



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 29, No. 8

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

April, 1980

MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING, April 3, Thursday, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Allstate Savings and Loan office, 1820 S. Grant Street in San Mateo. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other Sequoia members are welcome.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, April 10, Thursday, 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. Refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting commences at 8:00 PM.

Our program will feature a slide presentation by Ted Chandik on the Birds of Pescadero Marsh. Mr. Chandik is a naturalist for the City of Palo Alto and is a prominent Northern California birder. His program will prepare us for the field trip to Pescadero Marsh on April 12 which he will lead. Sequoia has had a long time involvement with the protection of Pescadero Marsh and plans for its management. Bring friends to see and hear about this strategic area and its fascinating bird population.

Frank 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)

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

APRIL 19 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. Because of the number of people who wanted to sign up, we are repeating the March 15 trip. Timmy Gallagher has an unbelievable fund of

PRESIDENT: Wilma Rockman
1166 Grand Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
Phone: 366-3434

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

knowledge of our native plants. Please call the Allens, 344-9339 to be included.

Leader: Timmy Gallagher

MAY 3 & 4 SATURDAY & SUNDAY - MYSTERY TRIP

Does a trip to faraway places with exotic names intrigue you? With the cessation of winter rain and storms, do you yearn to escape the confining walls of your home for a carefree weekend? In you can honestly say YES to either of the above questions, dig out your checkbook and send some money to: Georgia Perkins, 24 Bayview Court, Millbrae, CA 94030.

This year the committee has made a change in transportation plans to cut expenses. Two 16-passenger vans will be used (bus costs are exorbitant) therefore, fewer seats will be available. It is imperative that you not delay if you want to join the Happy Wanderers. Another change this year will be that you will pay only for the transportation and motel room in advance. Saturday dinner will be your own responsibility. You will order from the menu. Dinners range from \$5.00 to \$9.00.

Motel reservations will be a little more costly this year as it is a popular place. Each room has two full-sized beds and will cost \$34.00 per room. Each person will need one partner to share a room. If more than two wish to share one room, each extra person will pay \$3.00. Transportation costs will be \$12.00 per seat. This is about one-half of what a bus would cost.

Reservations will be considered confirmed if they are accompanied by a check for \$58.00 per couple. This is \$24.00 for two seats and \$34.00 for a room for two. Dinner will be extra. As for other meals, you should pack a lunch for Saturday. We will picnic in a beautiful area. Cafes will be available for Sunday breakfast, Sunday lunch stop will be in a populated area so you can purchase it or pack it. Bring a swim suit if you feel so inclined. We must ask that luggage be kept to a minimum as it will be stowed under the seats. Soft pack luggage is preferable.

Reservations will be accepted no later than April 25th so hurry and don't be left out! The meeting place will be in the WEST parking lot just west of Magnolia behind Mervyn's Department store in Millbrae. Magnolia is two short blocks west of El Camino and you can reach this area from either Taylor on the south or Meadow Glen on the north. Arrive there by 7:45 AM on Saturday, May 3. The vans will depart at 8:00 AM and will return close to 5:00 PM on Sunday, May 4.

Please enclose your phone number with your reply as confirmation will be given by phone.

Committee: Georgia and Jerry Perkins 583-7815
John Silliman 585-2245

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

March 8, Coyote Hills

Twenty five adventurous people assembled at the park headquarters Saturday morning on a beautiful day. We headed out toward the marsh area and were soon enthralled by many Long-billed Marsh Wrens staking out their territories with their distinctive songs. Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, Canvasbacks, Mallards, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, a female Goldeneye, Pintail, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellowthroats, etc., were watching as we moved along the boardwalk. Black Phoebes, Scrub Jays, L. Shrikes, Mourning Doves, Tri-colored, D.C. Cormorants, a field of Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Common Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Willet, Snowy Egret, American Bittern and Brush Rabbits were observed further afield. Marsh Hawks were everywhere and at least two White-tailed Kites entertained us all morning. Higher up, Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures wheeled about.

Kestrels and Killdeers made their presence known, as did the ubiquitous Song Sparrows along the paths. Bushtits, Meadowlarks, Violet-green Swallows and a large flock of Black-crowned Night Herons riveted our attention beyond the Indian Midden.

Returning to the parking lot, Hal Lucas pointed out an Allen's Hummingbird as we headed for the picnic tables. After lunch we headed up the muddy trail to see the nesting pair of Great Horned Owls. Sharp-eyed Barbara Lucas found a nesting Allen's Hummer. A Hutton's Vireo performed high in a tree for several people.

Later on we looked unsuccessfully for the Rock Wren. Roy and Fran Nelson had better luck with the Gallinule, Tufted Duck and Gadwall. Burrowing Owls were seen near the entrance to the park.

All in all, a beautiful day and a very successful outing.

CONSERVATION NEWS

By the end of February both houses of Congress had passed H.R. 3757 creating a new National Park of the five Channel Islands and had sent the bill for presidential approval. The Senate Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Resource Protection had marked up the Nongame Wildlife bill S.2181, but it probably would not reach the Senate floor before April. The committee dropped the originally proposed funding by an excise tax on birdseed, bird feeders, bird houses and bird baths after testimony from the industry raised doubt that sufficient revenue would be generated and a \$50 million general fund appropriation was substituted. Letters to our Senators, Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, should be sent in support of the bill which has long been advocated by NAS.

It is hoped that the Senate, in its version of the Water Resources Development Act, S 703, will be able to alter the \$4 billion package of "pork barrel" projects passed by the House in its version of the Act--HR 4788. This latter bill completely ignored the President's request for an integrated plan to meet the country's water needs, as well as the inflationary effect of such a waste of the taxpayers' money.

In spite of increasing publicity regarding the results of improper dumping of hazardous industrial wastes, little interest in bills for a "Superfund" to require industry to pay for cleanup of such dumps, with restoration of damages to natural resources and compensation of victims of waste spills, has reached Congress from its constituents. This is something that can affect all of us as those who saw the February program should know. Letters supporting the two "Superfund" bills, HR 5790 and S 1480, without any weakening amendments, should be sent to our Representatives (Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. and William Royer at House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515) and to our Senators (address above).

Passage by the State Legislature of SB 547 will put on the June ballot as Proposition 1, a \$495 million bond issue which will mainly provide funding for state and local park acquisitions but with \$157 million provided for water conservation projects, wildlife and fishery projects and wastewater reclamation projects. This is one ballot measure SAS members can wholeheartedly support.

A recent appellate court decision has reinstated the suit to save "The Hill" from development. This last large privately-owned undeveloped land in Menlo Park lies between the end of Valparaiso Avenue and the Sharon Heights development. Local voters twice had opposed acquisition of the

property by the city of Menlo Park, but there remained the possibility that a local assessment district might be formed such as occurred in San Carlos for acquisition of the Hassler property.

South County SAS members who change their own oil should be glad to know that the Peninsula Recycling Operation in Menlo Park, besides taking the usual recycled items, will also take used motor oil for re-refining. The Operation is behind Ken's House of Pancakes between El Camino Real and the railroad and can be reached by a driveway off of the eastbound lanes of Ravenswood Avenue or from the northbound lanes of El Camino Real.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

ALASKA

The Senate has shelved the Alaska issue for at least five months. This could delay action until the closing hours of the session when full Senate floor debate and subsequent House--Senate conference committee action may not be possible. With no guarantee that Congress will complete action on the legislation this session, Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, carried out his pledge to protect the Alaskan lands and on February 12 established 40 million acres of permanent wildlife refuges and natural resource areas in Alaska.

We must now send messages of thanks to Secretary Andrus for his latest action and his continued support for the protection of Alaska's wildlife and wild lands. Write him at:

Hon. Cecil Andrus
Secretary of the Interior
Dept. of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

We must also urge our Senators to speak with Majority Leader, Robert Byrd, if they are Democrats or Minority Leader, Howard Baker, if they are Republicans to urge these Senate leaders to reschedule the Alaska bill to bring it up this spring when enough time exists to give the legislation the fair and comprehensive debate it must have. Urge them also to support the Tsongas--Roth Substitute and any strengthening amendments offered against the Energy Committee Bill. Write your Senators at:

Hon. _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

-- Georgia Perkins

LAKE TAHOE

Rep. Vic Fazio has introduced HR 6338 providing for the establishment of Lake Tahoe National Scenic Area. The purpose of the legislation is to preserve, restore and enhance public use and enjoyment of the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Lake Tahoe Basin; to protect the wildlife habitat resources and delicate ecological systems from degradation and to prevent the degradation of water and air quality. HR 6338 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a plan setting environmental standards which would prevent further environmental abuse.

Please urge your Representative (McCloskey or Royer) to support this urgently needed bill, HR 6338. Address your letter to The Honorable _____ U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20015.

1980 AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS

The Scholarship Committee has awarded three scholarships valued at \$400 each for the 1980 camper season. Two scholarships are provided by

Sequoia Audubon and one by an anonymous Sequoia member. Georgia and Jerry Perkins will attend the Maine Camp and Craig Benkman the Wyoming Camp. All three of these recipients have made outstanding contributions to Sequoia Audubon activities and demonstrate great potential for the future in furthering Audubon goals.

National Audubon conducts four camps each summer located in Maine, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Connecticut. Camps are open to anyone 18 years of age or over. For information, write Camp Department, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Jim Rosso showed three interesting Youth Science Institute slide shows produced by the Alum Rock Museum of which he is Director. First was a biography of the great Grey Whale migrating from its Arctic grounds to its birthing grounds off Baja California. A protected species, it is heartening to be told of the Mexican government's work in helping to protect these waters.

"The Wolf and the Caribou," narrated by Jim with illustrations by Shiela Brady, is a charming Eskimo tale, with a message, taken from Farley Mowatt's "Never Cry Wolf": depicting a reciprocal relationship: the wolf does not kill indiscriminately -- he takes only the sick or the old thus ensuring a healthier caribou herd.

The third offering was a distillation of several years of slide-taking in the California desert areas. Jim closed with a plea that we inform ourselves about the off-road vehicle organizations which have mobilized to protect their recreational interests versus the BLM which will be presenting plans soon for desert land management.

Our Bird-of-the-Month as presented by Frank Allen, was the Chestnut-backed Chickadee, the well-loved, tiny bird shown exploring a hummer feeder.
(C.G.)

Six ex-presidents of Sequoia Audubon (Steve Aldrich, Al Bergeron, Byron Davies, Monty Montgomery, Charles Newman and John Prime) were present and joined other members in wishing Eila Fox good birding and happiness in her new home in Winterpark, Florida. As a token of appreciation for Eila's work on behalf of Sequoia Audubon she was presented a framed print of Al Bergeron's prize-winning photograph of shore birds at Foster City.

APRIL BIRDING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Are you aware that the trees are ready for nesting birds? That wild flowers are blooming wherever there is open space? That the days are longer? Warmer? Have you suddenly noticed the turned up volume of bird song? That some birds are gone? "Old ones" returned? Can you read the "signs"? Springtime, that magical word that means renewal, a perpetuation of life, an action that plant and animal life instinctively perform.

Listen to the tremendous variety of bird song -- announcements of territorial rights to food and shelter for nesting pairs. Visit and observe with patience at such places as -- along various creeks with tree cover: San Gregario, Gazos, Pescadero, Butano and the small streams found running into the bay. Walk along the levees and dykes surrounding the wetlands -- Baylands, Redwood Shores, Dumbarton Area, Belmont Slough, Marina Boulevard, Oyster Point, etc. Visit the parks -- Wunderlich, Butano, Portola, Memorial, San Bruno Mountain, etc.

Visit the seashore and use your 'scope or binoculars and observe the surge of water birds to their northern breeding grounds in the Arctic with its plentiful food.

But life can be a challenge -- channelization of creeks and rivers, cement and asphalt covered marshes, oil soaked beaches and insects soaked in pesticides -- fortunately, birds can wing it to a better place, can't they!

W.R.

BOOK REVIEW

Are you a "bird-ticker"? A keeper-of-lists? If so, it's time to add another dimension to your birding activities, such as--"What is that bird doing?" As an incentive to finding an answer, start with this new pioneering book: "A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds" by Donald W. Stokes with illustration by J. Fenwick Lansdowne (only \$9.95).

You'll become positively scientific in your observations rather than anthropomorphic. Twenty-five common birds are discussed in a concise manner. Each species chapter is reviewed in relation to a Behavior Calendar, Display Guide, and Behavior Description. The latter is subdivided into discussions on Territory Courtship, Nest Building and Location, Breeding, Plumage, Seasonal Movement and Social Behavior.

The book is so compact and easy to refer to when birding that Peterson and Robbins will have to make room for Stokes!

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. 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.

It is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturdays, Sunday - holidays from March 1 through July 4 and also during the Easter vacation week -- April 8 to 11. The Ranch is always closed on Mondays. Special group visits during the week may be arranged by phoning Edris Cole at 383-1644.

Sequoia will provide volunteer hosts during April (see page 4 of the March SEQUOIA). Phone Georgia Perkins (583-7815) to volunteer for this pleasant duty.

SAN BRUNO RECYCLING CENTER

The Recycling center in San Bruno is located at the end of First Avenue, across the tracks from the railroad station. They take all types of cans, also bottles, newspaper and used motor oil. Will also accept defunct appliances to break up. Volunteers will help unload during daylight hours on weekends. Do-it-yourself most other times.

-- Andrea Bottini

EARTH DAY '80 ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSITION

April 22, 1980 has been declared National Earth Day and Governor Brown has named April 20--27 as "California Earth Week." San Francisco will celebrate National Earth Day on April 19 and 20 with an exposition at Fort Mason. General admission \$3, students, children and seniors \$1.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER

The National Audubon Society's Western Education Center and Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary will feature a show of wildflower photographs by Stuart McKelvey at its Lyford House Gallery. The exhibition will open on April 13, 1980 and is located on the Sanctuary grounds in Tiburon at 376 Greenwood Beach Road.

The wildflower photographs will be a representation of the native wildflowers of Marin County and Yosemite National Park. Mr. McKelvey is a

native of California and has been a photographer since the early 1940's. He will be at the Gallery opening to discuss techniques for photographing wildflowers with those who are interested. The Lyford House Gallery is open to Audubon members and the general public on Sunday afternoons from 1 - 4 pm.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

1979 DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN 1980

Aldrich, Steve	366-3603	74 Nevada Street Redwood City 94062	Director (Past President)
Allen, Frank	344-9339	1417 Sanchez Ave. Burlingame, 94010	Christmas Count & Finance
Allen, Jean			Dir. & Membership
Danielson, Maryann	342-6919	848 Edgehill Drive Burlingame 94010	Pescadero Marsh Chmn. ACR Dir.
Davies, Byron	334-2851	606 Cambridge St. San Francisco 94134	ACR Dir.
Fletcher, Louise	592-4032	1504 El Verano Way Belmont 94002	Scholarships & Grants Chmn
Gales, Carmen	349-6927	100 W. 27th Ave. #206 San Mateo 94403	Director & Publicity Chmn
Hobbs, Dean	341-9850	844 Constitution Dr. Foster City 94404	Treasurer
Johnson, Myrtle	728-7916	151 Shelter Cove Dr. Half Moon Bay 94019	Director
Lucas, Hal	344-3796	130 Newton Avenue Burlingame 94010	Dir., Field Trips Chmn, ACR Dir.
McElhany, Ed	343-3219	1009 Laguna Avenue Burlingame 94010	Director, Editor ACR Director
Newman, Charles	697-5601	25 Corte Alegre Millbrae 94030	Acquisition Chmn.
Perkins, Georgia	583-7815	24 Bayview Court Millbrae 94030	Secretary Alaska Com. Chmn.
Rockman, Wilma	366-3434	1166 Grand Street Redwood City 94061	President
Silliman, John	692-2072 585-2245 (Bus.)	215 Anita Drive Millbrae 94030	Vice President
Smith, Ruth	322-5279	120 Cornell Road Menlo Park 94025	Director & Conservation Chmn.

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 and the subscriber's name on them) to P.O. Box 1131, Burlingame 94010 will be presented with a Roger T. Peterson painting. Bring back someone whose membership has lapsed for 6 months or more--that counts too.

_____ (Name)	Check one:
_____ (Address)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20
_____ (City & State & Zip Code)	<input type="checkbox"/> Family 25
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining 30
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting 50
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing 100
	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor 250
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life 1000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Life 1500

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society
and send to: Sequoia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1131, Burlingame, CA 94010

Membership in National Audubon Society includes the AUDUBON Magazine, membership in Sequoia Audubon Chapter and the Sequoia bulletin, THE SEQUOIA. Change of address and request for Chapter change should be sent to BOTH National and Sequoia.

Subscription to THE SEQUOIA only is \$2.00 for ten issues--September through June. No lapse notices are sent.

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- APRIL 3 - Thursday - Board Meeting
- 8 - Tuesday - Tuesday Birders to Foster City
- 10 - Thursday - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center. Ted Chandik
- 12 - Saturday - Field Trip to Pescadero Marsh. Ted Chandik
- 19 - Saturday - Field Trip to Filoli

- MAY 1 - Thursday - Board Meeting
- 3, 4 - Saturday, Sunday - Mystery Trip
- 8 - Thursday - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center

THE SEQUOIA April, 1980
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