



The Sequoia



Volume 20, No. 4

December 1970

BULLETIN OF THE SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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: Charles Newman 25 Corte Alegre, Millbrae 697-5601

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MEETINGS

December 3 BOARD MEETING at the home of President Charles Newman, 25 Corte
Thursday Alegre, Millbrae. All Board members and committee chairmen
8:00 PM should attend. Other members are welcome.

December 10 POTLUCK SUPPER at Roosevelt School, Broadway and Vancouver Ave.,
Thursday Burlingame. Please call one of the following committee members
6:30 PM to advise what you will bring:

Amy McElhany

343-3219

Ruth Crotchett

343-5226

December 10 REGULAR MEETING, at Roosevelt School, address above. Once again
Thursday we are priveleged to have Bill Anderson as our speaker. Since hi
8:00 PM retirement from the Department of Fish and Game, Bill has been
travelling and doing his birding in a variety of places. His
program this time will be about his recent trip to Australia,
and will of course be illustrated by more of his fine color
slides. Dont miss this outstanding program - Bill never lets us
down.

FIELD TRIPS

Chairman: Jean Jones

344-9339

December 12 PILLAR POINT
Saturday LEADER: Alice Steele (344-8317)
8:45 AM MEETING PLACE: Meet at the parking lot at the Municipal Pier,
at Princeton. This has always been a rewarding area for birding,
and should provide viewing of land, sea and shore birds. Wear
warm clothes, walking shoes, and bring a lunch if you wish to
stay out past noontime.

January 2 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Saturday LEADERS: Neil and Oleta Dickinson (366-7661)
All Day Alice Steele (344-8317)

WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP!!!!!!

Last year our count was the eighth best in the nation - let's all
get out this year, count all day, and make this the best count
ever.

Please call one of the leaders indicated above and sign up for
an area. At the end of the day, participants will meet at the
Dickinson home, 554 Oak Park Way, Redwood City, to report their
results, and to enjoy the refreshments so generously provided
by Neil and Oleta.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

LAKE HENNESSEY - October 24

It was a sparkling day when we visited Lake Hennessey: 61 species were sighted. A partial list: Raven, Crow, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Black Phoebe, Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Shrike, Several species of sparrows, Titmouse, Common Snipe, Acorn and Downy Woodpeckers, and many others. Especially close observation was had of Nuttall's Woodpecker and a Red-breasted Sapsucker. A Red-shouldered Hawk perched obligingly for Jean and Fran.

Half a dozen deer left the area of our picnic table below the dam.
Marie and Victor Morgan

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK - November 7

A beautiful, sparkling day, after a night of rain. At KGO towers many Black-necked Stilts, Avocets - Lincoln, Savannah, and Song Sparrows - numerous Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs must have been part of a migration wave - 31 Egrets at the eastern end of the causeway on the south ponds were lovely to see.

In Coyote Hills Regional Park we were guided to the top of the hills, where we could see most of the limits of the proposed South Bay National Wildlife Refuge. We hiked on good trails north around the hills past the slough and marsh areas to return to headquarters and the Bio-sonar Lab area. Guides led well narrated tours, telling of the sealions, seals, harbor seals and sea otters in the laboratory pools.

The Indian Mounds excavations were especially interesting. The young ranger showed us artifacts recovered from the "dig". His story and explanations left us with a feeling of deep respect for these people of earlier times. The fencing and care now given to these historical sites should prevent vandalism and careless desecration.

We recorded a total of 73 species of birds for the day. All of us had good views of the American Flamingo feeding in the salt ponds; and of approximately 300 White Pelicans, Avocets, Stilts, Willets, Godwits, and Plovers in the same area. Very few ducks.

White-tailed Kites, Sparrow Hawks, Red-tails, a Sharp-shinned a Rough-legged, and Marsh Hawks----White-throated Swifts, a Hermit Thrush, Black Phoebes, Say's Phoebe --- Great Horned Owl, Bitterns, Sora Rails. A very fine day.

L. Alice Steele

SANTA CRUZ AND MOSS LANDING - November 14

Bill Anderson led about 30 enthusiast birders around Santa Cruz and the Moss Landing area to see over 80 species of shore and land birds. Included in this impressive number was a Red-throated Loon, four species of Grebes, and both Brown and White Pelicans. All three species of Cormorants sat on one rock for easy comparison. Three Black Brants were the only geese. There were 11 species of ducks, including the none-too-common Common Scoter. White-tailed Kites, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks were seen. Some of us saw a Clapper Rail, and there were many Plovers and Sandpipers to be seen feeding on the mudflats, along with both Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Long-billed Curlews, Spotted Sandpipers and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Mew Gulls were near the shore in good numbers and we could see their distinctive plover-like bills. Among the land birds was a flock of about 30 Violet-green Swallows. For a grand finale we climbed to a little knoll for a view of the beautiful American Flamingo.

Fran Nelson

CONSERVATION NOTES

A CITIZEN'S RIGHT AND OBLIGATION

It is our right, if not an obligation, as citizens concerned about environmental quality and the conservation of natural wildlife habitats, to continually express our convictions on urgent conservation issues to our legislators.

For your convenience, the following list is furnished which reflects the results of the November election:

U.S. Congressional Legislators

Senator John V. Tunney, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20515
Senator Alan Cranston " " " "
Rep. Paul N. McCloskey, House of Reps., Washington, D.C. 20515

California State Legislators

(Address for all: State Capitol, Sacramento, California, 95814)
Governor Ronald Reagan
Senator Arlen Gregorio (replacing Richard Dolwig)
Assemblyman Dixon Arnett, 26th District (replacing Carl Britschgi)
Assemblyman Leo J. Ryan, 27th District

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Because HR-2749, the Congressional bill proposing establishment of the South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge to preserve threatened habitats of herons, egrets, harbor seals, rails, and other distinctive and indigenous wildlife, as well as great numbers of migrating waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway, failed to reach the floor of Congress because of delays within the U.S. Department of the Interior, it will have to be re-introduced in January 1971 as HR-17047.

Hopefully, the same Bay area congressmen who first sponsored the bill will again do so: Rep. Paul N. McCloskey of San Mateo County, Rep. Charles Gubser and Rep. Don Edwards of Santa Clara County; Reps. Burton, Leggett, Moss, Maillard, Waldie, and Clausen.

It is important to the ultimate success in Congress that a new companion bill be re-introduced in the Senate to replace Senator Cranston's bill, S-2291. Senator John Tunney, newly elected, may not have heard much about the proposed refuge.

Marian Lockwood
Conservation Chairman

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