



# The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 1970

Volume 19, No. 8

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

April 2 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Howard Gurevitz, 1505 Oak Rim Drive, Thursday Hillsborough. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members 8:00 PM are welcome.

April 9 POTLUCK SUPPER at the Beresford Park Recreation Center, 26th and The Alameda, San Thursday Mateo. Those planning to attend are requested to call one of the Social Committee 6:30 PM co-chairmen, to let them know what you plan to bring: their phone numbers follow:

Mrs. Amy McElhany 343-3219  
Mrs. Bonnie McClellan 344-3486

April 9 REGULAR MEETING at the Beresford Recreation Center (address above) following the Thursday Potluck Supper. Our own Maryann Danielson, Director of the San Mateo County Junior 8:00 PM Museum, will present the program, which will be an account of her walk-in trip in Nepal last November - December, from Kathmandu to the Mt. Everest base camp. The account will be illustrated with color slides of the 23 day - 200 mile hike, including views of farm life and Sherpa villages in Khumbu country.

## FIELD TRIPS

(Chairman: Jean Jones 344-9339)

April 4 MUIR WOODS - MT. TAMALPAIS via Ocean View Trail Saturday LEADER: Alice Steele (344-3317) 9:00 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at Mountain House parking area. Take Highway 1 from the Golden Gate Bridge, to Panoramic Highway. Follow signs for Muir Woods and Mt. Tamalpais to the Muir Woods turnoff. Proceed up the mountain to Mountain House parking area. This will be a wild-flower trip. Wear walking shoes, warm clothing, and bring lunch.

April 11 TILDEN REGIONAL PARK (Berkeley) Saturday LEADER: Florence Richardson (345-4443) 8:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Spruce Street reservoir at Spruce and Grizzly Peak Blvd. Humming Birds, Orioles and migrants should be abundant, wildflowers plentiful. Bring lunch.

April 18 SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK Saturday LEADER: Lillian Montgomery (344-4249) 7:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 7:30 AM at the entrance gate to the San Francisco Water Temple at Sunol. Bring lunch and wear hiking shoes. To reach Sunol, go to Niles, and through Niles Canyon. The entrance to the Water Temple is at the juncture of the Niles Canyon Road and Highway 21. Birding in the Sunol region is exceptionally good, and there should be many wildflowers.

April 25 TENNESSEE COVE (Marin County) Saturday LEADER: Charles Newman (697-5601) 8:30 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at 8:30 AM at Vista Point, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Bring lunch and wear walking shoes. Many species of birds of sea, shore, field and forest are usually seen here.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### LAKE MERRITT AND THE OAKLAND MUSEUM, February 21

While this trip was not noteworthy because of the numbers of species or rarities observed it provided an excellent opportunity to study details of a number of species at close range. After lunch we toured the new Oakland Museum. Words cannot describe this superb creation! If you have not seen it you are cheating yourself! A few of us stayed on to go with Paul Covel to the Robin Roost. This was a very interesting experience seeing Robins along with some Cedar Waxwings coming in from all directions at sundown.

Roy and Fran Nelson, Leaders

### SEARSVILLE LAKE, March 7

A large group turned out and enjoyed unusually pleasant weather on the trip. The sky was unusually clear and warm and the birds were singing all around us. A total of 58 species were logged. Bewick's Wrens, California Thrashers, Orange-crowned Warblers and Purple Finches were singing in the Chaparral and Oak Woodland. Titmice, Rufous Hummingbirds and a Hutton's Vireo were also seen in this habitat. Many Ring-necked Ducks were on the lake in company with Ruddies and Scaup. A pair of Great Blue Herons were feeding on the shore of the lake and a shy Yellowthroat let itself be seen by some of us. Some of us saw a Yellow-shafted Flicker in the oaks at the entrance to the park.

Peter Metropulos, Leader

### SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN, March 14

On Saturday, March 14, the weatherman was wrong, and a group of about 25 people enjoyed a bright, sunny morning on San Bruno Mountain. The mountain put on a great show of wildflowers, including such favorites as Rock Cress, Footsteps-of-Spring, Johnny Jump-ups, Coast Blue Violet, Checkerbloom, California Poppy, Suncup, Johnny Tuck, Mission Bell, Buttercup, Wild Cucumber, Wild Strawberry, and Wallflower. Red-tailed Hawks, Song Sparrows, Meadowlarks, Sparrow Hawks, Flickers and other birds kept our eyes alert; and two exciting events were the fly-over of an Osprey and the discovery of a Great Horned Owl sitting on a nest. Everyone was happy.

Jed and Bonnie McClellan, Leaders

## CONSERVATION NOTES

### LIFE

The 200 ft. \$41.3 million Pescadero Creek Dam and Reservoir project on the San Mateo Coastside is opposed by a newly organized citizens' group known as Local Initiative for Environment (LIFE) whose chairman is Karl G. Brosing, La Honda, an electronics engineer.

The Corps of Engineers' report released Jan. 22 proposes an earthen dam at Worley Flat in San Mateo County Memorial Park backing up a four-mile long reservoir flooding some virgin redwood areas, 443 trees, in Portola State Park.

A Stanford University student-faculty group made a study of the project and announced that the proposed Pescadero Dam and related developments on the Coastside are "the much too ambitious solution to what was originally a farmers' flooding problem. What began as a problem of occasional flooding has grown into a multi-purpose water project attempting to encompass flood control, irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply and recreation." The project provides for water for an eventual population of 160,000. Housing development for the projected population would eliminate the agricultural lands the dam originally intended to serve. Recreation would be limited because during the first 10 years the water would be 150 ft. below the dam level and leave muddy areas to cross to reach the lake.

The Stanford report says: "It is time the idea that population growth is economically or physically desirable be discarded. It should no longer be acceptable to let developers and state tax policies determine the physical setting of the Coastside."

### COAAST

Several bills have been introduced in the State legislature to set up a commission similar to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to develop a master plan for the Coastside. The commission would control coastal development while the plan was in preparation by a permit system that would allow urgent construction yet prevent irreparable shoreline damage.

Citizen support for the coast legislature is being organized in Northern California by COAAST (Californians Organized to Acquire Acquisition to State Tidelands), P.O. Box 3284, Santa Rosa, 95403.

### Reading for Conservationists

1. ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK - published by Ballantine, paperback, 95¢.  
This will be the basic sourcebook for the scheduled national Environmental teach-in April 22. Available at most bookshops, Oakland Museum, and Friends of the Earth, 451 Pacific St., San Francisco, 94133.
2. FORTUNE magazine - The February 1970 issue was devoted to environmental issues and their relation to the economy. (The success of the public in the Bay Area to establish BCDC is described.)
3. SATURDAY REVIEW - March 7, 1970 - "Cleaning Humanity's Nest -- the New Planetary Priority."  
With this issue Saturday Review begins a regular monthly feature on the environment.

Marian Lockwood, Conservation Chairman

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members of Sequoia Audubon have been appointed to serve as the nominating committee to select candidates for our Board of Directors and Officers for the next year. Members who wish to propose a candidate should so advise one of the committee members:

Chairman:	Monty Montgomery	344-4249
	J. Ed McClellan	344-3486
	L. Alice Steele	344-8317

### SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

In order to continue our efforts to bring about the creation of this refuge, contributions are needed. Please send in your contribution to this worthy cause to our Treasurer, Clifford Daniels (1009 Haddon Drive, San Mateo, 94402)

### MYSTERY TRIP - MAY 9

There are still a few spaces left for this trip. Send your \$6.00 to Jean Jones (1417 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame) right away, if you want to go. Space is limited.

Non-Profit Org  
Sec. 34.65E,  
U. S. POSTA  
PERMIT N  
BURLINGAM

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery  
2270 Summit Dr.,  
Hillsborough, Calif. 94010