



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 28, No. 8

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
April, 1979

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, APRIL 3, TUESDAY, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings and Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, APRIL 12, THURSDAY, 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. Coffee and cookies at 7:30 PM. Meeting commences at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Robert Barnes will present a slide program that will reveal the diversity of the watershed of the South Fork of the Kern River; an area where the Mojave Desert, Southern California, Sierra Nevada and Central Valley faunal and floral influences come together producing a natural diversity unique in California. The lower twelve miles of the South Fork holds what is considered to be the finest cottonwood-willow riparian forest left in California. This slide show is designed to reveal where the area is, the diversity present and the efforts being taken to assure that the unique qualities of the watershed are preserved. Mr. Barnes is the president and newsletter editor of Tulare Audubon Society. Make plans to come and see this program.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will present another chapter in their "See and Hear" Bird of the Month series.

FIELD TRIPS:

APRIL 7, SATURDAY - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ RAPTOR MANAGEMENT CENTER

Meet at the entrance to the campus in the parking lot at 9:00. The campus can be reached by Highway 1 to Mission Blvd., then take a left turn on Bay Street. From Highway 17, take the the Mission Blvd. offramp and turn right onto Bay Street. Brian Walton will take five people at a time through the center where we may view breeding pairs of peregrine falcons. There are many good birding possibilities around the campus and other areas that we will explore in Santa Cruz, so come equipped with your binoculars and a lunch. Allow one hour driving time to the Santa Cruz campus from the San Mateo area.

LEADERS: Jerry and Georgia Perkins 583-7815

APRIL 10 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO LAKE MERCED

Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot between the Lake Merced boat-

RESIDENT: Stephen L. Aldrich
74 Nevada Street
Redwood City, CA 94062
Phone: 366-3603

EDITORS: Ed and Amy McElhany
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: 343-3219

house and Harding Park golf course. Take I-280 north, John Daly Blvd. west, Skyline Blvd. north and east on Harding Road. Lunch optional.
LEADERS: Jean and Frank Allen 344-9339 .

APRIL 14, SATURDAY - SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWERS

Meet at the junction of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and Radio Road at 9:00 AM. About one mile north of Brisbane turn west from Old Bayshore Highway. Come and explore the wildflowers of this northern San Mateo County plant community.

LEADER: Enes Millar 566-6119

APRIL 21, SATURDAY - SUNOL REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 8:30 AM at park headquarters. Take Calaveras Road exit from I-680. This exit is eight miles south of the I-680/I-580 intersection. Bring lunch. There should be a good wildflower display so maybe a wildflower book and a hand lens will be useful in addition to the usual birding equipment.

LEADER: Craig Benkman 593-0224

APRIL 24 TUESDAY BIRDERS TO ALUM ROCK PARK

Meet at 9:00 AM near the center of Alum Rock Park parking lot. Take Bayshore Freeway south to San Jose. Two and a half miles south of the Nimitz Freeway (#17) intersection take the East Santa Clara Street exit and proceed east back over the freeway and East Santa Clara Street is now Alum Rock Avenue. Drive east on Alum Rock Avenue four and a half miles to Alum Rock Park. Bring lunch. Springtime birds will be nesting and singing. We will be looking for the Rufous-crowned sparrow and the Canyon wren especially.

LEADERS: Jean and Frank Allen 344-9339

APRIL 28, 29 SATURDAY and SUNDAY - MYSTERY TRIP

We will depart at 8:00 AM on Saturday, April 28 from the Southern Pacific parking lot at the Belmont station. This parking lot, north of Ralston Avenue, is used by week day commuters and ordinarily a parking fee is charged. However, it will be free for the Mystery Trip participants. There is still room for a few more people on the trip. Send your check, payable to Sequoia Audubon Society to John Prime at P.O. Box 5492, San Mateo, CA 94402. The tentative price is \$35.00 single or \$65.00 double. Prices include bus fare, Saturday dinner and Saturday night motel lodging. The single rate is based on double occupancy at the motel. Bring lunch for Saturday. Prices are still tentative and will be adjusted by refund or assessment when they are ascertained but such adjustment will not be significant. We will return to Belmont at 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 29.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

February 6 -- Belmont Canyon

Tuesday birders spent the morning walking along Lake Road listening and observing many of the local and one not-so-local denizen of the oak woodland and chaparral. Many of the birds that are resident in these habitats are starting to sing and we joyously watched pairs of Hutton vireos, wrentits, plain titmice and Bewick wrens singing and foraging.

We became more familiar with the calls and songs of the Hutton vireo which in turn became more common. The California thrasher was also quite vociferous, as was the Anna hummingbird which we learned does its "tail popping" not with its tail, but with its voice. Our "not-so-local" find was a blue-gray gnatcatcher which has been in the canyon since

January 3rd. It too sang for us.

We all enjoyed the walk acquainting ourselves with these nearby residents. It also emphasized the need for preservation of not only the "Yosemites" and "Muir Woods," but also the "Sugar Loaves" and "Belmont Canyons."

-- Craig Benkman

February 24 and 25 - Crystal Springs Watershed

Two trips were taken into the watershed since about twice as many people signed up to go than could comfortably be taken on one trip (what a good excuse for the leader to go twice into the game refuge). We started from near San Andreas Dam and drove to the ridge to the east of Pilarcitos Lake. From the ridge we radiated on short walks: down to Pilarcitos Lake, along the ridge, and down to Mud Lake. We also briefly "birded" along Sawyer Camp Road, where we saw the wood ducks and Lewis woodpeckers.

Fortunately, the rain held off on both days which enabled us to more pleasurably enjoy the vistas and near-views. Several plant species were flowering including slink pod (Scoliopus bigelovii), Indian warrior and the first flowers of zygodene. California hazel (Corylus) was also in flower and its red female or pistillate flowers were seen by most on Sunday through the spotting scope. Pacific treefrogs were seen and frequently heard calling.... a call everyone can learn.

Some of the birds seen included: common loon, double-crested cormorant, wood duck (many on Sunday, none on Saturday), band-tailed pigeon, belted kingfisher, Lewis woodpecker, "red-breasted" sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, pygmy nuthatch, brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet, Hutton vireo, Townsend warbler, and purple finch.

-- Craig Benkman

March 10, Bodega Bay Field Trip

Early spring at Bodega Bay filled our intrepid Birders with spring fever. The same was true with the birds. A nesting pair of ravens were busily carrying twigs to their nest in the eucalyptus trees south of town. A pair of ospreys were hunting over the lagoon. When one caught a fish it took off east of town out of eye reach. The other continued circling a couple of hundred feet above the lagoon. Suddenly the wings went to half mast and down came the predator in a spiral. It made its strike directly in front of us. Up came the bird with a good-sized fish, but as it gained altitude the fish dropped. It is good to know that ospreys are making a living.

The savannah sparrows have their territories all established and they are singing constantly to proclaim their share of the marsh south of town.

Spring progresses at Bodega Head, too. Wild flowers are blooming, gophers are pushing up mounds and 120 black brant were single filing their way north to their nesting ground.

All birders got around 70 species on their lists, a chance to see new habitat and a beautiful drive through the fresh green of the countryside.

-- Jean and Frank Allen, leaders.

CONSERVATION NEWS

These are still early days in the two-year legislative sessions, but a few important environmental bills have been getting some action. Most notable of these is the Alaska Lands Bill which will be treated in detail elsewhere. Suffice it to say that opponents won an early one-vote victory in the House Interior Committee endorsing Rep. Huckaby's substitute for

HR 39. Action by the Merchant Marine's Wild Life Subcommittee was yet to come.

Senator Baker of Tennessee, amender of the weakened Endangered Species Act passed in the last Congress, recently introduced two amendments to the Act, S. 242 and S. 243. The first would abolish the cabinet level committee established to review projects in conflict with the Act. The second would specifically exempt Tellico Dam in Tennessee from the provisions of the Act. The bills were prompted by the recent decision of the Committee not to exempt the Tellico Dam. Following suit, Tennessee's other senator, Jim Sasser, introduced S. 298 which would exempt the Columbia Dam in Tennessee from complying with the Act.

About April first, President Carter is expected to be sending to Congress his reorganization plan to consolidate the presently scattered natural resource government functions under a single department. This would include the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, all Interior Department functions except Bureau of Reclamation water project construction, the Forest Service and parts of the Soil Conservation Service. Because of the possibility of starting a serious struggle in Congress, it was decided not to include water project planning or construction. The plan will not be in the form of legislation and unless vetoed by either House it would go into effect in 60 days. It would be a great step forward in promoting government efficiency and saving tax money even though admittedly not perfect. Letters in support to our senators and representatives are needed. (Senators Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa, Senate Office Building, Washington 20510 and Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., House Office Building, Washington 20515, also the winner of the election in the late Congressman Ryan's district.)

State Senator Rains' reintroduced Bottle Bill, SB 4, mandating a 5¢ deposit on all beverage containers, killed in the last session by the Finance Committee, is now in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. It is not too early to be sending letters of support to our new Senator Marz Garcia and Assemblymen Robert Naylor, Louis J. Papan and Leo T. McCarthy, (all at State Capitol, Sacramento 95814).

The possibility of outer continental shelf oil drilling off the San Mateo County coast took on actuality at a conference February 24 sponsored by the Sierra Club and attended by many interested people including a Mendocino County Supervisor. The selection of sites (Tracts) for leasing has already taken place for area 53, which includes the entire California coast. By far the greatest number in any one part of the coast north of Morro Bay are the 60 tracts selected off the San Mateo County coast, all outside the three-mile limit of state jurisdiction. Panelists at the conference included a representative from the Bureau of Land Management which will be managing the lease sales, one from an oil company and representatives from the various state and county agencies involved - State and County Planning Departments, the Coastal Commission, and the County Supervisors. The latter Board has already filed a negative nomination (a request that the area not be considered for oil drilling) without as yet any noticeable effect.

It would seem obvious to anyone who knows this coast that the possibilities are great of serious damage to coastal ecology, not only by the drilling itself, but even more by the transportation of the oil. Geologists cannot definitely say whether oil will be found in enough quantity to make sinking wells economically feasible, though they think it possible. Administrative opinion at both county and state levels seemed to be mainly that at present there were sufficient reserves in known oil-producing areas to make the dangers of oil production here,

especially to the local fishing industry, outweigh any immediate need for oil exploration off San Mateo County.

Collection of pertinent data on the coast is now needed while the draft environmental statement is being put together. This is to be completed by May 1980, after which time public hearings on it will be held. Those concerned, however, need not wait for this. Letters can be sent now to Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior (Washington, D.C. 20240) asking him to delete the San Mateo County coast from the lease sales. The House of Representatives' Interior Committee will also be studying the leasing process, which it thinks does not sufficiently consider environmental concerns. Letters for consideration by this committee can be sent to Rep. Don H. Clausen, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington 20515. The County is also planning workshops to be held later. Interested SAS members should try to attend.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation chairman

BIRDING THROUGH MY KITCHEN WINDOW -- by Fran Nelson

It is mid-January and mid-afternoon and I have just returned to the kitchen after feeding the birds. There on the reed fence sits the immature Sharp-shinned Hawk who has been the undoing of at least a couple of sparrows here already this winter. He has likely watched me from one of many blinds provided him by nature. I am sure he must have noticed that when I set the table for the seed-eaters, that automatically the table is set for him! On the other hand, the sparrows and finches also know that he knows and they are cautious, usually waiting for the arrival of some of the larger birds before venturing from their protective covering of shrubbery.

The birch with its fine network of branches is between him and me. This young hawk dressed in tones of brown doesn't show up too well on this rainy day. He shakes the water from his feathers. He is now ready for business. I glance away for a moment and when I look back, I cannot see him. A sparrow swoops down into the camellias from around the side of the house and the hawk swoops down for the sparrow from somewhere! The sparrow has made it by a hair! So it's back to the reed fence for the hungry hawk.

Three or four minutes elapse. A Mourning Dove flies in to land in the top of the birch. Quickly, I look down on the fence to see what the hawk will do but I am already too late! He has done it! He has acted so swiftly that I am not quite sure if the dove actually touched down or just came close. They are already on their way down, the dove in the clutches of the hawk! Feathers fly as they make the descent!

There is an unrealness as I see this unfold before my eyes! Reading that Sharp-shinned Hawks can and do capture Mourning Doves and seeing it happen are two different things! The suddenness of it and the speed of it are quite unbelievable! His flight to make the capture was about twenty feet nearly straight up! I wonder how any bird escapes him! I suppose the trick is to see the hawk first.

He and his quarry are on the gravel behind the birch clump and difficult for me to see. The dining room and the den both give me a clearer view. The hawk is resting on the dove while catching his breath. I wonder if the dove ever knew what hit him. He certainly didn't have much time to suffer -- a far better fate than a lingering illness! A Mourning Dove should provide at least as much food as three or four small birds, I should think.

The hawk feasts for an hour or so until it is nearly dark. During this time, the Golden-crowned, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows and the Brown Towhees come out of hiding for brief intervals to eat. They are

understandably nervous.

I leave my kitchen window for a short time in order to begin preparations for our own dinner. When I return, the Sharpie has left and all the small birds have come out of hiding and are eating in the semi-darkness. Soon the Quail come out of the xylosma senticosa shrubbery looking all about them as they make their way to the Indian hawthorn plantings which are nearer the food source. When it is even darker, they venture out for a quick bedtime snack. When they leave, they explode into flight simultaneously.

After the last bird has left, I take the flashlight and go out to see how much of the dove he has left. To my surprise, there is nothing but a pile of feathers. Still I know he could not possibly have eaten it all at once. Then I notice on the top edge of the reed fence, hangs a swatch of the dove's feathers. It appears that he has taken the remainder with him and possibly paused when he reached the top of the fence to readjust his load.

The next morning, I focus my binoculars upon the pile of feathers to see if this all really happened or if I dreamed it! Much to my surprise, there is the Sharpie standing on the remains of the Mourning Dove -- eating left-overs from the night before! I wonder -- where did he stash it that the Raccoon who comes nightly didn't find it? He eats for a short time, then stands guarding the rest. While I am still watching to see what comes next, he suddenly flies very low into the acacia. Since his wings are quite broad and he is flying low, I cannot see if he has the dove carcass with him. I assume he wouldn't leave it and I am unable to see it from any of my three stations.

After a short time, the birds begin coming out of hiding! I am a nervous wreck! The hawk is still in the acacia insofar as I know. A House Sparrow in the camellias is chirping -- neither a scold nor a warning, just a chirp. Either he doesn't know the hawk is still here -- or maybe he has left -- or perhaps he feels the hawk is not a threat at this point. A sparrow flies around from the side of the house and dives into the planter. A Golden-crowned Sparrow sings. Do they know the Sharpie is here? A Ruby-crowned Kinglet begins to forage in the birch but seems to sense something is amiss and moves quickly on. About forty House Finches come in to the top of the birch. An uneasy looking Mourning Dove that had landed on the other side of the tree just a moment earlier flies over to be in their midst! Perhaps the dove's actions alerted them to the danger and they all leave together. Had the Mourning Dove used this large flock of small birds for his protection? If so, it is a reversal of the roles. Several American Goldfinches arrive and leave at once. Perhaps the absence of other bird activity tells them something.

A little later, I have to leave to attend to some errands. When I return, I slip cautiously behind the xylosmas and sure enough, there lay the last remnants of the unfortunate dove -- another pile of feathers, both feet with all their toes and tibia still attached but neatly stripped of all flesh.

Now in the dusk of this late afternoon, ravenous Golden and White-crowned Sparrows and Brown Towhees who have been waiting in the wings, feel secure enough to move about. Not much time is left to stoke up against the chill winter night. And so go the days in the lives of the hunter and the hunted and one neurotic spectator!

ALASKA REPORT

In the past few days, by a one vote margin, the House Interior Committee approved a drastically weakened Alaska Lands Bill, Congress-

man Jerry Huckaby's substitute for the Udall Bill (HR 39). The Huckaby amendment mandated oil and mineral exploration above the 68th parallel, including the entire Arctic National Wildlife Range. This would open the sensitive Porcupine Caribou calving grounds to incompatible oil and mineral exploration. This substitute also cuts 29.6 million acres of Park and Wilderness and 20 million acres of National Wildlife Refuges. All hope is not gone because this Huckaby amendment passed by only one vote. Our focus will now be on the Merchant Marine Committee. It is essential that this committee give Congressman Udall's bill broad support. The March 19 deadline pressures to conclude Committee action are expected to move the bill rapidly through Committee. Contact your Representative immediately and urge support for Congressman Udall's HR 39 of 1979 as the mark-up vehicle for the Alaska Lands Bill.

Send your Representative a mailgram or call and urge support of the HR 39 of 1979, deplore the shortcomings of the Huckaby Bill and resist any efforts to weaken the Udall bill.

Write your Senators and urge support of S 222, the Durkin-Nelson-Roth bill. Time is of the essence!

-- Georgia Perkins, Alaska Coordinator

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 3 through July 4. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Madrone, 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 - From Betty Boyd

March came in "like a lion". In spite of the rather inclement weather, several hundred visitors arrived for the opening weekend and were rewarded by seeing 25 pairs of nesting Great Blues.

Twenty-eight new docents, comprising the seventh class, ably trained by the Volunteer Council of Audubon Canyon Ranch, participated in graduating festivities. They are now ready for the scheduled visits this spring of schools from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sonoma. Congratulations!

ACR's Pooled Income Fund - Friends of the Ranch are invited to contribute to this fund. It is a charitable remainder trust administered by the Bank of America. The Donor and his designated beneficiary receives income from the fund for life after which the principal passes to the Ranch's Endowment Fund. If you would like to participate, write to Audubon Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco 94126 for a detailed brochure.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Charles Newman opened the meeting with the Masked Tityra as the Bird of the Month (Bill Anderson, photographer). The Tityra's coloration is black, white and red. It is found in parts of Mexico. The recorded voice came through as "frog-like."

In May, 1978, with their home-work finished, Wilma Rockman, Sequoia Education Chairman, Jean Jones Allen and Jean-Marie Spoelman (Ohlone Chapter) motored the high and low roads of England, Scotland and Wales in quest of---Birds---Of course. The multi-projector slide show presented by Wilma at this meeting showed some of the fruits of their month-long journey to many of the areas maintained for the protection of wildlife in these three countries.

Interspersed with appropriate cartoons and a sampling of Wilma's

famous humour, we saw a series of interesting pictures of places, people and birds and we heard about the well-managed preserves maintained by the Royal Society for Bird Protection and by the National Wildlife Trust. Wilma commented that hopefully we can apply some of their expertise to the management of Pescadero Marsh. (As many members know, Sequoia Audubon has long been active in the movement to preserve Pescadero Marsh.)

The National Wildlife Trust has transplanted from all parts of the world many species of wildfowl which now live in the preserves. We saw many of these world-wide fowl in their breeding plumage.

This was a very enjoyable program and educational, as well, and we thank Wilma and her companions. (C.G.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following Sequoia members have been appointed by the board of directors to serve as the nominating committee. It is their duty to submit nominations for the office of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary and for six members of the board of directors all to serve during the 1979-1980 Sequoia year.

Frank Allen	344-9339
Barbara Lucas	344-3796
Pat Prime	345-4968

Sequoia members are urged to submit suggested names for the consideration of the committee. Phone anyone of the above.

At the April monthly membership meeting the following proposed amendment to the by-laws will be submitted to a vote of the members:

Article VIII

Nominating Committee

Paragraph 2 is amended to read:

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall report in the Society's publication prior to the Annual meeting designating the nominations for each office and for members of the Board. However, nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual meeting, for consideration by the voting members. The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall function until the officers and members of the Board are duly elected.

Previously the nominating committee has submitted their nominations at our June meeting and the election was held immediately after the report was received. The above proposed amendment will allow time for members to consider the nominations of the committee and to offer alternate nominations from the floor.

CORRECTION

The February general meeting summary which appeared on page 8 of the March SEQUOIA identified Charles Newman's Bird-of-the-Month as a Black-throated Magpie. This is incorrect. It should have been listed as a Black-throated Magpie Jay. Charles tells us there are no magpies in Mexico.

HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS

B. N. (Neil) Dickinson has agreed to write three articles for us outlining some of his recollections of birding in San Mateo County and the origins of Sequoia Audubon Society. Neil was president of Sequoia in 1953-1954 and 1954-1955 and was our Christmas Count compiler for the period 1955-1971.

PART I - Jim Rigby

Kudos are long overdue to the memory of the originator and organ-

izer of the first Crystal Springs Christmas count, the late James P. Rigby. And I have been remiss in not writing before now an account for The Sequoia of the contribution of this remarkable man to the current birding program of our society.

Jim came to the West Coast in post war years (c. 1946 or 47) to work in the drafting department of the Hiller Helicopter group in Palo Alto. A birder par excellence, Jim had learned his "trade" around Media in his native Pennsylvania. His interest in birds was first aroused when he noted a rose-breasted grosbeak feeding near his front porch.

One item of Jim's stock in trade was an ancient collapsible brass telescope which we likened to that of the Cap'n in Treasure Island. How anyone could hold a bird in that tiny wobbling field, much less identify it, was beyond me. But Jim could, unerringly, often with a split second look.

Apparently he could even spot wood warblers with the instrument. I had trouble finding the sprites with 10 x 50 binoculars, even when told exactly where to look by Jim's brother, Ted, and Al Conway on field trips in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. As Lee Jaques, the famous nature artist told his wife, Florence Page, "The difference between a warbler and no warbler is pretty slight."

Jim revolutionized our concept of the local birding potential when he joined the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society finding, for example, fulmars at Monterey Bay, a Cassin's auklet on the beach at Half Moon Bay, and an aerie of three peregrine falcons at Devil's Slide.

To me, Jim's knack of knowing where and when to locate the unusual - for example, strays from the interior, such as MacGillivray's warbler and long-tailed chat in bits of riparian terrain tucked into sheltered coves along the coast - was uncanny.

In 1948 he persuaded the Santa Clara Audubon Valley group to add to their traditional Alum Rock Park census area a circle he had drawn around Crystal Springs Lake. He had selected the one Peninsula area which offered a bit of everything - salt and fresh water marshes, dense and open forests, grasslands, lakes and ponds, riparian sections, chaparral, yards and gardens - sandwiched between the open bay at the "west" end of San Mateo Bridge and the Pacific at Half Moon Bay. Jim was elated by the successful inclusion of the bit of a cape at Pillar Point which gave a chance for pelagics.

Just how cleverly Jim had preempted the optimum circle was made manifest when a member of the Palo Alto group approached me to point out how the potential of their circle could be enhanced if we would just shift the center of ours some one-half mile to the west and north. Jim's original circle is the same one we employ today.

Among the twenty three participants in the 1948 count, all but two or three were experienced and some could be rated as excellent to top notch - Grace Brubaker, Kent Carnie, Jim Peterson, Clyde and Agnes Prussman, Jim Rigby, Les Sleeper, Emily Smith, Matt Vessal, Al Wool, Fanny and Charlie Zwaal. So it's surprising that the count was so low for this promising area - only 112 species.

However, it was a virgin area which section leaders had had no chance to scout beforehand. There were mishaps. Jim Peterson and his party were detected by security on the Crystal Springs Golf Course in the middle of their count and escorted off the property.

Further, our was a most conservative group. Never, but never, did anything appear officially which might raise an ornithological eyebrow. During my two years as president, unusual sightings reported by members who were less than recognized authorities never made it to the bulletin or official reports. It was a subtle and sometimes annoying censorship

which baffled me.

Oleta and I missed the first Crystal Springs Lake count. We had proceeded on to San Diego for Christmas immediately after the Alum Rock Park census.

In the subsequent year, Santa Clara Valley Audubon abandoned the Crystal Springs count. Their hearts were not really in the project, especially when Jim returned to Pennsylvania about 1950.

I did not forget the circle, however, so in 1955 the Crystal Springs Lake Christmas count was revived this time by the Sequoia Audubon Society, under the prodding of Jed McClellan and me.

Jim's faith in the Crystal Springs circle has been well vindicated as will be demonstrated in my next memo - a resume of results during my stewardship of the Christmas count from 1955-1971.

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular monthly meeting on March 6.

Maryann Danielson was appointed chairman of the Pescadero Marsh Committee.

The following nominating committee was appointed: Frank Allen, Barbara Lucas, Pat Prime.

Jean Allen displayed copies of two specialized bird check lists, one prepared by Peter Metropulos for Pescadero Marsh and another prepared by Frank Allen for the Filoli area. These lists will be used in preparing a census of each area.

STRYBING ARBORETUM PLANT SALE April 27 and 28, Friday and Saturday

OAKLAND MUSEUM WILDFLOWER EXHIBIT AND SALE May 5 and 6, Saturday & Sunday

PENINSULA HUMANE SOCIETY - IN-HOME ORPHANED BIRD PROGRAM

Co-editor, Amy McElhany, asked me to attend one of the Orphaned Bird classes given in March and then report on this valuable local program which is in its second year at the Peninsula Humane Society. (An announcement of the classes appeared in the March bulletin.)

Ms. Trudi Hartley gave the class. She is one of the members of the Wildlife Team who practices, as well as teaches, the care, feeding and release of baby birds. This is an In-home Care program which can require up to six weeks of one's time. The objects of this loving attention are baby robins, finches, sparrows, towhees, jays, mockingbirds - the garden variety.

About mid-April concerned adults and children start to bring injured birds to the Humane Society. Last year 700 arrived on their doorstep! Naturally they cannot all be cared for there, hence their In-home program. The peak month last year was May. Although care of a baby bird can be a confining responsibility, Trudi communicated her feeling that, if you love birds, the rewards are great. And you can take your young charge with you, (you are taught how) - and for the longer periods that you may need to be away, there may also be a bird-sitters exchange.

Ninety persons took the classes last year. Persons under 16 are usually not accepted, although there are exceptions. In addition to class preparation, further help is given through a detailed Training Manual, by the support and guidance of a Senior Volunteer and by the services of a Veterinarian, when needed.

The cost of the Training Manual and food for one bird, until his release, averages under \$10.00. For housing, warming, feeding utensils,

etc., ordinary household possessions of one kind and another can be used.

Although the March classes will have been completed by the time this reaches membership, it is possible there will be some classes in April. Trudi can be reached at either the Society, 344-7643, or at home, 592-1168. Or, you might like to help out at the Society's headquarters at 12 Airport Boulevard, San Mateo, (Coyote Point) with feedings and they need volunteers, too, to transport "harder to care for" birds to Wildlife Rescue down the Peninsula. (C.G.)

POINT REYES FIELD SEMINARS

Throughout the year courses are offered in natural history, education and the arts by this non-profit activity sponsored by the Coastal Parks Association in cooperation with Point Reyes National Seashore. Their spring schedule lists courses about the owls of Point Reyes, wildlife photography, nature illustration, spring bird migration and many others. To have your name added to their mailing list contact them at Point Reyes, CA 94956.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920, Phone: 388-2524. Open 9 AM to 5 PM Wednesday through Sunday, closed Monday, Tuesday, holidays.

APRIL 1979 PROGRAMS

April 1 -- FLIGHT OF THE TEAL - This half hour color film follows the blue-winged teal to its breeding grounds in Canada for the spring, summer and fall, and shows its winter migration down the Mississippi River and the Texas coast to southern Veracruz and Yucatan.

April 8 -- WHY DO BIRDS SING? - Birdsong, the most musical sound in nature, is something we have all heard and enjoyed. But what does it mean? What are they saying? How did they learn it? This film from the NOVA series shows how scientists have solved some of these questions.

April 15 -- CLOSED FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY

April 22 -- GOLDEN EAGLE: NO NATURAL ENEMY - This color film sensitively interprets the daily events in a golden eagle's life.

April 29 -- THE EMPTY NEST - Pointing out the parallel susceptibility at the top of the food pyramid of both man and osprey, this thought-provoking film stirs the viewer to consider the even deeper implications.

NATURE WALKS: Every Sunday at 9AM (1-2 hour walks for beginners)

LYFORD HOUSE: Guided tours, Sundays, 1-4 PM

FILMS AND LECTURES: Sunday afternoons at 3 PM

Admission is \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for children. AUDUBON members admitted without charge. Bring your membership card.

PENINSULA SPAY CLINIC

Many of us who are interested in wildlife out in the wild or in our own backyard know that tremendous overpopulation of cats and dogs leads to decimation of wildlife.

Most people don't realize that spaying or neutering cats and dogs make them calmer, more stay at home animals (with less vet bills). They also make for better neighborhood relations.

Through Peninsula Spay Clinic (phone 348-8022) a female cat spay is \$20.00; male cat neuter is \$10.00; a female dog \$25.00.

Those that need any financial help or lower prices can call SPAY

354-5777 or myself, Pat de Lemos, 366-1064. This organization can give help to those that need it or are taking care of abandoned animals.

SEQUOIA ROSTER

Change Hospitality chairman from Mary Keohane to: Barbara Benkman, 2716 Comstock Circle, Belmont 94002 Phone: 593-0224.

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- April 3 - Board Meeting
7 - Field trip - UC Santa Cruz, Raptor Management Center
10 - Tuesday Birders to Lake Merced
12 - Monthly meeting at Garden Center
14 - Field trip - San Bruno Mountain. Wild Flowers
21 - Field trip - Sunol Regional Park
24 - Tuesday Birders to Alum Rock Park
28, 29 - Mystery Trip
- May 1 - Board meeting
5 - Alum Rock Park Field trip -- details in May SEQUOIA
10 - Monthly meeting at Garden Center.

THE SEQUOIA April, 1979
Sequoia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1131
Burlingame, CA 94010

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 152
Burlingame, CA 94010

TIME VALUE MAIL