



The Sequoia



Sequoia Audubon Society is a branch of National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to enjoy and safeguard the wildlife of the Bay Area. All interested persons are welcomed at field trips, bird walks and mostly general meetings. President; Mr. John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Avenue, San Mateo, DI 4-5497.

MEETINGS

Feb. 4 BOARD MEETING at the home of President John L. Morrill, Thurs. 505 Costa Rica Avenue, San Mateo. All Board members and 8:00 p.m. Committee Chairmen are urged to attend. Members of Sequoia Audubon are welcome to attend.

Feb. 11 REGULAR MEETING at Washington School Auditorium, 801 Thurs. Howard Avenue, Burlingame. 8:00 p.m. Our Program Chairman, Alice Steele, has arranged a variety program this month. Neil Dickinson will open the program by an account on the "Colors of the Salt Beds". Uke Gras will follow with slides showing some of the birds observed on our Wildlife Survey of the Shore area. The program will conclude with wildlife movies from the California Department of Fish and Game, on the subject of "Water and its Uses".

Since we have enjoyed two Potluck suppers in a row, we will skip them this month, but refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: G. Paul Lechich 344-1164)

Feb. 7 STANFORD UNIVERSITY GROUNDS - Palo Alto Sunday Leader: Alice Steele (DI 4-8317) 9:00 a.m. Meet at the corner nearest the Hoover Tower, on Serra Street. There is excellent birding in the trees and on the lawns here. Bring lunch or plan to eat in the cafeteria on the campus. California Thrashers, Pipits, Titmice, and Thrushes are often observed in this area, and Buffleheads and Goldedeeyes are among the many ducks seen on Lake Lagunitas.

Feb. 27 LAKE MERCED - San Francisco Saturday Leader: Nick Kroll (OX 7-2051) 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Boathouse at Lake Merced. Many ducks and gulls rest and feed at these lakes, and interesting birdlife is to be found in the surrounding marshes. Lunch may be obtained at the restaurant in the boathouse for those who wish.

VISIT TO MODEL OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Through the courtesy of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and arranged by the Sierra Club, any interested groups are invited to visit this model of the Bay, located in Sausalito. This model is used to study the effects of various modifications of the Bay, such as filling, placing barriers across at various points, and similar operations.

We urge anyone who is interested in the problems raised by indiscriminate filling operations to take advantage of this opportunity.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Due to the heavy schedule of field work imposed by the Shore Survey work, and the Holiday activities in December, no field trips were scheduled for that period, except for the annual Christmas Bird Census, which was held on January 2. In spite of the inclement weather, Neil Dickinson had a good turnout, and reported that over 150 species and 45,000 individuals were observed.

We wish to thank all those who were able to help out on this important work for National Audubon.

JANUARY MEETING

The January Potluck and Meeting were well attended, and were enjoyed by all. We had the pleasure of Mr. William Goodall's company at both events, as well as at the Board Meeting the previous week. Bill spoke briefly at the regular meeting, expressing approval for our work on Conservation Projects, and at the Board Meeting, offered some valuable suggestions regarding our proposed major Conservation Program.

The program at the regular meeting was presented by Monty Montgomery, who showed us his fine movies of last summer's safari to British East Africa. Both the pictures and Monty's commentary were most enjoyable.

We were all pleased to see that Monty was recovering so well from his recent illness.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Conservation, like Mark Twain's weather, is something that a great many people talk about. In line with the multiple-definitions of things nowadays, let's start with Webster's unabridged on "Conservation" - 1: deliberate, planned or thoughtful preserving, guarding, or protecting; a keeping in a safe or entire state: PRESERVATION. 2. care or keeping and supervision of something by a governmental authority or by a private association or business; as, a: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect, b: the wise utilization of a natural product, especially by a manufacturer so as to prevent waste and insure future use of resources that may be depleted, 3: a field of knowledge concerned with coordination and plans for the practical application of data from ecology (balance of nature), limnology (water resources) and pedology (soil resources), and other sciences that are significant to preservation of natural resources.

But that's not all - during the westward expansion and the settling of the frontiers and the business of "conquering the wilderness", the public policy of governments favored almost unlimited exploi-

tation of land resources. Men took fortunes from the forests, the rivers, the land. Too often they left waste, spoilage and destruction behind. But a benign government looked the other way. Some folks with vision for the future and a respect for thrift looked upon these practices with horror. But their outcries were drowned out; they did not add to the public fortunes, but were only obstructionists who opposed the "men of action" that were the exploiting heroes of the day. So in the burgeoning America, Conservation was something of a "bad word" to be ignored by public policy.

Today, we are witnessing the end of an era. The frontiers are no more; the wilderness has been pushed back almost to the point of extinction. Teddy Roosevelt foresaw the change with rare vision and when he became President he implemented some of those changes, in what is now clearly seen as a public benefit. And now, for the many newcomers of recent years, California is the last frontier. It is the land of bright, new promise for a full life. But as they come, they bring the same old problems with them - the dull, dingy, gray cities and wasted countrysides where deterioration is traded for dollars. The exploitation continues - but now opposition is growing. The Citizens' Action Organizations are springing up and are increasingly being heard in public places.

Today, this great drama unfolds in miniature before us, right here in the Bay Area. The outcome is still uncertain as to the triumph of hero or villain. Much depends upon an aroused and alerted citizenry, taking action and interest so that our democracy may continue to flourish. Clearly, the time has come for the change in public policy, to foster careful use of and respect for our land resources. Who Knows? We may be in the vanguard of a popular movement of our day; "Conservation" may even become a good word!

Bob Lebkicher
Conservation

SPECIAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

At recent meetings it has been mentioned that we are planning to sponsor a major program aimed at bringing to the attention of now only our own members, but to the public at large, the need for action to prevent the impairment or even the destruction of our most attractive and valuable natural resources.

At the January Board Meeting, the choice between a campaign in favor of a Redwood National Park, or one to obtain passage of a legislative measure to put the filling of Bay Area tide lands under State control was discussed.

Return to: Sequoia Audubon Society Bulletin
c/o John L. Morrill
505 Costa Rica Avenue
San Mateo, Calif.
(Form 3457 Requested)

It was concluded that the tideland problem was both more urgent and of more direct concern to those living in this area, and that we should therefore apply our greatest effort in this direction.

Mr. Robert Lebkicher has been named Chairman of the project, and will line up the program and publicity. Anyone who will volunteer to be welcome as a member of the committee.

The Association of Garden Clubs has indicated their interest in this program, and will support it, as has the Save-the-Bay Association. Since this activity is the primary concern of the latter, we plan to work closely with them, so that our efforts will augment theirs. We also propose to contact other conservation and service organizations in the area for support. The program is planned for the month of March, and we will try to line up several speakers qualified to present this topic, and to have the meeting in a central location.

Although, there is nothing yet definitely scheduled, we request that all members of Sequoia Audubon talk up this program, and alert as many friends as possible to plan to attend. Final details will be available in the next issue of the Sequoia Bulletin.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

There are many areas where an expression of public interest can be helpful in obtaining legislation or action by elected officials.

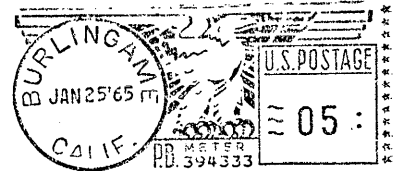
A list, with addresses, of the county Board of Supervisors was given in the last bulletin. Since then, Mrs. Jean Fassler of Pacifica has replaced the retiring Mr. Hatch. Other officials who may be contacted are as follows:

Congressman J. Arthur Younger
4 - W. 4th Avenue
San Mateo, California

State Senator Richard J. Dolwig
155 E. 5th Avenue
San Mateo, California

Assemblyman Carl Britschgi
2025 Broadway
Redwood City, California

When the occasion arises to contact such bodies as county or city planning commissions or city councilmen, they may be contacted at the appropriate City Hall or County Courthouse.



Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
2270 Summit Dr.,
Hillsborough, Calif.