



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 17, Number 6

February 1968

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.

February 1 BOARD MEETING at the home of Vice-president Charles
Thursday Newiman, 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae. PLEASE NOTE
8:00 PM CHANGE OF LOCATION. Committee Chairmen are requested
to attend if possible, and all members of SEQUOIA
are welcome.

February 8 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreation Center,
Thursday 850 Burlingame Avenue. Members and guests are in-
6:30 PM vited to participate. Please call one of the follow-
ing Social Committee Co-chairmen, to let them know
what you plan to bring:

Barbara Drake 344-7320
Maureen McTaggart 366-4478

February 8 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation
Thursday Center (address above). We are again privileged to
8:00 PM have a program of selected bird pictures, presented
by Bill Anderson, of the Department of Fish and
Game. These will include color slides taken over
many years by Bill, who is an expert photographer
of nature and wildlife.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Florence Richardson 345-4443)

February 10 GOLDEN GATE PARK, San Francisco
Saturday LEADER: Nicholas Kroll (697-2051)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way
parking lot at the Chain-of-Lakes, between South
and Main Drives. Wear warm clothes and hiking shoes.
Lunch optional.

February 24 FOSTER CITY
Saturday LEADER: Gertrude Medler (341-2220)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Foster City Lake Park
on Hillsdale Boulevard, one mile east of the Norfolk
Avenue intersection. Warm clothing and waterproof
footwear may be needed. Lunch is optional.

BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK

February 17 SEAL SLOUGH AND FOSTER CITY BAYSHORE
Saturday LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443)
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the Shell Service Station
at E. Hillsdale Blvd. and S. Norfolk St. for
wintering shore and water birds. Wear warm clothing
and waterproof footwear.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NOTE: All field trip leaders are requested to send a summary
of their field trip to the Editor by the fifteenth of the month,
for inclusion in the next month's bulletin.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: December 30, 1967

LEADERS: Neil and Oleta Dickinson and Alice Steele

Forty hardy volunteers spent this sometimes foggy
day covering many areas of the County, to make their regular
annual Christmas Bird Count. Although the count was handicapped
to some extent by the fog, approximately 50,000 birds were

tallied, down slightly from the 1966 count of 57,000. The
species tally was also down a little, 152 this year vs.
162 in 1966.

Besides the weather, it is felt that the extensive amount
of building which has been done during the last year has
reduced the usefulness of some areas as bird habitats. An
extreme example of this can be observed in the Belmont area,
where extensive work has already been done on the Marine
World and Redwood Shores projects. Many acres of formerly
prime bird habitat has been wiped out by these activities,
and illustrates why all those who value our wildlife should
become active in the conservation activities of Sequoia
Audubon and other organizations which are striving to preserve
as much as possible of our natural habitats and protect the
scenic values of our County.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY has been asked to participate
with National Audubon and other local Audubon Societies in
the program at Audubon Canyon Ranch. This participation
would require a small amount of financial aid, but more
importantly, would involve our organization and its individual
members in some of the activities of the Ranch. This would be
in the nature of fund raising activities and hopefully, attend-
ance at some of the educational activities planned for the
Ranch. In return, we would have representation on the Board
of Directors of the Ranch, and thus a say in their activities.

After due consideration of the factors involved, your Board of
Directors voted to enter into this association with the Ranch,
feeling that this is a big enterprise, of great value to the
Conservation efforts of our organization as well as others,
and that we should help this effort to expand and increase the
activities in the field of Conservation Education.

NATIONAL AUDUBON WESTERN CONFERENCE

Asilomar, Pacific Grove

April 6 - 9

"Playing Russian Roulette With Nature"

This is the theme of this conference, where outstanding leaders
in the fields of Conservation, Ecology, Parks and Recreation,
and Natural Resources will present talks or lead panel discussions
on the many problems facing us in the West at this time.

We urge that everyone interested in the protection and preserva-
tion of our environment attend this conference. This is an
unusual opportunity to learn first-hand the thinking of our lead-
ers in high places, and to discuss our problems with them. These
contacts are always stimulating, and bring new enthusiasm to our
efforts in our conservation work.

Reservation forms are available from either your President or
your Editor. A better selection of accommodations can be assured
by making your reservations early.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Bill for Skyline National Parkway Needs Local & National Support

Senator Kuchel and Senator Murphy recently introduced a bill (S2616) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Skyline National Parkway. In December, a representative from Senator Kuchel's office surveyed the Parkway and the Portola Discovery Site (--another bill calls for the establishment of a national historic site here --). In January or February it has been expected that the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs would begin hearings on Bill S2616.

Senator Kuchel has stated (Congressional Record, Vol. 113, No. 178, 2 Nov. 1967):

"The great need for all types of outdoor recreation facilities is continually re-emphasized by those of us concerned with providing adequate recreation facilities for our ever-growing population. This need is especially pronounced in the case of recreation areas close to urban population centers. The therapeutic value of having such a scenic and restful area within the easy reach of vast numbers of people cannot be overstated.

"The Skyline National Parkway which I proposed is in essence an elongated park embracing features of scenic, recreational, and historic interest. Its development and maintenance as a National Parkway would preserve this wonderful area from being despoiled and overrun by indiscriminate urbanization. I strongly recommend that national recognition be given to this significant area on the Pacific Coast."

As is usually the case in important conservation issues, passage of this bill will depend upon expression of strong public interest locally and at a national level.

Sequoia Audubon Responds to ABAG

To express concern for the preservation of the Bay Area's distinctive geographic features, the habitat of indigenous wildlife, and the quality of life for present and future residents, Sequoia Audubon Society has responded by letter to the Association of Bay Area Governments' "Preliminary Regional Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area." The letter commended ABAG for the effort that went into the Plan and for inviting public response to it but the main purpose was to record opposition to some objectionable details of the Plan which would adversely affect the environmental quality of San Mateo County, as follows:

1. Inclusion of the Bay Front Freeway

This would be a freeway east of Bayshore Freeway. When this was first proposed several years ago it was removed, by public demand, from the master plans of many West Bay cities who are again opposing it in the ABAG Plan. Sequoia Audubon opposes it not only because it would be a deteriorating influence on the environment, but also because it would intersect Greco Island, a waterfowl refuge protected for many years by National Audubon Society and the Sierra Club by arrangement with Ideal Cement Co., the titleholder. The freeway would also intersect Coyote Point, the small wooded promontory overlooking the Bay and the location of the Junior Museum, a center for conservation education for youngsters of the County.

2. Highway in the Center of the San Francisco Watershed

Both the City of San Francisco, owner of the Crystal Springs watershed property, and the San Mateo County Regional Planning Committee have declared intentions to preserve the natural aspects of the watershed land. This cannot be achieved if a highway is built through it.

3. One of the stated goals of the Plan: "To Provide Open Space Refuse Disposal Needs"

We cannot accept as a planning goal the search for more open space, i.e., Bay marshlands and tidelands and coastal canyons, to be used for refuse disposal. There are now other means of disposing of refuse, one being the "total combustion" method, examples of which are the proposal by General Refuse Disposal Corp. of San Francisco and the Sira System plant under construction in Los Gatos.

4. Omission of the Designation of National Parkway for Skyline Blvd.

All regional planning should recognize and support the efforts of conservationists and should strive toward their goal to have Skyline Boulevard designated a National Parkway, the only one west of the Mississippi River.

5. Doubling the Population

By deliberately planning to accommodate a doubled population by 1990, the ABAG Plan is tacitly inviting twice as much traffic, twice as many freeways and pavement for parking space, twice as much air and water pollution, which would be hazardous to health and disastrous to the amenities of life in the Bay Area, as witness the condition of the Los Angeles area. Sequoia Audubon suggests instead stringent zoning regulations and permanent acquisition of more open space.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman
Conservation Committee

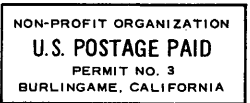
AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

We wish again to call to your attention that registrations are being taken for the AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST, Dubois, Wyoming for the four 2-week sessions:

- June 23-July 5
- July 7-July 19
- July 21-August 2
- August 4-August 16

For full information, write to

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