

# The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 17, Number 10

June 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.

## MEETINGS

- June 6 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. All members of the Board, and those elected for next year, should attend, as well as current committee chairmen. Other members who might wish to attend will be welcome.
- June 13 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue. Let's all turn out for this last supper of the year, and bring friends. Please call one of the Social Committee Co-chairman, listed below, to let them know what you will bring.
- Barbara Drake 344-7320  
Maureen McTaggart 366-4478
- June 13 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the Burlingame Recreation Center. Mrs. Violet Homem, of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and Editor of their bulletin, the Gull, will present a slide program entitled "Telephoto Birding in the Bay Area". This program should be of outstanding interest to all, showing us birds of our own area.

## FIELD TRIPS

Florence Richardson, Chairman 345-4443

- June 1 BUTANO STATE PARK  
Saturday LEADER: Jed McClellan (344-3486)  
9:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the town of Pescadero, at the intersection of the main street and Pescadero Road. Bring lunch and wear clothes for hiking. Wild rhododendrons and other plants should be seen.
- June 15 TILDEN REGIONAL PARK - Berkeley  
Saturday LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443)  
9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 401 Spruce Street, Berkeley. This is at the corner of Spruce and Grizzly Peak Blvd. A convenient route is to leave the Eastshore Freeway at the University Avenue, turn left on Sacramento Street, then right on Cedar Street to Spruce. Turn left on Spruce and continue to the intersection with Grizzly Peak Blvd. Bring lunch and be prepared to walk.

## ALBATROSS EXPEDITION

The Santa Cruz Bird Club announces their annual "Albatross Expedition", led by Leavitt McQuesten. The trip this year scheduled for Monday, June 17. A sport fishing boat will leave Stagnaro Landing on the Santa Cruz municipal wharf at 10 AM and return about noon. The destination is 12 miles out in the Pacific. Tickets, \$10. Make reservations with Leavitt McQuesten, 120 Otis Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

"MYSTERY TRIP" - May 4. Ruth Hass & Jack Morrill, Leaders.

The destination of the surprise trip was the PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT, in San Benito County. Thirty-three venturesome souls took their chances and enjoyed the outing. We had a nice day, with early morning overcast keeping it from getting too war, with a sunny afternoon.

A total of 37 species of birds were logged. Although not a big count, it included several species not often seen in the Bay area, including the Canyon Wren (a beautiful singer), a Rock Wren, and White-throated Swifts. Black-headed Grosbeaks were much in evidence with their song, as were Ash-throated Flycatchers.

Although we were a little late in the season for a good display of wildflowers, we were rewarded with the sighting of several Scarlet Pentstemons, not often found in this area. Co-leader Ruth Hass gave an excellent presentation on the nature of the vegetation of the area, and discussed its ecological significance.

May 18

AL WOOL RANCH - La Honda Al Wool & Ruth Hass, Leaders.

A fine turnout of over forty members and guests enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Al Wool, and had another great day of birding, looking at flowers, and just plain relaxing in the out-of-doors. Mr. Wool seemed to have each bird located in anticipation of our visit, and showed us such beauties as numbers of Lazuli Buntings, three species of Goldfinches, all in one place, near his home, and a variety of nesting birds. Regrettably, these also included two or three pairs of the obnoxious Starlings, which had driven more desirable Downy Woodpeckers from their holes. The total tabulation of 47 species included, in addition to those already mentioned, a Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Bluebirds, Brown Creeper, Western and Olive-sided Flycatchers, and some brilliant Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds.

Once again we are indebted to Al Wool for one of the finer trips of the year. It is truly an inspiration to see so much beauty, peace and quiet after the hub-bub of the town.

## REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

Officers and directors of Sequoia Audubon Society for the year 1968-69 were elected at the annual meeting on May 9. The nominating committee (Jean Maxwell - Chairman, Gene Hebron, Nick Kroll, and Florence Richardson) proposed the following slate of candidates, which was elected by unanimous acclamation:

Pres. Howard Gurevitz  
1505 Oak Rim Drive  
Hillsborough (342-3620)

V. P. Charles Newman 25 Corte Alegre Millbrae (697-5601)	Dir. Albert Bergeron 251 Killdeer Court Foster City (349-2960)
Sec. Liv Gurevitz 1505 Oak Rim Drive Hillsborough (342-3620)	Dir. E. P. McElhany 1009 Laguna Avenue Burlingame (343-3219)
Treas. Clifford Daniels 1009 Haddon Drive San Mateo (341-5366)	Dir. John Morrill 505 Costa Rica Avenue San Mateo (344-5497)

## CONSERVATION NOTES

FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITY THIS YEAR --- KUDOS TO:

Our president, Howard Gurevitz, for arranging with College of San Mateo to present the Audubon Film Series plus the excellent conservation lecture by Dr. Thomas Harvey as the final event of the series.

Our vice president, Charles Newman, for inviting Dr. Thomas Harvey to give his conservation lecture to a group of civic leaders in Millbrae; and for appearing before the U. S. Senate Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to present Sequoia Audubon's recommendation to designate Skyline Boulevard a National Scenic Parkway.

John Morrill, member of the board of directors, for close cooperation and collaboration with the State Department of Parks and Recreation in acquisition by the State of 210 acres of the Pescadero Marsh which for at least the next five years will remain in its wild state; and for instigating plans and financial support for a conservation series to be filmed and telecast in color by KQED-TV, San Francisco.

Jed and Bonnie McClellan for their year's nature study training program for Campfire leaders; and for representing Sequoia Audubon on the University of California, Santa Cruz, Planning Committee for the symposium, "Planning the Future of the Santa Cruz Mountains," to be held in September 1968 for the public.

Maryann Danielson, member of the board of directors, for arranging Bay cruises for the public with conservation commentary by Georg Treichel and Howard Cogswell.

Jean Maxwell for appearing before the San Mateo City Council to urge minimum Bay fill, if any, in its proposed Bayside development intended to provide accessibility by the public.

Bill Anderson who, in conjunction with his position with the State Department of Fish and Game, is serving on a committee to establish a wildlife refuge in the southern portion of San Francisco Bay.

Bill Freedman for advance planning toward a tree-planting program for next year.

Gretchen Medler and Jean Jones who emphasize nature studies in their classrooms, influencing their grade school pupils in cultivation of an awareness of their environment and of ecology.

Members of the Sequoia Audubon conservation committee for saving one evening each month to discuss conservation issues and ideas; and for representing Audubon in a joint effort with the Sierra Club, Committee for Green Foothills, and Save the Bay Association to present Congressional candidates to the public last October in "Candidates Night on Conservation Issues." (The leading conservationist of the candidates, Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, an attorney eminently qualified for the Congressional seat, won the election.)

Florence Richardson, chairman of field trips, and all her competent field trip leaders who have attracted new members to Sequoia Audubon, thereby winning new advocates for environmental planning and protection of wildlife habitats.

## STATE SENATE BILL 231: CRUCIAL!

Senate Bill 231 (to continue the permit powers of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to control Bay fill until the 1969 legislature can create a successor agency) was passed by the Senate Finance Committee on May 7. It was passed as written by Senator George Miller, Jr., (co-author, John Knox). The amendment to allow Emeryville to proceed with its fill was killed. Senator Miller is due special thanks for his legislative skill and hard work.

The next test for this crucial bill is on the floor of the State Senate in the near future. Because of a loophole in the bill that created BCDC, its veto powers over Bay fill could expire in 1969 unless SB becomes law.

It is extremely important that SB 231 be passed without any crippling amendments.

Marian Lockwood, Chairman  
Conservation Committee

As Editor of THE SEQUOIA, and from having served on the Conservation Committee, I want to add that we all owe a great vote of thanks to Marian Lockwood for her excellent presentations regarding the problems and progress in the field of Conservation, and for her leadership in this field. The CONSERVATION NOTES, which Marian has written for publication in the bulletin, have been the most valuable part of the publication, in my estimation. Marian's enthusiasm and concern in the matters has been an inspiration to all who have worked with her.

John L. Morrill - Editor

THE BLUE HERON TREE - Book about Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Posie Hurd of Mill Valley and her artist husband, Clem, have made a book about Audubon Canyon Ranch called THE BLUE HERON TREE, which is concerned with the life of a Great Blue Heron from the time he arrives at the rookery in early spring until, after courtship, breeding and the raising of his young, he leaves late in the summer. It vividly and poetically describes the life of the birds in the rookery and that of other residents of the ranch and the lagoon. Mrs. Hurd, a well known author on nature subjects, has written this book for young people seven to ten years old; but like all good children's books, THE BLUE HERON TREE will appeal to adults too. Mr. Hurd's pictures of birds and animals and the landscape of Bolinas are sensitive, imaginative and true.

The Nature Store at 7 Throckmorton, Mill Valley 94941 is selling THE BLUE HERON TREE, autographed by both author and illustrator, for the benefit of Audubon Canyon Ranch Education Fund. Large prints, from which the illustrations were made, numbered and signed by Mr. Hurd, are also for sale there for the benefit of the ranch. The book may be purchased by mail for \$3.95 plus 20¢ tax (in California) per copy, plus 25¢ mailing fee for the whole order.

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