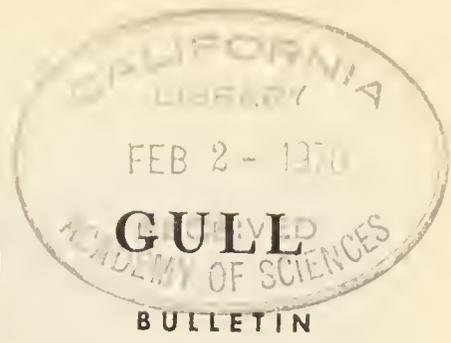


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THE

MONTHLY



Volume 52 Berkeley, Calif. February 1970 Number 2

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, TORREY PINES, AND OIL

GOOD NEWS should occasionally get headlines in a conservation column. This news is the passage and signing by President Nixon of the Endangered Species Act. Exotic species which are declared "endangered" by the Secretary of the Interior after proper consultations with wildlife authorities may not be imported for skins, furs, the pet trade or other profit, except when authorized for scientific, zoological or educational purposes. The Act also controls the killing or taking alive of bird, mammal and reptile species given endangered status within the U.S. and the interstate transportation and sale of these animals.

Now, if only a rare, world-famed California tree grove could be saved merely by legislation or the stroke of the Governor's or the President's pen! We refer to the northernmost grove of the Torrey Pines in San Diego County, located just across the Carmel Valley Rd. from the existing Torrey Pines State Reserve. These 260 acres of broken terrain contain outstanding botanical, archaeological and wildlife values in addition to the pines. They are just south of the city of Del Mar and to the east of Highway 101, which bisects the present, heavily used state reserve.

About \$900,000 must be raised by June 1970 from private sources to match a like amount appropriated by the State of California, if this irreplaceable natural feature is to be saved from subdivision. The Torrey Pines Extension committee also requests that letters of support be sent to Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., Director of State Parks and Recreation, Sacramento 95814. This concerns tree-lovers everywhere!

Oil is back on the Santa Barbara Channel waters, beaches—and in the news—as we write this at the year's end—just as it was early in 1969. Local Audubon people and other good Samaritans have reopened their bird rescue station. There is more frustration and heartbreak in this oiled seabird treatment than the general public realizes, because only a tiny percentage of the patients survive the protracted recovery period. And what about the additional millions of marine invertebrates and numbers of fish which may be lost—even if lethal detergents are not used in the clean-up of the waters? And what of the further introduction of toxic components of crude oil upon the ecology of the sea bottom and the food chain?

The October issue of "Oceanus," a publication of the Woods Hole (Mass.) Oceanographic Institution, was devoted to the effects of oil on

sea waters. The wreck of an oil barge on September 16, 1969, spilling between 60 and 70,000 gallons of No. 2 fuel oil along the shores of Falmouth, Mass., afforded these Woods Hole scientists a graphic, close-by demonstration of the effects on marine life. The results were catastrophic. **And in the regular shipping lanes, apart from such shipwreck disasters, daily oil leaks and spills are on the increase along our shores and around the world. and yet scientists, sociologists and economic planners look to our offshore resources to provide increased harvests for future populations!**

So what can the ordinary citizen-conservationist do about all this? He can join the growing multitude of Americans trying to convince our State and Federal administrations—and legislators and congressmen—that we do not need the income from the new offshore drilling at the expense of our beaches, bays and estuaries and offshore resources. He can report and urge his sailing friends to report all violations involving the spilling of oil on bay, estuary, river and offshore waters. And he can support the growing movement aiming at the reduction and eventual elimination of oil as automobile fuel. It appears that oil is joining pesticides, air pollution and atomic radiation as a major threat to our earth environment! PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SUES TO PROTECT WHOOPING CRANES

National Audubon, which made conservation history 2 years ago by suing the Army Engineers over a canal that threatened Everglades National Park, undertook another legal conservation fight in December. We filed suit in Federal Court in Corpus Christi, Texas, to stop shell dredging in the shallow waters of San Antonio Bay, near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Our petition charges that continued dredging near the shore will kill the remaining whooping cranes by destroying the aquatic food supply upon which they depend. There is no other suitable habitat left for them along the Gulf coast. Thus, deprived of living space and food, they would become extinct.

The dredging, our complaint says, stirs up thick black clouds of sediment that remain suspended in the water for long periods, wiping out marine life. Defendants in the suit are the 3 members and 2 executives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission—which issues the dredging permits—and 5 Texas corporations now carrying out shell dredging in the Bay.—*Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*.

DR. GRIFFIN'S SLIDE SHOW ON HIMALAYAS—FEB. 12

An expedition in search of rare birds and rhododendron forests in the Nepal Himalayas will be the subject of an illustrated talk by Dr. Martin Griffin at the regular Golden Gate Audubon meeting, **Thursday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m.** in the San Francisco Hall of Flowers.

Last April, Dr. Griffin, Chairman of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Howard B. Allen, President of Marin Audubon, and Dr. Robert Fleming of Katmandu made a trek with Sherpa guides and Ghurka porters into a remote high valley near the Tibetan border. Rhododendrons were in full bloom between the 8 to 11,000 foot level. They saw nearly 100 species of birds, some returning over the world's highest peaks to their nesting grounds in

Tibet, China and Siberia. Dr. Fleming, an expert on birds of the Himalayas, was able to obtain trekking permits into border areas previously closed to visitors. Part of the mountain region the group visited is being considered as Nepal's first Himalayan Alpine National Park. The trip was a scouting expedition sponsored by Mountain Travel of Oakland which introduces hikers to remote wildlife and scenic areas of the world in the hope of preserving them. Dr. Griffin and Dr. Fleming will lead a group into the same area in April 1970. The S. F. Hall of Flowers is at 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way.

"TIDEWATER TRAILS" IN BERKELEY, FEB. 24

Tidewater Trails will be shown in Berkeley on **Tuesday, February 24**, at **8:15 p.m.** in King Junior High School Auditorium. The wild beauty of Tidewater Virginia as it appeared to Colonial naturalist Mark Catesby is the subject of the Audubon Wildlife film by Charles T. Hotchkiss. Many of the sights that inspired Catesby in his life's work of recording the natural history of North America remain unchanged.

Nesting Orchard Orioles, an amusing opossum family, and courting Wood Ducks inhabit this scenic area, along with Clapper Rails and Snapping Turtles. A Yellowlegs chases minnows through receding puddles in comic frenzy, and Yellow-crowned Night Herons meet in a display of plumes as they change guard on the nest in the Loblolly Pines above the water.

Tidewater Trails follows historic paths where deer graze in the meadow, otter frolic in the swamp, and the Bald Eagle soars overhead. It dramatizes our need to provide many local preserves so that these trails will not fade, these species will not vanish and the Bald Eagle will continue to soar over our great natural heritage.

"Ty" Hotchkiss and his wife, Julie, have devoted many years to nature photography. At the University of Connecticut, he studied Forestry and Wildlife Management. In 1948 he graduated from the University of Illinois with a Master's Degree in Physical Education. For 7 years Mr. Hotchkiss was Seasonal Ranger and Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist at Grand Teton, Mt. McKinley and Everglades National Parks.

The King Junior High School is on Rose Street at Grant in Berkeley. Single admission at the door is \$1.50 for anyone not having a season ticket. For students under 18 single admission is \$1. The proceeds support the conservation program of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 14, to Lake Merced, San Francisco. This is a good trip for beginners. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the big parking lot north of the lake, just off Sunset Blvd. Leader, Glen Ellwood, 681-0651. Bring lunch, binoculars and interested friends.

February is a good month to see Sandhill Cranes before they migrate. From Rio Vista on the Sacramento River in the Delta, drive east on Highway 12 to the Thornton Road (J8), then Left (north) 3 miles to Woodbridge road and turn left (west) for about 2 miles and scan the fields on

both sides of Woodbridge road.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

THE OAKLAND PARK DEPT. NATURALIST PROGRAM has scheduled a "Winter Nature Snoop and Bird Finding in Lakeside Park" for **Saturday, Feb. 21**. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center at **9:30 a.m.** Indoor demonstrations will be substituted if it rains.

If bird movements make it worthwhile, the Joaquin Miller Park robin roost will be introduced by the Oakland Park Naturalist, Paul Covel, Saturday afternoons, **Feb. 7** and **21** at **4:30 p.m.** Call the Naturalist first to confirm these dates (273-3739).

SPRING SCHEDULE OF NATURE TRAINING CLASSES

Audubon Nature Training provides outdoor education in an urban environment for adult leaders of youth. Experiences gained each session are transferable immediately to the classroom, youth group or home. Outdoor discoveries demonstrate how to observe, enjoy and interpret natural processes and living things, keeping the child of the city in touch with nature.

The spring schedule will begin with classes in February at Berkeley's Aquatic Park. "Adventures in Urban Ecology" for **youth group leaders** will start Tuesday, **Feb. 24** at 10 a.m. continuing 3 consecutive Tuesdays. The Wednesday series of 4 sessions will begin **Feb. 25** at 10 a.m. *The Friday* series of 4 sessions will start **May 1** at 10 a.m. A series of 8 sessions for **elementary teachers** will begin Thursday, **March 5** at 3:30. Two series will be offered **parents and grandparents** beginning Friday, **Feb. 27** at 1:30, continuing 3 consecutive Fridays in March. A Tuesday series of 4 sessions will begin May 5 at 10 a.m. In addition to these *basic* series there will be *follow-up workshops* with specific techniques for specialized fields: The community resource volunteer, the pre-school volunteer, and summer or day camp leader. The fee for the 8-week teachers' series is \$5. The 4-week series fee is \$3.

This unique Audubon Nature Training program is under the direction of Miss Phyllis Lindley, instructor, and is sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society in cooperation with the Berkeley Recreation & Parks Dept. and Berkeley Adult School. The other instructors are Marie Lowell and Joan Byrens. For enrollment information write Audubon Nature Training, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley 94701, or phone 549-1038.

KRON-TV filmed one of the classes in action and included it on the "Newswatch" program January 5 at 6 p.m. as a special documentary.

"MIRACLES OF NATURE"—FEBRUARY 20

Charles and Asta Huppe, members of Golden Gate Audubon and Oakland Camera Club, will present a slide program entitled "Miracles of Nature" on **Friday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m.** in the Oakland Museum Theater, 10th & Oak.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY offers special \$6 memberships for high school and college students. This will include subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine and *The Gull*.

"POLLUTION SHOW" CONTINUES AT OAKLAND MUSEUM

More than 70 prominent Bay Area artists and photographers are participating in the unique art show on Pollution at the Oakland Museum, 10th & Oak Sts. Our GGAS Vice President, Mrs. Claire Johnson, has arranged a display of Audubon material and has requested volunteers to help her at the Audubon table. The Pollution exhibit will be in the Museum's Great Hall until February 15. Admission is free.

"SOUTHERN CROSSING—POINT OF NO RETURN"

"The Southern Crossing Bridge forms the bar on a giant concrete letter H proposed to be built in San Francisco Bay and along its shores. The approval of the bridge by BCDC on Nov. 6, 1969 marks the first major inroad into a system of defenses built up by Bay Area residents over the past decade . . . Construction of the bridge is seen as a major Bay area planning decision that will likely freeze commuter transportation to the smog-producing private automobile and force construction of the Bayfront (Rt. 87) and Shoreline (Rt. 61) Freeways—resulting in moving the Bay shoreline as much as 2 miles bayward . . . In every Bay Area election for local or state posts, the issue of water vs. land for San Francisco Bay either lurks in the background or is brought to the surface by a crusading candidate . . ."—*Committee for Green Foothills*.

RARE BIRD PHOTO FILE AT PRBO

"PRBO has always advocated documenting rare bird sightings with photographs and detailed descriptions rather than collecting. However, in too many instances these documenting photographs are lost or inaccessible to researchers. Photographs, unlike specimens, are difficult to trace a few years after the sighting.

"In an effort to remedy this, PRBO has established a rare bird file. Each photograph is labeled with all available information, and since most of them were taken at PRBO, the information includes band number, weight, wing measurements and so on. The collection is cataloged and each sighting is given a separate number. When publishing on a rare bird sighting the writer can cite this catalog number, and others can check the same photos and information.

"This file is open to everyone. We shall be glad to include rare bird photographs from elsewhere in California. Prints should be approximately 3" x 5" (no slides please), and must be accompanied by data—the more the better—but including at least the species, date, photographer, location, distinctive field marks seen by observer but not shown in the photograph, and band number and measurements if handled."—*Point Reyes Bird Observatory Newsletter*, Dec. 1969. (Palomarin Ranch, Mesa Road, Bolinas CA 94924.)

COLOR-TAGGED AND DYED GULLS

Please watch for gulls wearing bright colored plastic tags on the back or on one wing, or any with red, yellow, green, blue or violet dye on the ordinarily white or light brown parts of the plumage. These are ways of marking the individual gull so that records of its movements can be obtained.

Several study projects are under way in western U.S. on gull movements. California Gulls are being marked on and near their nesting areas in Wyoming by Dr. Kenneth L. Diem of the Univ. of Wyoming. He uses circular bright orange plastic-coated nylon tags on the leading part of the right or left wing near the body (which may appear to be almost on the bird's back or shoulder when it is not flying). Each tag has a large numeral (0 through 9) and a smaller symbol to left or right of the number.

In the S.F. Bay Area, Dr. Howard Cogswell, Professor of Biology at California State College, Hayward, is using rectangular tags of bright orange, light blue, light green or bright pink to mark gulls of five species (Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, and Ring-billed). These tags are placed on the *back* of the bird and attached around the body with strips of the same material so that the bird can fly without difficulty. There are one or two black numerals on each tag, which can usually be read only when the bird is flying or when it lifts its wings to preen. Dr. Cogswell's project includes the whole Bay Region and is supported by a grant from the U.S. Public Health Service in relation to birds and solid waste disposal. Most of the birds are marked and released close to one of the land-fill sites where garbage attracts them. Many of the gulls do not stay at any one location, however, so the marked ones should be looked for anywhere. Reports of all such tagged birds are valuable data for the better understanding of the seasons and extent of these movements. If the number as well as the color of the tag can be seen, it will identify the individual bird; but all reports even of tagged birds (when the number is not readable) will help, since color of the tag indicates the part of the bay in which original tagging was done. This applies to birds with dyed plumage, with or without a back tag.

Glaucous-winged Gulls are being marked in British Columbia by Dr. R. Drent of the Univ. of B.C. He uses *red* circular wing tags similar to those of the Wyoming project. In addition there is a project on the Farallons of dyeing the plumage of Western Gulls by PRBO in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Any records of observations in California of gulls with any of these markings should be sent to Dr. Howard L. Cogswell, Dept. of Biological Science, Calif. State College, Hayward, CA 94542. Please include date and place of observation (local spot as well as town), name and address of observer, and as much information about the tag or dye as you can. Observers need not know the species or age of the gull. If, however, its bill and feet colors and plumage could be described in a general way it will help. (If you do know the species, mention it.)

OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

- Dec. 6—*Northern Shrike* adult, south of Bodega Bay—Val DaCosta.
 Dec. 9—*Oldsquaws* (3), Bolinas Lagoon, photos by Johansen, Whitehead, Homem.
 Dec. 9—*White-throated Sparrows* (2), Canyon Ranch—Bill Pursell.
 Dec. 10—*Slate-colored Junco*, Berkeley feeder—Rasmussens.
 Dec. 17—*Red-necked Grebe*, Albany shore during weekly census.
 Dec. 20, 22—*Northern Shrike* imm., Bodega Marine Lab—Bill Pursell.
 Dec. 20, 22—*Red Phalaropes*, Bodega Bay—Bill Pursell.
 Dec. 23—*Slate-colored Junco*, Oakland yard, Homems.
 Dec. 27—*Cattle Egret*, near Pt. Reyes Station—Rieh Stalleup.
 Dec. 28—*Two Cattle Egrets*, same place, Vi & Geo. Homem. (Santa Cruz Bird Club also reports Cattle Egrets: 3 at Swanton Rd. Nov. 9 and 4 on Watsonville Ranch Dec. 11. Cattle Egret on Monterey Christmas Count Dec. 29. Tucson Audubon had one Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, Oct. 21.)
 Dec. 28—*Mountain Bluebird*, Mt. Diablo—S. Whitehead & E. Eiehstedt.
 December—*King Eider* imm. male, near Monterey Pier—Monterey Audubon Soc. Also *Fulmars* in Monterey harbor.
 Jan. 4—*King Eider* photographed near Monterey Municipal Pier—Vi Homem.
 Jan. 6—*Sage Thrasher*, on backyard fence, Alameda South Shore—Larry Curl.
 Jan. 7—*Sage Thrasher*, same place—Bud Fry, et al.

Farallon Fall Records by PRBO: Two state Records during September—a *Cassin's Sparrow* on the 23rd, a *Baird's Sparrow* on the 28th—bringing the California list up to at least 513 species. The Farallon list was augmented by a *Philadelphia Vireo* Sept. 10 and a *White-tailed Kite* in Oct. to bring the total to at least 263 species. The rarer warbler species were: *Tennessee* (5), early Sept. to late Oct.; *Cape May* Sept. 15; *Blackburnian* (2) Sept. 5; *Chestnut-sided* Sept. 15; and *Prairie* Oct. 11., according to *Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory Newsletter*, Dec. 1969.

San Diego Christmas Count listed 224 species on December 20

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch:**

In Memory of *Gift of*
 Miss Irene Lambert Mrs. Helen C. Stengel
In Honor of
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Bueher Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Bucher
 A Gift of remembrance was made to

Audubon Camp of the West Scholarship Fund:

In Memory of *Gift of*
 Frank A. Scott Phyllis Lindley
 —DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*



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THE GULL

February

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Vice President	Mrs. Richard Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland 94602	533-7118
Vice President	Roger H. Coffee	220 Palo Alto Ave., San Francisco 94114	566-4105
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Director	Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.	3212 Jackson St., San Francisco 94118	567-4037
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 94611	339-1886
Field Trips Chairman	Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109	931-5257
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco 94132	587-4163
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Nature Training	Miss Phyllis Lindley	P.O. Box 103, Berkeley 94701	549-1038
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Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per yer, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.