



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 monthly general meetings. President, Mr. John L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Avenue, San Mateo. DI 4-5497.

MEETINGS

- March 4 BOARD MEETING at the home of President J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo. All 8:00 pm Board members and committee chairmen are urged to attend, and all members are welcome.
- Mar 11 REGULAR MEETING at Washington School Auditorium, Thurs. 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. This month we are 8:00 pm to be privileged to see Ruth Breckenridges fine pictures of SIERRA WILDFLOWERS. Ruth's photographs are always excellent, and these will be selected from those taken on many trips to the Sierras. Our usual light refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting, courtesy of Carol Boyd and Ruth Canoles.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: G. Paul Lechich 344-1164)

- Mar 13 GAZOS CREEK Sat. Leader: Jed McClellan (DI 4-3486) 8:30 am Meeting Place: Meet at the Crystal Springs Dam parking area, just south of the intersection of Crystal Springs Road with Skyline. This field trip covers a great variety of habitats, and should turn up many birds of field, woods, and pond. Bring lunch for an all day trip.
- Mar 28 BUTANO CANYON Sunday Leader: Jed McClellan (DI 4-3486) 8:30 am Meeting Place: Meet at the Crystal Springs Dam parking area on Skyline, just south of the intersection with Crystal Springs Road. This is the annual "Skunk Cabbage Trip", which affords the opportunity to see many of our Spring flowers coming into bloom. Bring a lunch.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

STANFORD UNIVERSITY - February 7. This was a beautiful clear day which started out crisp and cool, but warmed up quickly. We were fortunate to have Virginia Iwell, Nick and Katherine Kroll, and Florence Richardson to help identify the many plants and birds observed. Titmice, Robins, and Linnets were plentiful. California Thrashers and Spotted Towhees were seen behind Hoover Tower, and the Thrashers were also seen by the lake. Woodpeckers seen included Downies, Acorn, and Flickers, and a Sapsucker was found too. Among the smaller birds were Golden Crowned Kinglet, Gold and White Crowned Sparrows, Brewer's and Redwing Blackbirds, Starlings and Meadowlarks.

At the lake we saw twenty Ruddy Ducks, Eight Buffleheads, three Lesser Scaup, and nine Canvasbacks. These, along with some Coots and a Pied-billed Grebe, competed for attention with the sailboats and canoes on this beautiful lake. Other observations of interest included at least six kinds of dainty mushrooms under the trees at the corner near Hoover Tower. Wild life included beautiful, fluffy gray squirrels, one black squirrel with a thin tail, and tiny cotton-tail rabbits sitting in the sun. The dates were ripe, and a squirrel sat up there on the tree eating his fill.

Alice Steele

NOTICE FOR APRIL MEETING

This will be a "Kaleidoscope" of wild-life and nature scenes taken by our own members. Anyone with slides which will be of interest for this program is requested to contact Alice Steele, so she may arrange the program.

INVITATIONS RECEIVED

The American Association of University Women has invited anyone interested in matters of conservation to attend their meeting at St. Paul's Church, in Burlingame at 7:45 pm on Monday, March 8. The speaker will be Dr. Tom Harvey, of San Jose State College, a leader in local activities regarding the protection of our wild-life and its habitats.

The Sacramento Audubon Society announces that their annual Grasslands Field trip will be held on March 20-21, meeting at 1:30 pm in Los Banos, at the Canal Farm Inn. Those staying overnight must make their own reservations.

Anyone interested in the Los Angeles Audubon Society's trip to Quatemala and Panama this summer should contact the following for information:

Herb Clarke
2027 El Arbolita Drive
Glendale, Calif.
(Ch 9-5537)

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We have been informed by National Audubon that they no longer have cards for the local branches, and we are therefore unable to send these to our members as in the past. However, anyone who would like to have his affiliation with Sequoia Audubon shown on his National Membership Card can have it stamped by bringing his card to the next meeting.

NATIONAL BEAUTY and its perpetuation were the emphasis in President Johnson's special message to Congress on February 8. He outlined a "new conservation" program which considers the relation between man and all aspects of the world around him. Urban and rural beautification projects were mentioned, to include more parks and recreation areas, wild areas, and the need to eliminate junkyard elements along highways.

Funds were asked for a number of developments, including a Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Also mentioned were plans to establish the new Redwoods National Park.

COYOTE POINT is being developed by San Mateo County as an area-wide Culture Center in a twenty year project. A few days ago a new restaurant opened to the public in the north shore area. The manager of this concession has asked also for a permit to add specialty shops in a nearby area and this will be subject of a public hearing on Wednesday, 24th February at 11 AM at Hall of Justice in Redwood City. Mrs. Ralph Jacobson of Hillsborough has publicly protested this addition of commercial ventures in a County Park and has asked all interested to attend the Planning Commission's hearing or to write their views on the matter.

What are YOUR desires or ideas of the best possible uses in developing such a center? Here's a fine opportunity to express them and by your interest you can help to create a worthy and inspiring center for the residents of our community.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS maintained by zoning, building and other regulations, are of great importance in California, pressed by burgeoning industry and population growth. Some time ago Woodside passed an ordinance requiring underground transmission lines; this to thwart a line to Stanford's SLAC and an eyesore for nearby residents. The Atomic Energy Commission condemned the right-of-way and a local Citizens' Group asked the State Public Utilities Commission to intervene. San Mateo County also said "no" to the permit for the overhead line. Ten days ago, the PUC ruled that since the federal agency had acquired the land (by condemnation) the State no longer had jurisdiction. (?) (!)

The BAY-FILL ISSUE has been prominent in recent activities and it is the subject of a public meeting at 8 PM on Wednesday, March 24th, at the San Mateo High School Auditorium. Sponsor of the meeting will be the Sequoia Audubon Society.

Our task will be to fill this 1,600 seat hall. The committee has requested a number of qualified speakers to participate in a symposium on the topic and is considering short slide and film subjects for a varied and interesting program. Notifications will be sent to civic and service organizations in the area and advertisements will appear in local newspapers.

Mr. Ralph Shaw, Director of County Parks & Recreation has been asked to speak on the Coyote Point Center, as this is a portion of San Francisco Bay's perimeter being developed specifically for public enjoyment and use.

Mr. Joseph Bodovitz of SPUR has temporarily been with State Senator McAteer and the San Francisco Bay Conservation Commission during their recent hearings and developing of bay-fill control proposals, which Senator McAteer recently introduced at the Legislative Session. Mr. Bodovitz has kindly accepted our request to address the meeting on the legislative aspect of the bay-fill question.

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

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION, Article XV, is quoted in part:

Section 2. No individual, partnership, or corporation claiming or possessing the frontage or tidal lands of a harbor, bay, inlet, estuary, or other navigable water in this state, shall be permitted to exclude the right of way to such water whenever it is required for any public purpose, not to destroy or obstruct the free navigation of such water; and the legislature shall enact such laws as will give the most liberal construction to this provision, so that access to the navigable waters of this State shall always be attainable for the people thereof.

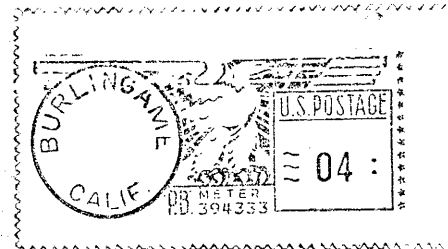
Section 3. All tidelands within two miles of any incorporated city or town in this State, and fronting on the waters of any harbor, estuary, bay, or inlet used for the purposes of navigation, shall be withheld from grant or sale to private persons, partnerships, or corporations.

The above could aptly have been written with San Francisco Bay in mind, and it probably was. And BEFORE the Constitution could be adopted, there occurred one of the wildest speculative land-grabs possible, with chunks of the bay and its margins being bartered as private land at sky-high prices. The above provision seems to be a clear intent to declare that "the public interest in major bodies of water is greater than any private interest" and it is a pity the courts a century ago did not nullify the ill-gotten private claims. Now the Bay is a welter of various agency jurisdictions, with no clear-cut controls. The US Army Corps of Engineers is in charge of the navigable portion and this ends at an arbitrary line (called pierhead) where the State Lands Commission takes over. This in turn is passed administratively to Counties or Cities with boundaries along its shores, but within the past month there was a dispute whether the State still maintains jurisdiction over these overlapping claims.

This was the hodge-podge of no-controls which was discovered a few years ago by some ladies who were concerned over a proposed fill project being considered by their city (Berkeley) which would not enhance the bay-front. The San Francisco Bay Association was formed and letters were sent to area residents with appeals for \$1 memberships. Over 2,500 responses were received. Since then, founders and other Association members have worked tirelessly to get some action and to bring the issues to public attention. Now much effort is going into finding solutions to the problems. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) representing some potential 88 city and county governments surrounding the Bay is a growing agency trying to hold the line for "home rule." The McAteer Commission in extensive public hearings has been concerned with Legislative controls at the State level and some sort of regional government control appears inevitable.

The Bay is a treasure right at our front doorsteps. Shall we (most of us) continue to ignore it?

Bob Lebkicher - Conservation



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