



# The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 16, Number 7

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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. A.E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Dr., Hillsborough 344-4249 - Editor, Mr. J.L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

## MEETINGS

- March 2  
Thursday  
7:45 PM  
BOARD MEETING at the home of President A. E. Montgomery, 2270 Summit Drive, Hillsborough. Committee Chairmen should attend if possible. Other members are welcome.
- March 9  
Thursday  
8:00 PM  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Washington School Auditorium, 801 Howard Avenue, Burlingame. In anticipation of the trip planned by a group of our members to Tucson in March, Bill Anderson, of the State Department of Fish and Game, will present a program of colored slides on the bird life to be found in the Southwest, from Arizona to old Sonora, Mexico. Bill will also include the wildflowers of this region. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting by our Social Committee.
- March 11  
Saturday  
9:00 AM  
FIELD TRIPS  
(Chairman: Nick Kroll 697-2051)  
SANTA CLARA NEW TRAIL (Palo Alto)  
LEADER: Lillian Montgomery (344-4249)  
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor parking area. Turn off Bayshore at Embarcadero Road, go east over freeway past the municipal golf links to the yacht harbor. Lunch is optional. Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes.
- March 25  
Saturday  
9:00 AM  
TUNITAS ROAD and SAN GREGORIO BEACH (San Mateo County)  
LEADERS: Nick and Katherine Kroll (697-2051)  
MEETING PLACE: Meet at intersection of Skyline and Half Moon Bay Road, near the cemetery. Bring lunch.
- March 4  
Saturday  
9:00 AM to Noon  
BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK  
SAWYER CAMP ROAD for wintering birds and, hopefully, a few early Spring arrivals and migrants.  
LEADER: Gene Hebbroon (343-0415)  
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Crystal Springs Dam parking area on Skyline Blvd., just south of the intersection with San Mateo's Crystal Springs Road. Be prepared to walk. Lunch is optional.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### LAKE MERCED:

It was a delightful outing to Lake Merced, and the weather was comfortable. Fourteen bird-watchers enjoyed hiking around the lake, counting a total of 46 species of birds. The group had lunch sitting on the sandbar near the water, listening to the calls of the loon, and watching Kingfishers, Pied-billed Grebes, and Marsh wrens. The Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in the cypress trees, and on the lakes the Goldeneye, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Widgeons, Buffleheads, Cinnamon Teal, Scaup, Canvasback, Surf Scoters, Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and many others were seen.

Nick Kroll - Leader.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT - Additional notes

Details of the Annual Christmas Bird Count were not received in time for inclusion in last month's report, which gave only over-all figures. Again this year some unusual and interesting birds were found. The previous report of Semi-palmated Sandpipers has been verified by several expert observers, and a substantial group of them was seen in the south bay area. The fact that they occur there has been confirmed by a former National Audubon Society Warden, John Larson.

Other rare sightings included several Golden-crowned Kinglets, Black-capped Chickadees, Tattlers, and one Tropical Kingbird. This latter bird was watched on several occasions by different observers, some of them quite familiar with this species from having seen them in other regions. This particular bird stayed around Coyote Point, near the Junior Museum, for several days.

## NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to SEQUOIA AUDUBON:

Mrs. Velma Kincaid	San Mateo
Mr. Frank R. Mouer	Millbrae
Mrs. Robert G. Sumpster	Pacifica

And speaking of new members - it is reported that Nick Kroll was voted out of Sequoia Audubon on one of the recent field trips. He was heard to say he was going to kill two birds with one stone.

Nick - you had better apologize, and ask for reinstatement.

## CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

In order for our efforts to "sell" conservation, and to have laws passed to make our ideas effective, they must be converted into legislative action. As a tax-free, non-profit organization, we are prohibited as a group from attempting to influence legislation. However, as individuals, we can do much.

First, we can write to our representatives at all levels of government, to make our thoughts and opinions known. People in elective offices are sensitive to the wishes of the people they represent, but they have to be informed of those wishes. Although it is tedious to write letters, it is a powerful weapon to oppose those things we think are harmful, and also, to indicate our approval of those things we favor. So make it a habit - write several letters every week. There are plenty of problems to write about.

Secondly, there has been in operation for about two years an organization aimed at informing the State legislature of the needs of conservation, and to inform us in turn of actions of the legislature. This is essentially a "Lobby" organization, but serves the public, rather than private interests. We urge that you support this organization by contributions of at least \$1.00. Send this to:

PLANNING FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
2636 Ocean Avenue  
San Francisco, Calif. 94132

Such donations are NOT tax exempt. However, this will help turn our ideas into positive action, and help save our environment from undesirable attack.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

GOOD NEWS FOR CONSERVATIONISTS: William Penn Mott, Jr., highly respected head of the East Bay Regional Park District, has been named by Governor Reagan as California's new director of park and recreation activities.

As a participant on a panel discussion entitled "Does Conservation Really Pay?" sponsored on Feb. 15 by The Committee for Green Foothills, which was composed of several eminent local conservationists including George Treichel and Bruce Brugmann, Mr. Mott made an impassioned plea for a "massive conservation education program" in the elementary schools. "California is 70% urban and by 1980 may be 90% urban," he said. "It is assumed now that these people, perhaps through osmosis, develop an understanding of the out-of-doors. This is not true. People need education to understand ecology (the study of man and his environment). If they don't get it, they not only will not understand ecology, they will vandalize our conservation projects." Mr. Mott gave his support to a bill introduced to the State legislature by Assemblyman Willie Brown to levy a one-cent-per-gallon gas tax during the months of July, August and September, the months when recreation travel is the highest, the funds of which would be apportioned as follows: 50% for state acquisition and maintenance of parks; 40% for county parks, 5% for regional parks, and 5% to schools for conservation education. Sequoia Audubon members may wish to write postcards or letters to Assemblyman Carl Britschgi, whose office address is 2025 Broadway, Redwood City, to let him know the wishes of his constituents on this bill.

### BILLS INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

While you have pen in hand, why not drop a card to Congressman J. Arthur Younger, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., in regard to the following bills which are before the House:

Grand Canyon National Park: H.R. 1305 - to enlarge the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park to encompass sites of both of the proposed controversial dams, Hualapai (Bridge Canyon) dam and Marble Canyon dam; and H.R. 1272 - to extend through 1969 a moratorium on Federal Power Commission licenses for dams in the canyon.

Redwood National Park: H.R. 2849 - introduced by Rep. Jeffery Cohelan (Calif.), known as the Sierra Club plan, calls for a 90,000-acre National Park in the Redwood Creek area of northern coastal California.

The Wild Rivers Bill: H.R. 90 - "Scenic Rivers" bill reintroduced by Rep. John P. Saylor (Pa.).

Estuarine Areas would be protected "for sport and commercial fishing, wildlife conservation, recreation, scenic beauty and for other purposes" under H.R. 25. It is greatly strengthened in one respect over last year's bill; it would prohibit dredging or filling in estuaries, or in the Great Lakes and connecting waterways, except under permit by the Secretary of the Interior. This now requires only a permit from the Army Engineers, who seldom deny an application.

### Wildlife Bills:

H.R. 480, to extend for eight more years the seven-year program of wetlands acquisition started by Congress in 1961. It authorized treasury advances totaling \$105 million to buy waterfowl marshes, the money to be repaid from future Duck Stamp revenues. By the end of 1966 Congress had appropriated only \$38.5 million.

H.R. 489, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make a comprehensive study of the polar bear and the walrus for the purpose of developing adequate conservation measures.

H.R. 481, to provide that no land in any national wildlife refuge "may be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of without the approval of the Migratory Bird Commission, and then only upon payment of the fair market value of the land." One purpose of this bill is to check invasions of the refuges by federal and state highway builders.

(Information re the above proposed federal legislation has been extracted from the Feb. 1, 1967 issue of National Audubon Society Conservation Guide.)

Submitted by:

Marian Lockwood, Chairman  
Conservation Committee

### CONSERVATION FILM LIBRARY

The San Mateo County Junior Museum, Inc., is undertaking to establish a library of conservation films for use by the schools of the County, and by interested public groups such as garden clubs, service clubs, or others. Arrangements have been made with the Audio-visual Department of the County School department to maintain this collection. They will handle the distribution to the schools, while other users will have to pick them up at Redwood City.

Although there are many excellent films available on this type of subject, they are scattered amongst many organizations, and not convenient to obtain. The Junior Museum feels that the cause of Conservation can be helped by the establishment of the proposed library.

Funds for the purchase of suitable films are being solicited by the Museum, and any contributions will be most welcome. Send donations for the library to:

San Mateo County Junior Museum, Inc.  
Coyote Point  
San Mateo, California  
Attn. Miss Maryann Danielson, Director

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 3  
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA