



# The Sequoia



BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 28, No. 10

June, 1979

## MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, JUNE 5 TUESDAY, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings and Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

POTLUCK DINNER, JUNE 14, THURSDAY, 6:30 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 a festive year-end dinner of fine food, wine and fellowship followed by our regular meeting at 8:00 PM. Guests are welcome. Please phone Barbara Benkman (593-0224) and tell her what dish you plan to bring. This phone call is important to insure a balanced menu and adequate table arrangements. Bring your own place settings.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, JUNE 14, THURSDAY, 8:00 PM at the Garden Center following the Potluck Dinner.

Our guest speaker will be Brian Walton from the Peregrine Falcon Research Station, University of California at Santa Cruz. The Peregrine Falcon is in extreme danger of becoming extinct due to the pressures of civilization and the ramifications of poisoning, pesticides, shooting and falconry. Brian will demonstrate what he and his dedicated staff are doing to prevent the slide to oblivion of this beautiful falcon. Spectacular on the wing, in former times they were a favorite choice for the sport of falconry. They plunge from tremendous heights at speeds estimated at 180 m.p.h. to capture flying birds.

Come early, bring your friends, enjoy the spring Potluck Dinner and then have your spirits lifted by the dedicated work on the Peregrine's behalf by Brian Walton and his colleagues.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will present another chapter in their "See and Hear" Bird-of-the-Month series.

## FIELD TRIPS:

JUNE 23, SATURDAY - MONO LAKE

Meet at 8:00 AM at Mono Lake Park. Mono Lake Park is reached by turning off Highway 395 to the east about five miles north of Lee Vining or 2½ miles south of the intersection of Highways 395 and 167. Forest Service campgrounds are located in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons. Motels are available in Lee Vining - reservations recommended. Bring (a) clothing

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for unpredictable weather (hot, cold, wet, dry). It is usually pleasantly warm with occasional afternoon thunder showers. (b) Hats, sunglasses for glare protection. There are no trees near the lake. (c) Swim suit, towel, fresh water to rinse off with. (d) Something to drink. (e) Comfortable walking shoes.

The trip will be lead by a representative of the Mono Lake Committee. Sequoia coordinators are Barbara and Hal Lucas 344-3796.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

April 21 - Sunol Regional Wilderness

Spring migration was well underway at Sunol. It was no more evident than along the creek behind the park headquarters where nearly 30 species of birds were seen while scanning a few trees. In or under one oak the following warblers were seen: Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow (Audubon), Townsend, MacGillivray and Wilson.

We spent the morning walking leisurely up Alameda Creek listening and watching old friends. We were welcomed by basking Turkey vultures, nesting Yellow-billed magpies, and nest-building Black phoebes and House wrens. A special treat was a bathing Nashville warbler.

Golden eagles, fairly common in the park, were seen soaring but what was not so usual was a White-tailed kite soaring almost out of eyesight.

We were thankful that Jean Allen and Frank Collins carried their spotting scopes. They enabled everyone to have superb views of a distant yet patient Black-headed grosbeak and a Western kingbird, in addition to many other birds. Before turning back for lunch some of us were rewarded with seeing a MacGillivray warbler and Lazuli bunting just beyond arm's reach and a Rufous-crowned sparrow through a scope.

Later in the day several of us remained and saw Vaux swifts and Black-throated Gray warblers. By the time we left we saw over seventy species of birds in a serene setting of a sycamore-bounded creek and grassy hills shrouded mostly with oaks.

-- Craig Benkman

April 28 and 29 - Mystery Trip

Thirty-two adventure seeking persons departed from the Whistle Stop Cafe in Belmont on a beautiful Scenic Hiway Tours bus. Entertainment chairperson Pat Prime started out the trip on a high level by requesting the passengers to name the possible destinations. As the bus headed out north on I-80 and onto Highway 4 toward Martinez, Pat had the passengers take the East European College entrance exam. I believe most of the exam-takers will have to be satisfied with a night-shift job in a Polish sausage factory and delay their higher education plans.

On out thru Antioch and Pittsburg and over the new bridge, the group started to squirm in their seats, so we stopped at Brannan Island State Park for a brief stop. The resident Burrowing owl performed from atop the 25MPH sign as promised. A Forster's tern also showed up on schedule. Proceeding N.E. on Highway 160, we stopped at the Parker's in Courtland to see the hummingbirds. Several people added the Black-chinned hummer to their life lists. A Northern oriole also enlivened their backyard. Reluctantly, we left the warm hospitality of the home with the big view windows and proceeded to William Land Park in Sacramento for a lunch stop. Baby mallards performed for lunch scraps in one of the wading ponds. We headed east on Highway 50 to Shingle Springs and then north down the canyon to Coloma and the South Fork of the American River. Here the group was entertained by the state park ranger staff describing the construction of the sawmill that lead to the discovery of gold by John Marshall in '48.

Heading north on 49, we entered Auburn and on out I-80 to the Foothill Motel where we were guests for the night. After a short rest we backtracked to the Auburn Hotel and were treated to a bountiful feast of many courses including prime rib. Breakfast on Sunday attracted few takers!

Going west from Lincoln proved to be a real mystery. Road signs were non-existent so we ended up going to Bobelaine Sanctuary via Marysville-Yuba City instead of thru Nicolaus as scheduled. Ben and Willie Eizinger were our guides and lead us on a short tour. Reluctantly, we left that beautiful scene and headed toward Sacramento to OLD Sacramento to spend the balance of Sunday before heading back to Belmont.

The following were additional birds seen by the group: Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds, American coot, Common crow, Rock and Mourning doves, mallard, Pintail and Wood Ducks, Great and Snowy Egrets, Green heron, American kestrel, House finch, Common flicker, Acorn, Downy and Nuttall's woodpeckers, Western flycatcher, Western kingbird, Pied-billed grebe, Black-headed grosbeak, Red-tailed hawk, Black-cr. night and Great Blue herons, Anna's hummer, Scrub and Steller's jays, Belted kingfisher, Ruby-crowned kinglet, bushtit, Yellow-billed magpie, Western meadowlark, mockingbird, Great Horned owl, Ring-necked pheasant, robin, Song, House and Golden-crowned sparrows, starling, Tree and Rough-winged swallows Black swift, Solitary vireo, Plain titmouse, Rufous-sided and Brown towhees, Turkey vulture, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warbler, phainopepla, Cedar waxwing, Bewick's wren and Black phoebe. Others may have been seen by individuals.

Co-leaders: John Silliman and John Prime

Sunday, May 6 - Bouverie Ranch

Eighteen participants enjoyed perfect hiking weather between rain storms at this beautiful Valley of the Moon ranch. The two-mile hike took us through seven distinct plant communities and wildflower enthusiasts were well rewarded. With respect to the birds, Frank Allen identified Hutton's, Warbling and Solitary vireos, all singing at the same time. After lunch at the overlook to the waterfall, several made the difficult descent to explore the cave behind the waterfall. Rain began in earnest after we returned to our cars.

---Charles Newman, Leader.

#### CONSERVATION NEWS:

The anti-environmental trend continues in Congress. The latest casualty is the serious weakening of the federal pesticide control program by the House Agriculture Committee after a subcommittee had recommended a simple one-year extension of the present program in the bill, HR 3546. The full committee amended the bill to lift the two-year EPA ban on Mirex, to give either house of Congress power to overrule any EPA pesticide decision, and to remove all pesticide control from EPA by 1985. House floor vote was expected by the end of May but there may still be time to phone or send a mailgram or public opinion telegram to our Representatives, McCloskey or Royer, urging opposition to any weakening amendments of the original bill, HR 3546.

The Non-Game Fish and Wildlife Conservation bill, HR 3292, which failed in the last Congressional session, now has Administration approval and has passed the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. General revenue funding has been dropped and a separate bill is expected to provide funding by an excise tax on bird seed, bird feeders and bird houses. This funding method has been approved by National Audubon from the start and

would be comparable to the taxes hunters and fishers pay for game management.

The amended Endangered Species Act passed last year which has been working very well, comes up for reauthorization again this year. Hearings will start in mid-June before the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine Committee. Letters to Rep. Paul McCloskey, Jr., a member of that committee (House Office Building, Washington DC 20515) should urge him to support reauthorization of the Act without any weakening amendments.

Another matter completely under federal control but of great local concern is the proposed off-shore oil exploration of which the major part in this state north of Morro Bay will be off San Mateo County. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus is said to have announced recently in the Los Angeles Times that because of much opposition to it he was considering deleting OCS Lease Sale 53 (which runs from Santa Barbara to the Oregon border and includes San Mateo County). Letters are needed to Mr. Andrus (Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20515) commending him for this and urging him to carry it out.

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Little time will be left by the time this is read to comment on bills in the State Legislature. By May 25 all bills must have been passed by the policy committees in the house of origin of the bill and have gone either for floor vote or to a fiscal committee. Otherwise, the bills are dead for this year. Those involving funding have another month till June 22 to get through the fiscal committees and to floor vote. But only one further week, till June 29, is allowed for final passage of any bill by its house of origin.

It is hard to predict at the time of writing what bills then in committee will have survived for a floor vote but a phone call to the offices of Assemblymen McCarthy, Naylor or Papan or Senators Garcia or Foran can elicit the current status of a bill if its number is known. The Legislature's summer recess will extend from July 21 to August 20.

July and August will also be a recess for the SEQUOIA and this column. One item of good news has therefore been left to the last so as to end for the summer on a cheery note. The proposed 380 Freeway from San Bruno to Pacifica, long opposed by SAS even to the point of joining a court suit against it, has finally been killed by the California Transportation Commission which also has proposed funding for improvement of Sharp Park Road.

Happy vacation to all.

---Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

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 3 through July 4. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Madrone, 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 FROM THE RANCH - From Betty Boyd

Each year Marin, Golden Gate Sequoia and now Madron Audubon Societies which form the Ranch's governing board contribute to the Ranch's support.

Sequoia, the third largest of the Societies, has made a very generous contribution in the amount of \$2500. The Board of Directors is most appreciative of this gift and particularly so in view of rising costs and the inflationary spiral. Many thanks to the Directors and members of

Sequoia Audubon Society.

One of the nicest contributions Audubon Canyon Ranch received last month was a gift from the Charles Smith family of Martinez in honor of the birth of China Rose Harper. A long and happy life to the little girl.

HELP THE BIRDS KEEP COOL! U R G E N T !

If you have been to Audubon Canyon Ranch you have seen the Cliff swallows nesting on the roof rafters on the porch. Everything is going well for them this year, but before the next hot spell, the Ranch manager, Skip Schwartz, is hoping someone will donate a large electric fan. Last year during a hot spell, all the nestlings got overheated and dropped out of the nests, dead. Skip believes a large fan will keep the air moving and prevent another such catastrophe. If you can donate an old fan in usable condition, please call Frank Allen, 344-9339, immediately!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon Society held their regular monthly meeting on May 1.

Audubon Canyon Ranch, Friends of Filoli, Greenpeace and Peninsula Humane Society expressed their thanks for Sequoia support and letters from each were read by President Aldrich.

On a recent field trip, Jean Allen learned of a program at Alum Rock Park whereby individuals and organizations may "sponsor" an animal or bird at the park museum. The program was initiated because of Proposition 13 cutbacks and consists of underwriting the estimated support cost of a "creature" for one year. The board agreed to "sponsor" a sanderling at a cost of \$75.

The present gas shortage and its effect on future field trips was discussed but no definite action was taken.

Frank and Jean Allen distributed copies of the Sequoia Bylaws to all directors present.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER 13, 1979:

At the request of several members, this program will be provided by the members of Sequoia who will bring several slides (up to 20) of their choice. If this type of program is to succeed, many persons will have to participate. Don't just sit back and let a few of the faithful provide for everyone. That is not the motive for members' night. Don't be afraid of being criticized for quality or exposure or composition. We want active participation so everyone can enjoy YOUR trip or experience. A projector will be provided. Have all slides aligned in the right direction so you won't be embarrassed by an image projected upside down. Have your slides fresh in mind so you can describe the experience without that painful silence. Let's start out the fall season with a members' night to be proud of and with much enthusiasm.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS:

Two amendments to the bylaws of Sequoia Audubon Society will be proposed at the June 14 membership meeting:

1. Article V Board of Directors

Paragraph 2 is amended to read: The Board shall include the elected or designated officers and six (6) other members in good standing; and shall also include the immediate Past-President.

2. Article VI Officers

Paragraph 6 is amended to read: Checks or drafts of the Society shall be signed as prescribed by a resolution of

the board of directors.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER:

376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon CA 94920 Phone: (415) 388-2524

The National Audubon Society's Western Education Center will go to its summer schedule on May 31, 1979. The Education Center, Book Store and Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary will be open to the public, as usual, on Wednesdays through Sundays, 9:00am to 5:00pm. The Sunday morning nature walks, the Sunday afternoon lecture programs and the tours of the Lyford House, will be discontinued through the months of June, July and August. Regularly scheduled programs and classes will resume again in September.

AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMP IN THE WEST:

The National Audubon Society operates adult ecology workshops at four sites--in the northwoods of Wisconsin, on an island off the coast of Maine, at a sanctuary/nature center in Connecticut and in the Wind River Mountains of northwestern Wyoming. The latter is managed by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the NAS in a glaciated valley on the Whiskey Mountain Big Horn Sheep Refuge.

The purpose of the Western Camp is to enhance one's knowledge and understanding of the natural world, thereby developing both an appreciation and an affection for nature and all its processes, including a sense of individual responsibility for the care and wise use of our natural resources.

This objective is carried out by a team of resourceful naturalists who, due to their training and teaching experience, impart both their enthusiasm and their knowledge of ecological relationships.

The camp provides first-hand experience with nature through an integrated sequency of daily field trips. Instructors in Botany, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Ornithology, Ecology and Physical Factors teach interrelationships of the natural world, as well as man-made influences upon the natural environment. Supplemental trips are taken out of the valley to experience and view other, related ecosystems, such as the nearby Grand Teton National Park area.

During a camp session, optional workshops and field seminars on alternative energy, environmental education teaching techniques, nature photography, or more intensive study in specific study areas, are offered to satisfy the individual needs of the participants.

The summer of 1978 saw 226 campers from 35 states, Canada, West Germany and the Philippines attend the Camp of the West. A diversity of age, educational and occupational backgrounds adds to the camp experience for all.

For more information contact Amy McElhany (343-3219) or write to the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West, P.O. Box 3557, Boulder, Colorado 80307, (303) 499-0219. For information about Audubon's other Ecology Camps write to Audubon Ecology Camps, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York City, NY 10022.

POINT REYES FIELD SEMINARS:

The Point Reyes Field seminars summer program begins June 2 and with a two day Predatory Birds session. Diane Williams will take a group to sites on the Point Reyes Peninsula where we will see quite a variety of raptors, probably some of them feeding and caring for their young. The seminar will be repeated September 15-16, a time when great numbers of hawks are migrating south. The \$30 fee includes dormitory overnight accommodations as in the evening we want to do an owl walk.

Bob Stewart of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory is doing a seminar June 9-10 on Breeding Birds and Their Habitats, emphasizing the interrelationship between the summer residents of the Point Reyes National Seashore and their environmental niches. We will take field trips to a variety of habitats, identifying and studying the behavior and nest location of some of the great many species found on this peninsula. Part of one morning will be spent at the PRBO studying birds "in-the-hand" and discussing how their anatomy and plumage are related to behavior in the field. We will be staying the night at the Audubon Canyon Ranch. Fee \$31.

Both seminars offer the opportunity to earn one unit of upper division credit from Dominican College of San Rafael. For a brochure or further information on the summer program which includes two and four day seminars in many natural history subjects, write Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 or call 415-663-1200.

PRBO SECOND ANNUAL BIRD-A-THON Saturday, September 29

Thank you for helping Point Reyes Bird Observatory raise \$12,000 during last year's first United States Birdathon. Won't you help us again? Here's how it works: Get sponsors to pledge 10 cents or more for each species you see on the thon day (Sept 29) in any state or country in the world. Example: Bob Stewart (birder) sees 120 species times 10 cents equals \$12 tax deductible contribution to PRBO. You can sponsor anyone including yourself or some of last year's leaders including Laurie Binford (156 species last year), Dave DeSante (134), Bill Clow (141), Gary Page (126), Rich Stallcup (138) Bob Stewart (121).

Anyone who pledges before June 15 (no money necessary) will be eligible to win a 20X Bushnell Spacemaster Telescope and tripod to be raffled off the night of the thon.

For full details write Birdathon, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

HARBINGER FILE:

A project sponsored by the non-profit Peninsula Conservation Center, THE HARBINGER FILE is a comprehensive annual directory of Bay Area environmental groups and their activities. It lists more than 350 groups in the 9 Bay Area counties, including businesses, citizen groups, environmental education programs and governmental agencies. Entries include addresses, phone numbers, general information, services, current activities and publications. The directory is indexed by type of organization and by key words. It is available for \$4 from the Peninsula Conservation Center, 1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS - By B. N. (Neil) Dickinson  
PART II - Christmas Counts

An Annotated Tabulated Summary 1955-1971

The April, 1979 issue of THE SEQUOIA contained the story of the establishment of the Crystal Springs Christmas Count Circle by Jim Rigby plus a brief discussion of the first count in 1948.

In this section the findings from the first seventeen years of counting under Sequoia Audubon are surveyed.

Table I essentially relates the whole story but I'm going to offer some comments never-the-less. In case a reader wonders why the estimated total number of birds counted in 1959 was 13,707, for example; well, that's one of the rules of the game. One field group can estimate (guess) a flight of robins as 1,000, plus or minus, while a second carefully counts 101 robins feeding on lawns. Both are entered on the tally sheet and then added to become an estimated 1101 robins counted.

Accumulative number of species observed for the period 1955 through 1971 plus 1948 is 223!!

The more or less parallel data for the contending circles of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Palo Alto group are included in Table I to provide an overall view of much of the Peninsula down to about its base near San Jose. The Alum Rock Park area of the first group has by far the longest counting history in the South Bay. Further, I was closely associated with the Santa Clara Valley Society for a few years even serving a stint as its president (June 1948 to June, 1950). The Palo Alto group, our nextdoor neighbor, has counted its circle since 1959. Although manned by an expert crew, the circle simply lacks the potential to match our count.

I remain nonplussed as to why the Santa Clara Valley Society exploited only a modicum of the Alum Rock Park potential for so many years. Certainly talent was not lacking. In the 1938 count published in Bird Lore, for example, two of the leaders of the thirteen observers were Emily Smith and Dr. Gayle Pickwell, both on the nature faculty of San Jose State. I knew Emily personally. Dr. Pickwell was a recognized authority on natural history including birds.

With few exceptions where I have supplemented with data from my own files, figures listed in Table I are taken from Bird Lore, Audubon Field Notes and American Birds.

San Jose didn't publish its counts for 1947 and 1955 while its results for 1957, if presented, would have appeared on pages missing from the bound numbers of Audubon Field Notes for 1958 in the Stanford biology library. San Jose presented the 1948 Crystal Springs count as its official one. (The correct tally was 113 species, not the 112 mentioned in the April, 1979 issue of THE SEQUOIA.) Outcome of the Alum Rock Park count was not recorded anywhere that I can discover.

Number of species claimed and published differed only in 1969, 1970 and 1971. Oleta (Dickinson) and I have counted and recounted the list published in Audubon Field Notes for 1969 and come up with the 170 species we claimed and not the 169 figure published. In the same way, we confirm our claimed figure of 150 species and not the 151 value published in American Birds for 1971. Both published lists of species check with the file copies of species claimed. So win one and lose one.

In 1970, Barrow's goldeneye was deleted in the published list leaving 158 species. However, I am listing the claimed number of 159 species in Table I for reasons which will be given in the continuation of this article.

I leave it to the reader to draw his own conclusions from the data of Table I. For my part, I can make no one-to-one matchings between numbers of participants, number of species observed or total number of birds.

About all I can perceive in these histories of counting circles is a gestation time while expertise grows and accumulates and familiarity with the terrain of the circle and its potential develops. After that it's a chancy matter--vagaries of the weather, chance visits by experts who can spot and call the rare and close ones, capricious notions the birds themselves may get as to where they should travel and reside,----.

We started out nicely in 1955 with 125 species, plummeted to 109 in the ensuing year when Santa Clara Valley experts Emily Smith and Les Sleeper didn't count with us and thereafter climbed for a couple of years to reach the stage for a quantum jump to 163 species in the very unusual year, 1959. In the succeeding years we dropped out of the prestigious circle of 150 or more species only twice, 1961 and 1962.

I close this section by reiterating that Jim Rigby certainly did pick a dandy when he picked the Crystal Springs Christmas Count circle.  
(to be continued)

TABLE I

Year	CRYSTAL SPRINGS RESERVOIR			SAN JOSE (ALUM ROCK PARK)			PALO ALTO		
	Species	Partpnts	Birds	Species	partpnts	Birds	Species	Partpnts	Birds
1938				72	13	3,248			
1946				75	21	4,480	71	1	2,562
1947				76	21	4,291	92	1	4,659
1948	113	23	10,774						
1949				101	24	28,659			
1950				104	23	17,136			
1951				115	26	35,310			
1952				110	21	15,848			
1953				115	31	19,359			
1954				114	29	39,489			
1955	125	22	10,799						
1956	109	16	36,919	107	25	24,364			
1957	120	18	38,920						
1958	133	22	15,279	122	38	57,845			
1959	163	17	13,707	125	45	44,689	103	13	9,536
1960	158	20	22,837	130	47	50,458	122	17	29,373
1961	139	15	12,894	138	56	50,409	115	12	26,493
1962	136	14	18,969	128	42	56,675	101	16	11,552
1963	159	20	36,065	138	62	62,262	122	17	38,842
1964	155	24	43,107	138	56	58,358	109	22	27,979
1965	157	24	39,806	150	59	64,567	124	33	44,037
1966	162	42	57,199	130	41	61,321	130	34	64,258
1967	152	43	47,594	144	71	78,458	129	31	56,566
1968	164	32	87,740	134	45	83,823	133	35	80,101
1969	170	41	34,820	149	43	43,641	137	32	93,194
1970	159	52	43,110	135	41	49,254	140	35	64,820
1971	150	40	37,747	129	45	38,703	142	41	65,484

The center of the Crystal Springs Reservoir Count on Crystal Springs Reservoir Causeway. NOTE: Count of 1948 by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

The center of the San Jose (Alum Rock Park) at Capital Avenue and Maybury Road.

The center of the Palo Alto Circle at Junipero Serra Blvd. and Page Mill Road. NOTE: Counts of 1946 and 1947 conducted by Jim Rigby alone, essentially along a traverse from the eastward approach to Dumbarton Bridge westward into the Stanford campus.

#### REPORT FROM FLORIDA -- By John Silliman

After many months of planning, 14 birders met in Miami on Saturday, May 5 to begin an adventure that will be long remembered. These intrepid travelers, mostly from the Bay Area, came to improve their skills in identification and to add many species to their lists. The trip was led by Kenn Kaufman of Tucson, Arizona who came one week early to stake out many exotic species. We were constantly amazed by his skill in identifying unusual species.

Four Sequoia members, Fran and Roy Nelson, Gil West and I all arrived early to get the feeling of Florida. I had the opportunity to drive

to Orlando to visit friends and while there, I saw the following birds: Least bittern, Ground dove, Cattle egret, Anhinga, Great Blue heron, Great egret, Green heron, White ibis, Turkey vulture, Black vulture, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawk, osprey, American kestrel, Bobwhite, Common (Florida) gallinule, American coot, killdeer, Least tern, Common nighthawk, Rufous-sided towhee, cardinal, both grackles, Eastern meadowlark, Chimney swift, Common flicker, Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy woodpecker, Purple martin, Blue jay, Crow, mockingbird (Florida's state bird) Brown thrasher and Loggerhead shrike.

To begin the official trip on Sunday morning, we arose early and drove west on the old Tamiami Trail where we saw the following new birds: Coule-crested cormorant, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night herons, Wood stork, mallard and Mottled ducks, Everglade kite, limpkin, Purple gallinule, Caspian tern. We drove into Miami and to Greynold Park where we saw the anhinga and ibis rookery. We also saw the following: Fish crow, Black-throated Blue warbler, Northern waterthrush, Common yellowthroat and the American redstart. In the afternoon, we drove up the coast to Loxahatchee Preserve to see the Gray kingbird and the Smooth-billed ani.

We stayed in West Palm Beach and on Monday drove inland past Lake Okeechobee and north to Highland Hammocks Park to see the following: Tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, parula, Pine and Palm warblers. On the way back we saw the Swallow-tailed kite, caracara, Scrub (Florida) jay and Pileated woodpecker. The next morning we visited a small community named Lantana where we saw the following: Brown pelican, Magnificent frigatebird, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Great Crested flycatcher, Olive-sided flycatcher, catbird, Cape May and Prairie warbler, Blackpoll warbler, ovenbird and later on in a residential area, the Red-whiskered bulbul.

Wednesday morning found us up at 5:30 for a boat trip out into the Gulfstream. While waiting for the party to assemble, we were entertained by a Great Blue (white) heron who was waiting for a frozen fish to thaw sufficiently so that it could be swallowed. Getting underway, we soon spotted an Audubon's shearwater, Forster's, Arctic, Roseate and Sooty terns. In the afternoon we drove out into the Everglades to see the following: Little Blue heron, Bald eagle, Willet, dunlin and Eastern kingbird. We also saw an osprey trying to balance on a horizontal pipe which was the brace for a flagpole. He had a large fish in one talon, but the wind was blowing so strong that he was having a difficult time deciding what to do. Eventually he began to eat it. We also saw a large soft-shelled turtle, several alligators and a few mosquitos.

Thursday morning we headed south toward the Keys and, stopping along the shore, were entertained first by a Reddish egret and later by the courtship display of the Least tern including the proffered tiny fish and much head waving by the male. The group had satisfying looks at both male and female Wilson's plovers. Other birds included: Black-bellied plover, Short-billed dowitcher, sanderling, White-eyed vireo, and Ruddy turnstone. Driving south to Key West, we saw a Marsh hawk. Later on in the afternoon we spent three hours futilely looking for the Mangrove cuckoo.

Friday morning we departed in two boats for the islands to the west known as the Dry Tortugas. Three hours later we passed a lighthouse built on steel beams marking the area known as Rebecca Shoals and there, on the top railing, sat a Brown boobie. While examining Fort Jefferson on the main island, we saw Sharp-shinned hawks, Spotted sandpiper, Barn swallow, White-winged dove, Lesser Black-backed gull. On another boat trip that evening, we headed east to Middle Key where we waited for the predicted Blue-faced (Masked) booby to arrive. On CUE, 15 minutes later, he arrived with a flourish, banking in the evening light to show us his blue face.

We returned to the channel between the two islands where we anchored in the hope of seeing the Red-footed booby. Kenn predicted that he would come from the west and sure enough, ten minutes later he appeared from the west, banked in front of the boat and headed toward the dead Mangrove trees where he applied his red-footed brakes and alighted on his nightly perch. We all watched in amazement both at the bird and Kenn's amazing prediction.

Back on the island, we saw several warblers and then we were treated to a tantalizing view of a merlin in the inner courtyard. Outside, a Gray-cheeked thrush entertained several watchers. Many Cattle egrets milled aimlessly about inside. The lack of sufficient food for this recent immigrant is seriously decimating this species on the island. A Sharp-shinned hawk was observed killing a Yellow-billed cuckoo and leisurely consuming it.

Sunday morning Kenn offered us one last chance to see the Mangrove cuckoo and after about two hours of peering into the mangrove swamps, we had a full view of two beautiful birds that were curious about all of the mosquito swatters shuffling down the road.

#### ECOLOGY EXPLORATIONS IN THE SIERRA:

A four-day birding trip (June 11-14, 1979) across the Sierra is being offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations, led by Maryann Danielson of Sequoia Audubon and Jean-Marie Spoelman of Ohlone Audubon. The four-day trip will take participants across the Sierra via the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Pass roads, east to LeeVining.

One day will be spent in LeeVining Canyon seeing nesting birds and another day at Mono Lake studying the birds and learning first hand about the problems of preserving the Lake. We hope to see such birds as the Calliope hummingbird, Great Gray owl, Pine grosbeak, Gray-crowned Rosy finches, Sage thrasher, Brewer's sparrow and the Green-tailed towhee. The \$80 fee will include bus transportation, three nights lodging and a pre-trip orientation but not food. Call Maryann Danielson for details at 342-6919. Enrollment is limited.

#### SPECIAL NOTE:

This June issue of THE SEQUOIA marks the end of its 28th year and the end of another Sequoia Audubon year. All of Sequoia's 1400 members are grateful for the time and energy devoted by the officers, directors and committee people during the past year. Their good work has advanced the goals and purposes of Audubon. Specifically our gratitude is due Steve Aldrich as president, John Silliman as vice president and program chairman, Dean Hobbs as treasurer and Georgia Perkins as secretary. Directors were Jean Allen, Andrea Bottini, Hal Lucas, Ed McElhany, John Prime, Wilma Rockman and Ruth Smith. In addition to several directors who also served in committee positions, our thank you should extend to the following committee people: Frank Allen, Maryann Danielson, Byron Davies, Bob Friday, Carmen Gales, Mary Keohane, Barbara Lucas, Barbara Benkman, Peter Metropulos, "Monty" Montgomery, Fran and Roy Nelson and Charles Newman.

THE SEQUOIA editors express their thanks to the faithful and effective "mailing crew" whose work over the past 10 months has saved Sequoia almost \$1000. Jean and Frank Allen, Barbara Benkman, Adelaide Fichtner, Carmen Gales, Marian Lockwood, Barbara Lucas, Fran Nelson. Your reward will be a new contract for next year--with a 7% increase in accordance with the President's guidelines.

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- June 5 - Board Meeting  
14 - Potluck Dinner and Monthly Meeting at Garden Center.  
23, 24 - Field Trip - Mono Lake  
September 4 - Board Meeting  
13 - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center. Bring slides!

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SEQUOIA IS AUGUST 15

A HAPPY VACATION TO ALL!

THE SEQUOIA June, 1979  
Sequoia Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1131  
Burlingame, CA 94010

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