



# The SEQUOIA

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY    SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 25, No. 9

May, 1976

## MEETINGS:

MAY 6, Thursday, 7:30 PM BOARD MEETING at the home of Pat and John Prime, 848 West Hillside Boulevard in San Mateo. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

MAY 13, Thursday, 8:00 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way--between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas, in San Mateo.

The Plant of the Month for May will be presented by Betty Hart and will feature Lichens. Mrs. Hart was scheduled to appear at our April meeting but was obliged to postpone her presentation for a month.

Charles Newman is presently in Mexico gathering new material for his and Frank Allen's Birdcall of the Month. We don't know what they have in mind but are confident their May show of taped birdcalls and slides will be up to their usual high standard.

Our May meeting will feature a program by Gary W. Page, "Shorebird Life on a California Estuary." Gary is a biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory and his specialty is shorebirds research, a field in which he has received national recognition. He has a masters degree in ornithology from the University of Guelph in Ontario and came to PRBO in 1971 from the Long Point Bird Observatory in Canada.

## FIELD TRIPS:

May 8, 1976, Saturday, 8:00 AM    MINES ROAD

We will meet at Mines and Tesla Roads (start of Mines Road). Take Highway 580 east from the Bay Area. Just past Livermore take Vasco Road offramp south. Go about 2½ miles on South Vasco Road to where it ends at Tesla Road. Turn right on Tesla, go about 1 mile and turn left at Mines Road.

Alternatively, you can take the No. Livermore offramp (which is 2 offramps before Vasco) and go through the town of Livermore if you need a gas or a restroom stop. There are neither gas stations nor restrooms on Mines Road. So. Livermore Avenue becomes Tesla Road.

The weather can get very warm there. Plan your attire, lunch and beverage accordingly.

Leaders: Leroy and Fran Nelson    593-7941

May 15 "COAST BEACH DAY"

To make a newsworthy event that will impress legislators and elicit their support of the Coastal Plan, SB 1579, May 15 has been declared "Coast Beach Day" by the Sierra Club which urges participation by all Californians who value the scenic beauty of the Coast, public

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access to the ocean, and protection of natural habitat areas. Conservationists are urged simply to set aside that one day to enjoy their own kinds of outings at the Coast with family and friends. The more the merrier!

Please join in so that the event will be effective and successful.

Submitted by - Marian Lockwood

May 22, 1976, Saturday, 9:00 AM ANNADEL STATE PARK

Meet at 9:00 AM at Montgomery Drive and Channel Drive. To get there by Highway 101, go to Santa Rosa and take Sonoma-Napa and/or Fairgrounds offramp, leading to Highway 12. Go about a mile and turn left onto Farmer's lane (opposite Straw Hat Pizza). Follow Farmer's lane to Montgomery Drive where you will see an elevated covered wagon on the right. Turn right on Montgomery Drive for 2.7 miles. Part of the way is a winding country road, passing an old grass-covered earth dam on the right. Watch for a brown and white sign "Spring Lake Park" on the right side of the bridge. A very small blue and white sign says Annadel State Park. This is Channel Drive where we meet. Allow about two hours to get there from the San Mateo area.

Leaders: Ruth Hass and Charles Newman 697-5601

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

March 27 - Alum Rock Park - A. E. Montgomery, Leader

About 30 birders met at Alum Rock Park at 9:30 and enjoyed a pleasant forenoon with many birds seen easily. While eating lunch at the Sycamore Grove a cold wind brought a sudden change in the weather and most people left, but the indomitable Nelsons and a few others persisted and managed to get a close look at the Pygmy Owl, the Canyon Wren, and several additional species to add to the forenoon list. The 43 species observed in Alum Rock Park included Turkey Vulture - Red-tailed Hawk - Golden Eagle - Mourning Dove - Pygmy Owl - White-throated Swift - Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds - Red-shafted Flicker - Acorn Woodpecker - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Nuttall's Woodpecker - Black Phoebe - Violet-green and Rough-winged Swallows - Steller's and Scrub Jays - Common Crow - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Plain Titmouse - Common Bushtit - White-breasted Nuthatch - Brown Creeper - Wrentit - Bewick's and Canyon Wrens - California Thrasher - Robin - Hermit Thrush - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Starling - Orange-crowned and Audubon's Warblers - House Finch - American and Lesser Goldfinches - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees - Oregon Junco - White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows.

April 10 - Filoli Area - Maryann Danielsen, Leader

Tripping in the rain is really all right, decided the 6 hardy souls who walked from the Stone Gate to the archeological site on the Filoli property via Old Canada Road; 35 species of birds including a red-shouldered hawk, a varied thrush and several brown creepers were seen by the group.

The wet weather brought out the earthworms in force and we had to be careful not to step on them as we walked along. When the ground is wet during the mating season, the worms emerge and may travel some distance before they mate. Judging from the numbers, the soil will continue to be well tilled.

There were a variety of plants all along the trail starting with the brilliant yellow Tidy-Tips and Goldfields at the Stone Gates. Some Indian Warrior

in bloom but the large patches of Slim Solomon's Seal in blossom and a large aggregation of nodding Purple Fritillary lilies really rewarded the people who braved the rain.

A short side trip to the tremendously large California Laurel (believed to be larger than the Jepson Laurel on Sawyer Camp Road) added an extra bit of spice to the trip.

Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks - California Quail - Killdeer - Mourning Dove - Anna's Hummingbird - Red-shafted Flicker - Downy Woodpecker - Western Flycatcher - Steller's and Scrub Jays - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Plain Titmouse - Common Bushtit - Brown Creeper - Wrentit - Bewick's Wren - Robin - Varied Thrush - Hermit Thrush - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Starling - Hutton's and Warbling Vireo - Orange-crowned Warbler - Western Meadowlark - Brewer's Blackbird - Western Tanager - Purple Finch - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee - Oregon Junco - White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows.

#### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH:

Audubon Canyon Ranch is a wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon about three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, February 28 through July 4. For special visits phone 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. In 1969 the Ranch was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Registered Natural Landmark.

#### NEWS FROM THE RANCH - By Betty Boyd

The next time you come to the Ranch, be sure to visit the Bird-Viewing Blind. A new one-way screen, complete with camera ports, has been installed; the birdbath has been raised so that it receives the rays of the sun and a garden of native plants, Currants, Gooseberry, Twinberry, Columbine and Buttercups, has been planted in the enclosed area to entice our hummer friends.

Can you help? Walkie-talkies are needed - to be used principally as an aid to Helen Pratt and her assistants in their research work in connection with the Rookery. Call Skip Schwartz for details at 383-1644.

Education Courses for adults and families will be offered late this Spring and Summer at Volunteer Canyon. For further information contact the Marin Museum of Science, University of California Extension Division or the College of Marin.

Acquisition. Shields Marsh on the east shore of Tomales Bay is now enlarged to include additional marshland adjacent to it and northwest of it.

Social Note. On March 29 the first Great Blue Heron chick hatched.

#### CONSERVATION NEWS:

Congress will now be gathering itself together after its Easter recess from April 15 through 26. Last month environmentalists scored a victory with the passage of S. 3149 by the Senate, a strong toxic substances control bill which included an amendment to outlaw the carcinogenic PCB substances for which harmless substitutes are available. A weaker bill, HR 10318, is waiting markup in the House Commerce Committee.

This latter Committee has finished joint hearings with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on S. 2950, which like HR 11273, bypasses NEPA requirements and mandates routing of the proposed Alaska gas pipeline through the Arctic National Wildlife Range with little possibility of judicial review. The construction of the pipeline would be a massive

undertaking involving an immense cut across the Wildlife Range. An Administration bill, S. 3167, only sets a deadline of February 1977 for completion of Federal Power Commission administrative proceedings and would have the President make a decision after that on routing of the pipeline, with option of Congressional veto of his decision.

Audubon Executive Vice President, C. H. Callison, testified before a joint hearing of the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Interior and Insular Affairs on the Randolph Forestry Bill, S. 2926. He endorsed its guidelines to control clear cutting, its ban on use of DDT and other hydrocarbons, and its multiple purpose approach to National Forest use which protects the integrity of the Wilderness Act, The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and Endangered Species Act.

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In Sacramento, AB 167, the Lifeline Bill, to reverse gas and electricity rates and give low rates for low usage, with increasing rates for increasing amounts has passed the Assembly. This bill will now face strong business opposition in the Senate.

Senator Holmdahl has added something new to the Dumbarton Bridge controversy by introducing SB 1975 which will specify western approaches to the bridge, in effect withdrawing the option of veto by the cities affected.

Senator Behr's bill, SB 1482, to limit the height of the New Melones Dam, was stalled in the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee by a 4 to 4 tie the first of April and no progress has been reported since.

The above Committee, chaired by Senator Nejedly, is now largely concerned with hearings on the important Coastal Bill, SB 1579. A hearing will be held April 27, and the bill must be reported out of committee by May 7 if further action on it is to continue. A competing coastal bill, SB 1919, has been introduced by Senator Carpenter. It would establish a Coastal Board of 15 members appointed by the Governor with power to approve local coastal plans developed by local governments but with no appeal jurisdiction. In distinction, SB 1579 provides continuation of the present state Coastal Commission, a maximum 4-year continuation of the local commissions, and the certification process for local implementation of the overall State Plan.

AB 2948 has been introduced in the Assembly proposing a \$290 million for coastal acquisition, and Senator Nejedly has introduced a park bond bill, SB 1321, which would include \$150 million for coastal acquisition.

There is continuing strong opposition to SB 1579 and apathy on the part of many of its supporters. The Coalition of Concerned Citizens, perhaps the strongest group opposing the Coastal Bill, has launched an initiative to return coastal control to local agencies, as it was before passage of Proposition 20, with complete dissolution of the Coastal Commissions at the end of 1976.

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Most SAS members probably know by now that a 3 to 2 vote on March 18, and confirmed on April 20, of the Supervisors, (Bacciocco, Fassler and Ward favoring) approved General Plan amendment for San Bruno Mountain allowing development only in the South San Francisco and Northeast Ridge areas and leaving the Saddle in open space. The developers have now announced their intention of suing for \$20 million for inverse condemnation,

Funding for purchase of the Saddle area of the Mountain as a park was provided in Assemblyman Priolo's Park Bill, AB 2329, until Assemblyman Papan amended it out of the bill. Senator Gregorio immediately introduced SB 1455 to provide funding for the Saddle, but will withdraw it now since Speaker McCarthy has agreed to amend out Papan's amendment, leaving San Bruno Mountain funding still in AB 2329.

On March 16 the Board of Supervisors decided to purchase the Filoli Estate, leaving the question of a golf course there open until after the Environmental Impact Report has been completed. Strong suggestions have been made that the surplus State College site on Edgewood Road would be a more economical and environmentally sound site for a golf course than would Filoli. A proposed work plan for Filoli, the Watershed and the College site will be presented to the County Parks and Recreation Commission on May 6 at 2 PM at their meeting in Redwood City.

After a period of quiescence, the Sugarloaf controversy has erupted again and will be considered at a joint hearing May 5 at 8 PM in the Supervisors' Chambers in Redwood City of the Planning Commissions of the County, the City of San Mateo, and Belmont. Seven proposed developmental concepts will be considered, including leaving the whole area in park and open space and the Cargus development plan of 92 homes on the mountain. At a previous hearing concern was expressed by opponents of development concerning increased traffic, especially on Highway 92, increased water needs and potential dam locations.

--Ruth Smith, Conservation  
Chairman

BIRDING FROM A KITCHEN WINDOW -- By Fran Nelson

It is about 8:45 AM and I am working at my kitchen sink. I am startled to attention by all the birds in the backyard birch clump leaving at once and in a big hurry. There are 8 to 10 Mourning Doves on the ground below my window who were feeding but who have now ceased feeding and are anxiously scanning the skies. Suddenly, in a big whoosh they, too, take off. The signs are unmistakable. I scan the small portion of sky I can see and watch for an accipiter. I can't see him but I know he is around. I wait a few moments and then go about my work. In about ten minutes I glance out as I pass the window. There were no birds visible when I left but now there is one--just one! It is a Sharp-shinned Hawk--a beautiful adult with a slaty-blue back and red and white barred underparts. The back shows some large white spots which never show in the books but frequently show on the birds. The end of the banded tail is very straight. I can only guess whether it is a male or a female. When the feathers are fluffed, I guess female. When they are held close to the body so the bird looks smaller, I guess male. My final guess is that I shall never know.

Anyway, he is sitting there looking around. A Robin glides in toward the tree but suddenly surges upward and onward. A male House Sparrow sits on an exposed branch of camellia sasanqua under my window calling out a warning. Soon he is joined by a female and they disappear into the shrubs. He is still calling just in case there is someone who doesn't know of the danger.

The Sharp-shin begins preening. Then he stretches--first one set of toes and then the other, then a wing and leg simultaneously, then fans his tail out full, then stretches the other leg and wing.

Two Pine Siskins land in the top of the birch and immediately see their mistake--but what to do? The hawk sees them but begins to preen

again. The Siskins make their escape with no more than a glance from the Sharpie. He continues to preen.

After a while, two Pine Siskins and four American and Lesser Goldfinches come to the tree-top and they dance about nervously while considering what to do. He looks at them and goes back to his preening. He waggles his tail loosely. A fluffy white feather falls from his under tail coverts. What a plum for some lucky little House Sparrow's nest, I think! A real, genuine hawk feather! The Siskins and the Goldfinches leave without incident.

Soon a Mourning Dove lands in the tree and I can tell he would rather have landed almost any place else. Several times, with a characteristic jerk, he nervously stretches his neck toward the hawk. The Sharpie notes his arrival but goes on preening. The Mourning Dove begins to preen! What a cool character, I think! The Sharpie stretches. The Dove stretches. He is clearly ready for any counter-action that may be necessary but the Sharpie resumes his preening. Now I can't believe what I am seeing! The Dove has gone down to the gravel and is eating! And the Sharpie goes on preening.

Meanwhile, the House Sparrows who have been hiding in the camelias come out to exposed branches. There are five of them. They can afford to be brave now because what hawk would want such a small tidbit when a succulent Mourning Dove is attainable? They appraise the situation a moment, then fly leisurely off. After 10 or 15 minutes of feasting, the Mourning Dove flies--but not off!! He flies back to the tree! He preens a bit more, calls several times and then flies off. The Mourning Dove obviously had read the signs correctly. The hawk's appetite had been recently satisfied.

About an hour and a half after I had discovered the Sharp-shin in the tree, he was finished with his grooming and stretching and resting and now, with a flourish, he vanishes among the trees beyond my vision. A few moments have passed and little heads are popping out from all the shrubbery beds. They begin to venture out and soon the backyard is again humming with activity.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION:

March, 20, 1976

Dear Mr. Davies,

I would like to acquaint you with the activities of Nancy Horn of Foster City and let you know how much we appreciate the work she does with our Camp Fire Group.

For three months she has taken us on a Saturday morning bird hike. We have visited Pescadero Marsh, Foster City Marsh and the Palo Alto Marsh. Next month she will take us to Waterdog Lake.

Her patience and enthusiasm are inexhaustible and our group, children and adults, are gaining tremendous benefits from her knowledge.

Yours truly,  
Leean Knetzer  
San Carlos

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM - 19th ANNUAL DECORATORS SHOW HOUSE

OPEN April 25--May 16 10:00 AM--4:00 PM Daily

"Hazelwood Hills" in Woodside will be the site of this year's Decorators Show House sponsored by the Coyote Point Museum Auxiliary. Hazelwood Hills was built in 1905 by James A. Folger II, son of the founder of the Folger Coffee Co. It is a four-story, 25-room wood and stucco

country home with tennis court, swimming pool, gardens and 15 acres of grounds.

Park at Searsville Lake Park. Tickets \$4.00 available at the door. Box lunches on weekdays--\$3.00. Wine tasting on Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 4 PM. Meet the designers on Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM. For lunch reservations and information call 343-7747.

Proceeds will benefit the new Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME--NATIVE SPECIES CONSERVATION:

DO                    The California Department of Fish and Game works to  
YOU                  ensure the survival of ALL the state's wildlife--not just  
                     game fish and animals. It works to improve wildlife habitat,  
CARE?                protects rare and endangered species, provides conserva-  
                     tion education services.

But the DFG is supported primarily by revenue from hunting and fishing fees, and there is not enough money to go around. Now state law permits the DFG to accept donations for its work solely with native nongame wildlife of California.

Send your check or money order to WILDLIFE, Box DFG, Sacramento 95801. In return, you'll receive a great deal of satisfaction AND an attractive wildlife decal that you can display with pride. Donors of \$5 or more will also receive a certificate of appreciation suitable for framing.

Let others know you care.  
WILDLIFE, Box DFG, Sacramento 95801

APRIL GENERAL MEETING REPORT    -    by Sheila Davies

The April meeting was a pot pourri of interesting short events. The meeting opened with a presentation of an award to John Horgan, a reporter for the San Mateo Times, who spent a day at Belmont Slough with several of our members looking for the Clapper Rail and wrote an excellent article on his experience. The award was created from a feather molted by Sequoia, one of the Red-tailed Hawks cared for under the rehabilitation program operated by our members, Max Krueger and Cliff Lindquist. Mr. Horgan thanked Sequoia Audubon Society for the award and said that we can expect more coverage in the Times on environmental matters in the future.

Russ Palin, a resident of San Mateo County, was introduced and shared with us his greatest treasure, "Birds and Trees of North America" by Rex Brasher, 12 volumes of original prints. Mr. Brasher painted between 1896 and 1934, and was attempting to paint every bird and tree in North America. In 1932 when he finished the Sparrow section, he put down his brush with thanks that there weren't any more sparrows in North America. Mr. Palin has generously offered to make the books available for the next few months to anyone who wishes to study them more closely.

The Frank Allen/Charles Newman Birdcall of the Month featured the penetrating song of the Canyon Wren, with slides by Leroy Nelson. To tape the Canyon Wren, Charles went with Roy and Fran Nelson to Mines Road and searched all the old, familiar places favored by the wren. The bird must have been spending his Sunday elsewhere because even Roy's famous spotting eyes couldn't find him. But Charles doesn't give up when he is taping a birdcall for us and the group went on to Alum Rock Park. At 4 p.m. a Canyon Wren was heard and his song was

taped for the pleasure of everyone at the April meeting.

The Flower of the Month was the *Echinocereus engelmannii*, or Hedgehog Cactus, photographed by Jed McClellan near Yaqui Pass in San Diego County. The red-violet blossoms appear in April and anyone visiting the western edge of the Imperial Valley this month will see this cactus in bloom. Jed and Bonnie took their photographs along the road from Borrego Springs to Julian.

The main feature of the program was a short movie presented by the Environmental Defense Fund, "Last Days of the Dolphins?" The film was narrated by Dick Cavett and was a good follow-up to our visit to the Steinhart Aquarium earlier this year. Part of the footage was filmed at the aquarium. For still unknown reasons, schools of yellowfin tuna follow dolphins (commonly called the porpoise) in the eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. Since the 1960s, fishermen have been hunting down the dolphins to catch tuna. As the dolphins and yellowfin tuna swim together, when fishermen catch tuna, dolphins are also caught. Trapped in nets, they often drown. The government says as many as 130,000 dolphins may have been killed last year. Some scientists believe several species may become extinct if the killings continue. The dolphins aren't even used for food; when caught, the dead are simply thrown back into the ocean.

Before the meeting adjourned, Bob Rutherford of the Marine Ecological Institute was introduced. The Institute is offering many interesting summer expeditions from a five-day marine exploration voyage to a half-day discovery voyage, all of which give us a better understanding of the marine life at our doorstep. For more information on the trips contact the Institute, 811 Harbor Boulevard, Redwood City, CA 94063, telephone 364-2760.

#### LETTER WRITING BEE:

Come to the McElhany house on Tuesday, May 25, at about 10:00 AM prepared to write some personal letters to various people who are anxious to hear from you. Bring letter writing materials--pen, paper, envelopes, stamps. The session will continue until 2:00 PM but anyone who needs to may, of course, leave earlier. Bring a sandwich. Coffee, tea, milk will be provided.

#### TALCHAKO LODGE:

The Sierra Club of Western Canada operates the rustic Talchako Lodge in the Coast Range Mountains of British Columbia. Here wild animals far outnumber people and you may share the trails with a caribou, a moose or a bear. Nearby are fishing streams, Indian pictographs and petroglyphs, waterfalls, eagle nests and swimming holes. The Lodge can be a base for anything from sedentary hiking to strenuous back packing to challenging rock, snow and ice climbing.

The summer season is June 15--September 15 and the Lodge offers hostel accommodations for up to 15 persons. There are also 4 log cabins with wood stoves and kerosene lamps. No electricity but hot and cold water and showers...usually.

For further information write: (or phone 604-982-2489)  
Talchako Lodge Committee  
c/o Sierra Club of Western Canada  
P.O. Box 35520 St. E.  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6M-4G8



NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

In accordance with Article VIII of our by-laws, the following Sequoia members in good standing were appointed as the nominating committee:

Eila Fox  
Bob Friday  
Amy McElhany

They will submit their report at our June meeting designating nominations for each office and for members of the board of directors. In addition, nominations from the floor will be received.

OPEN SPACE CELEBRATION:

An opportunity to visit an open space preserve on the midpeninsula will be the highlight of a celebration of open space on Saturday, May 22, 1976, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Dick Leonard, President of the Save-the-Redwoods League, will be the keynote speaker of the conference, which will begin at Ladera School, La Cuesta Drive, Menlo Park. He will be followed by a slide presentation which will show major midpeninsula open space preserves. Included in the morning activities will be a chance to visit booths with literature, displays, and information about local environmental education groups, conservation organizations, and park districts.

The highlight of the day will be your choice of a tour of one of the following special sites: Black Mountain Open Space Preserve, Filoli Gardens, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, or the Marine Ecological Institute "Inland Seas" boat trip. For families with children under ten years old, trips are planned to Hidden Villa Ranch or the Bay marshlands. The charge for the conference will be \$4.00 per person and \$2.00 for children under ten. This should be included with your preregistration form. There will be a surcharge of \$3.00 that day for tours of Filoli and the Inland Seas."

This celebration will be sponsored by the Peninsula Conservation Center in cooperation with the Palo Alto branch of American Association of University Women, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Environmental Volunteers, League of Women Voters of Palo Alto, Midpeninsula Regional Park District, Nature Explorations and Sempervirens Fund.

If you are interested, complete the following coupon and send it with your check payable to Peninsula Conservation Center to: Open Space Conference, Peninsula Conservation Center, 1176 Emerson, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Phone: 328-5313. BRING YOUR OWN BAG LUNCH. DEADLINE: MAY 17, 1976.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices:

Black Mountain \_\_\_\_\_ Filoli \_\_\_\_\_ Jasper Ridge \_\_\_\_\_

Inland Seas \_\_\_\_\_ Hidden Villa \_\_\_\_\_ Marshlands \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CARE OF ORPHANED BIRDS - by Carol Hamilton, WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC.

We are now into the "baby" season for wildlife (March through September). The following is a general guideline for the emergency care and feeding of the more common songbirds. (Some species, ie: swallows, hummingbirds, birds of prey, etc. require special care and diets

and will not be discussed here). Call Wildlife Rescue, Inc. Immediately (Phone 327-1600). Our service area is from Redwood City to Cupertino. We will either care for your bird or direct you to the wildlife rehabilitation agency in your area. In the meantime the following suggestions for emergency care try to utilize food and equipment found in most homes.

Truly orphan?

Nestling: (Unfeathered or feathered but can't fly) put back in nest; construct or rebuild his nest if you can. If not possible to go back in own nest, try putting bird in another nest with nestlings of similar age and species. The foster mother bird will raise the foster child and not know the difference.

Fledgling: (Feathered and can fly although poorly) leave alone. Keep dogs, cats, children and yourself indoors and watch from a distance for 2 hours. It is probably a new fledgling and mother is nearby and willing to take care of and feed her awkward kid if you stay out of the way.

Orphaned!

If above suggestions don't work, or there is imminent danger to the baby, or mother definitely not present, consider the baby orphaned.

Housing:

Keep the baby warm and quiet. Do not handle unnecessarily.

Nestlings: Make a "nest" from any small box lined with tissues. Underneath a larger box put a heating pad covered by two thicknesses of towel, and set to "low." The desired temperature is approximately 85°--95°. Inside this box put your nest. This will keep your baby warm and confined.

Fledglings and older birds: Put them in a larger box with a tree branch poked through for a perch and a tied net or wire mesh over the top of the box (to prevent unexpected solo flights and to protect from cats). Never put the bird in a cage (long term care ensues from stripped or broken feathers).

Diet.

The following is an emergency diet only. It is not complete for daily use.

Non-self feeders: Mix hardboiled egg (yolk only) and canned dog food or soaked kibble with enough water to make mushy. Using rounded end of flat toothpick, cocktail swizzle stick, etc., place food to the back of the throat where swallowing reflex is triggered. Otherwise it will just sit there or be spit out. Do not use anything pointed, sharp or with rough edges. NEVER GIVE WATER SEPARATELY as the baby can choke or drown.

Self feeders: Feed diet for specific species. Not all birds eat see (i.e. Robins and Cedar Waxwings) so of course they won't eat if they are offered the wrong food. If you are not sure offer a variety: minced apple, pear and zucchini, seed, hard boiled egg yolk, canned dog food, soaked kibble, bugs, etc.

Frequency.

Non-self feeders. Feed approximately 8 to 12 bites of an amount they can easily swallow within each hour (i.e. every 30--60 minutes) or until the crop is full. The crop is a large soft-walled pouch at the base of the neck.

Self feeders: Place food and water in jar lids. Make sure there is enough light as they will not eat in the dark.

### Traveling:

When you are ready to take the orphan to the Wildlife Rescue Team, use a hole-punched shoe box lined with tissues or a paper bag lined with tissues. Never use a cage because the bird's feathers may become damaged. Warmth is essential even in traveling so a towel-wrapped hot water bottle may have to be placed next to the container.

If you would like to take the three training classes to be a Wildlife Rescue Volunteer, send your name, address and phone number to: Linda Ettinger, 248 San Mateo Dr., Menlo Park, 94025. Contributions for financial support may be sent to: Phyllis Pierce, Treasurer, Wildlife Rescue, Inc., 494 Van Buren, Los Altos, 94022.

### RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY -- EAGLE LAKE TRIP

A special three-day trip to Eagle Lake will be conducted by Phil Shaeffer, Manager of Richardson Bay Sanctuary, June 4, 5, and 6. Eagle Lake is northwest of Susanville, approximately 280 miles from the Bay area and is noted for its abundance and variety of birds; especially interesting at this time are the nesting ospreys. Friday evening the U.S. Forest Service will present a program about the area complete with slides.

There are three types of accommodations:

Motels in Susanville which is 15 miles from the lake. Motel reservations should be made by the individual. There is a \$2 registration fee, per person.

Campers and trailers. \$2 registration fee plus \$2 campground fee.

Tents and sleeping bags. \$3 registration fee.

Meals will be the responsibility of the individual.

Maps, bird lists, etc., will be sent with confirmation of your registration. Call Phil Shaeffer at (415) 388-2524 or send your check payable to Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary to the Sanctuary at 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920.

On Sunday, May 30, there will be a preview showing for people going on the trip of a film about ospreys, "Empty Nest," at 3:00 PM, at the Sanctuary.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES WEEK:

Soon the only place to see wild animals will be the zoo. In order to increase the public's awareness of the situation these animals are in, an Endangered Species Week is being held May 16-22. The week will kick off on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a whale celebration in Rinconada Park (Palo Alto) from 1-5. Monday through Friday there will be evening programs from 7:30-9:00 at the Palo Alto Jr. Museum. These programs will feature films and speakers on the topics of whales, seals, cougars, eagles and wolves. We will wrap up the week on Saturday, May 22, with another celebration on endangered species in general. This will be in Rinconada Park also.

Help is needed in the way of materials and time. If you can help, phone Courtenay Dawson, 327-5746.

### NATIONAL AUDUBON WESTERN CONFERENCE:

Some 900 Audubon members from the Western States plus about 10 birders from Japan gathered at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove on Saturday, April 10 and participated in a non-stop program until noon on Tuesday, April 13. Paul Howard, our Western Regional Representative from Sacramento, did an outstanding job as

master of ceremonies.

Probably the most impressive presentation was an hour long film produced and narrated by George Anderson entitled, "What's the Use?". Mr. Anderson spent four years in the California deserts recording the flowers, animals, insects, reptiles, pupfish and scenery and then turned his camera on the human activities that are devastating this priceless and fragile landscape--strip mining in Death Valley National Monument, motorcycle racing, shoddy desert shacks, litter, dune buggies, unwise use of scarce water, desecration of Indian petroglyphs. A really sad commentary on the culture of the American people.

We were pleased to see two Peninsula people among those on the program. Claire Dedrick, Secretary for Resources, State of California was a panelist and Herb Rhodes, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, State of California, received an award from the San Fernando Audubon Society for a project he sponsored in their area.

One of the principal pleasures of the conference was the opportunity of meeting and talking to Audubon people from the other chapters. It has long been our observation that, birds and conservation notwithstanding, our main enjoyment from Audubon membership has been our association with Audubon people.

We are looking forward to the 1978 Conference.

THE SEQUOIA May, 1976  
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