



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 17, Number 4

Dec. 1967

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, Dr. Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Dr., Hillsborough 342-3620 - Editor, Mr. J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

MEETINGS

Dec. 7
Thursday
8:00 P.M.
BOARD MEETING at the home of President Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members welcome.

Dec. 14
Thursday
6:30 P.M.
POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreational Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. Members and guests are invited to participate. Please call one of the Social Committee Co-chairmen, to let them know what you will bring. Call Barbara Drake 344-7320 or Maureen McTaggart 366-4478.

Dec. 14
Thursday
8:00 P.M.
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center (address above). This month we will have a double feature -- an outstanding motion picture of the Alaskan earthquake of 1964, followed by a discussion of this type of geologic activity by Mr. Robert Wallace, of the U.S. Geologic Survey. Mr. Wallace will relate the Alaskan disaster with the geology of our region, illustrating his talk with slides.

FIELD TRIPS

Dec. 2
Saturday
8:30 A.M.
(Chairman: Florence Richardson 345-4443)
PRINCETON - PILLAR POINT
LEADER: Alice Steele (344-8317)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at Crystal Springs Dam, on Skyline. Lunch is optional (may be purchased at Princeton), walking shoes a must. Wintering and migrant shore, ocean and land birds are to be seen in this very interesting area.

Dec. 30
Saturday
Dawn to Dark
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
LEADER: Neil Dickinson (366-7661), tally by Oleta Dickinson.
Help in this big annual project is solicited. Will everyone who can participate please call or send a note to one of the following leaders:
B. Neil Dickinson or L. Alice Steele (344-8317)
554 Oak Park Way 1109 Chula Vista Ave.
Redwood City Burlingame 94010
94062

You will receive further complete information by mail, upon receipt of your call or note. PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Count Committee, as announced in the September bulletin will meet at the Dickinson home to finalize plans, on Sunday, December 3, at 2:00 P.M.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR - October 14 (Omitted from Nov. bulletin because of space limitations): Palo Alto is to be commended for establishing such a beautiful wildlife refuge. Those who walked the trails saw 43 species of birds. A White-tailed Kite sat on a wire long enough for all to observe. A flock of Blackbirds chased a worrisome Burrowing Owl into the air, and, at one time 20 Black-crowned Night Herons flew out of the tall grass. Three Yellowlegs, one greater and two lesser, in the open at close range provided the final picture of the day.

Jean Jones, Leader

FIELD TRIP REPORTS (Cont'd)

PESCADERO MARSH - October 28: Due to the "open duck season" only a few birds were observed on the marsh -- the ubiquitous Coots, a Marsh Wren, four Common Bitterns, brought into the air by a gunshot, and some Great Blue Herons perched high in the roosting trees.

Many more birds were seen on the ocean beach. The most interesting and unusual were a couple of Parasitic Jaegers pursuing the gulls.

By one o'clock in the afternoon the drizzle and dense fog were gone and the after-lunch "birding" was continued along the Old Stagecoach Road. The following birds were observed: Say's Phoebe, Bluebirds, several species of Sparrows, four of Hawks, and others. The total count was 50 species.

Katherine Kroll, Leader

CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATERSHED - Nov. 5: Maryann Danielson led a group of 16 people into a paradise of hills, canyons, chapparal covered slopes and groves of ancient Douglas Fir, Cypress, Bay-laurel and Madrone. We saw proposed routes and alternates for a major parkway in the area. We also saw areas to be acquired by San Mateo County for future parks outside of the watershed lands.

The proposed public use area of the near future was shown with the aid of excellent maps which included freeway locations, future and under construction.

The lunch spot was alive with birds - Varied Thrushes, Robins, Siskins, Kinglets, Vireos, a Hermit Thrush, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Band-tailed Pigeons. There were clusters of ripe honeysuckle berries and madrone berries high overhead, with shaggy mane mushrooms popping out of the damp ground. Nine Redhead Ducks on Lake Pilarcitos were a surprise.

Our thanks for a well planned tour, and for all the effort and time Maryann is spending in behalf of us and the entire county.

Alice Steele

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

There have been requests that a committee be set up to assist those who lack transportation to attend our meetings and field trips. Monty Montgomery has agreed to head up such a committee.

Any person desiring transportation to any of our functions should phone one of the following committee members who will gladly arrange for transportation:

Chairman A. E. Montgomery	343-4249
Anne Hall	341-5198
Ruth Hass	345-9089
Nicholas Kroll	697-2051
Gertrude Medler	341-2220

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

After a lapse of several years, Sequoia Audubon, in collaboration with the College of San Mateo, will present a series of Audubon Wildlife Films at the College, as follows:

January 15, 1968	Central California's Coastal Plain
January 22	Ranch Life and Wildlife
January 29	Land That I Love

A season ticket will cost only \$3.00, with single admissions at \$1.50. A leaflet with more details will be enclosed with your January bulletin, but plan now to attend this series and support your local Audubon Society.

CONSERVATION NOTES

SM SUPERVISORS REJECT COASTSIDE SUBDIVISION

In November, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors upheld the County Planning Commission's recommendation that zoning for the 400 acres located east of the Coast Highway and south of Tunitas Creek, two miles north of San Gregorio and 15 miles south of Half Moon Bay be reverted to agricultural, rather than for development of the Rancho San Gregorio Estates subdivision, pending completion of a master plan for future development of the coastside.

NAS OPTIMISTIC OVER NEW PLAN FOR REDWOODS

National Audubon Society's Conservation Guide, Nov. 1 issue, had the following comments: "A new proposal passed by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has rekindled hope for a Redwood National Park this session. It is a true compromise; not entirely satisfactory to any of the parties concerned, but much better than no park at all.

"The new park would consist of two main units, one in the Mill Creek region to the north (the area that has been favored by the Administration and that was endorsed by the National Audubon Society), the other in the Redwood Creek section to the south (choice of the Sierra Club and the Metcalf-Cohelan bill), plus a strip of redwoods along the coast connecting the two units. The compromise area would add up to about 60,000 acres.

"Although the National Audubon Society would have preferred a different park, it has gone on record from the start as backing any proposal that would be effective in saving the redwoods. Likewise, the Sierra Club is supporting the compromise, although the plan is far short of what that organization recommended. And with the Senate backing of Sen. Kuchel, California Republican, and Sen. Jackson, Washington Democrat, momentum for the park is beginning to build again.

"And Congress still has time to improve it; if there is enough public demand, the plan can be expanded and passed."

IMPROVING U.S. HIGHWAY POLICIES

According to the same issue of National Audubon Society's Conservation Guide, "Alan S. Boyd, Secretary of the nation's new Department of Transportation, has assured conservationists that he fully intends to carry out the conservation policies of the law that established his department, and that a beginning is under way. Speaking before the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, he discussed the law's provisions that call for a 'special effort' to preserve scenic and wildlife values when planning and building transportation facilities, and to 'develop plans and procedures' accordingly. He said he interpreted this law as 'a strong mandate to improve performance . . . in taking environmental factors into account. I support this mandate.'

"As a first task, he said, his department is drawing up new instructional information to be sent to the states by the Bureau of Public Roads. Work has begun, also to 'develop a hearing procedure which will allow all interested parties to make their views known to state highway departments at early planning stages.' To make these procedures meaningful, he said, the department is trying to develop 'sound, responsible criteria for decision-making.'"

COURT ACTION REQUIRED FOR DDT

At the recent National Audubon Convention in Atlantic City, N. J., Dr. H. L. Batts, Jr., President of Michigan Audubon Society and the Kalamazoo Nature Center, proposed a resolution that was promptly voted on affirmatively at the annual meeting of the members, as follows:

"Whereas it seems necessary to resort to the courts to effect a ban on DDT, and

"Whereas, during the panel discussion yesterday, on "Using the Law to Defend Man's Environment," it became obvious that coordination of legal action to defend the environment is necessary, now, therefore,

"Be it resolved that the National Audubon Society retain special counsel to consider the establishment of an Environmental Defense Fund, as a separate tax-exempt entity if necessary, to use the law to defend our environment."

The original impetus for this resolution came from the presentation of the Long Island (N. Y.) DDT case by the successful prosecutor of this case, attorney V. J. Yannacone, Jr.

With the encouragement provided by the discussion which accompanied this resolution both during and after the meeting, the ad hoc committee of scientists and others who helped Mr. Yannacone fight his DDT case, decided to incorporate itself without waiting for further backing they have formed The Environmental Defense Fund, Inc.

The group was immediately invited to press a suit against the State of Michigan to enjoin the use of DDT in Dutch elm disease control and of dieldrin for Japanese beetle control. Suit was filed in the U. S. District Court, Grand Rapids, Mich. on Oct. 25.

AUDUBON MEDAL AWARD

The Audubon Medal was awarded to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall at the Society's annual dinner, Nov. 15 in New York. The medal, highest award of the Society, has only been given 14 times since it was established in 1946 as a means of recognizing outstanding service to conservation.

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

The Audubon Camp of the West will again offer four two-week sessions in 1968, as follows:

Session I	June 23 - July 5
Session II	July 7 - 19
Session III	July 21 - August 2
Session IV	August 4 - 16

The camp is located in Wyoming, only 60 miles from Grand Teton National Park. The Camp fee of \$135 per session includes board and lodging, instruction, and field trip transportation. Enrollment is limited to 50 per session, so reservations should be made early, by writing to:

Director
Audubon Camp of the West
P.O. Box 3666
El Monte, California 91733

BIRD BANDING TRAINING PROGRAM

The banding training program at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory is continuing every Saturday morning at 9 A.M. Instruction in banding techniques, netting, trapping of the many species is given to anyone interested in learning and contributing a little time to this project. Much can be learned about identification of birds by participating in this work. The station is located on Mesa Road, Bolinas, California.

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