

Bulletin of the SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
San Mateo County, California

Vol. 8 No. 1  
February-March, 1957

Calendar for February

February 9: Meet at Skegg Point 9:30 AM for an exploratory hike in the Virginia Timberlands under the leadership of Mrs. Olive Mayer of the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta chapter. This area is under study as a proposed park for San Mateo County. Its purchase is recommended by many intelligent people. Walking shoes necessary. John Wickett, owner, will be there also to show some non-hikers around the property in his car.

February 14: Regular meeting at San Mateo Library at 8. There will be a short talk on conservation matters, then slides of Death Valley by Neil and Oleta Dickinson! You'll want to go if you haven't been after seeing these pictures!

February 21: (Thursday) Audubon Screen Tour at the San Mateo High School Auditorium, 8 PM. Robert Hermes of Homestead, Florida, will narrate his film of the drama of life by the edge of the sea. Since the next day is a holiday, many school children and their parents will be able to come. LET'S FILL THE AUDITORIUM!!! Bill Davis of The Sportsman's Club is introducing the lecturer.

Pot-luck dinner from 6-7 at Burlingame Recreational Center. Sign up with Alice Steele Di 4-8317. The first fifty get in! Eleven have already signed up.

February 23: (Saturday) Sawyer Camp Road trip with J'ed McClellan as leader, Neil Dickinson assistant. J'ed has been studying this area for years and his plant check list is available for 10¢. Each time there is something different to see and remember. Meet at the Crystal Springs Dam at 8:30 AM.

Calendar for March

March 14: Regular meeting time. Meeting postponed to March 28th.

March 15: (Friday) Last Audubon Screen Tour! Fran William Hall narrating his film Hawaii at the San Mateo High School Auditorium at 8 PM. This film will make a wonderful close to the series this year. Dr. Clarence Peterson Curriculum Director for county schools and a conservationist, will introduce Mr. Hall. Dinner for Mr. Hall and his wife at the Claramar for \$2.25. Sign up with Alice Steele.

March 19: The San Mateo County Citizens Committee is calling a meeting of those interested in an adequate regional recreational system for San Mateo County in San Mateo City Hall at 8 PM. The Virginia Timberland area will be discussed. Sequoia Audubon Society is represented on this Committee. You will learn things of real interest about your county by attending and will be supporting a worthwhile community project.

March 23: (Saturday) Butano Canyon Trip. Skunk cabbages in bloom, pescadero bananas all over the place, a shy fritillaria waiting for sharp eyes and trilliums nodding and smiling. All kinds of things to see. A check list available for a nickel. J'ed McClellan the leader. Meet at Junction of Skyline Drive and Half Moon Bay road at 8:30 AM.

March 28: Regular monthly meeting at San Mateo Library. Arthur Bennett of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will show his nature slides of Alaska. Mr. Bennett is a quiet man with a fine knowledge of birds and a keen observation of nature. His slides will be memorable.

Regular meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month at San Mateo Library 8 PM (note change of day!)

Board meets: 4th Monday, 7:30 PM at Mrs. Harman's, 656 Cedar Street San Carlos. Chairmen of Committees are asked to attend as regularly as possible.

Coming events: Audubon Biennial Pacific Coast Convention in April. See yellow sheet. Excellent program planned.

Reports on past events:

Los Banos Bird Refuge: Those who went will not forget the sandhill cranes in flight, nor their wild rolling cry. It was a beautiful day and worthwhile even if pheasant hunting restricted us to a small area and the thousands of birds were some distance away.

Christmas Census: The Christmas Census of 1955 was so successful that as the time drew near for the census take this year, Neil Dickinson, who had led the 1955 trip, could not forego another count. Fortunately there were several people in San Carlos who were eager to join in so, gathering as many members and friends as were available at the last minute and on the

spur of the moment, Sequoia Audubon Society took a census on the Peninsula, and made the following count: 109 different species, over 36,000 birds. Neil is sure that if a few more experts had been along the count would have been higher for the different species.

Those who took part in the count were as follows: Neil and Oleta Dickinson, Arthur Bennett, J'ed McClellan, Aveline Butler, Winona Sears, John Larsen (Audubon Warden on Greco Island) Joe Dickinson Georgiana Larsen, Jim Larsen, Dorothy Lillie, Donald Fry, John Pantages, Michael Fry, Elizabeth Evans, and Vernon Nellis.

Georgiana Larsen is planning to be hostess next Christmas Census Day when the different teams get together for the compilation. Plan to come once, after that you will be an enthusiast, too.

Mills College Conference-January 19. Seven members went over to the workshop meeting. Mrs. Lee sat in on the Membership and By-Laws workshop, Mrs. Elizabeth Evans and Mrs. West on the Junior Audubon, Neil and Oleta Dickinson on the Program, Mrs. Wallace Baker on the Conservation, and Mrs. Valentine on the Bulletin workshop. When what was gathered at the Southern California Conference is added to that gathered at Mills College each Branch Society will have valuable aid in making its work more effective. We hope Bill Goodall sends along the data very soon.

Screen Tours: The treasurer, Gene Hebborn, informed the Board in January that \$95.00 would have to be taken in on each of the three remaining Screen Tours to break even with all expenses. You can imagine her delight when we took in \$119.95 on January 24th! Maybe we will have something to send on to National Audubon after all. The Screen Tours have been excellent. Mr. Sprunt's picture and

presentation were tops, and Mr. Shackleton did a wonderful job with Mr. Cleaves' fine pictures. Mr. Edwards' picture of Mexico was interesting, and we hear that Arthur Bennett of San Bruno, a frequent visitor to our meetings and our field trips, is going on a guided nature tour of Mexico with Mr. Edwards in the Spring.

The Board of Sequoia Audubon Society believes that the Audubon Screen Tours bring fine entertainment as well as excellent informative material to the community, that they further the aims of National Audubon of which we are an active branch, and therefore win friends for our program as well as National's, and therefore we shall have the Tours again next year.

Welcome to new members:

Ben F. Lallar, Jr.

421 Occidental, San Mateo

Mrs. Allan F. Mori

31 Garden Lane, Colma

Mr. and Mrs. E. Courtney

10 De Sable, San Mateo

Mr. Henry E. Singer

722 Vernal Way, Redwood City

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ulrich

766 Ventura, San Mateo

Mrs. Marjorie Luhs

226 - 23rd Ave., San Mateo

Mrs. Margaret Girouard

320 - 22nd Ave., San Mateo

Conservation Notes and News Items:

The Committee for Dove Protection, Box 562 Palm Desert, California, has interested two Assemblymen, Ernest Geddes of Claremont and Frank Luckel of San Diego, to introduce a Bill for Dove Protection. The Committee for Dove Protection asks that we, and our friends, write to as many legislators as possible, and particularly to mem-

bers of the Fish and Game Committee urging that Doves be placed on the list of fully protected song birds by legislative act, as they are in twenty other states and in Canada.

Members of the Fish and Game Committee are: F. Belotti, Chrm., Eureka; Pauline Davis, Portola; H. T. Sedgewick-Oroville; F. C. Lindsay-Loomis; A. G. Patee-Salinas; H.H. Frew-Dinuba; Pat Kelly-Shafter; T.J. Doyle-Los Angeles; T.K. Erwin-Puente; V. Thomas-San Pedro; W.S. Grant-Long Beach; E.G. Nisbet-Upland; J. A. Beaver-Redlands; J. Schrader-El Cajon.

California Roadside Council

writes us that Senate Bill 666 introduced by Fred Farr of Monterey County, would prohibit billboards within 500 feet of any highway designated by the county as scenic, yet would allow a reasonable amount of advertising of roadside business and of by-passed towns and resorts. You are asked to write your State Senator urging him to support Senate Bill 666.

The Mid-Peninsula Science Association asked for a representative of the Sequoia Audubon Society to speak at their meeting in the library of Sequoia High School, January 25th.

Some 150 people heard Aveline Butler try to tuck into a 15 minute talk entitled "Fun with Birds", the facts and fun of bird watching, the scientific aspects and possibilities, the resources of National Audubon Society, the projects of Sequoia Audubon Society and a bibliography! Each person in the audience received a mimeographed abstract of each talk (there were ten) and any illustrative material the speaker wished to include. During the refreshment period after the meeting many people contacted her and eagerly picked up the material

available. Since the majority of the audience were public school teachers on all levels it was a good opportunity for publicity and increased awareness and interest in National Audubon activities and resources.

#### SEASONAL OBSERVATIONS By Aveline Butler

Seasonal observations are obviously a month late unless compiled and written the year previously. Since this is a new venture and written currently I must depend on the fact that Nature flows from phase to phase and is not really chopped up into twelve segments.

The rains have brought the Cedar Waxwings in immense flocks. Their beautiful wheeling flight and band box elegance of appearance compensates for their simple, silvery lispings. I planted cotoneasters and pyracanthus to bring them close to my windows.

The unusual cold spell seems to have added to the numbers of birds at my feeding station. The bill for grain goes up and the suet feeders need frequent replenishing.

The resident mockingbird sings when the sun is warm and so does the song sparrow.

I saw an English sparrow carrying a long bit of dust fluff from my shaken mop - nest building already?

A house wren boiled over briefly - a Bewick wren industriously explored every crevice of the ivy lattice work - titmouse whistled loudly, "se-wick-ety, se-wick-ety"

A friend asked about the tiny green-grey bird with the loud song and I could say, "ruby crowned kinglet" because one had recently visited my shrubbery.

A Cooper's hawk has discovered the Larsen and Butler feeding stations - What to do? John Torres' "Song Birds in Your Garden" was consulted. There's help in that book for practically every bird watching problem. In this case a bird bander may be needed to trap, band, and carry this hawk 10 or 15 miles away for release at the point of no return, it is hoped.

How about phoning or writing this column observations you make that would be helpful, interesting and valuable to all of us about birds critters and plant life. I need help on the seasonal aspects of the latter particularly. Phone Ly 3-4489 or address Mrs. J. S. Butler, 769 Tamarack, San Carlos by the 20th of the month.

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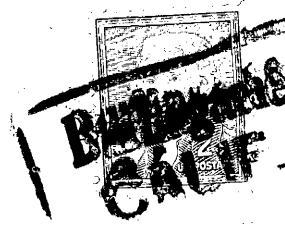
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(Form 3547 requested)



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