



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 29, No. 6

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
February, 1980

MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING, February 7, Thursday, 7:30 PM at the home of Jean and Frank Allen, 1417 Sanchez Avenue in Burlingame. NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, February 14, Thursday, 7:30 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo.

Mr. William Burns of the local Oceanic Society headquartered at Fort Mason in San Francisco will present our program this evening. He will tell us of the work of his society in dealing with the polluters of our air and water. He will describe how these polluters spoil our environment in unsuspected ways. Most of his work is done from small aircraft flying on unannounced flights around the Bay Area photographing possible sites of pollution. Followup photographs reveal changes in the conditions, either better or worse and are documentary proof of the violations. Come see what is being done for the protection of our wildlife and environment by a group of concerned citizens that are really "up in the air".

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

FIELD TRIPS

(For Field Trip Information phone 344-4577)

FEBRUARY 5 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO BRISBANE POND & OYSTER POINT

Meet at 9:00 at Frank and Jean Allen's, 1417 Sanchez in Burlingame for carpooling. This will be a morning trip till 12:00--good for beginners--to observe migratory shorebirds and ducks. Wear warm clothing and boots.

FEBRUARY 9 & 10, SATURDAY & SUNDAY -- LOS BANOS AREA

Meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 9 at the Los Banos State Refuge headquarters located 3 miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Road. (See map*) Allow about 2½ hours driving time (125 miles). Due to the gasoline shortage (and cost) it is increasingly important to share rides and expenses for our field trips. It would be greatly appreciated by the trip leaders if you would call them prior to the trip and let them know that you are going and for further information. SEE JANUARY SEQUOIA FOR LIST OF MOTEL EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED.

Leaders: Hal and Barbara Lucas, 344-4577

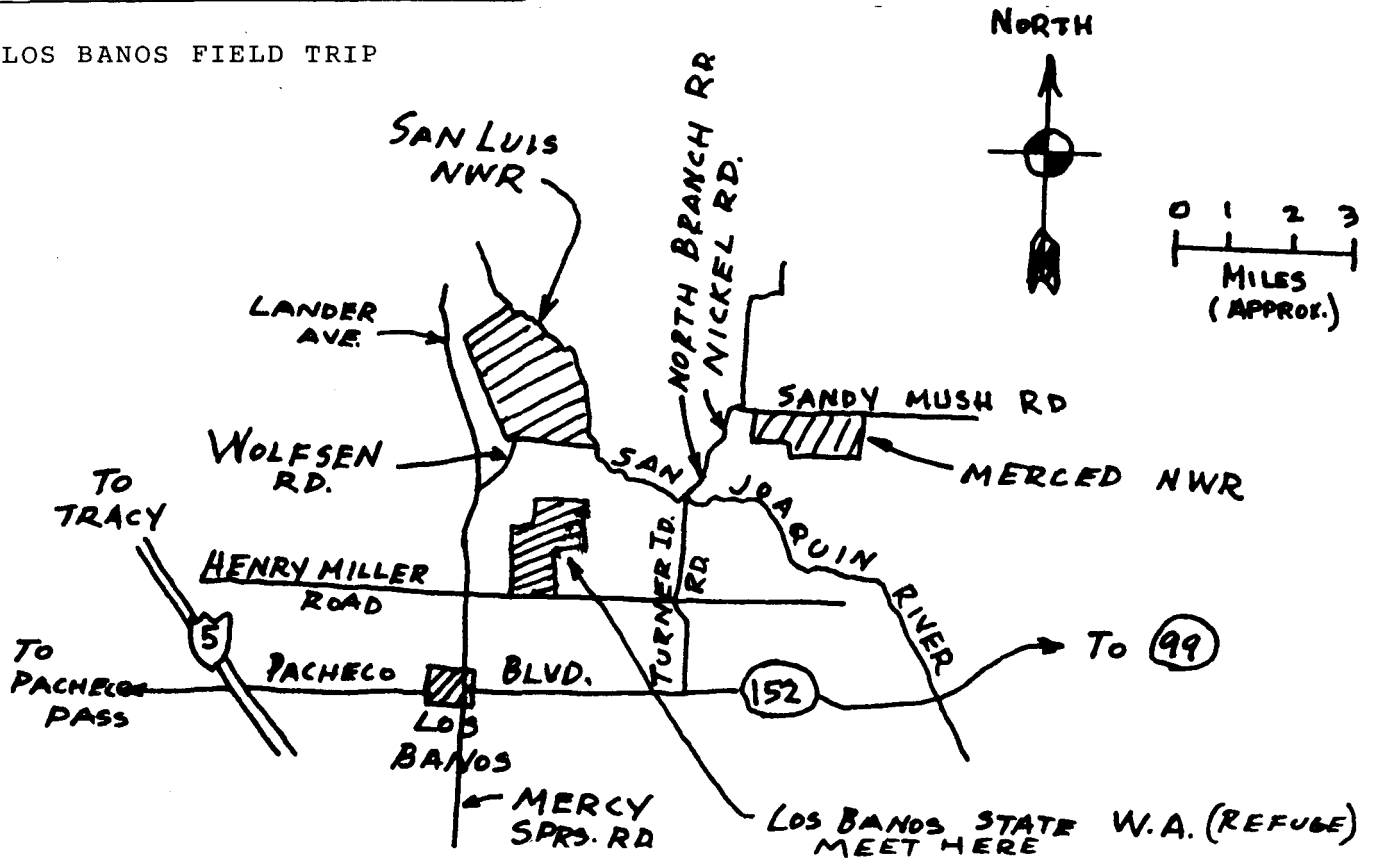
*Map appears on Page 2 of this issue.

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LOS BANOS FIELD TRIP



FEBRUARY 19 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS LAKE AREA

Meet at 9:00 at the Crystal Springs Dam for this morning walk. We should find Wood Ducks on Sawyer Camp Road and possibly a Bald Eagle! Bundle up and wear hiking boots.

FEBRUARY 23, SATURDAY - FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE TIDE POOLS

This trip will be tidepooling at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach. There is a directional sign for the Reserve on Highway 1. We will meet at the headquarters at the end of California Avenue and Lake Street at 10:00 AM for a two hour walk out on the tidepools, looking at the many plants and animals that inhabit that intertidal area. It may be windy and cold, so dress in appropriate layers. Best footwear is lug sole or grip rubber sole shoes. It may be slippery.

Leaders: Myrtle and Bill Johnson 728-7916

MARCH 8 SATURDAY - COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Cross the Dumbarton Bridge and just past the toll plaza turn left onto Jarvis and then left again at the signal onto Newark. Just after crossing the railroad track turn left on Patterson Ranch Road which is marked as the Park Access road. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Park Headquarters. Bring a lunch. Carpooling is suggested.

Leader: John Silliman - 692-2070 Evenings or 344-4577.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

December 15, Ano Nuevo Christmas Count

Thirty-one people were in the field December 15 for the Ano Nuevo Christmas Count. The weather was superb, making a pleasant birding day.

A new high species total was reached: One hundred-eighty three species topped the old record of 177. Of the twelve parties, ten found at

least one species that no other party recorded, which should give all a good feeling of accomplishment.

A few "invasion" species are evident from the figures. These species are Ancient Murrelet, Black Scoter, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeak. Rarities sighted were Whistling Swan, Ferruginous Hawk, Osprey, American Golden Plover, Rock Sandpiper and Hermit Warbler. Also of interest were 27 Pygmy Owls which should be a new national record. As usual, the success of the count was primarily due to the incomparable Barry Sauppe who raised his one-day San Mateo County record to 165 species! He was solely responsible for an incredible 26 species. His consistent performance on Ano Nuevo Counts has established and maintained it as a highly rated count.

It seems to me that we have probably reached our limit with the "birding power" we now have. If we are to improve in the future, we will have to encourage the importation of the best birders in Northern California. To that end I will be recruiting all I can for the 1980 count.

Once again I will be moving--this time to Petaluma--as I have accepted a Fish and Game Warden position in Northern Marin and some of Southern Sonoma Counties. I am looking forward with great relish to working those areas as they are very "birdy."

Until next December -- good birding--

Mark Zumsteg

(Note: Frank Allen has the count details and will provide a copy upon request. 344-9339.)

January 12, 13 Monterey--Carmel Area.

Seventeen eager birders participated in what turned out to be a very pleasant weekend despite Northern California storms. That certain magic that only the Monterey--Carmel Area has was felt by all. Point Lobos brought great views of sea otters with their young as well as several species of birds including Townsend Warblers, Pygmy Nuthatches and Red-breasted Mergansers. A very enjoyable dinner at the Captains Galley on Cannery Row ended our day.

Sunday we explored the Point Pinos area in Pacific Grove where we enjoyed views of migrating California Grey Whales. Many gulls were seen including large flocks of Heerman's. Many Northern Fulmars were sighted near shore. Our best bird of the day was a gorgeous male Harlequin Duck. Altogether, 53 species were seen.

Leaders, Georgia and Jerry Perkins.

CONSERVATION NEWS

On January 9 the County Planning Commission held what should have been, according to a transcript of the first hearing on October 10, 1979, a permit revocation hearing for operation by Quarry Products Co. of the quarry on San Bruno Mountain. Due, however, to poor memory on the part of both Commission and staff, proper procedure for this had not been followed and a hearing on Quarry Products' compliance with permit regulations in the three months since the original hearing was all that had been planned. The original hearing was held to consider the company's exceeding of its maximum permitted level of quarrying with encroachment on habitat of the endangered elfin butterfly as well as other complaints of noncompliance with permit regulations. These included excessive dust, spills on Brisbane streets and disregard of traffic regulations. At our December meeting SAS members signed a petition sponsored by the Committee to Save San Bruno Mountain asking revocation of the quarry permit as an operation not compatible with the adjacent County Park. Although seasonal rains have somewhat mitigated the dust problem for the winter and quarrying above the permitted level has been

stopped since October, other issues had not been addressed by staff before the hearing, in particular the company's proposed spraying of polyvinyl acetate to settle dust. The possible deleterious effects of this on surrounding vegetation and on runoff into Brisbane lagoon and the Bay are unknown. The final decision of the Commission was to hold the permit revocation hearing on April 9.

In mid-January, at the time of this writing, the Legislature had been involved in an Assembly political power struggle and had made little headway on legislation facing it. The Senate therefore may not yet have voted on SB 4, the "Bottle Bill," requiring a nickel deposit on all soft drink and beer containers. This is something the Audubon Society has long advocated as conserving energy and resources, reducing garbage and litter, and creating new jobs and saving consumers money. An immediate letter to Senator Marz Garcia, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, or a phone call to his local office, 324-8932, in support of the bill will probably not be too late.

Two federal bills are of particular interest to Californians. First is HR 4223 coauthored by Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., which gives "wild and scenic river" status to 9 miles of the upper Stanislaus, with only partial filling of New Melones Dam. The other is HR 3757, an omnibus bill which establishes a long-needed Channel Islands National Park. This has passed the House and been favorably reported out of the Senate Energy Committee. Letters should be sent to Senators Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) in support of both bills. In addition Mr. McCloskey should be thanked for his sponsorship of H.R. 4223, and those in Rep. William Royer's district should urge him to support it. Address both at House Office Building, Washington 20515.

Mr. McCloskey should also be thanked for his sponsorship of HR 1785 which would restore tax incentives for contributions to nonprofit organizations such as NAS. A companion bill, S. 219, was to be heard in the Senate Finance Committee at the end of January. Letters supporting these bills should be sent to Mr. Royer and our two Senators.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

ALASKA LEGISLATION

Our focus in 1980 is on the Senate. The House passed a satisfactory bill in 1979, now the Senate must make it happen. The bill of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is not conservation oriented and is unsatisfactory. Urge your Senators to cosponsor the Tsongas-Roth substitute. Tell them that the Tsongas-Roth substitute provides a good balance in ecosystems and establishes protection for wilderness while incorporating concessions passed in energy-resource deliberations.

Write your Senators at: U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510 or call (202) 224-3121.

Let's make 1980 our year.

Georgia Perkins

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

"It was a wonderful feeling to be so far away from everything," Wim deWitt, our guest speaker, repeated in summing up his wilderness experience. Wim was one of a group led by Gus and Emily Benner that hiked in the Alaskan Central Brooks Range during the month of August, 1973.

An audience who had come through the rain was rewarded with slides showing immense vistas, great valleys, towering mountain ranges and the beautiful golden-russet vegetation of the tundra. Animals and birds were few in number. As Wim said: "We saw very little wildlife."

The total camping experience was told with a gentle humour which kept us chuckling. But we were seriously reminded of the need to inform our Senators of our support of the Tsongas-Roth Substitute bill which is a

DO DELICANS HAVE PLUMES



So say the scientists who make such studies. Doctor Pajaroiseauvogel, representing a consortium of ornithologists, offers the following scientific observations:

First, we saved the Egret's plumes!
Then came pesti and the herbicides!
eggshells cracked and young'uns died!

Quick, we said, save the pelicans,
Save the hawks, save the swans,
Save the ducks and save all we can!

Then we said, let's save the Earth.
And that's how it all started.....
Yes, pelicans do have "plumes"!

Concern about birds led those in the Audubon Society to understand that everything is connected to everything else. (Well, almost, everything!). In fact, birds taught us to be ecologists. They made it clear that their health is dependent on the same life-support systems as ours: Air, water, and the Land. Their lack of health...warned us of human activities that endangered all life.

BIRD IN HAND WORTH TWO HUMANS IN BUSH ?

As birds and bushes come in thousands of variations, humans "come" as active types and quiet types. And as a human Audubon Member committed to make everyone aware of our environmental problems and to bring home the point that something must be done (see the back of your membership card), we offer you a selected list of activities to participate in Sequoia Audubon Project Awareness!

The following "Want Ads" are some that might fit your need..your commitment..your contribution...to the good health and good environment for all!

OPPORTUNITIES



Call these numbers for more information on any item listed: 366-3434 or 344-9339

For Active Types:

Observers needed to "watchdog" maintenance of established regulations protecting the environment: land, air, water.

"Outside" active types only need apply: Census needed in biological and botanical studies of areas in need of preservation.

Participant in a Marsh survey along the Bayshore (coop venture of all counties surrounding the bay).

Developer of public interest in recycling activities in the county.

"Producer" needed for audio-visual presentations via puppets, dioramas, slides, movies..to highlight Audubon Goals in Schools.

For Quiet Types:

Observers at selected meetings: Planning Commissions (local/county), B'd of Sup., etc.

"Clippers" for local environmental news in your local media.

Manager for Sequoia Audubon Book Collection.

Participator and advisor to Audubon Board/Directors on National Policies: Energy, Water, etc.

Journalist-type to advise on publication potentials for Audubon Soc.

Specialist to advise on Communication skills.

Consultant, for occasional involvement, on special aspects of management and development of Wildlife, land, water, air.

Sequoia Audubon Society

strong conservation alternative to the Senate's previously poor Alaska bill. (Senator Cranston is one of the sponsors of the Substitute bill.)

Bird-of-the-Month was the elusive Sora Rail filmed at the Palo Alto Baylands and presented by the Allen-Newman team.

(C.G.)

FEBRUARY BIRDING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Have you "birded" Brisbane Pond or Shoreline Path in South San Francisco? I suggest that the Pond be viewed in the afternoon because the sun would be in your eye in the morning causing shore birds to present silhouettes. Scan the grassy area just north of the pond for flocks of Horned Larks and Water Pipits.

Shoreline Path, in a backwater area of Oyster Point and on an outgoing tide, is a haven for shorebirds and ducks. On an old partially sunken barge you should be able to see Black-crowned Night Herons and a Kingfisher. In the small baylike area beyond, flotillas of ducks will be assembling for their flights north...Ruddy Ducks, Scoters. Along the shore, below the gravel path...every shorebird you hoped to see!

Directions: Going north on Bayshore Freeway, turn off on Oyster Point Blvd, watch for sign: Carpenter-Offutt Paper Office, go down the hill on the east side into the gravel parking lot. Gravel path is on the eastern edge of the lot.

Brisbane pond is east of the old Bayshore Highway, turn off is next after Oyster Point. North to signals and right over the railroads. Park near the 76 plant and walk east over the road into the grassy area and towards the pond.

-- W.R.

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 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.

NATURE EDUCATION WEEKENDS AT AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

This Spring ACR is offering inexpensive field courses for members of Audubon. All courses meet at Volunteer Canyon to take advantage of the unique settings and facilities.

THE STORY OF A LAGOON: Bolinas Estuary March 1 & 2

This course explores the many-faceted aspects of estuarine ecology from the geological origins and recent watershed history down to the mud-dwelling organisms. We will spend plenty of time watching wetland birds, at this is the time for ducks and shorebirds. The weekend includes a paddle in the lagoon with inflatable rafts. Bring your rubber boots.

Instructors: Clerin Zumwalt, Lynne Stenzel, Ane Rovetta, John Kipping.

CRAFTS FROM THE OUTDOORS: An art-in-nature Workshop March 8 & 9

Learn to identify, collect and use a wide variety of common weedy garden and native plants for use in dyeing, weaving, arranging, games, musical instruments and masks. We'll take advantage of the gardens at Volunteer Canyon and the surroundings for this workshop.

Instructors: John Kipping and Ane Rovetta

SPRING BIRDS AND SPRING WILDFLOWERS; A celebration of things vernal Mar 15,16

Spring renews the landscape of western Marin. Come learn while birding the lagoon frontage and woodland trails of the Ranch with Ane on Saturday. The evening will consist of a moonlight hike to the heronry. Sunday John will lead us to the most spectacular wildflower fields of Point Reyes and then to the secret haunts of wild orchids on Bolinas Ridge. The emphasis this weekend will be on identification of the uncommon and uncommon facts about the common.

Instructors: Ane Rovetta and John Kipping

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH IN SPRING: A closer look at the canyon March 29 & 30

The busy heronry of egrets and herons is the focal point of the thousand acre sanctuary. Saturday will consist of exploring the feeding grounds and habits of these graceful wading birds: the lagoon tidal flats, the rocky shores of Duxbury Point and the grassy hillsides. Sunday morning we join with Helen Pratt at the rookery overlook for a discussion regarding the reproductive biology of herons and egrets.

Instructors: John Kipping, Ane Rovetta and Helen Pratt.

AN OLD-FASHIONED FATHER'S DAY - Recreating the good old country arts

June 14 & 15

This will be a gathering of families to celebrate a special day in special ways. Join with others to explore traditional ways of making soap, paper and ink making, cheese and bread. While you are weaving your pine needle basket, join in story telling or toy making. The weekend culminates with a Father's day feast of wholesome foods including vegetables picked from the ranch garden.

Instructors: Maggie Cavagnaro and Ane Rovetta

All classes are limited to 25 persons on a first come, first served basis. Class fees are \$30 per person and includes dormitory lodging and use of facilities at Volunteer Canyon. The family rate for the Father's day course is \$75 for a family of 3 or 4 and \$15 per extra person. Detailed information sent upon receipt of check made payable to Audubon Canyon Ranch. All proceeds benefit ACR.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RAPTOR TREK - MARCH 22 and 23

Two of California's most magnificent birds of prey--hawks and owls--are the subject of a weekend field study in Northern California Raptor Trek, a two-day seminar offered by U.C. Davis Extension.

Instructor Stephen Laymon, an ornithologist and naturalist, will lead students on hikes in the vicinity of Gray Lodge State Wildlife Management Area, the Sutter Buttes and Oroville for study and observation of the birds. Lectures during the hikes cover their distribution, behavior, ecology and conservation. The class is held March 22 and 23; the \$50 fee includes 1 quarter unit Extension credit.

HONEY AND EAGLE LAKES - JUNE 14 through 16

In another program June 14 through 16, Laymon will take a class on walks through the lakes, marshes, meadows and forests of Lassen County for a study of Nesting Birds of Honey and Eagle Lakes. In this program students learn to recognize such birds as sandhill cranes, osprey and bald eagles by their plumage, song and breeding behaviors. Lectures on this trek include such topics as flight, migration, reproduction and population dynamics. The fee for the weekend seminar is \$50 for 2 quarter units Extension credit.

For further information or enrollment on either course, contact Wilderness Extension, University Extension, UC Davis, CA 95616.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER

BIRDS OF MEXICO - FEBRUARY 23

See December SEQUOIA, page 6. One day symposium. Advance registration required. Send check payable to National Audubon Society for \$4.50 to BIRDS, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920

ECOLOGY WORKSHOP TOURS

CALIFORNIA IN THE SPRING - April 15 through 29.

From the Pacific Ocean through Condor country, across the Mojave Desert, into the Sierra and finally to San Francisco Bay.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA - July 16 through 26

Desert Museum at Tuscon, Chiricahua Mountains, Audubon Research Ranch.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS - September 2 through 15

Visit four islands - volcanoes, rain forests.

For details write National Audubon Society, Audubon West, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920.

CHARLES NEWMAN MEXICAN TOUR

Sequoia Audubon member Charles Newman is planning to lead another trip to western Mexico in April right after Easter. This three-week trip will take in the best known birding spots of the coast and mountains of the states of Sinaloa and Nayarit, and well over 200 species should be seen.

If interested contact Charles Newman evenings at 697-5601 or 755-6808 during the day.

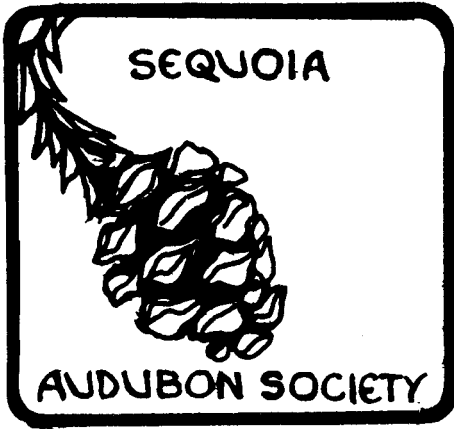
SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- February 5 - Field Trip. Tuesday Birders to Brisbane Pond, etc.
- 7 - Board Meeting at Allen's
- 9, 10 - Field Trip Los Banos
- 14 - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center
- 19 - Field Trip. Tuesday Birders to Crystal Springs Lakes
- 23 - Field Trip. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

- March 6 - Board Meeting at Allen's
- 8 - Field Trip. Coyote Hills
- 13 - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center

QUOTE From Greenpeace Chronicles

Let us consider the earth not as inherited from our parents but as borrowed from our children.



As the sap begins to rise, now is a good time to send out the good words about membership in Sequoia Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Together we are currently strengthening action-oriented programs, resources, research and education for the protection of our environment.

New members can help us maintain a vital and active membership. Communication with members is maintained through the National prize-winning journal "Audubon", our local monthly bulletin indicating a variety of field trips, programs and other various activities relating to the AUDUBON GOALS.

My name _____ (please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This is a new membership a renewal

Nominated by

 (Sequoia Audubon Member)

Check the membership you desire. All members receive *Audubon* magazine six times a year.

Individual/\$20 Contributing/\$100
 Family/\$25 Donor/\$250
 Sustaining/\$30 Life/\$1000
 Supporting/\$50 Dual Life/\$1500

} No further dues payment required

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