



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
San Mateo, California

VOL. 12 No. 16
October, 1960

CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

Board Meetings: First Thursday of each month. Interested members are invited to attend.

Regular Meetings: Second Thursday of each month. Washington School, 201 Howard Ave., Burlingame - 8:00 P.M.

Please note - there will be no potluck supper before the October meeting.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 13, 8 P.M. Washington School, Burlingame.

Gene Hebbbron will show her new and review bird slides, a custom started last year and a very helpful one. For the first few minutes Gene shows slides of birds previously shown. Then she adds a few new ones, usually ones currently in the area.

Following the bird slides we are showing a film called "The Conservation Story" which pictures some of the West's most scenic areas. This film has won the "Freedoms Foundation Award" and the "Christopher Columbus Award". It is about thirty minutes duration.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Valentine are going to show their vacation pictures of Lassen Park. Those of us who have seen other pictures taken by the Valentines are eagerly looking forward to these newest ones.

We hope to see all of you who were at our first meeting and many more. Come and bring your friends.

"Peg" Smith, Program Chairman

FIELD TRIPS

October 9 - Sunday Dumbarton Bridge, for Shore Birds and Water Fowl. Meet at Willow Road and Hamilton Ave., in Menlo Park, at 9:00 A.M.

October 29 - Saturday - Lake Merced Meet at parking area near coffee shop at Lake Merced, at 9:00 A.M.

BIRD - WALKS

October 5, Wednesday. Bird walk at Coyote Point. Meet at the Yacht Harbor parking lot. 8:30 A.M., G. Hebbbron, Leader.

October 19, Wednesday. Bird Walk at Coyote Point. Meet at the Yacht Harbor parking lot at 8:30 A. M. G. Hebbbron, Leader.

Anyone is invited. Mothers may bring small children. We will be observing Shore Birds on these two trips.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is breaking out all over. The migratory water birds have begun to return in large numbers; the leaves are beginning to turn to gold; and the early morning air is vibrant with the crispness of fall.

The approach of fall has brought to Sequoia Audubon members a new enthusiasm sparked by an awareness that exciting adventures are waiting just around the corner.

President's message continued.

Possibly the spirit of the season prompted the excellent and enthusiastic attendance at our first potluck and meeting in September. However, much credit should be given to the potluck committee, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Gothan and Mr. and Mrs. Silas Hays, for excellent planning and organizing.

The meeting was excellent, also, and the beautiful "kaleidoscope" slides were much enjoyed. The imperfect acoustics at Washington School proved a minor problem, but the program committee is working on this, and the ensuing programs should be clearly audible to everyone attending.

Our Sequoia Audubon committees have caught the infectious spirit of fall and several interesting and worthwhile innovations are being planned.

The field trip committee is planning a number of trips to "new" areas in addition to repeating some of the most popular trips of past years.

The conservation committee is working on practical plans to conserve and protect certain natural areas within our own communities.

The brand-new committee, listed in the September Bulletin as the Adult Education Committee, but now entitled the Popular Nature Projects Committee, under the able chairmanship of Sequoia Audubon's Mrs. Aveline Butler is hard at work on stimulating and exciting plans. This group is composed of representatives from the San Mateo County Junior Museum and Sequoia Audubon Society working jointly to draw up an adult education program geared primarily for youth leaders. A series of informal classes on a variety of natural science subjects is being planned, scheduled to start in October, at the Junior Museum. Due to space limitations, pre-registration will be necessary, so if you are interested in attending, watch your local newspapers for details.

Each one of these committees needs your help and suggestions. The names, addresses and phone numbers of committee members were listed in the September Bulletin. At this time the Popular Nature Projects Committee especially needs your help in locating people who have interesting natural science hobbies and who might be willing to share their knowledge by teaching others in the proposed natural science series.

Ruth Breckenridge

OUR LIBRARY

We now have the beginning of a library actually in place on the second floor of Dr. Norton Benner's building at 30 So. El Camino Real in San Mateo. Members are free to go in and use the library at all times when the building is open (usually from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.) on all days except Saturday. The library will not be accessible on Saturdays until after 7:00 P.M.; as the room will be otherwise in use.

There is parking space in the rear of the building accessible from Baywood Avenue..

The space for our library is being loaned to us rent free by Dr. Benner. The space is not large enough for committee meetings; but we can go in by twos or threes and use the books for research and for instructive reading.

SEPTEMBER 8TH MEETING

Our first meeting of the year was highly successful. Attendance was high and it is to be hoped this augers well for the meetings to come.

Our president, Ruth Breckenridge, opened the meeting by introducing the new officers and committee members. Jed McLellan reported on progress being made by the Conservation Committee, which he heads, and the coming field trips which he so capably leads.

Dr. and Mrs. Sears showed slides of their trip to Baja California which were both beautiful and informative. We

saw pictures of a raging sandstorm near San Felipe, colorful fishing fleets, fences made of octillo, glimpses of Mexicali, Calexico and Rosarita Beach. As Mrs. Sears pointed out, Baja California's main problem is lack of water, a fact which was evident in the pictures. If this problem can be solved, Baja will surely bloom and - heaven forbid - probably boom.

The Sears also showed slides of their trip with the Sea Scouts on a magnificent two masted schooner to Catalina Island. Mrs. Sears reported that on this trip they had seen thousands of shearwaters, phalaropes, five albatross, numerous pelicans and other water birds. The pictures were an invitation to all of us to come and see for ourselves this lovely spot off our own California shores.

Jean Maxwell showed slides of the delightful high Sierras around Alpine Lake on Ebbets Pass and Silver Lake on the Kit Carson Pass. The deep blue lakes, highland meadows filled with wild flowers, the typical pine, fir and juniper trees, and the great, massive granite boulders, all testified to the beauty abounding in our mountains only four hours away from our homes on the Peninsula.

Neil and Oleta Dickinson showed us the slides they had taken over the Memorial Day week-end at Kruse Rhododendron Park.

The wild rhododendrons were gorgeous specimens and I am sure many of us made a mental note to the effect that next May 31st would find us traveling the Dickinson Trail to this same park, the existence of which many of us had not previously known.

The climax to the evening was a breathtakingly beautiful trip, via the slides of Jim and Abaline Butler, to Havasu Canyon. The Butlers took a pack trip under the auspices of the "Wampler Trails" down into this "Shangri-La" canyon and we were indeed fortunate to see the wonderful pictures they obtained. It was a great surprise to learn that this verdant valley lies far below the cliffs at one end of the Grand Canyon and that here is the home of a tribe of Havasu Indians.

There is water in abundance - three major waterfalls tumbling down onto the valley floor and forming lovely turquoise colored pools and streams. The horses graze on the water cress which grows so abundantly in the moist meadow land. The Indians live in crude wooden houses and worship in a non-denominational quonset hut brought down by helicopter. They farm the valley floor successfully and live in one of the rarest beauty spots in the world. It was like visiting another world - a lost world - but one of surpassing loveliness.

Our thanks to the Sears, to Jean Maxwell, to the Dickinsons and the Butlers for allowing us to share their journeys to those picturesque places.

Ida "Peg" Smith

TRIP TO FARALLON ISLANDS

Those who went to the Farallon Islands on September 18 enjoyed an exciting day, long to be remembered. Though there was fog all day it was high enough to permit good visibility for at least a quarter of a mile; and the ocean was exceptionally smooth. There was almost no wind at all. We left the pier at Princeton about 6:45 A.M. and returned about 3:00 P.M.; and the hours in between were packed with thrills.

We saw Caspian Terns near Princeton and numerous California Murres in the first few miles, near the coast, but, surprisingly, saw no Murres at the Islands except one perched high on a ridge.

We saw tiny Northern Phalaropes occasionally, in pairs or small groups, throughout the trip. Though they were in fact right at home, they seemed out of place on the wide expanse of ocean far from land.

The Sooty Shearwaters began appearing very soon after we cleared the breakwater and were with us all day, at first in small flights and later (most of the time) by hundreds and even thousands. We saw many thousands in the course of the day and had an incomparable opportunity to observe them at close range, sitting on the water, running like coots along the surface before getting

off into the air, and sailing like darts over the waves so close that the tips of their wings seemed to touch the water at times. Many times, birds, evidently full of fish, failed to get into the air at all and after "running" out of the path of our boat, with wings flapping wildly and feet beating the water very rapidly, gave up the attempt to fly and settled back on the water. We could hear the webbed feet beating the water; and each fleeing bird left a trail or wake behind him as he "ran".

Two whales came within sight. One waived his tail at us and the other surfaced so that we could see his entire body.

Two schools of Porpoises performed for us, looking like sea serpents; and one very large Sun Fish surfaced near us and turned his huge white belly toward us.

We saw many sharks, with their forward and rear dorsal fins standing above the water like tiny black sails.

At the Islands (we completely circled the large island) we saw hundreds of cormorants, perching, swimming, and flying out to sea and back in long lines. They were not in breeding plumage but I believe they included Farallon, Brandt and Baird Cormorants.

Also at the Islands we saw hundreds of Brown Pelicans, large numbers of Sea Lions (including many young cubs), a few Murrelets, a couple of Black Turnstones, one Oyster Catcher, and one Western Grebe.

We saw no Guillemots and no Puffins. Of course there were Gulls along the entire trip. We saw a few Loons; but not at close range. We saw no Sea Brants. Occasionally among the Sooty Shearwaters one or two Pink Footed Shearwaters would appear. In the course of the day we saw a considerable number of them, and saw them very clearly and at close range. They have light colored underparts, and are noticeably larger than the Sootys and seemed to sail with every greater skill and grace.

TWO AREAS SET ASIDE AS WILDERNESS

More than one-half million acres of national forest land was set aside and classified as wilderness and scenic areas August 19, 1960 by order of the Sect. of Agriculture.

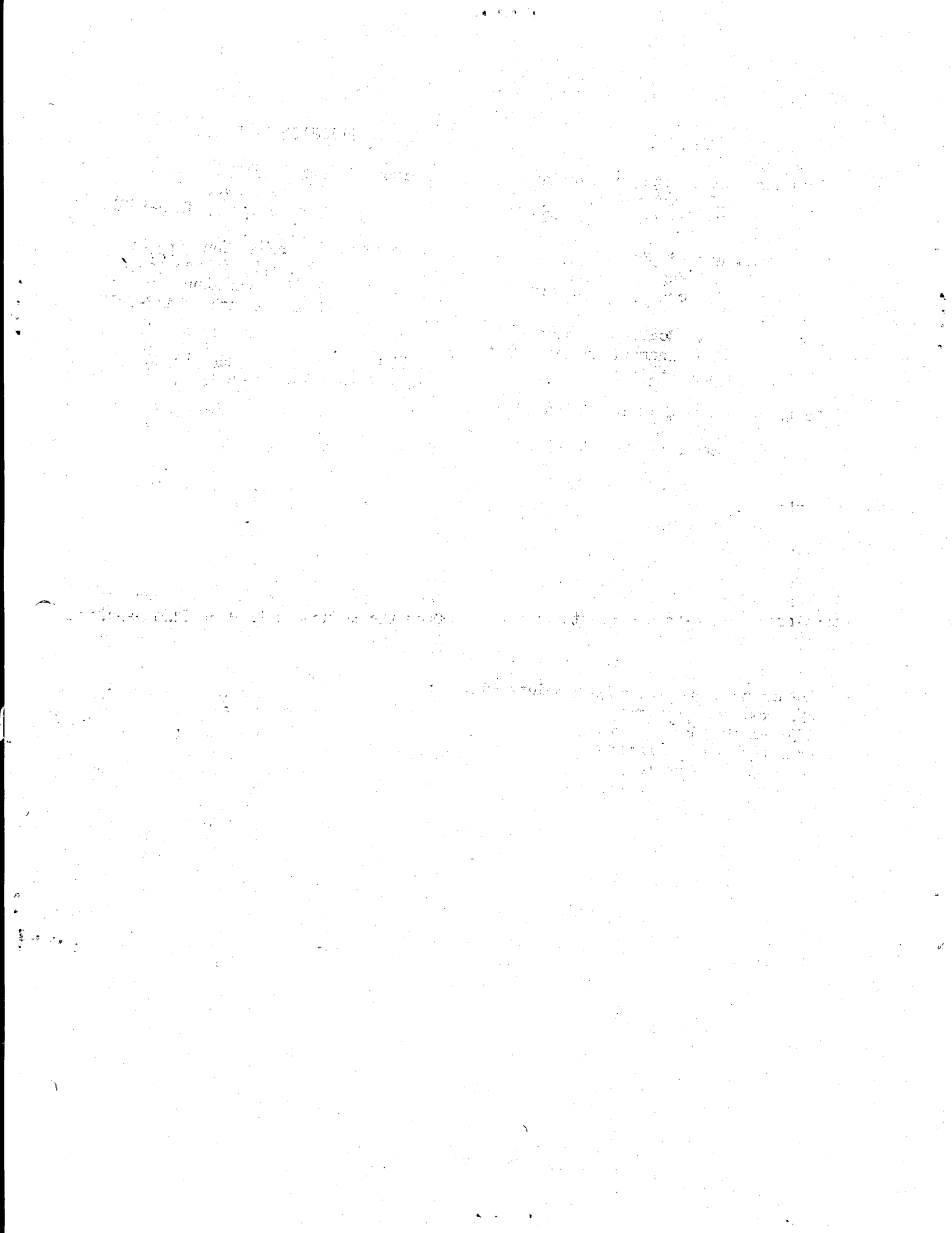
Included in the new designation were 383,300 acres in the Bridger National Forest, Wyoming, given wilderness status, and 283,000 acres in the Tongass National Forest, Alaska, set aside as scenic area. This is a total of 666,300 additional acres given special recognition and protection for its primeval and scenic values.

The change to the Bridger Wilderness Area, formerly a Primitive Area, is part of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's policy of reviewing all national forest primitive areas and reestablishing as wilderness those portions predominantly valuable for that purpose. Management policies are the same for both kinds of areas, but better protection is afforded wilderness areas which are guarded against the encroachments of civilization.

The Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Scenic Area is the first such area to be established in the 49th State. It lies in exceptionally fine fiord and ice-cap country. Scenic Area classifications are given to lands of outstanding beauty which the USDA's Forest Service wishes to leave in an undisturbed, natural condition. "This designation will provide for this area substantially the same protection as would a wilderness designation." E.P. Cliff, acting chief of the Forest Service, pointed out.

(from National Audubon Society News and Views)

Jed (J.Ed.) McClellan



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