



BULLETIN of the SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY,
San Mateo, California

VOL. 12

No. 5

MARCH - APRIL 1959

CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS

MARCH 14 (SATURDAY) - BUNKER HILL ROAD:

Meet at San Mateo Creek dam on Skyline Blvd (near Crystal Springs Road) at 8:30 A.M.

MARCH 28 (SATURDAY) - BUTANO CREEK:

To see skunk cabbage, etc. Meet at intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Half Moon Bay Road at 8:30 A.M.

APRIL 4 (SATURDAY) - RANCHO BUTANO:

Meet at intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Half Moon Bay Road at 8:30 A.M.

APRIL 11 (SATURDAY) - PILARCITAS LAKE:

Seven-mile hike (round trip). Meet at San Andres Dam (extension of Millbrae Avenue) at 8:30 A.M. prepared to hike. Bring lunch!

-- J. Ed. McClellan
Field Trip, Chairman

CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS
HELD AT THE BURLINGAME RECREATION
CENTER

MARCH 12 - THURSDAY, 8 P.M.

SPEAKER - Mr. J. Ed. McClellan, whose topic will be, "Trees in San Mateo County." Jed's annual talk on plants is always eagerly anticipated. His fund of knowledge and interesting presentation make this meeting an event! Come and bring a friend.

APRIL 9 - THURSDAY, 8 P.M.

SPEAKER - Mr. Charles Hice. Subject, "Birds." Mr. Hice, Director of the San Mateo County Junior Museum, is doing an outstanding job in making wildlife and conservation knowledge a public concern. Sequoia Audubon members and their friends are looking forward to this opportunity to "chat with Chuck."

-- Ruth Breckenridge
Program Chairman

CALENDAR OF SCREEN TOURS

MARCH 16 - MONDAY. Subject, Great Smoky Skyland. Speaker: G. Harrison Orians. The setting is in the Southern Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. Mr. Orians will be introduced by Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, representative from National Office. Mr. Wm. Goodall, Pacific Coast Rep. will also be present.

APRIL 21 - TUESDAY. Subject, East and West from Hudson Bay. Speaker: Arthur A. Allen. Mr. Wm. Goodall expects to be present with instructive exhibit on conservation of our natural resources along the West Coast.

These lectures, given at the San Mateo High School Auditorium, Bellevue Ave. and Delaware at 8 p.m., are preceded by a pot luck dinner at Burlingame Recreation Center. For reservations phone: Mabel Lee Di 2-2428 or Alice Steele (evenings) Di. 4-8317. -- Katherine E. Lake, Screen Tour Chairman.

NATIVE PLANTS - MARCH- APRIL

The rains have been very late this year; and are still inadequate; but March and April should bring a flood of spring wildflowers.

In fields and meadows, masses of color, made up largely of:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Gream cups | Gold fields |
| Buttercups | Poppies |
| Cream sacks | Blue-eyed grass |
| Owl Clover | Iris |
| Shooting stars | Blue dicks |
| Meadow foam | Field lupines |
| Mile's ears | Royal larkspur |
| | Alfilaria. |

On chaparral slopes:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Wild lilac | Blue elderberry |
| Buck brush | Sticky monkey-flower |
| Chapparal pea | Zygadene lily |
| Bush poppy | Indian paint brush |
| Yerba buena | Wooly painted cup. |

In woods and canyons:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Madrone | Miners' lettuce |
| Indian warrior | Woodland star |
| Cow parsnip | Wild ginger |
| Checker lily | Columbine |
| Canyon lupine | Coral root |
| Bleeding heart | Solomon's seal |
| Blue witch | Clintonia |
| | 'False Solomon's Seal. |

Along edges of the Bay, in shallow water:

Masses of brass buttons.

On the sandhills near the ocean:

- Sea pink, lizzard tail
Seaside daisy, strawberry.

Note: This has been a good season for silk tassel bush. I saw it blooming profusely along Sawyer Camp Road on February 2.

-- Jed (J. Ed.) McClellan

We welcome Mrs. Paul Achilles as a new member of Sequoia Chapter.

CONSERVATION NOTES

BY Claire Stewart
(Conservation Chairman)

Pauline Davis has replaced Frank Belotti as Chairman of the Interim Fish and Game Committee. Mrs. Davis is an active conservationist, and, we believe, will give the Dove Protection Bill sympathetic consideration.

In reply to a telegram sent National Convention, requesting support for the Dove Bill coming up at the next session of the Legislature, President Baker replied that it is the policy of the National Society not to enter any state controversy. The Society does not oppose hunting "per se," and believes the decision as to whether or not a species is to be considered "game" lies with the Fish & Game Commission. PLEASE - more cards to Mrs. Davis!!!

We should all be concerned with the indiscriminate use of 1080: A chemical spray that is a deadly poison with no known antidote.

An interesting item has come to my attention. a "ham" operator friend has contacted an English-speaking woman in Northern Siberia who is a "bird-watcher." We suggested getting her address and mailing her Audubon literature.

(Editor's note -- the above was received too late for last issue of bulletin)

2/18/59

Regretfully, we submit the following information: The Interim Committee on Fish & Game reported the final recommendation:

"Unless the doves were in danger of extinction, the Committee could not conscientiously recommend that it be dropped from the Game list...."

Such a decision may be why Dr. Dean Amadon, Lamont Curator of Birds of the American Museum of Natural History could write: (continued on next page)

CONSERVATION NOTES (CONTINUED)

As regards the extinction of Birds, North America has the worst record of any continent on earth. The Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, Labrador Duck, Eskimo Curlew and the Great Auk are gone, while several others - the California Condor, Ivory Billed Woodpecker and the Whooping Crane are seriously threatened. Yet, with the exception of two or three in Australia, not a single bird of any other continent has become extinct. One wonders why??? -- Certainly, the almost barbaric destruction of the Passenger Pigeon by Sporting and Market hunters swept them from America."

We can derive some hope of future success since Dr. Weber, dedicated conservationist, with characteristic vigor, has written that Senator Thompson will re-introduce a Dove Protection Bill -- if there is significant support. Please write Senator Thompson Capitol Building, Sacramento, California.

Beware of D.D.T.! as well as compound 1080! In the last issue of the Audubon Magazine it was reported that robins are in danger of extinction because of their diet of D.D.T. - saturated earth worms! (what about vegetables and fruits sprayed with the same dangerous chemicals on the human being?)

-- Claire Stewart

At a recent dinner to which I was invited one of the men guests was boasting proudly of a time when he had killed 10 doves at one shot. I mentioned that many doves that were killed had young in the nests, and he agreed the hunting season for doves should be postponed for two weeks as he had often seen young ones fluttering around alone on the ground.

-- Elizabeth Baker

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FLASH - ASILOMAR RESERVATIONS!

GOING - GOING but NOT QUITE GONE!

Yes, a few beds, chairs and dining room table space still remain. So send in or write TODAY for YOUR reservation. (National Audubon Society - 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). MARCH 21 to MARCH 24, will be days to remember at the AUDUBON CONVENTION.

-- Wm. N. Goodall

BACK LOG OF MEETING AND FIELD TRIPS

By Ruth Breckenridge

KALEIDOSCOPE II - JANUARY MEETING

At our regular January meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Don Valentine shared with us their lovely slides taken at Zion, Grand Canyon, and Bryce National Parks. Emily's quality of spiritual sensitivity to the great beauty of the areas which they visited made her narrative an inspiration, and gave to the slides a far deeper significance than the usual appeal of scenic pictures. We went with the Valentines from the ruggedly beautiful formations of Zion to the vast and awe-inspiring reaches of the Grand Canyon. The exquisite, delicate, pink and white eroded forms of Bryce were a fitting finale to a beautiful trip. We hope that the future holds many more trips for Don and Emily - and that they will be generous enough to share them with us!

FIELD TRIP OF JANUARY 24 AT LAKE MERCED

(??? Well, that's what the last Bulletin said!)

And the rains finally came!

Even those indomitable Sequoia Audubon field trippers who usually take rain in stride found the rains too moist, so most of the field trip was enjoyed from the comfortable confines of a little caravan of cars. Or perhaps the rain provided just the right excuse to indulge our gypsy mood, for "a-wandering" we did go, far and wide, with good birding all along the way in spite of heavy rain.

We did meet at Lake Merced where we saw such interesting birds as the Pied-bill Grebe (an amazing 50 of them in one flock!), Ruddy Duck, Western Grebe, Glaucous-winged Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Short-billed Gull, Mallard, Arctic Loon, Kingfisher, Coot, Song Sparrow, Black Phoebe, Robin, and White-crowned Sparrow.

(continued on next page)

BACK LOG OF FIELD TRIPS (Cont'd)

(Trip to Lake Merced)

Our pilgrimage continued to Stow Lake where, in addition to many of the birds already seen at Lake Merced, we added to our list the American Widgeon, Scaup, Canvas-back, Eared Grebe, Wren-tit, and English Sparrow. Two beautiful Snow Geese and a White-fronted Goose waddled up onto the shore to welcome our admiring group.

Turning our cars in the general direction of "home" we headed down the coast highway. En route we saw the Black-bellied Plover, Brewer Blackbird, Black Turnstone, Sanderling, American Scoter, Pelagic (Haird) Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Yellowlegs, Willett, and Killdeer. A highlight of this section of our trip was the group of California Murres, sitting penguin-like on an off-shore rock near Devil's slide.

As we followed Halfmoon Bay and Canada Roads through the quiet, rain-drenched hills, we concluded our list for the day with the Sparrow Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Pintail, Shoveller, Scrub Jay, Shrike, Brown Towhee, and Glaucous Gull.

FIELD TRIP AT CUESTA LA HONDA, FEB. 8

A sparkling Sunday morning of bright blue skies, highlighted by beautiful white clouds, encouraged a group of 22 people to participate in this field trip. The varied habitats of stream, pond, fields, and gardens produced an impressive day's birding:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Western Bluebird | Meadowlark |
| Spotted Towhee | Junco |
| Mourning Dove | Red-shafted Flicker |
| Brown Towhee | Great Blue Heron |
| Bushtit | Scrub Jay |
| Hermit Thrush | Coot |
| Varied Thrush | Linnet |
| Calif. Quail | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Sparrow Hawk | Mockingbird |
| Red-winged blackbird | Black Phoebe |
| Yellow-throat | Fla. Gallinule |
| Ruddy Back | Green Heron |
| Audubon Warbler | Song Sparrow |
| Acorn Woodpecker | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Buzzard |

(Cont'd)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee Pied-billed Grebe

The fortunate ones who participated in this trip were indeed treated to a day of technicolor. The brilliant blue skies seemed to be reflected in the beautiful shining wings of the Western Bluebirds. The bright red bill of the Florida Gallinule set him apart from his Coot associates. The deep yellow throat and breast of the Yellowthroat, as it darted in its quick warbler fashion among the tules, seemed to have captured the brightness of the sun itself.

"WATERWAY WILDLIFE" - SCREEN TOUR

FEBRUARY 10, 1959

After the usual delicious pot-luck dinner, under the supervision of Mabel Lee and Alice Steeley, and enjoyed by 30 very-satisfied "customers," the third screen tour of the season was held.

Mr. Leonard Hall, a conservationist of national renown, presented the beauty and the variety of the wildlife protected by a mid-western watershed. The many outstanding close-up pictures of mammals and birds included the White-tailed Deer, Skunk, Gray Squirrel, Mink, Cottontail Rabbit, Muskrat, Groundhog, Fox, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Sora Rail, Least Bittern, Red-wing Blackbird, Spotted Sandpiper, Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, Baldpate, and many others.

Underlying the beauty of the film and Mr. Hall's excellent narrative, is the somber tragedy of man's wanton and thoughtless pollution of our waterways. The film shows how the careless tossing of a pop bottle into a clear and beautiful stream at the turn of the century was gradually compounded into a needless pollution which destroyed the fish and other wildlife which had depended upon the pure water for their existence. This vivid presentation of the results of stream pollution makes a strong impact upon its viewers. The fine film with its urgent conservation message should be seen by every inhabitant of our great country.

-- R.B.

The following interesting items are quoted from Bulletin of the Pasadena Audubon Society for March 1959 -- "The Wren - Tit:"

PESTICIDES

The National Audubon Society has conducted a 10 month's survey of the effects of the present program for the eradication of the imported fire ant in the southeastern part of the country. Get the pamphlet entitled, "The Hazards of Broadcasting Toxic Pesticides," and read about it. The last sentence is: "The time to stop the massive broadcasting of highly toxic chemicals, such as the fire ant eradication program, and to start the necessary broad scale research program as to the effects is now, not later."

WILD BURROS

"California has more wild burros roaming its greatt southern desert than any other state)thousands of them). They are descendants of the Somila Wild Ass of North Africa. The first ones came here with the Spanish Conquistadores. Some either broke loose or were turned loose. Others went into the desert with prospectors, got away, and stayed free." (From Star News 12/17/58 and Independent 12/18/58. Clipped by John Tobin).

INTERNATIONAL WILD WATERFOWL ASSN.

Dr. Jean Delacour, Director of the L. A. County Museum, is head of a new organization, the International Wild Waterfowl Association.

Arizona Highways for March, 1959, is a feast for the eyes of those who enjoy wildlife photography in color.

This item is from The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - "The Phainopepla"

CONSERVATION

"A report from Fred Evenden of Sacramento, Chairman for Audubon Branches co-ordin- (continued above)

ating with the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee, has just been received. The Chairman of the latter committee, Mr. De Witt Nelson is also the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. He was luncheon speaker at the Conservation Convention in memory of Theodore Roosevelt, held at U.S.C. last fall, and is a man of outstanding ability and knowledge. He noted how complicated the problem of conservation is since a total of 19 1/4 State Agencies are operating within the Resource Field.' Chairman Nelson favors a proposed bill that may have been presented to the State legislature by this time. This bill provides for an office of State Planning and Conservation in the Executive Branch of the State Government. The bill also outlines the work of said Office. "You will hear much more about this legislation," Mr. Fred Evenden affirms."

For the 25th year, California Conservation Week will be celebrated from March 7 (Luther Burbank's birthday) to March 14. Meeting of Council Officers and Cooperators will be held at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, on Monday, March 23, at 2 p.m., at the time of the Pacific Coast Conference of the National Audubon Society.

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CREED

I believe in the Vital Importance of Conservation of Earth's Life-Supporting Resources: Water, Productive Soils, Animal Life, Forests, and other Plant Life, and of The Non-Renewable Resources: Minerals, Oil and Gas. I believe in Promoting Knowledge and Understanding of The Wise Use of Our Natural Resources and Their Essential Relationship to Each Other, To the End that All Life may be sustained and enriched.

Proposed by

California Conservation Council.
-- P. Chase.

"Preserving the Land is like flying Old Glory full mast."

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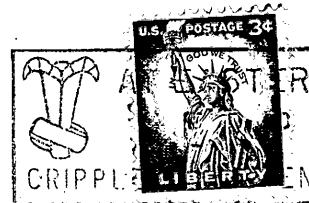
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