



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 29, No. 7

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
March, 1980

MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING, March 6, Thursday, 7:30 PM at the home of Jean and Frank Allen, 1417 Sanchez Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other Sequoia members are welcome.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, March 13, 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.

Jim Rosso, director of the Alum Rock Park Museum in San Jose, will present a two part program. Part One will describe the California desert environment--Joshua Tree National Monument, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Salton Sea area--and the interaction of the desert fauna and flora. Part Two will be a program set to music featuring whales in their watery habitat.

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)

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

MARCH 11 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO POMPONIO CREEK AND PESCADERO MARSH

Meet at 9:00 at the intersection of Highway 92 and Ralston Avenue in Belmont to carpool. Bring a snack, for we will spend the morning listening to and observing nesting birds on Pomponio Creek Road. We will go to Pescadero Marsh after lunch and return to Belmont by 3:00 PM. Beginning birders are welcome.

Leaders: Jean and Frank Allen

MARCH 15 SATURDAY - NATIVE PLANTS AT FILOLI

Participants of this trip will be privileged to see native plants outside the formal gardens with one of our members who has spent many hours charting them. Meet at 9:00 AM at the North Gate on Canada Road just south of the Pulgas Water Temple. This will be a morning walk limited to 15 people. Please call the Allens, 344-9339 to be included.

Leader: Timmy Gallagher

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1009 Laguna Avenue
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MARCH 25 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK
8:30 to 4:00 PM

New Sequoia members will find this a good trip for learning the song birds. We'll walk the Redwood Trail and also listen to songs of nesting birds on the San Lorenzo River. Meet at the intersection of Highway 92 and Ralston in Belmont at 8:30 or call 344-9339 for a meeting place farther down on Highway 280. Bring a lunch. Carpoolers will share expenses.

Leaders: Jean and Frank Allen

APRIL 8 - TUESDAY BIRDERS TO FOSTER CITY

Meet at 9:00 at the parking lot for the Werder Fishing Pier at the end of East Hillsdale Blvd. Beginning birders will enjoy seeing shorebirds in breeding plumage and migratory ducks will still be around.

Leaders: Jean and Frank Allen

APRIL 12 SATURDAY - PESCADERO MARSH

Meet at 8:30 AM at the sand dunes across from North Pond at Pescadero Marsh on Highway 1. We will walk some of the newly acquired areas of the marsh. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Ted Chandik

MAY 3 and 4, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - MYSTERY TRIP

Mark your calendar. Details later.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January 26, Pillar Point

35 birders of Sequoia Audubon met at the parking lot of the Shorebird Restaurant on a beautiful Saturday morning and all of them were excited about birding in the area.

All in all, we sighted approximately 45 species. Birding was not the greatest but we managed to identify some rare visitors including the ARCTIC TERN and ARCTIC LOON and had the opportunity to study the shapes of these birds. Thayer's Gull was also observed.

It is lots of fun to lead a trip of this type because the participants are excited, enthusiastic and anxious for more birds.

It was great to see so many new faces and we bid them welcome at all of our field trips.

Hal and Barbara Lucas, Trip leaders.

February 9 and 10, Los Banos Area

Forty birders met in the parking lot of the Los Banos Wildlife Refuge on a gorgeous Saturday morning and proceeded to explore the general area of the refuge. A total of 114 species were observed in the area for the weekend of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Because of the large group, special cooperation was requested and it was immediately and continually granted. This makes a good field trip and the number of birds observed always increases with this cooperation and enthusiasm.

Some of the birds seen were the MERLIN, BALD EAGLE, GOLDEN EAGLE, PRAIRIE FALCON (very rare), flocking Curlews, Ferruginous Hawks, White-faced Ibis, Cattle Egret and other unusual birds which we are always anxious to see. The owls cooperated and 4 were observed in one day. Overall, an "Owling Success."

The group dined at the WOOLGROWER'S HOTEL in Los Banos on Saturday night for a fine Basque dinner served family style. Our Saturday night dinner is always a highlight on our trip to Los Banos.

We would like to express our SPECIAL THANKS to Roy and Fran Nelson for their invaluable assistance in scouting the Panoche Valley and also for their unselfish leadership. Due to the size of the group, it would have

been impossible to have handled the entire trip without their help. ROY and FRAN, thank you.

Also special thanks to the group as a whole for their cooperation and understanding.

Hal and Barbara Lucas, Trip leaders.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Very fittingly, San Mateo County will be completing its Local Coastal Plan in 1980 which has been designated as the Year of the Coast. County Planning Commission hearings for public comment on the Draft Plan have been continuing with final public testimony on February 13. Four hearings for Staff response to the public input, starting February 27, are to continue on the 10th, 12th, and 26th of March, all at 2:00 PM in the Supervisors' Chambers, Hall of Justice and Records, Redwood City. A final hearing on April 9th will then be held for Commission action on recommended amendments, after which, presumably, the Plan will go to the Board of Supervisors.

Local highlight of the Year of the Coast will be a "Week of the Coast" program starting March 3rd, jointly sponsored by the Peninsula Conservation Center and Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club. All interested persons are invited to come and bring their friends. The complete program will include field trips, lectures, panel discussions and a dinner meeting on March 8 at Duarte's in Pescadero. For information phone 328-5313 or 327-8111.

At the state level, action taken by the Legislature on conservation matters so far this year has been bad, primarily in passage of the Peripheral canal bill which will send locally-needed water from the Delta to Southern California. Our Senator Garcia and other Northern California Senators opposed it but were outvoted by the larger contingent from Southern California who would apparently rather waste our water and all the taxpayers' money to build the Canal than to suggest that their constituents practice water conservation. The bill, S.B.200, now goes to the Assembly but had not been scheduled for committee hearings as of mid-February. Letters in opposition should be sent to Assemblymen Robert Naylor or Louis Papan, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Senator Garcia is also to be commended for voting for S.B.4, the "Bottle Bill," which was rejected about 2 to 1 by the full Senate. It is the first time, however, in 10 tries that such a bill requiring a deposit on beer and soft drink containers ever got out of committee to the Senate floor. Better luck next time!

More heartening news from Sacramento was the ruling by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton, that the U.S. Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program was inadequate and that the Forest Service acted illegally in disqualifying one million acres in California from wilderness consideration. Suit had been brought by the California Secretary of Natural Resources and it is likely to have national significance because it is the first challenge of the computerized process used by the Forest Service to select roadless areas for wilderness designation.

Two anti-wilderness bills recently introduced in Congress would more than negate the good effect of the court decision, however. HR 6070 would give Congress only until January 1, 1984 to make decisions on the nearly 5 1/2 million acres already recommended by the Forest Service for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Any areas not dealt with by then would automatically become open for development. "Future planning" areas would have a cut-off date of January 1, 1987, while all roadless lands

not recommended for wilderness would be open for immediate development. H.R.5586, introduced by California Representative, Harold Johnson, would similarly open for immediate development all Forest Service "non-wilderness" areas in California. In response to this latter bill, Rep. Phil Burton introduced H.R.5578 granting permanent wilderness status in California to all areas recommended for both this and "further planning" as well as for 71 non-wilderness areas. Letters are needed to our Congressmen Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. and William Royer (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) asking support for Burton's bill and opposition to the other two sponsored by Foley and Johnson.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

MONO LAKE

The final report of the Interagency Task Force on Mono Lake recommends the restoration of the Lake to its 1970 elevation of 6,388 feet, 15 feet above the present level. The means to this end is to reach our state Assemblymen and Senators. We must urge them to support and cosponsor Bill, A.B.2235, the Norman Waters bill, and to oppose A.B.2182, the Mike Roos bill. The Mike Roos bill calls for a five year study of the issue while diversions continue. If A.B.2182 passes, Mono Lake will be gone in five years!

Please call or write your Senators and Assemblymen to support and cosponsor A.B.2235 to implement the Task Force Report.

Georgia Perkins

ALASKA

Secretary of Interior, Cecil Andrus, has withdrawn 49 million acres of federal land for wildlife management. This latest development has been praised by conservationists. Please urge Senators Cranston and Hayakawa to take action on the bill (Tsongas-Roth) soon as a delay to July 1st is possible. Help make the bill a reality in 1980. Write your Senators at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Georgia Perkins

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. 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.

The principal attraction for the public is the heronry. Over 125 nests of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets may be observed from Henderson Overlook. Activity in the heronry commences in February with the arrival of the Herons and increases in March when the Egrets arrive. This year the public is invited to the Ranch from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays commencing Saturday, March 1 and continuing through July 4 and also during Easter Vacation week, Tuesday, April 8 through Friday, April 11. (The Ranch is always closed on Monday.)

There is an interesting display hall featuring interpretive displays of the Indians who once populated the area, natural history, geology and political history. The bookstore offers nature books, postcards and related items. There is an attractive picnic area.

Special group visits during the week may be arranged by phoning Edris Cole at 383-1644.

Sequoia Audubon will provide volunteer hosts at the Ranch during the month of April. Four people are required for each Saturday and Each Sunday in April and one or preferably two people each day of Easter vacation week

(April 8--11). One of the volunteers will be asked to attend the bookstore. Hosts should arrive about 9:30 AM and will be through just after 4:00 PM. Ordinarily the drive from San Mateo should take about 1½ hours.

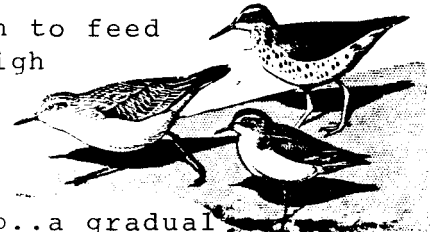
Hosts greet arriving visitors, point out the parking area, supervise registration, direct visitors to the display hall, picnic area and trail entrance. Knowledge of the birds is not required. Hosts need not be Audubon members so bring along your friends, relatives, neighbors to assist. Many interesting visitors are encountered and the day passes all too quickly in this unique natural setting. Phone Georgia Perkins at 583-7815 and make your arrangements to participate in this worthwhile and interesting assignment.

LET'S GO BIRDING

Shorebirds and tides: Quote from Cogswell's "Water Birds of California": "Shorebirds cannot occupy their feeding grounds when the tides reach levels of more than about 4' above...the average of the two daily low-low tides. ... About S. F. Bay most of the shorebirds...now use the dikes and shallows of the extensive salt evaporating ponds for this function of 'waiting-out' the high tide periods."

Where to look: Ponds south of Harbor Blvd in Redwood City; sand bar and marshy area off Beach Park Blvd in Foster City; breached dike area east of Mariners Blvd and 3rd Avenue, San Mateo; at the foot of Millbrae Avenue and Old Bayshore Blvd; and many other places!

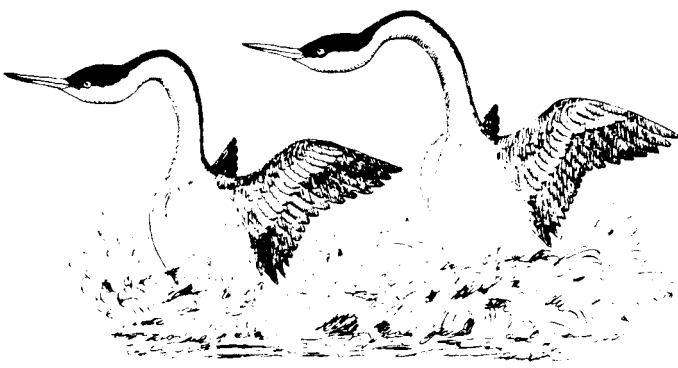
Time to Bird: Estimating when birds will return to feed is a challenge (someone must have a formula?). If high tide for Golden Gate Bridge is listed between 5 and 6'+, start looking 1 to 2 hours later in San Mateo County. If indicated tide is 4-5', start looking fairly soon. (A real scientific approach? Seriously would appreciate help..how fast does the tide drop..a gradual curve or faster at the beginning? the end? Is there a simple reference for a layman?)



Steinberger Slough: A great place for the above and easy to reach! Go east on Marine World Parkway, right on Bridge Parkway, right on Tiller, left on Spar which deadends, walk up on dike and look!

What you'll see: Migrating shorebirds and ducks. Some will be showing their breeding plumage. If birds appear to be missing within the slough, you might drive out on the road leading to KGEI (east on Peninsula Parkway to the end, left on Shell Parkway, right on paved road leading to the radio station located on the edge of the Bay) and scan both sides of road, looking for resting flocks of birds.

Western Grebe Dance



Take 101 north of the Golden Gate Bridge, turn off at Tiburon, turn right at Greenwood Cove Road, stop at any good viewing spot of Richardson Bay. Best times are during high tides when the birds will be close to shore and you can easily observe a pair going thru a

highly stylized ritual. They will engage in mutual diving, neck swaying, "dancing" with water weeds held in their bills, and a most spectacular

"race" in which the birds rush rapidly in standing-up posture for up to 30 yards with their necks arched up and heads down! Call 388-2524 for confirmation of the above. Birds don't always perform on schedule!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Sequoia Audubon board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 11.

Contributions to the following organizations were approved: Audubon Canyon Ranch, Audubon Camp of the West (2 scholarships), Friends of Filoli, Peninsula Conservation Society, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, San Mateo Garden Center and Nature Conservancy. Requests from other organizations had not been received so no action was taken on their behalf.

Jean Allen displayed a new checklist of the Birds of San Mateo County as compiled by Peter Metropulos. Distribution to various interested organizations was authorized. Copies will also be available at meetings and field trips.

The board authorized the annual Mystery Trip for the weekend of May 3 and 4. Transportation will probably be provided by two 16-passenger "mini buses".

Maryann Danielson and Myrtle Johnson reported satisfactory progress in their continuing discussions with State of California people regarding Pescadero Marsh plans.

The board appointed the following Sequoia members to serve as the nominating committee for the Sequoia year, 1980-1981: Nancy Horn (342-9902), Leroy Nelson (593-7941) and Charles Newman (697-5601). Members are urged to submit suggestions for nominations of directors and officers to any committee member.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Some 50 Sequoia members and guests gathered at the Garden Center on a stormy February 14 evening and learned about the aerial surveillance program of the Oceanic Society. William Burns and his associate showed us slides taken from the air of pollution sources in the Bay and Delta. Some sources are visible only from the air due to lack of ground access or deliberate concealment. One slide clearly showed an effluent discharging into a channel without any apparent source. Further investigation disclosed a pipeline from an industrial plant passing under water across one channel, underground across a narrow island and finally discharging in the middle of a second channel. Evidence gathered from the air is turned over to government agencies in the hope of follow-up abatement.

Charles Newman presented the regular "Bird of the Month" feature--the Canyon Wren. Excellent slides by Roy Nelson and a high quality tape recording of the bird's distinctive call.

SAVE TREES, SAVE ENERGY

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE -- AND RECYCLE

Recycling saves natural resources, fuel, manpower, energy and money for all of us. Most centers accept newspapers, cardboard, brown paper bags, used metal, cans and bottles. Combine a delivery to a recycling center with other errands -- or, a birdwatching outing!

Please contribute to the SEQUOIA information regarding recycling locations in your section of San Mateo County so that we can compile a complete list of available locations.

Following are locations available to south County residents:

- (1) Palo Alto Recycling Center - east end of Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Nearby is good birding--at Baylands Nature Center or south on the frontage road along the levee.
- (2) Downtown Menlo Park - entrance south side of Ravenswood Avenue between El Camino and railroad tracks.

- (3) San Mateo County refuse dump - Marsh Road, Menlo Park.
 - (4) Woodside Plaza Shopping Center, Woodside Road and Massachusetts Avenue, Redwood City
- Let's all get the recycling habit!

Marian Lockwood

SUNBEAM ECOLOGY EXPLORATIONS

- WILDFLOWER SPECIAL - SATURDAY, MARCH 22 - \$15
An all day bus trip to the Pinnacles area.
- BIRDS OF HONEY AND EAGLE LAKES - MARCH 15--17 - \$25
Carpool trip. Food, lodging transportation not included
- DESERT WILDFLOWERS AND BIRDS - APRIL 13--18 - \$40
Carpool trip. Food, lodging, transportation not included.
Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree National Monument, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.
- BIRDING NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA - June 8--13
Details later.

For additional information contact Maryann Danielson, 848 Edgehill Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010. Phone 342-6919 (evenings).

GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

- Session 1 - Sunday, July 27 through Saturday, August 2
- Session 2 - Sunday, August 3 through Saturday, August 9
- Cost: \$125 Adults, \$90 Children, age 11 and under

For the sixth year, this workshop will be held at Golden Troup Camp, a semi-primitive camp located within the Golden Trout Wilderness in the southern Sierra at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Guests hike in 2½ miles from the end of the road, which is about 17 miles southwest of Lone Pine. Hikes, lead by naturalists offer a chance to learn the alpine ecology, flora and fauna of the area. Or, come to enjoy high mountain experience. For brochure of more information, contact Mrs. Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. Phone (805) 966-4836.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Mrs. Norman (Eila) Fox and her husband, the late Dr. Fox, worked long and effectively for Sequoia Audubon. One of Eila's many accomplishments was the arrangement for our meeting place, the San Mateo Garden Center. She has now completed plans to move to Winterpark, Florida in order to be near her children. We wish her well in her new home.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

GET IN LINE WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE -- January 1 through June 30, 1980! Jean Allen, Membership Chairman, announced at our December meeting that the member who sends in the most new memberships (with his name on them) to P.O. Box 1131 will be presented a Roger T. Peterson painting. Bring back someone whose membership has lapsed for 6 months or more--that counts, too.

	Check one:	
_____ (Name)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
_____ (Address)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25
_____ (City State	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$30
_____ Zip)	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50
(Make checks payable to National Audubon Society)	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$100
Send to: Sequoia Audubon Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$250
P.O. Box 1131	<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$1000
Burlingame, CA 94010	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Life	\$1500

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- MARCH 6 - Thursday - Board Meeting at Allen's
 8 - Saturday - Field Trip to Coyote Hills
 11 - Tuesday - Tuesday Birders to Pomponio Creek and
 Pescadero Marsh
 13 - Thursday - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center
 15 - Saturday - Field Trip to Filoli
 25 - Tuesday - Tuesday Birders to Henry Cowell Park
 29 - Saturday - National Audubon Western Conference at
 Asilomar
- APRIL 3 - Thursday - Board Meeting
 8 - Tuesday - Tuesday Birders to Foster City
 10 - Thursday - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center
 Ted Chandik Program
 12 - Saturday - Field Trip to Pescadero Marsh
 Ted Chandik, leader.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON PHONE: 344-4577

THE SEQUOIA, March, 1980
Sequoia Audubon Society
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