

Fall Colors in the North Woods

Thursday, May 15, 8 pm

Homestead High School
Room 5, Bldg. C

Homestead Ave.
Cupertino

Les Sleeper has recovered from a recent illness and will present his program originally scheduled for March. We'll travel vicariously from the north rim of Grand Canyon, through Bryce Canyon, and the Navaho Reservation to the north woods of Minnesota where the fall colors were in full glory. Anyone who is unfamiliar with this area will have a rare opportunity to consider taking such a fall vacation.

CALENDAR

Stevens Creek Park Sat., May 3, 8:30 am

To get to meeting place drive past reservoir (on left), past picnic grounds on right to fork in road. Take right-hand fork along creek to first picnic grounds on left across from vehicle bridge across creek

Leader, Mrs. Wittgenstein

Bird Discussion Group Tues, May 6, 10:00 am

Topic will be woodpeckers. At home of Eve Case, 20537 Verde Vista Saratoga. Tel: 867-4748.

Gilroy Hot Springs Road Sat., May 10, 7:00 or 9:00

Go south to Morgan Hill on Hwy 101; turn east at 3rd traffic light onto E. Dunne Ave.; go 3 miles to Norstrom School on left. E. Curtis will be there at 7:00 for those interested in early-morn birding. E. Taylor will be there at 9:00 for late risers. All will meet at Gilroy Hot Springs. Bring lunch if desired. Leaders, Emmanuel Taylor & E. Curtis

Board Meeting Tues., May 13, 7:45 pm

Meet at Dr. Joe Wissel, 2431 Villanueva Way, Mtn. View, 94040.

Peterson Ranch, Sanborn Rd. Wed., May 14, 9:00 am.

Meet at 6th and Big Basih Way. Leader, Margaret Henderson

Mt. Diablo Sun., May 18, (6:30 am
9:00 am.

This trip is to see & hear sage birds, especially Black-chinned, Sage, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. These birds sing in the early morning and often can be seen by the road. So the leader will be at the west entrance to the Park at 6:30 am for the early birders. He will wait until 9:00 am before leaving the area to bird in the park.

Leader, Ted Chandik

Foothill Park . . . Wed, May 28, 9 am

Meet at entrance to park.

Leader, Virginia Bothwell

ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC - June 4th

Bird-watching, picnic supper, and entertainment extraordinaire! Save this date! Details in June Avocet. Holbrook-Palmer Pk, 150 Watkins Av, Atherton Yosemite . Sat., June 7, 6:30 am.

Meet at entrance of Bridleveil Fall Campground on Glacier Pt. Rd. Leaders will wait until 8:00 am. Chance to see Great Gray Owl. Ldrs. Dr. Joe & R. Greenberg



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was standing in the garden on Sunday morning when my daughter exclaimed, "Say Hello to God for me!"

Was she speaking to me or the garden? One look at the garden and it was easy to see that a spiritual quality existed in the out-of-doors. The daffodils were radiating their brilliant yellow as they faded toward the sun. The last of the tulips were reopening after a night of slumber. One lone transvaal daisy was barely peeking its head out of the border of alyssum. Drops of dew could be seen on the rose petals and the buds were beginning to burst. Aphids were alive on one of the rose trees and ants were going up and down the trunk. On another rose bush one could distinguish small snails in its crotch, a convenient place to hide until night fall.

Full spring was upon us for the there were also blooming cyclamen, poppies, azaleas, camellias, iris, hyacinth, primroses, freezias, cora bells, dandelions, pansys and many others, names which elude me. Weeds coming up in the pathways reminded me that I was still this side of the Garden of Eden, but not too far certainly within talking distance.

As I stood there I felt that I was evesdropping on silent meditations. Could this array of beauty help me communicate with things of the spirit? It seemed to be saying "Be still! Be still and listen to the quiet of all around!"

Do these flowers live as full a life in one day as we in our three score years and ten? They are here only because there is a favorable environment and we have encouraged their stay. How tenderly we take care of them and see that their every need is served.

As I listened in the quiet, it seemed that people are not unlike flowers. Could it be that in order to grow quality humans we need a favorable environment? They must not be placed too close together. Competition between species must be controlled. Harmonious groups should be put together. There needs to be variety and contrast but not clashes. All should have a chance



to blossom and be recognized for their beauty and individual contributions. Are we contributing to a favorable human environment? Are we doing our part in its development? Can we see the beautiful flower-like qualities that exist in the

faces of others? What flower-like qualities do others see in us? Is there room for improvement?

In these few moments I had reached a state of contemplation, contemplation of the beauty of the out-of-doors. Is there a better way to "Say Hello to God?"

Howard Wolcott,
President

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS!

- Dorothy H. Chausse, Apt 203, 347 Mas-sol Ave., Los Gatos 95030
- Douglas Cheeseman Jr, 20800 Kittridge Saratoga, 95070
- Suzy Ferguson, 1160 Calif. Ave. Palo Alto, 94306
- Eugene Lehr, Dept Sociology, Univ. of Santa Clara, S.C. 95051
- Mrs. Wm. McCullough, 3416 Janice Way, Palo Alto, 94303
- Mrs. Lawrence Miller, 1941 Hurst Ave. San Jose, 95125
- Ruth Phelps, 1801 Park Ave, San Jose 95126
- Jim Renalds, 550 Kingsley Ave, Palo Alto, 94301
- Mr & Mrs Richard Strawbridge, 390 Lunada Dr, Los Altos, 94022

Caroline Davis, Membership Ch.

PALO ALTO CHILDREN'S LIBRARY had a good turnout on April 9. Kay McCann did a good job of organizing it. The libraries prepared a book list of books at the Palo Alto Library. Copies are available from Howard Wolcott or Kay McCann.



NORTH COUNTY SPECIAL INTEREST EVENTS Time - 8:00 pm.

Note: Any member is welcome regardless of where he lives. Place - Spangenberg Auditorium
Gunn High School
Palo Alto

May 2-Friday. 9 am Stanford Campus * * * * *

Meet at Golf Driving Range Park-ing area. Take the first road to right after passing Lake Lagunita going north on Foothill Expwy, Los Arboles Rd., Stanford. Walk into Governor's Lane and bird, and round Lake Lagunita. Leaderless trip.

PEOPLE FOR OPEN SPACE

A series of trips to finalize the Assoc. of Bay Area Gov'ts Open Space Maps for our county. Every-one is welcome.

May 6-Tues. 9 am Webb Ranch
Leaderless trip. Meet at entrance of Webb Ranch, 2720 Alpine Rd. Menlo Park. Call Ione Bradley, 327-5973, if you have questions.

May 3 - Mt. View Park (on shore of San Francisco Bay)
Sponsor: Robert Laurence,
Planning Director, Mt. View

So. San Francisco Bay Pk. (pro-posed)

Sponsor: James Pott,
Public Works Director, S.C.Co.

Trip Leaders: Dave Walker,
Kermit L. Smith 738-2798 (home)
Meet at Mt. View Shore Pk. 9 am.
Call for directions.

May 8-Thurs. 9:30 am. Bird Study Interest Group. At Flora Houck's, 1275 Martin Ave, Palo Alto- off Lincoln Av between University and Channing. 327-4868.

May 12-Mon. 9 am Leaderless trip. Meet Ladera Shopping Center on Alpine Rd. at the nearest entrance. Cross Alpine Rd. and walk back down it on the hiking and bicycle trail along the creek.

May 10 - Skyline (Emphasis on land to Southwest of Saratoga Gap)

Trip Leader: Roger Clemens
252-4666 (home)

Meet at Saratoga Gap. 9 am.

May 16-Friday 9:30 am. Plant Study Interest Group. At Kay McCann's, 783 Garland Drive, P.A. 327-4138.

May 17 - BLM Lands above Coe Park (Multi parcels of Federal Bureau of Land Management: consolidation)

Trip Leader: Al Heckbert
293-8549 (home)

Meet at Coe Park - 9 am.

May 20-Tues. 9:30 am. Conservation Interest Group. At Florence La Riviere's, 453 Tennessee Land, P.A. 327-2854.

May 22- Thurs. 9 am. Leaderless Field Trip at Duveneck Ranch, Los Altos Hills, Moody Rd. past Adobe Cr. Lodge. Meet at entrance.

Sponsors will accompany hikers. All bring: Sack lunch, Notebook, Map of area, Camera. Hike leaders will compile a list of potential conservationists and your ideas for Open Space in our County.

May 28-Wed. 9 am. Foothill Park entrance. Leader, Virginia Bothwell. Regular event. (See front pg) Camera Interest Group - any interested persons should contact the chairman, Zoe Olds, 948-2710.

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May 12 - Committee for Green Foothills Annual Meeting

Speaker- Stewart L. Udall, former Secretary of Interior

Topic - The Fight For Quality Environment And The Need For New National Priorities

Open to the public at \$1.50



ENDANGERED SPECIES-ALLIGATOR BILL

This is the legislation to empower the Secretary of the Interior to ban imports to endangered species, and also to prohibit interstate traffic in alligator lides taken contrary to state law. Hearings on H.R. 248 and similar H.R. 4812 have been completed by the Dingell subcommittee of the House Comm. on Merchant Marine & Fisheries. Letters from conservationists to members of this Committee would be timely now, urging a favorable report on either H.R. 248 or H.R. 4812.

"STATE'S RIGHTS" WILDLIFE BILLS

The "state's rights" wildlife bills, which Audubon Societies have opposed and must continue to oppose are back. There are two versions in the Senate, equally bad. One is S. 1232 by Senators Frank Moss (Utah) Alan Bible (Nev), How. Cannon (Nev) and Frank Church (Idaho).

The other is S. 1401 by Paul Fannin (Ariz), Wallace Bennett (U.) Sam Ervin, Jr. (N.C.), Barry Goldwater (Ariz), Rob. Griffin (Mich), Clifford Hansen (Wyo), Mark Hatfield (Ore), Spessard Holland (Fla), and Ted Stevens (Alaska).

Both bills have been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

Similar House bills, H.R. 71 and others, are pending before the House Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Although the wording of S.1232 and S.1401 has been changed somewhat from last year's versions, the they would do exactly the same damaging things. The National Audubon Society opposes this legislation because it would cripple the authority of the National Park Service to manage and protect wildlife in most of the National Parks, and similarly hamstringing the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in managing the Nat. Wildlife Refuges. It would provide a lever by which some Western state game directors hope to pry the National Parks open to public hunting.

Further, if passed, any one of these bills would nullify the Bald Eagle-Golden Eagle Protection Act and cloud important protection features of the Endangered Species Act of 1966.

California memebhrs of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries are: Richard T. Hanna (Dem.), William S. Mailliard (Rep). Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.(Rep).

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Many thanks to the few Santa Clara Valley Audubon members who took the time and effort to attend meetings, send telegrams and write letters regarding the Wildlife Refuge. The San Jose City Council and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors endorsed the concept of the Refuge unanimously.

Now to San Mateo! County! A special alert to members and interested persons in Menlo Park, the marshes in the Ravenswood Sough area are being considered as part of the Greco Island complex. Help with letters please! The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing in a short time. If you know of any one willing to help with the Refuge please call: Nancy Holmes at 948-1854 or Florence La Riviere at 327-2854.

Nancy Holmes

MARIN TRAILS by Ida Geary

A pocket-size guide to walking and canoeing in Marin County, Cal. The book is illustrated with the author's plant prints of native trees, shrubs and flowers, soon to be seen in Audubon magazine. Nine Marin Audubon Society field trips, among other explorations, are described.

"Marin Trails" may be ordered at the pre-publication price of \$2.50 per copy by writing Tamal Land Press, 39 Merwin Ave., Fairfax, Calif. 94930. The book will be in local Bay Area bookstores in June.



NEWS FROM PT. REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory will further its research program on the Farallon Islands this coming year. Since April 1968 a full-time biologist has been stationed on the islands carrying out studies on the breeding birds and the land bird migrants. The studies on the breeding birds largely concentrated this past year on the effects of human disturbance on the breeding success of the Western Gull, Common Murre, and Brandt's Cormorant. This research anticipates the transfer of the south Farallon Island from the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This will assist the Service in establishing a policy on visitors to the islands when it becomes a National Wildlife Refuge.

This past year's work on migrants on the Farallones produced many interesting records of land birds which were off course and landed on the islands. Many were vagrants, including several Eastern warblers seldom recorded in Calif. This program will continue through the coming migration seasons.

Volunteers are needed to help in the Farallon project as well as at the PRBO headquarter's near Bolinas. Anyone who would like to take part in these projects should plan to take our Banding Training program. For more information write Director, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Bolinas, Cal. 94924.

A new biologist, Mr. Robert Stewart, has been added (temporarily unless funding can be found) to the staff to study land birds in the headquarters area. Mr. Stewart has a Master's degree from Ore. State University and was a high school teacher until joining staff. His primary responsibilities are the coordination of the volunteer program and the study of land birds and the timing and abundance of Breeding and migrants. This basic information is necessary if we are to intelligently preserve birds... without accurate information about their requirements, steps that we may take to preserve their habitat may actually be destructive.



TRUMPETER SWANS IN BATTLE ROYAL,
MALHEUR REFUGE by Barbara Taylor

At the exhibit pond where the swans come and go at will, one eve about sunset, Carl Isenberg and I witnessed a battle between two cobs (male swans), a sight which even John Scharff, Superintendent of the Refuge, had never seen.

Three pairs of swans were in the pen at the time, plus one slightly smaller swan. The pairs were performing a mating ritual, standing side by side and elevating and lowering their heads, and uttering a deep staccato gabble in almost perfect unison, when the single cob approached one pair. We did not see which cob attacked the other first, but there was a sudden flurry of feathers and a quick breaking apart. Then they clashed again. Breast to breast, each cob twined his neck over the shoulder of the other, head pressing against the back, and beat with furious wings. For perhaps 15 seconds they struggled, the intruder once throwing the mated cob onto the dusty ground. The pen (female) danced about with flapping wings, talking in excitement; the other waterfowl in the pen raised a nervous calling.

The cobs broke apart and the intruder ran to the corner of the pen. The mated cob stood close to his female, talking, when the intruder suddenly raised his wings, arched his neck, and touched the tip of his bill to the ground. In this position, bill touching, he waddled toward the pair and again was beaten off. This time he took to the water and intruded no more.



From "Downland Stalkers' Gazette"
Poftland, Ore.

AN EXPERIMENT IN ANIMAL
CROSS-BREEDING

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that it is working with veterinarians and stockbreeders to develop a docile four-footed animal about 52" at the shoulder that will better appeal to hunters.

The docile traits of the animal will insure that it will not wander too far off the road. It is said to have a cashmere-type coat; and if cross-breeding plans are successful it will have a trophy-type head with oversize Impala style horns. It will be small-boned and compact, so it can more easily be carried out of the brush. The meat is tender and tastes like filet steak. The hide is thin and the spoor has a distinctive odor of homemade bread, so it may easily be followed by city people when wounded.

The veterinarians and the stock-breeding specialists are now squabbling over whether an attempt should be made also to develop large elk-like teeth (for sale to a fraternal organization), because of the recent failure to develop a rhino-type horn that would have been of interest to Asians when powdered (as an aphrodisiac).

The animal is said to be silent, the vocal cords being missing.

We regret to announce the passing on April 14 of our long-time member and friend, Mrs. J. R. Castner of Redwood City.

President - Howard Wolcott
Vice-Pres. - Kay McCann

INDIAN BOY'S ESSAY ON SOIL PROBLEM

Not long ago the editors of the Farmer-Stockman printed a picture of a deserted farmhouse in a desolate, sandswept field, then offered a prize for the best 100 word essay on the disasterous effects of land erosion. A bright Indian lad from Oklahoma bagged the trophy with this graphic description:

"Picture show white man crazy. Cut down trees. Make too big teepee. Plow hill. Water wash. Wind blow soil. Grass gone. Door gone. Squaw gone. Whole place gone to hell. No pig. No corn. No pony.

"Indian no plow land. Keep grass. Buffalo eat grass. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make plenty big teepee. Make mocassin. All time Indian eat. No work. No hitch-hike. No ask relief. No build dam. No give dam. White man heap crazy."

Lesser Sandhill Cranes

The Midland, Tex., "Midnats" reports about 30,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes arriving in the Martin & Howard Co. area in mid-Oct. and staying until mid-March. The birds are 44" tall, weigh 8 to 10 lbs. and have a wingspread of 80 inches. Members were able to watch the exciting dances in fields, and report their flight to roosts took more than an hour to pass a given point.

From "Roadrunner", Phoenix

Secretary - Diane Conradson
Treasurer - Joyce Todd

AVOCET

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