



The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

February 1970

Volume 19, No. 6

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, 347-0912; Editor, Mr. J. L. Morrill, 505 Costa Rica Ave., San Mateo, 344-5497.

MEETINGS

- February 5
Thursday
8:00 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Hillsborough. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.
- February 12
Thursday
6:30 PM POTLUCK SUPPER at the Washington School Cafeteria, 801 Howard Ave., Burlingame. Those planning to attend are requested to call the Social Events Chairman, Amy McElhany (343-3219) to let her know what you will bring.
- February 12
Thursday
8:00 PM REGULAR MEETING at the Washington School, address above. "A NATURALIST IN YUCATAN" is the program to be presented by Dr. J. Gordon Edwards, professor of entomology at San Jose State College. Dr. Edwards will show selected slides, taken while he was entomologist on an expedition to various Mayan ruins.

FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

- February 14
Saturday
9:00 AM GOLDEN GATE PARK, San Francisco
LEADERS: Nicholas and Katherine Kroll (697-2051)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the parking lot at Middle Lake, on 41st Avenue between South and Main Drives, inside the park. Lunch optional. Wear warm clothes and prepare to hike to see Wood Ducks and others at close range.
- February 21
Saturday
9:00 AM LAKE MERRITT AND THE OAKLAND MUSEUM, Oakland.
LEADERS: Leroy and Fran Nelson (593-7941)
MEETING PLACE: Meet at the duck pond at Lake Merritt. To reach this, turn off of Grand Avenue at Bellevue, which leads right to the duck pond. This will be a good trip to study ducks and geese, especially for new Audubon members, as the birds come in close at the feeding area. Bring lunch, or plan to eat at Lakeside Inn. After lunch the group will tour through the fabulous new Oakland Museum, where many Bay area birds are shown in natural settings.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

CHRISTMAS CENSUS FOR NATIONAL AUDUBON - December 27, 1969 (Neil Dickinson, Leader)
Essentially it was a clear day with a cold, piercing wind in all sectors. Birds were scarce number-wise but gratifyingly abundant species-wise. In fact we achieved a new record total of 171 species, due largely to new observers with special expertise.

Ducks were virtually absent from Crystal Springs Lakes, the reason unknown. Usually hunting pressure drives them into this sanctuary during the count period. A total of 41 people took part in the count, dividing into 12 parties and spending 93 party-hours on the count. It was estimated that 48 miles were covered on foot, and 243 miles by car.

Among the more unusual sightings were the following:

Sooty Shearwater	Allen's Hummingbird
Rock Sandpiper	Rufous Hummingbird
Elegant Tern	Calliope Hummingbird
Osprey	Marbled Murrelet
Red Crossbill	Lincoln Sparrow
Western Flycatcher	Hooded Oriole
Yellow-shafted Flicker	

AUDUBON CALENDERS

The beautiful new Audubon calenders for 1970 are still available. These are decorated with large framable copies of some of the most outstanding photographs which have appeared in AUDUBON MAGAZINE. The price is only \$3.95 each. To obtain yours, contact our secretary, Liv Gurevitz (347-0912)

CONSERVATION NOTES

CONGRESSMAN McCLOSKEY

San Mateo County conservationists can take pride in the impact Re. Paul N. McCloskey is making on national environmental policies. McCloskey is mentioned twice in "National Outlook", AUDUBON magazine, Jan. 1970 -- first, as one of the "fearless seven" legislators who crusaded for full \$1 billion funding of the 1966 Clean Water Restoration Act; and as co-organizer, with Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson, of a national "teach-in" on the the "Crisis of the Environment" to be held on numerous college campuses April 22.

DDT

An appeal by six pesticide firms on Jan. 6 has stalled the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture ban on DDT, which was reported on page 118 of January AUDUBON. Because the six firms have appealed, the question will be turned over to a scientific panel for a ruling. A public hearing also is allowed if the panel turns down the industry request. In the meantime, the firms will be permitted to go on marketing the pesticide. The six firms are: Allied Chemical, New York City; Diamond Shamrock Corp., Cleveland; Lebanon Chemical Corp., Lebanon, Pa; Stauffer Chemical, New York City; Black Leaf Products Co., Chicago; and Carolina Chemical Inc., Wilson, N. C.

At any rate, "U. S. Dept. of Agriculture registration of pesticides is enforceable only with respect to chemicals in interstate commerce. DDT manufactured or formulated in California -- and a lot of it is -- could still be sprayed on California marshes, croplands and orchards if the State permitted it, despite any federal ban."

On Jan. 10, the Dept. of Interior disclosed it has found DDT and related poisons in every one of 24,000 wild ducks tested in a recent pesticide survey from Maine to California. We should ask State Assemblyman Carl A. Britschgl what his State Agriculture Committee will do this year about DDT -- last year they postponed action. Audubon members must be persistent in the campaign to ban DDT -- or else end with no waterfowl to enhance our shores!

ANTI-SMOG BILLS

On Jan. 6, a State Assembly subcommittee announced introduction of 18 smog control bills. One proposes to reduce the amount of lead compounds in gasoline beginning this July with total elimination of lead by 1974. A companion proposal concerns removal of the most active hydrocarbons from gasoline. Air pollution fines would be increased from \$500 to \$6,000. The bi-partisan sub-committee is headed by Assy. Peter F. Schabarum, Covina. Special interest groups such as agriculture, the auto manufacturers, the oil industry are expected to do powerful lobbying against the anti-smog bills causing passage to be difficult in an election year unless there is massive public support.

CONSERVATION AS STATE POLICY

Assemblyman Z'berg, Sacramento, has introduced ACA12, an amendment to the State Constitution declaring conservation is a policy of the State and the right of the people.

Marian Lockwood, Conservation Chairman

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