power Commission split 2-2 on each of the 2 proposed trans-Canada routes.

Another area of Audubon support for the President is on his energy plan of which conservation is the "cornerstone." NAS President Stahr called it "politically courageous, economically sensible and environmentally sound," and said, "We must get the essential elements of the plan adopted by Congress before the year is out." President Carter will ask Congress to adopt the goals of reducing energy demand growth from 5% to less than 2% a year, reducing oil imports and gasoline consumption, insulating 90% of buildings and increasing coal production and use of solar energy.

Probably most SAS members were made aware through headlines of the militant loggers and others opposing expansion of Redwood National Park at the April hearings in San Francisco on H.R. 3813 chaired by Rep. Phillip Burton. He is working to provide alternatives for the lost jobs which opponents claim would be a result of Park expansion.

There is less good conservation news from Sacramento. S.B.4, the Beverage Container Recycling Act, was rejected by a 5-7 vote in the Senate Finance Committee, undoubtedly due to heavy opposition from industry and labor in spite of lack of adverse economic effects in states which have adopted such a law.

Senator Ayala's bill, S.B.345, dismantling the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers System, opposed by the State Department of Water Resources as well as by conservationists, was passed by the Senate Agriculture and Water Committee by a vote of 5-3 after amendment to continue the Wild and Scenic Rivers System but to remove the Eel, Trinity, Klamath, and American Rivers, leaving only the Smith River in the System. One of Senator Ayala's arguments in favor of his bill was the need for water from the Northern rivers in the State Water Project--this in spite of testimony by Ron Robie, Director of the State Department of Water Resources that there was ample water for the Project without tapping these Northern rivers. The bill will next go to the Senate Finance Committee, and letters opposing it are needed to our Senator Arlen Gregorio who is a member of that Committee. Senators Jerry Smith and Al Alquist are also members, and the latter particularly needs letters in opposition. Senator Smith's bill, S.B.68, on oil recycling will probably be set for a Finance Committee hearing soon, but as of May 11 no date had been given. Letters on this are still needed.

Locally an issue, previously opposed by SAS, of continuing I.S.380 from 280 to Pacifica, while apparently completely dead, still needs letters to ensure it stays so to the State Highway Commission, 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, which is expected to take this up in July. An Intent to Rescind a few months ago on the part of the Commission started another study. Recommendation is needed that the designation of the highway be changed from 380 (non-freeway) to Sharp Park Road. This will allow state funds to be used to change the dangerous .9-mile Sharp Park Road grade to 4 lanes.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

One final conservation plus overheard while passing over Lake Erie: the lady in the seat behind telling her small son, "See the dirty color of the water near the shore. That is pollution, where people throw their wastes." It sounds as if the message was getting across to some, at least.

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW -- By Fran Nelson

A Robin's cheerful song rings out! Such enthusiasm for 5 a.m., I think as I lie half asleep. Then comes the chink of a Brown Towhee as he begins his day's work. The Robin stops singing. A Mockingbird takes over the sound waves with typical Mockingbird flair! The Robin begins again and suddenly it seems that everyone is in the act, each trying to be heard above all the others! There are House Finches singing and more Robins have gotten into the songfest. I can hear House Sparrows proclaiming their territories and somehow a Lesser Goldfinch makes a few plaintive notes heard amid all those much louder calls and songs! A Mourning Dove repeats his love call over and over again. What a lot there is to be missed by sleeping through the early hours of some of these spring mornings!

Lazily I wonder if I were to get up and stick my head out the window how many more songs I could sort out. Anyhow, it's too nice a way to be waking up to be worrying about details. The volume produced by those choristers is satisfying me just fine at the moment and I would rather

lie here marvelling at the beauty of the medley. Suddenly it is all over! They stop singing as one and I wonder who is the chormaster? Where does he stand so as to be seen by all members of such a widely scattered choral group as he wields his baton? For a short time silence reigns. A feeling of happiness reigns, too, over me, as I lie hoping my bird-alarm goes off again tomorrow.

Later, when I get out of bed, I notice it is raining softly and obviously has been raining for some time. Perhaps that is what inspired the best dawn chorus I've heard in a long time. Even a slight break in the drought is enough to make anyone sing!

The day advances. Two pairs of Quail are foraging beneath my window and I am hearing a little of that Quail sound that was new to me the day before yesterday. It sounds a lot like the bark of a yappy little debarked dog we heard once up Carmel Valley Road. It's not very loud and seems to me more like a gentle protest this time as opposed to how it sounded the first time I heard it when it gave me the distinct impression of imminent danger. I made a binocular check and wasn't at all surprised to find a cat slinking under the xylosma senticosa. I wished, as I often do, that I could devise a way to chase cats without disrupting birds. Fortunately, the cat goes over the fence almost immediately and solves my problem.

The Quail continue to eat and Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows are eating with them. I amuses me to watch the sparrows among the larger birds. They have to eat so much faster than is normal for them in order to get even a small share. They seem to find security among the Quail now after their initial resentment of the encroachment when the Quail first came and began vacuuming up all the food at an alarming rate. Now they often wait to eat until they have the protection afforded by the larger birds. The sparrows forage close to the Quail--even under their tails! Resentment is still present, however, for occasionally a Golden-crown leaps up several times to nip the undertail coverts of a Quail enough to say "Slow down! Save some for me!"

While cleaning up the bird feeding area under the deck I become aware of a very quiet song which is going on continuously. I cannot figure out who might be singing it. The voice doesn't fit any bird I know! I pause to listen and look toward the Indian hawthorn from whence the song is coming. At once the song stops. I continue my work and the song, too, continues! Again, I pause and look and again the song stops! I decide to take a chance that the songster will stay until I can run inside for my binoculars because I might be very glad to have them if that bird ever emerges! I return and the song still goes on. Prepared now, I stand and wait. Suddenly a Golden-crowned Sparrow explodes from the Indian hawthorn to the fence! He is livid as he stands rigidly on tippy-toe viewing me with blazing eyes and raised crest! It is clear to me that I have intruded into his very private life--sort of like catching someone singing in the shower only much, much, worse! Perhaps this is practice for a song reserved only for his mate when he reaches the far north. Indignantly, he flies to the acacia and that's the end of the song.

I can hardly believe this song really has come from a Golden-crown. The voice is not remotely like the one used for the three-noted song we usually hear. First order of business when I am back in the house is to pull the proper Arthur Cleveland Bent volume off the shelf and there in the Golden-crowned Sparrow section under "Voice" I find the last sentence describes the song I have just heard.

My bird-alarm has set itself even earlier this morning and it goes off at 4:30! Soon thereafter, from some distance away, comes the sound of the male Great Horned Owl. I bound out of bed and down to the front door to be better able to hear. Soon I am listening to the lower pitched voice of the female who is answering his calls. As I enjoy their responsive calls, I become aware of a Killdeer calling out his name from a nearby grassy slope. Beautiful Robin songs reach my ears from various directions. Two Brown Towhees chink not far from me. The owls continue their calling, sometimes responsively and sometimes in unison, for over a half hour. Very different from yesterday morning but both well worth the loss of sleep!

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is a 1000-acre wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on weekends and holidays from March 1 thru July 4 each year. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. In 1969 the Ranch was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Registered Natural Landmark.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH - by Betty Boyd

Nesting activities are well under way. The Great Blue Herons occupy about 40 nests and are busy with their young. For many days it appeared that they would be the lone occupants this year. The Great Egrets who arrive later, are usually in by the middle of March, but none appeared. Many anxious hours were spent by staff and friends wondering if they would return... In 1975 the Egrets lost nearly all their progeny to raccoons and in 1976 Great Horned Owls along with raccoons predated over one quarter of their young. So it was with great joy the first pairs were observed returning the weekend of April 16 with more following thereafter.

Perhaps there were other factors, such as the drought, with possible food reduction that delayed their return but regardless precautions are being taken. Raccoons are being trapped and moved to remote areas, dead limbs on the redwoods have been trimmed and leaning trees felled.

The Ranch is happy to announce that all permits have been secured to start construction this summer of a sleeping dormitory at Volunteer Canyon for use in connection with its educational programs. The roofed deck will provide sheltered sleeping and bathroom accommodations for 26 students. No power tools will be used in this unique structure which will feature solar-heated water, wind generated electricity and two-quart flush toilets.

The Ranch is grateful to have received from Mrs. Thomas E. Welsh and from her sister, Mrs. Jane A. Figg "an Acre" in honor of the Robert S. Atkins family and their daughter, Edith Atkins Anderson.

A former member of Golden Gate Audubon Society, the late Mable T. Carley, made a generous bequest to the San Francisco Foundation to be added to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Endowment Fund. Marin Audubon Society has sent the Ranch Endowment Fund a check for \$1000 which represents the "profit" from their Mother's Day Barbecue. Special thanks to Marstin Tallant whose committee worked long and hard to make the event such a success and to Skip and Karen Schwartz. ACR badly needs and deeply appreciates such bequests. Building up the Endowment Fund is the only way the Ranch will achieve true security and an assured future.

Following a recent visit to the Ranch, the students of Snow School in Napa gave their ice cream money to ACR. The money went into the bus fund which helps bring children to the Ranch.

Special Note: The Ranch is badly in need of a 4-wheel drive vehicle for use on some of the steep, narrow Ranch roads for patrol and work assignments. The vehicle would not be used on the highway except to get from one canyon to another. Skip Schwartz would much appreciate any ideas as to how we could come by such a vehicle.

AÑO NUEVO RANGER REPORT -- Miriam Guthartz and Mike Bradeen,
State Park Rangers

Spring has certainly arrived at Año Nuevo State Reserve. Some of the birds that will make the long journey to their northern breeding grounds are grouping together such as: the Black Brant, Bonaparte's Gull, and Forster's Tern. Included also are a few Caspian Terns and the Harlequin Duck, the latter spotted on the rocks offshore.

For the less usual shorebird migrants there is the Ruddy Turnstone and Surfbird. The Black Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, Marbled Godwit, and Willet are among the more common part-time residents on the reserve and will be leaving soon, too. On fairly calm days the Western Grebe, Horned Grebe and Common Loon can be spotted quite easily in between their dives for food in the channel.

Besides the numerous birds heading north, some species are staying at Año Nuevo to pair, breed and lay their eggs. The Pelagic Cormorant have made their nests on the steep vertical cliffs on the south end of the reserve. The Brandt's Cormorant, Black Oystercatcher, Pigeon Guillemot and Western Gull are starting to breed and make nests on Año Nuevo Island. On the mainland shores one must be careful not to step on the Snowy Plover's very inconspicuous eggs in the most insensible places.

The fields of the reserve abound with erratically swooping Barn and Cliff Swallows catching insects for food. Hurriedly, the Barn Swallow is making its nests in the old building, and the Cliff Swallow will be laying its eggs in mud nests on the cliff faces next to the ocean. Pairs of Marsh Hawks with the males turning a beautiful light gray, and hovering White-tailed Kites are constantly foraging Año Nuevo and are believed to have nests in the area.

We do have two birds which may be good candidates for Life Bird Lists--a Harlequin Duck and a Black Swift.

MAY GENERAL MEETING REPORT - By Sheila Davies

Ahoy!--and all that. At the May general meeting we were taken on a visual voyage of the South Bay. Our captain was Bob Rutherford of the Marine Ecological Institute, Redwood City, and our ship was the 85-foot "Inland Seas."

The Inland Seas makes 250 to 275 trips each school year, giving young people--and adults, too--an opportunity to identify, measure, and count the many organisms in our Bay. Each "grab" taken from the water is carefully examined by all students before it is returned to the bay. The student's findings are verified by the instructors on the staff of the Marine Ecological Institute. The interaction of organisms in the marine environment is not yet completely understood and life that wasn't known to be in the Bay is continually being found. Some marine life has been introduced, and often the strangers thrive because their natural predators are not present.

The most enthusiastic supporters of the exploration of the South Bay are the people who have had the opportunity to participate in the instruction given on the Inland Seas. Some children have washed cars and baked cookies to earn the tuition for a return visit.

A question often asked by anxious sailors as they don their life preservers is "What happens if the ship sinks?" The reassuring answer is "We walk home." Sequoia members had a brief tantalizing glimpse of the mysterious world so close to home.

MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular meeting on May 5.

The various potential uses of Parcel C at Filoli were discussed in detail. The County has decided to purchase this 530 acre parcel and at this time it appears that it may be used as (1) a golf course, (2) general purpose County park, or (3) a nature preserve and interpretive center. Several suggestions were made and tentative plans formulated to insure the proper use of this property.

President Prime tentatively named a committee to consult with public agencies in preparation of environmental impact reports.

President Prime named Dr. Norman Fox as our Alaska coordinator.

Dr. Ruth Smith, our Conservation Chairman, reported that she needs help in following legislative matters, especially in northern San Mateo County.

Dr. Norman Fox reported that an airport land use study is under way and that the study will include the land at the Millbrae Avenue end of the airport. This is a good birding area and Dr. Fox has been endeavoring to insure its protection and access.

ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS:

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has designated a subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands, John Seiberling, chairman, to study proposals for allocation of many millions of acres of Alaska lands. The first hearings were conducted in Washington in late April and will move on to Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle and Alaska. The San Francisco hearing is scheduled for June 18 at 9:30 AM in the Board Room of the San Francisco Board of Education, 135 Van Ness Avenue. If anyone wishes to make a statement at that time he should contact Dr. Fox at 343-1406 as he is making arrangements for statements. If you can't attend the hearing you may write a letter outlining your views to Honorable John Seiberling, Chairman, Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands, 1327 Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515. Specify that your letter is to be included in the record of the June 18, 1977 San Francisco hearing.

Many California waterfowl breed in the areas under study so this question is more than one of conservation of remote lands. A great many conservationists are supporting Morris Udall's bill, H.R.39, which would set aside some 114 million acres and is the most ambitious bill to date.

MARINE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE:

Music on a Summer Day

Enjoy a chamber concert performed by Robert Sayre and talented young Bay Area musicians in the beautiful setting of Dr. Stanley Hanfling's Hillsborough home.

Proceeds will benefit the Marine Ecological Institute and the Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf.

The concert will be presented on June 5, 1977 (Sunday)

Dress rehearsal and champagne brunch, 10:30 AM

Chamber concert (wine tasting during intermission), 2:00 PM

ADMISSION: Concert - \$12.50 donation per person

Dress rehearsal, champagne brunch and concert - \$20.00

All donations are tax-exempt. (Special donations in addition to the admission may be directed to either or both organization\$.)

Attendance is limited. For information and tickets call 364-2760 or 365-1992 or write: 811 Harbor Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM:

Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education in San Mateo is gearing up for its October '78 opening and is now recruiting for its first docent training class.

Docents will conduct tours that interpret the Museum's displays and philosophy as well as volunteer their time in the many other programs offered by the Museum.

Training for the new docents begins September 1, 1977 and will consist of one semester, college level course work in basic ecology, plus five months in-gallery training which will include: interpreting museum displays and philosophy, tour techniques, presenting oneself to the public and handling groups of people. There will be a one time only fee of \$45.00 to cover the costs of training and materials. Scholarships are available.

If you are interested in being a docent for this exciting new Museum, please call Gerry Blackwell at 347-4781.

SPRING SIGHTINGS: - by Barry Sauppe and Peter Metropulos

Since the beginning of March an accurate census of all migrating birds along the coast has been conducted at Pigeon Point. Presently, 837,000 birds of various species have been recorded passing Pigeon Point.

The most abundant of all the northerly migrants are the Arctic Loons with a total of 372,000 individuals. The peak date for this species was on April 22 when 46,770 passed the Point in an eight hour period.

Pigeon Point is probably the best place on the coast anywhere to observe birds which are uncommonly seen from shore.

So far 185 Black-footed Albatross have been seen from the Point. Their peak date was May 6, when 56 were seen. Most of these birds were observed following tankers which pass quite close to Pigeon Point. Even more extraordinary was the sighting of 2 Laysan Albatross on March 17. Another Laysan was seen on May 15.

Sooty Shearwaters peaked on May 6 when 10,281 were observed. Pink-footed Shearwaters had their highest count on April 13 when 55 passed the Point. Rare along the coast, Manx Shearwaters were seen on seven different occasions. All sightings were of single individuals.

Black Brant were observed in good numbers this year. A total of 48,443 have passed this spring.

Seventy-nine Pomarine Jaegers have gone by so far this spring. Only 2 Parasitic Jaegers were observed.

Black Legged Kittiwakes were in good numbers with 1,094 individuals being observed. Bonaparte Gulls are one of our most common migrants along the coast. So far 175,473 have been observed migrating past the Point. Fifteen Sabine's Gulls have passed during May.

On April 16 a Little Gull!! flew past Pigeon Point. There are only a few sightings in California and they are rare anywhere on the Pacific Coast. Two Tufted Puffins flew past Pigeon Point going north, May 16.

NO BULLETIN IN JULY AND AUGUST. The deadline for the September Bulletin is August 15. We wish you all a HAPPY VACATION!

-- The Editors --