

M&O
Serials
QL 671
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THE
MONTHLY



Volume 46

Berkeley, Calif.

February 1964

Number 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

The 547th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on **Thursday, February 13**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland.

We have decided on an experimental program featuring slides from some of our own members. This program may be repeated in the future so that others among our membership will have the same opportunity to show their pictures. Mr. Paul Covel, Mr. Hans Meinhardt, Mr. Harold Peterson, Mrs. David Snyder and Miss Patricia Tiggard will show us a few of their slides.

A no-host dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue near Perkins. Come and bring a friend. **ROBERT C. DaCOSTA, JR.**, *Program Chairman*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

On **Saturday, February 1**, the Sierra Club and the Save San Francisco Bay Association are having a joint meeting at the S.F. Bay Model in Sausalito at 9 a.m. The U.S. Army Engineers who built the model will explain their studies and show the model in operation. This showing has been especially arranged for us. The place is easy to find. It is in a large building of the U.S. Army Engineers on the water front just off the main street (Bridgeway Blvd.) through Sausalito. From the freeway (Highway 101) turn off to Sausalito and follow the main road. Ample parking space is available at the site. The invitation is from Harold G. Sharp for the Sierra Club.

Sunday, February 9, to Richardson Bay and other Marin peninsula points. We shall visit the Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge established through the efforts of the Richardson Bay Foundation and the National Audubon Society. This area was patrolled by the Audubon Warden, Mr. John C. Larson, Jr., during the last waterfowl hunting season. He will be present to give us a talk on the history of the Victorian house restored by Mr. Donald Diekey, and the bird population occupying the sanctuary during the winter months. Meet at the parking area just north of the Richardson Bay Bridge on U.S. Highway 101 at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, and interested friends. Leader, Elizabeth S. Lennon, ED 2-1641.

Saturday, February 15, to Bay Farm Island to study water birds. This has been a good year for waterfowl in the waters around Alameda. Many

unusual species were observed during the January 1 census. (Complete census will appear in another issue.) Beginning birders are urged to come and learn some of the techniques of birding. Veteran birders are invited to bring scopes and binoculars to help instruct beginners. Meet at Lincoln Park entrance, High Street and Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. High tide will be at 12:23 p.m. (Golden Gate.) Leader, Mrs. Elsie Roemer, 522-0941.

Saturday, February 22, to Thornton and areas west of Lodi. The main feature of this trip is the spectacular views of sandhill cranes. In addition, ducks, geese, gallinule, and white-tailed kite may be seen on farmlands and adjacent ponds. A side trip to Courtland to view long-eared owls will be made if the owls cooperate. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the town of Thornton, which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Allow 2½ hours driving time from the Bay Area. The distance to Thornton is about 80 miles. Bring binoculars, telescopes, warm clothing, lunch, and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

On **Sunday, February 23**, the trip will be repeated. Leader, Phil Smith, LO 9-9451.

Wednesday, February 19, to Redwood Regional Park and vicinity in Oakland to look at the early flowering shrubs, especially Silk Tassel Bush, Hazel, Oso Berry, and Leatherwood. Meet at 9 a.m. at the park gate on Skyline Blvd. near Totterdell St. If without private transportation, be at the Altenheim, 1720 MacArthur Blvd., between 8 and 8:30 a.m., where transportation will be provided. From the San Francisco Terminal take the AC Transit bus "N" at 7:30 a.m.; in the East Bay bus Number 15, 34, or 57. Leader, Marshall Jeneks, 534-9353.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

FOR THE CHILDREN

Mr. A. Warren Larson will be taking a group of children on an East Bay field trip in Tilden Regional Park on **Saturday, February 15**. The group will meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Brazilian Room and go from there to the Park Botanical Gardens.

When we started these trips for you children we promised to show you many different objects that go to make up the natural environments of the Bay Area. We have already had trips in which we learned about birds, about land formation and about the Ocean Beach. Now we will be telling you about native plants, and perhaps a little about the birds of Tilden Park too.

It might be interesting for you to learn of some of the ways by which scientists classify plants. All plants belong to the **Plant Kingdom**. This kingdom is divided into two Subkingdoms, which in turn are made up of divisions. To the first subkingdom belong the seaweeds, the mushrooms and other fungi, the molds and the bacteria. All the other plants belong to the second subkingdom.

This subkingdom has three divisions. In the first of these are the

mosses and other low-growing plants. None of these bear flowers and therefore they do not have seeds. They reproduce by means of spores, tiny, dust-like particles. You can find the little spore cases of the mosses on tiny, bare stems rising above the green moss.

From the spores grow small, inconspicuous plants quite unlike the mosses which produce them. These plants are known as the "hidden generation." They do not look at all like moss. From them grow structures which produce the moss plant.

The second division of this subkingdom are the Pteridophytes. (ter-i-doh-fites.) Ferns, club mosses and Horsetails are pteridophytes. They too have a hidden generation and reproduce by means of spores. You can find the spores of ferns on the undersides of the fruiting fronds. (A frond is a leaf of a fern.) If you turn over one of these fronds you will find brown spots underneath. These are groups of spores which, before they are ripe, are covered with a thin skin. In some ferns the spores are hidden along the edges in what looks like a tiny hem or rolled edge. Look for the spore cases underneath the fronds of ferns and you will discover that each sort of fern has its own arrangement for the spore cases.

In Horsetails the spores are borne on special shoots. The leaves of these plants are tiny scale-like structures at the bases of the stems, which fit one into another and can be easily pulled apart.

The third division of this subkingdom is made up of seed-bearing plants. All those plants not mentioned before, the trees, shrubs and flower-bearing plants belong to this seed-bearing division. In what way does a seed differ from a spore? A spore is a very simple thing, but a seed has not only a tiny plant folded away within but also food for that plant until it is able to sprout and make its own food. A seed is also covered and protected against moisture and cold.

In many plants the seeds grow within a flower but in some plants they grow uncovered upon the scale of a cone. The group of plants in which this occurs are the cone-bearing ones, like the pines, the Douglas firs and the eypresses. These form a **class** within the seed-bearing division and are known as naked-seeded plants.

To the other class, the covered-seeded plants, belong all the other plants. All of them bear flowers, and within these flowers grow the seeds. From seeds grow new plants just like the parent plant which bore the flower from which they came. When we eat nuts, grain or berries we eat these seeds; in fact, the world is dependent for its food upon such seeds as wheat, rice and corn.

If you find flowering plants look for the seeds which they hold, for every plant produces either spores or seeds so that it can continue to grow upon this earth. — JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*.

CRITICAL YEAR FOR CANYON RANCH

So far as we can foresee now, 1964 may be the critical year for Audubon Canyon Ranch. While it was little more than two years ago that the members of Golden Gate Audubon Society voted to work as full partners

with the Marin Audubon Society to make Canyon Ranch a wildlife sanctuary and nature education center, we still have a long way to go.

It's true Golden Gate and Marin made the down payment of \$90,000 in 1962 as scheduled, and followed last October with the first of ten additional payments of \$25,000. We now have funds in the bank to take care of the 1964 payment and Marin has enough cash for 1965 and pledges roughly the equivalent of another year's payment. But six payments of about \$25,000 each, which is what we have to raise before the ranch is really ours, works out to be pretty close to \$150,000.

The folks who are professional fund raisers tell us that it's unreasonable to expect people to continue to be interested in working for a project the size of ours for more than three or four years. If this is true, no matter how successful we seem to have been, the road ahead is going to be a steep uphill pull.

Early in 1964 we are hoping that Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc., will qualify for tax-exempt status. The important thing here is that we can then go to some of the big foundations and ask for help to build and operate our nature education center. Before such support is given, however, we must first demonstrate that our land-purchase program has a good chance of success and — this is even more important — that our land-purchase program is being supported by a substantial percentage of our own members.

Do you wonder why I say that 1964 may be the critical year?

Now what can we do? The beginning of a new year is traditionally the time for expressing good intentions, making resolutions, setting up budgets. When you're looking ahead in 1964, won't you include Audubon Canyon Ranch in your financial planning?

If you have already contributed, can you make an additional contribution during 1964?

If you haven't yet contributed, now is the time — of all times — to add your name and your contribution — no matter how small — to the long list of supporters.

If you belong to another organization, have you suggested to the program chairman that our beautiful film on Canyon Ranch would form the backbone of a good constructive program on conservation? (Bonnie Smith, who is in charge of film distribution, has a lot of good ideas on this.)

Do all your friends know how much you want the dream of Canyon Ranch to become a reality? (If you need more contribution forms, pledge cards or brochures, Myra Browne, who is chairmanning our fund-raising activities this year, will be happy to supply you.)

Audubon Canyon Ranch is going to need an extra push this year from every one of us. May we count on your help?—ERLINE HEVEL, *President*

WILDLIFE FILM ON OUR CHANGING HERITAGE

"Our Changing Heritage" is the subject of the Audubon Wildlife Film to be shown in the Berkeley Little Theatre on **Wednesday, February 26** at 8 p.m. The photographer, Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan, will take us on a tour of our magnificent west as we follow a herd of domestic sheep

through their various grazing grounds during the four seasons. This film deals with the question of preserving our wilderness areas. Single admission tickets for this color film may be purchased for \$1.00 at the door of the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove St., after 7:30 p.m. on February 26.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

As a municipal park naturalist and an observant conservationist, I am becoming keenly concerned over the failure of so many young people — and adults, too — to identify themselves with good conservation habits and awareness right around home. I mean by this a keen awareness of the growing value of natural areas in metropolitan and suburban environments, the need of preserving some creeks and ponds and weed and brush patches near home and school for young naturalists and their leaders, of the philosophy that small animals must not all be collected but may be borrowed briefly for class study and returned to their habitat, of convincing our citizens, both young and old, that "every litter bit hurts." We are shocked by the number of children from our shifting population who visit our parks without realizing their share in common ownership and responsibility for protection. And we are further shocked when we visit public schools and community centers and realize how few of these children get to a public park or beach or forest area under competent leadership — or come under the guidance of a naturalist or other authority when they do visit such areas. Small wonder their common reaction is to chase living things or throw objects at them — unless someone thoughtfully provides them with food to feed them!

I call on you — the members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society — to assume a missionary zeal in recruiting more families, more children and their teachers and leaders, into the Audubon movement. If you cannot, for some reason, sell Audubon — urge adults to join the Sierra Club, the California Conservation Council, the Save San Francisco Bay Association, Citizens for Regional Parks and Recreation, the Nature Conservancy. And what about the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Campfire Girls, and similar youth groups? Are they not all teaching conservation and outdoor good manners? Yes, they are trying hard to further such goals, but most of their leaders, like the average school teacher, desperately need help and guidance. That is where you of Audubon fit into the picture! California Conservation Week in March would be a good time to renew your efforts.

But our job is not finished when we recruit those families or youth groups for Audubon or for some other conservation-minded organization. Group membership and supervised activities are not the entire solution. We must show by our attitudes and by vehement expressions when necessary that we place high value on every living thing — unless it is clearly detrimental to Man's safety or welfare. We must counteract the violence that is demonstrated daily to young and old by TV, radio, the movies, the press, and many books and periodicals. We must teach a reverence for life — perhaps not as unqualified as that of Dr. Schweitzer — but a reverence for bird and beast, noble trees and lowly lichen, lizard or insect,

for clean air, natural places and beauty, as well as for human life. This does not imply condemnation for hunter or fisherman — who may sometimes possess a greater appreciation and reverence for wildlife and natural areas than those limited to vicarious “armchair” nature contacts.

— PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

CATTLE EGRET NEAR WHITTIER, CALIF.

A cattle egret has been seen near Whittier. Paul Howard, Director of the El Monte Audubon Center, saw the bird and phoned Arthur Felt. Arthur, in turn, phoned a number of the members, and took a carload of us to see it.—*The Whittier Observer*, January, 1964.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Alameda, Miss Esther B. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hebard; from Berkeley, Miss Shirley M. Barker, Mr. Colin Fletcher, Mr. Louis Henrich, Mr. H. E. Adolph Olsen, Jocelyn Tyler; from Millbrae, Mrs. Ethel McGlashan; from Oakland, Mrs. Howard L. Bacon, Dr. Philip N. Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Brewer, Mrs. Lorna S. Creveling, Mrs. George H. Davis, Dr and Mrs. J. V. Gilkey, Miss Beatrice Laeoste, Mr. Ivy Stahl Pedroni, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Pride, Dr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Zeff; from San Francisco, Mr. Ernest Besig, Dr. Maleta J. Boatman, Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Coffee, Florence Locke, Mr. Richard H. Peterson, Mr. J. C. Starr; from San Pablo, Mrs. Katherine Sutliff; from Sausalito, Mr. Evans Eeke.

— VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman*

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Conservation efforts of American industry will be appraised at a National Industrial Conservation Conference at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 31, according to W. P. Gullander, president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Keynote speaker will be Governor George Clyde of Utah. A report on air and water pollution developments will be presented by Congressman Robert McClory of Illinois. Although the conference is industry-sponsored, members of sportsmen's clubs, women's clubs, conservation groups and local, state and federal conservation agencies will be urged to attend and participate in open discussion periods. Among topics to be discussed are land management for multiple uses; industrial water use; problems arising from mingled private and government land ownership; industrial conservation practices; industrial efforts to control air and water pollution; and public recreation on private and public lands. The registration fee is \$20 per person, which includes luncheon and reception.

TULE LAKE — KLAMATH REFUGES

S. 793, the bill passed by the Senate to guarantee the future of the Tule Lake and Klamath National Wildlife Refuges, was cleared Dec. 11