



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 27, No. 10

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
June, 1978

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, June 1, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings & Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

POTLUCK DINNER, June 8, Thursday, 6:30 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Come join us for a festive "year-end" dinner of fine food, wine, fellowship followed by our regular meeting at 8:00 PM. Phone Ona Westigard and tell her what dish you plan to bring (345-9104 after 6:00 PM). Bring your own place settings. Guests are always welcome.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, June 8, Thursday, 8:00 PM at the Garden Center following the Potluck Dinner. Dan Taylor from the staff of the National Audubon Western Regional Office in Sacramento will present a new slide show, "Islands of Life," describing the many National Audubon Sanctuaries. Frank Allen and Charles Newman have scheduled a new chapter in their "Bird-of-the-Month" see and hear series.

FIELD TRIPS:

Save gas. Make birding pals by car-pooling. Call Pearl Morgenstern, 341-2510, and tell her where a rider or two can meet you. Split the cost of fifteen cents a mile equitably.

JUNE 24 & 25 YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY

The most expeditious route to Yuba Pass is via Interstate 80 to Truckee. Just east of Truckee turn north on State Route 89. Drive about 25 miles to Sierraville. Take State Route 89/49 west from Sierraville. Go through Sattley (about 4 miles) and west on State Route 49 to Yuba Pass about 7 miles beyond Sattley.

We will set two meetings times for Saturday. The first will be 7:00 AM for those who arrive the night before and want to commence birding early. The second time will be 9:00 AM. We will meet at the Yuba Pass Summit both times in the large parking lot on the south side of the road.

Our Sunday meeting place will be on highway A-23 across from the Sierra Valley Ranch sign approximately 1.8 miles from the junction of A-23 and we plan to proceed to the Sierra Valley Marsh. The road into the marsh is about 3 miles north of the Sierra/Plumas County line on A-23. It is Dyson Lane but it may not be marked.

We may encounter wet ground conditions. Be prepared with suitable footgear.

PRESIDENT: John Prime
848 West Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94403
Phone: 573-5889

EDITORS: Ed and Amy McElhany
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: 343-3219

Some motels in the area are Sierra Chalet 916-862-1110, Herrington's Sierra Pines 916-862-1151 and Canyon Ranch 916-994-3340.

If you plan to camp, be sure to check with the U.S. Forest Service first. Due to snow conditions, some campgrounds may not be open.

Leaders will be Leroy and Fran Nelson. For any additional information, call them at 593-7941.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Mystery Trip, May 6 & 7.

Saturday morning found all of the scheduled passengers on a chartered Greyhound bus at the Garden Center. Everyone was filled with great expectations for an exhilarating weekend. Even before the bus departed a small card was handed to everyone with the request to attempt to guess the destination of each of the five places that we would visit. A small cash prize was offered to stimulate logical answers. Amy McElhany has to be a psychic because she was right on the first destination and also had another correct guess. Pat Prime also had a correct guess.

After the bus had departed, the co-leader announced a list of birds to look for on our trip. Crossing the Oakland Bay Bridge and heading N.E., it became noticeable that we were to contend with a stiff N.E. wind of about 20 knots. This wind proved to be a slight deterrent to the number of birds to be seen along the highway. Nearing the intersection of I-80 & 113, the prize for spotting a crow was claimed. Shortly thereafter, the first Yellow-billed Magpie was identified.

Heading north to Woodland, and on up to Robbins and east on a gravel road, a Black Tern was seen over an irrigation ditch. Almost immediately after reaching highway 99 we turned right on Laurel Lane and down under the spreading limbs of English walnut trees to the parking lot of BOBELAINE Sanctuary. Everyone welcomed the chance to stretch their legs and we walked north on the levee to the trail heading toward the Feather River. We then plopped down in a clearing and ate our lunch.

Two long-time friends, Ben and Willy (Argante) Eizinger of Sacramento Audubon Society welcomed our group and gave us a short history of the sanctuary and led us on an hour long tour of the north part of the sanctuary.

Reluctantly we left delightful Bobelaine Sanctuary and headed north past Yuba City. Turning west from Live Oak, we headed for Gray Lodge. A nesting killdeer was shown to the visitors along with Bullock's Orioles, Black Phoebes, Loggerhead Shrikes, Western Kingbirds and Ring-necked Pheasants, one with 13 chicks.

Late in the afternoon we departed for Oroville where we had dinner and overnight accommodations. Dinner at the Table Mountain Lodge was scheduled for 7PM so we could linger long enough to have a couple of dances after the music started at 9PM. The entree was a bountiful plate of pot roast.

Sunday morning dawned beautifully in Oroville and the wind had stopped. After breakfast we headed east to the overlook above Oroville Lake. Members saw wildflowers, slides, movies on the construction of the dam, wildflower slides and birding in the nearby area. Several people saw the Phainopeplas fly overhead.

Our scheduled guide, Chuck Vandenberg, finally arrived and he came aboard the bus and gave us the history of the dam and lake with a delightful presentation. Should I mention the "Grass house" or the "Seagull" joke? Then he escorted us down the face of the dam and believe it or not, he opened a huge garage door and took our huge bus into the innards of the dam where we departed the bus leaving the driver to (carefully) park it next to a huge generator. After a brief tour, we left Oroville and headed down highway 70 & 65 to Roseville and on to the town of Folsom where we stopped for

lunch. Did everyone have carrot cake?

The last scheduled stop was at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery on Hazel Avenue east of Sacramento. Truman Holzclaw and Tim Fitzer met us there and led us to the Rough-winged Swallows and White-throated Swifts nesting under the Hazel Avenue bridge over the American River. Later on we saw Belted Kingfishers and Black Phoebes. Our guides were disappointed that they were unable to produce their resident Green Herons. To make up for it, they arranged for a pair of Common Mergansers to fly down stream while we were watching. After a drinking fountain and restroom stop, we sadly headed back to the bus for the return trip to the Garden Center. In addition to the birds mentioned above the following species were seen: American Bittern, Brewer's Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Bluebird, Bushtit, Chickadee, Coot, Bronze-headed Cowbird, Mourning Dove, Rock Dove, Mallard, Great and Snowy Egret, Kestrel, House Finch, Flicker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, American Goldfinch, California Gull, White-tailed Kite, Rufous Hummingbird, White-faced Ibis, Scrub Jay, Stellar's Jay, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Wood Pewee, California Quail, Raven, Robin, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, English, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows, Starling, Barn and Violet Green Swallows, Forster's Tern, Hermit Thrush, Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Hutton's Vireo, Turkey Vulture, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow Warbler. There was a rumor that someone saw a "Black-footed Albatross." This rumor shall remain unconfirmed unless documented with color photographs.

Co-Leaders, Jerry Perkins, Georgia Perkins and
John Silliman

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The present top priority of NAS, the Alaska Lands Bill, HR 39, was scheduled for floor consideration in the House by mid-May after emerging from the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee with a package of amendments some good and some not so good. In particular the integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Range was essentially restored. Further attempts to weaken the bill were expected on the floor, however.

Though it is one of only a very few federal construction projects out of some 5,000 involving endangered wildlife in which the conflict has not been settled at a local or regional level, the controversy over the building of the TVA Tellico Dam which threatens the endangered snail darter has sparked attempts in Congress to emasculate the Endangered Species Act. Senator Baker of Tennessee is pushing an amendment to Section 7 of the Act which would set up a committee of seven department and agency heads, with a staff funded by \$2.5 million annually, who would decide the fate of the endangered species threatened by similar construction projects. A vote of five of the seven committee members could exempt a project from the Endangered Species Act and allow what Defenders of Wildlife calls bulldozing "endangered species aside to make way for federal boondoggles and corporate profits." The amendment, S 2899, was being heard by Senator Baker's Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee at the end of April and was to be considered by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in May. Battles over the bill are expected on both the House and Senate floors, and NAS urges letters in opposition at once to our Senators, Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and to our Representatives, Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., and Leo Ryan (House Office Building, Washinton 20515). The Act is working well without amendment.

The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act bills, S 1140 and HR 10255, also HR 10915 funding the Act from an excise tax on items such as birdseed and binoculars instead of from general revenue (and the one sup-

ported by NAS) have run into unexpected opposition from the Carter Administration. The Office of Management and Budget told Congress that the bills were too costly and that there was no need for additional funding for non-game species. Letters are needed supporting S 1140 and HR 10255 to President Carter (The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500) and to our Senators and Representatives.

The thirteen-year fight to save Mineral King from a ski development has reached its culmination in Congressman John Krebs' bill, HR 1771 and Senator Cranston's S 88 which would transfer Mineral King from the jurisdiction of the Forest Service to that of the National Park Service. Ski interests are trying to gut the bills by seriously weakening amendments. Again letters are needed to our Senators and Representatives urging them to oppose any such amendments to the bills, especially amendments allowing the opening up of Mineral King to any down-hill ski development. This latter would not only destroy the unique values of Mineral King but would also open the door to attempts to put similar developments in other National Parks.

In the Legislature, Senator Holmdahl's bill, SB 351, was pending in the Assembly as of mid-May. This bill would allow a state agency to approve projects in spite of adverse environmental impacts if it thought there were social or economic reasons for doing so and it would seriously weaken the mandate of CEQA to protect the environment of the state. Letters are needed to our Assemblymen, Dixon Arnett, Louis J. Papan, or Leo T. McCarthy, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, urging their opposition to this bill.

On the plus side for the environment, Senator Ayala has withdrawn his bill, SB 345, which would have removed the Eel, Klamath, Van Duzen, and Trinity Rivers from the Wild and Scenic Rivers system and permitted their damming. SB 193, Senator Zenovich's agricultural lands bill, opposed by conservationists, was killed in the Senate Finance Committee. It would have required an agricultural lands element in the general plans of cities and counties but would have left its policy to local rather than state determination.

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society recently presented an Industry Citation to the Mountain View Sanitation District in Martinez, Contra Costa County, for its creation of a fresh water marsh as part of its wastewater treatment plant. An excellent wildlife habitat was a secondary result. The project was engineered by Marin Audubon Society member, Warren Nute, whose Sanitary Engineering firm is located in San Rafael.

The City of Hayward and the East Bay Regional Park District are also re-creating marsh--this is salt marsh--from leveed salt evaporators within Hayward City limits. It is hoped that some similar form of marsh recreation can be made an adjunct of the new sewage treatment plant being built at the mouth of Steinberger Slough in Redwood Shores which will serve the area of Belmont to Menlo Park.

---Ruth Smith Conservation Chairman

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW By Fran Nelson

Hearing the scolding of House Sparrows, I look up from my work at the kitchen window and see that the problem is on our neighbor's roof where three or four sparrows are assembled. There is water splashing from the rain gutter. A bath in progress? Why a bath in a rain gutter? Our bird-baths look much more adequate to me, a non-bird! Soon I see what appears to

be a wing hung up on the gutter's edge and it disappears and then a back appears and disappears and the wing again. It begins to look somewhat like a struggle but a bath can look like a struggle when it is taking place in a gutter.

The more I watch, the more I think I am watching the endeavors of a disabled bird. There is no way to tell for sure and no way to help even if I should find this to be the case. I have my binoculars trained on the spot trying to figure out what is happening when suddenly a female House Sparrow's head looms above the edge of the gutter. The nape of her neck is held firmly in the beak of another female House Sparrow! Her eyes are closed and she looks quite limp. The other one looks exhausted and she is resting against the gutter and the bird she has in her beak while getting her second wind.

Then her struggle begins again and with a mighty effort, she gets up over the edge of the gutter and flutters downward with her burden. She is on the other side of the fence but I must see! I tear outside and climb upon the fence hoping to find a clue as to what might have happened. But, no! There is no bird to be seen, dead or alive! Incredible! Has she flown away toting another bird her equal in size? Or dragged it away? whatever she has done, she has done with great speed for there is no trace of either bird! I glance up at the roof and see two House Sparrows on the edge of the gutter looking at me looking for the other sparrows. They vanish, phantom-like, over the roof-top.

Shortly she reappears at her nesting site bearing her battle scars. The area around her beak looks slightly bloody and her right eye has been injured. There is a hole in the plumage at her throat and her breast shows a pinkish stain. Whether the wound is deep or superficial, I do not know.

Then it's time to leave for Wildflower Class. Needless to say, my first thought upon returning home is to search for the sparrow. I am unable to find her for a time but later, there is a female House Sparrow squashed out on top of the baffle. It's not hard to see that she is the one for whom I am looking and that she is feeling the effects of earlier events. When her beak is not tucked into her back feathers, the injuries around it are apparent. Her right eye has a glazed look. Something startles the birds and they all fly off in a great cloud.

Later, she is back in the same spot still looking very unwell. The sun's gentle warmth must be comforting to her. I watch her while talking on the telephone and as my conversation draws to a close and I walk to the dining room to replace the telephone, I am startled to see, through the door, a Sharp-shinned Hawk landing on the fence! He has crossed our yard from where the sparrow was resting. Obviously, he had staked out our troubled bird for his next meal but she was not about to become anybody's meal just yet!

Now the next day has come and I wonder how she has fared. She is among the first of the House Sparrows to arrive. Only because of her facial injuries am I able to spot her among the feeding flock. Soon she and her mate are guarding the nesting site. She looks mighty spry for one who has been through so much! A needed rest has put her in shape to cope with her problems again. Mourning Doves, Robins and almost anybody, except Jays, may sit on her roof but House Sparrows better think twice!

Thinking back on the episode and conjecturing with Roy--the amount of splashing I saw would indicate considerable water in the gutter. House Sparrows often settle their differences by one getting another on its back and pecking unmercifully. In the struggle, they often tumble over and over.

If another female had threatened this sparrow's nesting site and an altercation developed, they could have easily rolled into the gutter. Once in the gutter, there's no room to tumble. With a sufficient amount of water, the bird on the bottom could accidentally be drowned. That is what Roy and I think might have happened. Most wild animals do not kill except for food and but for her battle scars, I would be inclined to think she was removing an already dead bird from her premises.

The victor is probably the original owner because a dominant bird is likely to be in possession here. It is a favorite spot and coveted by many sparrows each nesting season. But, the winners are frequently the losers in this case because there are cats who know of this favorite spot. The bird who is leaving this nest has no way to know if a feline roof-artist is lurking without to seal his fate--unless, of course, I too, am lurking!

DR. NORMAN C. FOX:

Sequoia director, Dr. Norman C. Fox, passed away suddenly at his home on May 8. Just the evening before he had returned from the annual Mystery Trip where he provided his usual good and interesting company and contributed much to the pleasure of the weekend.

Dr. Fox was a dedicated and active conservationist and in his calm, quiet, friendly manner did much to advance the purposes and goals of Audubon. He was an enthusiastic birder and was always glad to share his knowledge and experiences. No conservation-related job was beneath his dignity. On several occasions he helped with the SEQUOIA mailing.

Probably most of Norman's friends will remember him not as a birder nor as a conservationist but as a gentleman and good and respected friend.

Memorials may be sent to Sequoia Audubon Society in care of Charles Newman at 6736 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014.

PESCADERO MARSH RANGER REPORT:

Public input for the General Development Plan of Pescadero Marsh State Preserve is now being received by the Department of Parks and Recreation. If you were unable to attend the public meetings held during April, your ideas for development (or preservation) of Pescadero Marsh, or the entire San Mateo Coast State Beaches, can be mailed to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Mateo Coast Planning Team, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, CA 95811. Do you want trails, no trails, parking, displays, watershed management? Let us know!

For 5 years the North Pond trail has been closed to human traffic during the breeding season (March 15--August 31). When Ranger Ray Patton initiated this closure, he recommended that the breeding populations be re-studied for 12 months starting July 1, 1978. We have good data for the 1973-74 study, but we need help to compile comparison data for the 1978-79 study. If you would like to assist in this project, contact Ranger George Gray, c/o Department of Parks and Recreation, 95 Kelly, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. If no significant changes have occurred during the 5 years, the seasonal closure may be terminated in 1979.

Ranger John Hart has transferred to Folsom Lake and I have assumed the responsibility for Pescadero Marsh State Preserve. I am looking forward to working with you in the future. Best Wishes to all for an enjoyable summer.

--George Gray, State Park Ranger I

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is a 1000-acre wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on weekends and holidays from March 1 thru July 4 each year. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. In 1969 the Ranch was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Registered Natural Landmark.

NEWS OF THE RANCH from Betty Boyd.

The Fourth of July weekend signals the close of the Ranch for this year. It will have been the most active season ever. Volunteer Canyon is on a yearly basis but at a different pace. John Kipping, our naturalist-biologist, has done an outstanding job. He is an inspiring teacher in the world of nature and his schedule has been full to overflowing. Even so, he has found time to forward the following brief summary:

"The educational endeavors at Volunteer Canyon have matured this spring. The new dormitory has been used nearly every day by children from the East Bay, Peninsula, San Francisco and Marin. During their 4 days at the Ranch, these Fourth to Sixth graders are taught about the various biotic communities of the Ranch as well as the natural history of the Rookery. Between studying shorebirds, newts and honeybees, the classes learn to grow vegetables in our large garden, how to feed chickens and simple but important conservation steps such as separating garbage into recycleable, compostable and non-usable garbage.

The children's visits at volunteer Canyon are in part subsidized by adults attending any of several natural history courses sponsored by ACR and other educational institutions, including UC Berkeley Extension, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, College of Marin and the Point Reyes Field Seminary's Programs.

When we are not sponsoring courses here, the facilities are utilized by educational groups with compatible goals and objectives. All in all, some 615 people stayed in the dormitory for one or more nights during their educational visits. One advantage to the semi-open dormitory is that night sounds of fox, bobcat, raccoon, tree frogs and owls become noticeable and a part of the ACR experience.

All of us at ACR look forward to completing the educational facilities this Fall when we remodel and expand the old Thompson House."

It should also be noted that John's culinary fame is spreading. His home-baked breads and quiches have quite a reputation.

The Ranch is grateful for recent contributions from the Napa-Solano Audubon Society and the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

MAY GENERAL MEETING:

A goodly number of Chapter members met the evening of May 11 at Shoong Auditorium, Fleischacker Zoo.. There Tony Bila, Senior Keeper, and several other animal handlers, talked to us about the training of wolves and their ways and wisdom. We saw two-year old Kiowa who along with Amarak and Niska are the three resident wolves. The slides which we also saw depicted the early training of these highly intelligent and social animals. After a period as pups in the private homes of their handlers, they were moved to the Animal Resource Center at the Zoo but now their home is Wolf Woods, a fenced-in natural area. Here it is hoped that they with others to be added will develop into a true wolf pack. Mr. Bila remarked when Kiowa was behaving strenuously, that this wolf is reverting to the wild state since off the leash and having the freedom of Wolf Woods.

We were given a short familiar history of the decimation of the wolf in our country from the time of the Pilgrims' landing to the present.

Those remaining are to be found, mostly in small numbers, in Louisiana, Michigan and Minnesota. Larger populations still remain in Alaska. Mr. Bila added succinctly: "Wolves deserve to be saved because they are there." (A part of our natural world.)

An outstanding Canadian Wildlife Service film "Death of a Legend" closed the program. The film's point is that the legends of the wolf as a fearsome, destroying killer are slowly being replaced as we gain more knowledge and understanding of the animal and his place in nature. This is being done through on-going study and research. Mr. Bila pointed out that there is no documented case in American history of a healthy wolf (i.e. in its natural state) attacking man.

Kiowa, Amorak, and Niska can be observed any Saturday or Sunday at Wolf Woods, Fleishhacker Zoo, from 12 noon until 1:00 PM with a special educational program at 12:30.

---C.G.

GOLDEN TROUT CAMP -- AUDUBON SIERRA NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOP:

Once again, this unusual workshop will be held at Golden Trout Camp, located at 10,000 ft. altitude in the Southern Sierra out of Lone Pine. There is no road to the camp and guests hike in 3 miles and carry their own sleeping bags and personal belongings, but meals and tents are provided. Study-hikes in the nearby meadow, forest and alpine regions are led by qualified naturalists.

Three week-long sessions will start July 23, July 30 and August 6. Cost is \$90. Signup deadline is July 1.

For brochure or more information, contact Mrs. Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. Phone (805) 966-4836.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS -- PELAGIC TRIP -- SEPTEMBER 30.

Saturday, 30 September 1978. Leave 8am return 3pm. Three boats.

THE HOLIDAY (44 passengers), HOLIDAY II (38 passengers)

MISS MONTEREY (46 passengers)

\$15.00 per person for WFO members and their families

\$22.50 per person for non-members (includes membership in WFO and subscription to Western Birds)

Reservations made by sending a check or money order payable to Western Field Ornithologists, c/o Donna Dittmann, 400 Holyoke Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. The full name and address of all persons for whom you are making a reservation and a SELF ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE must accompany your request. Reservations must be postmarked 1 June or later.

Trip Leaders: Dave DeSante, John Luther, Joe Morlan.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MONO BASIN:

University of California at Davis Extension Course X423.1, Section 781A12. August 26-30, 1978. Credit: 2 units. Fee \$50. Instructor: David Gaines.

The course will provide a field-oriented introduction to the plants and animals of the Mono Basin. We will spend five days ranging from the shores of Mono Lake to the headwaters of its snow-fed tributaries high above timberline. Identification and observation skills will be stressed--telling sparrows from warblers from vireos, distinguishing plants by leaf, flower and growth form, interpreting animal behavior and so forth.

For additional information phone Dottie Gates at (916) 752-3098.

MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular monthly meeting on May 4.

As authorized by the board at the April meeting, a check for \$500 was transmitted to Frank Viollos, a masters degree candidate at San Francisco State University. Our grant will provide assistance in connection with his thesis on Pescadero Marsh.

President Prime reported receipt of a contribution from Mt. Diablo Audubon Society for our Pescadero Marsh Fund. A letter expressing our thanks has been written.

Al Bergeron reported that the nominating committee will be prepared to make their report at the June meeting. He also reported that Sequoia members were helpful in suggesting prospective candidates and in offering to serve in the various officer and director positions.

SEA VEGETABLE WORKSHOP: Gathering and Preparing

We will learn to identify and gather several commonly eaten "seaweeds" on a rocky Marin beach and then travel to the Audubon Canyon Ranch to prepare and savor a delicious six to eight course sea vegetable meal.

Saturday, June 24, \$10. For reservations call Alice Green at 681-9062 by June 1.

MT DIABLO FIELD TRIP, APRIL 29, 1978 REPORT:

A large group of birders of Sequoia Audubon met at the entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park and immediately started to scout the area for the birds we have come to expect in this beautiful pristine area.

The help of Jean Richmond of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society was invaluable in guiding Barbara and myself to the best birding spots on the mountain. We are forever grateful to this dedicated birder, whose charity has no bounds. Jean, we love and respect you--hers is a total dedication!

However, the birding was marred by the insistence of the Park Rangers that no parking be allowed on the road below the check station and thus we were denied some very fine birding. We have observed the Lazuli Bunting, Black Chinned Sparrow and several other hard to find birds in this area in the past, BUT bureaucracy reigns, as usual, and we were denied this area. However, Roy and Fran Nelson took the back door to the area that we were deprived ^{of} and reported seeing several fine birds. It was most inconvenient. We may not use this area next year.

All in all, our group of approximately 42 observed 52 species of birds including an Osprey, 5 different warblers, a Horned Lark, a Cooper's Hawk, a White Throated Swift and many other species that are often seen in the area.

---Hal and Barbara Lucas, Leaders.

SUMMER VACATION:

The next issue of the SEQUOIA will be that for September (Volume 28, No. 1). Deadline is August 18. We want to express our appreciation to Barbara Benkman, Carmen Gales, Adelaide Fichtner, Eila Fox, Jean Jones, Barbara Lucas, Liz McTighe, Fran Nelson and Pat Prime for helping us to mail THE SEQUOIA this past year and wish them a well-earned happy vacation.

HAPPY VACATION!

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- June 1 - Board Meeting
8 - Potluck Dinner and Monthly Meeting at Garden Center
24, 25 - Field trip to Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley.
August 18 - Deadline for September SEQUOIA
September 7 - Board Meeting
14 - Monthly Meeting

THE SEQUOIA June, 1978
Sequoia Audubon Society
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010

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Permit No. 152
Burlingame, CA 94010

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