



Volume 26, No. 4

December, 1976

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING. DECEMBER 2, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM at the Bank of America, A.P. Giannini Office, 300 South El Camino Real (at 3rd Avenue) San Mateo, in the Conference room. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER. DECEMBER 9, THURSDAY, 6:30 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center. The Garden Center is located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th Avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. We have only two potluck dinners each year and we are planning a festive holiday occasion. Reservations are a must. Please phone Marie Morgan (341-2552) or Amy McElhany (343-3219) by noon, Thursday, December 9 to let us know how many are coming and what dish you plan to bring. Please bring your own table settings. Guests are always welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. DECEMBER 9, THURSDAY, 8:00 PM at the San Mateo Garden Center following the Potluck Dinner.

We will be having a representative of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service stationed at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The representative will be talking about what has been, is being, and will be done at the refuge. In conjunction with this, a film "Shall the Bay Live," an Anglia production produced in 1976 will be shown. The film covers the state of the San Francisco Bay. It presents some problems and a few solutions to these problems.

FIELD TRIPS:

As you may have noted on Page 2 of the October SEQUOIA, there are no field trips planned for December save the

CHRISTMAS COUNTS - Barry Sauppe, Christmas Count Chairman

It's that time of year again fellow avian connoisseurs. This year the Crystal Springs Count will be on December 18, and the Ano Nuevo Count will be January 2. The following statistics will show you how the two counts have increased respectively each year with more participants in the field.

Ano Nuevo

1972	species	142	Total birds	9,053	Participants	20
1973		148		10,356		16
1974		161		13,807		15
1975		170		44,297		35

PRESIDENT: John Prime
848 W. Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94403
Phone: 573-5889

EDITORS: Amy and Ed McElhany
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010
Phone: 343-3219

Crystal Springs

1972	Species	157	Total birds	49,561	Participants	30
1973		169		54,891		59
1974		169		57,961		54
1975		182		79,026		71

It's easy to see that with more birders in the field the number of species and the total number of birds seen increases immensely. Out of over eleven-hundred counts conducted in North America last year the Crystal Springs count was tied for eighth place with Corpus Christi, Texas. This involves the number of species seen, and not the total number of birds. For those of you who do not subscribe to American Birds I'll give you a rundown of the counts conducted last year to show you where our counts rank relatively with the rest of the country.

Freeport, Texas - 216	Corpus Christi, Texas - 182
Santa Barbara, Cal - 202	Oakland, CA - 179
Point Reyes, CA - 201	Orange County, CA - 179
Morro Bay, CA - 189	Monterey, CA - 175
Cocoa, FL - 188	Chincoteague, VA - 172
San Diego, CA - 185	Tampa, Fla. - 172
Moss Landing, CA - 184	Merritt Island, Fla - 171
<u>Crystal Springs, CA 182</u>	<u>Ano Nuevo, CA - 170</u>

Amazingly enough, our weakest coverage in the Crystal Springs count circle is residential areas. This area extends from Millbrae down to San Carlos. I'm sure many Sequoia members live in this area and could help on count day. Don't let lack of experience stop you either. There is a job for everyone on count day. Most birds in residential areas are not that difficult to identify. Birds such as doves, robins, mocking-birds, jays, house finches, house sparrows and starlings most beginners can identify. These birds need to be counted.

Bird feeders are excellent places to count birds. If you don't have a feeder it isn't that difficult to start one. Last year only three people volunteered their help in counting residential birds. You can census your back yard, your block, or even a larger area. So let's see if you can give us more support this year.

After the count all participants are invited to the compilation. There will be bread and soup to eat while everyone reports their sightings. Generally everyone has broad smiles. This could be the result of (a) they are happy, (b) they know something we don't know, (c) their feet hurt so much and their eyes are so bloodshot they have to smile to cover up their anguish, or (d) all of the above.

At any rate the count is a lot of fun. I hope to see you all on count day. Contact me as soon as possible if you want to be on one or both counts. My phone number is 349-8470. The best time to call--Friday thru Tuesday before 2:00 PM and Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

October 16 - Ano Nuevo, Pigeon Point, Pescadero. Leader: Barry Sauppe

Twenty-five birders were greeted by a mild autumn day. During the course of the day a total of 104 species were heard or observed. Many were common birds that inhabit our coastal areas, but a few were quite rare. Our first find was the Harlequin Ducks. There were three males in stunning plumage. Everyone was delighted with this find. We also observed Black Oystercatchers and Marbled Murrelets from the same place.

The next discovery of the day was a Blackpoll Warbler. This is a vagrant and not a typical bird of the West Coast. Practically everyone got to see the birds and, of course, to most it was a lifer. At Pigeon Point we observed Sooty Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger and Common Murres. The best find of the day was a Clay-colored Sparrow in the field at Pigeon Point. This is a very rare sparrow anywhere in the western United States. To everyone's delight the bird cooperated and allowed a very close observation. Everyone was pleased this day and it showed them perhaps, that one doesn't have to venture far for a pleasant day of birding.

October 30 - Rodeo Lagoon. Leader: Peter Metropulos

Despite the cold, foggy weather, a group of some twenty-five turned out for this highly successful trip. One of the first birds of the day was "High Voltage," the albino Red-tailed Hawk that has spent the last several winters here. At the pond, observers were treated to views of several species of ducks as well as the elusive Sora Rail and an American Bittern. The lagoon was crowded with American Wigeon and other waterfowl including a few Redheads. The "bonus bird" of the day was a very rare (in California) Blackburnian Warbler seen in the cypresses at Battery Wallace. Also exciting was a formation of White Pelicans flying high overhead. Species seen were:

Common, Arctic and Red-throated Loons - Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes - White and Brown Pelican - Double-cr., Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants - Great Blue Heron - Common and Snowy Egrets - Bl.-cr. Night Heron - American Bittern - Mallard - Gadwall - Pintail - Green-winged Teal - American Widgeon - Redhead - Ring-necked Duck - Canvasback - Lesser Scaup - Bufflehead - Surf Scoter - Ruddy Duck - Turkey Vulture - White-tailed Kite - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks - Marsh Hawk - Sparrow Hawk - California Quail - Virginia and Sora Rails - Common Gallinule - American Coot - Killdeer - Willet - Greater Yellowlegs - Dunlin - Long-billed Dowitcher - Marbled Godwit - Sanderling - Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Mew and Heermann's Gulls - Common Murre - Band-tailed Pigeon - Mourning Dove - White-throated Swift - Anna's Hummingbird - Belted Kingfisher - Red-shafted Flicker - Downy Woodpecker - Black Phoebe - Say's Phoebe - Scrub Jay - Common Raven - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Common Bushtit - Wrentit - Winter, Bewick's, and Long-billed Marsh Wrens - California Thrasher - Robin - Hermit Thrush - Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets - Water Pipit - Cedar Waxwing - Starling - Hutton's Vireo - Myrtle and Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers - Yellowthroat - House Sparrow - Western Meadowlark - Redwinged Blackbird - Brewer's Blackbird - Purple and House Finches - Pine Siskin - American and Lesser Goldfinches - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees - Savannah Sparrow - Oregon Junco - White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows and a Blackburnian Warbler.

November 6 - Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leader: Byron Davies

Nineteen observers birded from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM under generally clear skies on this warm Indian summer day. Species observed were: Eared Grebe - Brown Pelican - Common and Snowy Egrets - Pintail - Cinnamon Teal - American Widgeon - Ruddy Duck - Turkey Vulture - White-tailed Kite - Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks - Marsh Hawk - Ring-necked Pheasant - Sora Rail - American Coot - Killdeer - Long-billed Curlew - Willet - Greater Yellowlegs - Least Sandpiper - Dunlin - Short-billed Dowitcher - Western Sandpiper - Marbled Godwit - American Avocet - Black-necked Stilt - Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls - Rock and Mourning Doves - Burrowing Owl - Anna's Hummingbird - Red-shafted

Flicker - Black and Say's Phoebe - Scrub Jay - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Common Bushtit - Bewick's and Long-billed Marsh Wrens - Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets - Water Pipit - Loggerhead Shrike - Starling - Myrtle, Audubon's Warblers - Yellowthroat - Western Meadowlark - Redwinged Blackbird - Brewer's Blackbird - House Finch - Rufous-sided Towhee - Savannah and Lark Sparrows - White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

With the election over and Congress and our Legislature in adjournment, conservationists are taking a well-earned holiday respite, before a legislative new year starts. Hopefully, implementation then of the new Tax Reform Act will allow us and other tax-exempt organizations to advocate legislation without endangering our tax status.

In San Mateo County, besides state-wide passage of the parks bond issue (Prop. 2), we can give thanks for the election of a Supervisor, Fred Lyon, who promises to support reasonable conservation of the county's natural resources, and re-election of Representative McCloskey who has long proved himself an advocate of conservation. And whatever our feelings may be in other areas about President-Elect Carter, his record on conservation is quite impressive compared to that of President Ford. The president, however, has signed three more important bills--the National Forest Management Act, the Alaska Gas Pipeline bill, and the Bureau of Land Management Organic Act.

Other good news concerning the environment is agreement by Arcata Redwood Company to suspend logging near Redwood National Park while Congressional action is sought for a permanent solution. State Resource Director, Claire Dedrick, is supporting a three-part proposal to expand the Park, to protect the Tall Trees Grove from upstream erosion, and to initiate a program to combat the economic effects of reduced logging in the area, already one of high unemployment.

Another bit of, at present, good news concerns the porpoise killing by tuna fishermen. After an on-again, off-again decision by a lower court, a final ban for the rest of the year on any more tuna fishing in the Pacific was upheld by a Federal Appeals Court because the maximum allowable number of 78,000 porpoises had already been killed this year. It was not felt the industry would suffer since they had by October caught as much tuna as was caught in all of 1975.

Local concerns have not yet reached a final stage. The County Board of Supervisors is occupied with choosing a consultant to produce an Environmental Impact Report on plans for the Filoli estate, which still are slanted toward a golf course. Pressure for this may be eased slightly if Menlo Park goes ahead with the golf course it would like to construct along Sand Hill Road between Highway 280 and Whiskey Hill Road, a much less environmentally unique area than Filoli, which harbors migrating geese.

Two public hearings have already been held by the Supervisors on the possibility of developing Sugar Loaf Mountain, but no final decision had been reached when this was written. SAS directors again supported Plan A, also supported by Belmont and San Mateo and the County Planning Commission, of limited development leaving the Cone and Laurel Creek areas in open space. The developer was still pushing for more complete development.

Apology is due Lennie Roberts of the Committee for Green Foothills

for omission last month of her name as author of the extremely well written piece on the then supervisorial candidate, Fred Lyon. I'll try not to do it again.

-- Ruth T. Smith, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW - By Fran Nelson

It is foggy this morning and the honey bees aren't out in force yet so the House Finches are taking advantage of their absence to breakfast on rosemary flowers. The finches run the gamut of reds and so present a colorful sight among the lavender flower spikes. A contrast of green and gold and black and white is provided by a male Lesser Goldfinch who is also eating the flowers. Adjacent to the rosemary, the deep pink camellia sasanquas have already put forth a few blossoms adding to the color. The rosemary is alive with activity but I don't realize how many finches are there until something spooks them into flight. That tiny little patch had had twenty or so little birds in it! No wonder it looked alive!

Later, in attempting to pass my kitchen window, I do a double-take! A Quail! No! Two of them! and two more! Then more and more! I do several counts. They are converging from different points and passing in and out of my sight so I can't really tell who has been counted. The best I can do is to see twenty-two at once. This is the way it used to be eighteen years ago when we moved here. We looked forward to a covey of California Quail every morning. Then more and more people moved into the area with their domestic pets making it hazardous for the Quail to come and now years go by without seeing one in our yard. They have been pushed so far from us that it is rare to even hear a distant call. This visit is a special treat!

They are looking for something to eat and I am wishing I could make myself invisible and go out to scatter some scratch for them. I wish so hard for a way that soon they are congregating on the fence and one by one dropping down into my neighbor's yard. Now is my chance. I hope that if all have not left, they are hidden well enough to feel safe from me. I go out and quickly scatter some scratch. No one spooks. The bird baths need replenishing but that would be pressing my luck.

So back upstairs I go to resume my work, being quite sure they will not return. Can't resist checking though, and a bit later they are back! How did they happen to come back? Was it pure chance or was a hidden bird people-watching and saw the scratch come out?

Busy, busy, busy! It is fun to watch their scratching activity. I rarely get to watch that on field trips. Quail are always walking, running or flying away from me. Now I am watching at leisure the dexterity with which they use first one foot, then the other for uncovering food. I can study their fine plumage, the white head band and the facial pattern of the male, the fine etching on the necks of both male and female, the rusty-brown longitudinal streaks on the edges of their wings that fold onto their backs, their scaly looking sides, the male's black patch on his belly and even the striped undertail coverts. What beautiful birds with their lovely black plumes bobbing as they forage!

Meanwhile, I see out of the corner of my eye a Robin who is waiting for raisins. I try not to let her know that I see her because I can't go out. The Quail would surely take wing.

Two Brown Towhees are here and are doing their thing--scratching with rapid jumps forward and back by contrast to the one foot at a time method. They are young. I love to look at the subtle coloration of the immature Towhees. The delicate rusty tinge to their wing coverts and the generally brighter coloration contrasts more with wings and tail at this stage. I always look a little longer because it will be another year before there are more young Towhees to see.

Two California Thrashers are here, too, and the younger one looks a bit taken aback with all this activity but soon they are both sweeping aside the gravel with their long, decurved beaks searching for food in their way.

A Mourning Dove is walking around the perimeter of the Quail flock and I am struck with how close to the ground he looks by comparison. He is not doing anything but walking--pacing the gravel while watching his food supply disappear. He probably wouldn't mind at all if they would leave.

Meanwhile, four Robins have assembled looking expectantly and I am still trying to ignore their presence. A number of the Quail are nestled down under the pyracantha beneath them.

I leave the window and return a bit later. There is no Quail in sight. Now is my time to give the still waiting Robins some currants and raisins. I go downstairs to go out the patio door but first take the precaution of peeking from the side of the door curtain. And, there is a Quail only two feet from the door! As I watch, twenty of them walk onto the patio! Obviously, the Robins must wait some more.

I resume my work. In a while, I check again. No Quail in sight. Four patient Robins still wait. They have to really like raisins and currants to wait this long. Cautiously, I open the patio door, look, listen, sneak out about four steps. Kissing sounds from the camellia sasanqua planter beside mee--a warning call from the sentry I had not seen in the birch--an explosion of wings from the planter which nearly startles me off my feet!

Two remaining Quail come cautiously from under the xylosma senticosa at the far end of the yard and watch me toss raisins for the Robins--watch one of the Robins come down and land in the middle of a volley of them and another join her before I can turn around to go back in. I am hoping this pair will tell the others that I am obviously not to be feared so they will return and give me another chance which I will try not to muff.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is a 1000-acre wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on weekends and holidays from March 1 through July 4 each year. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 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.

Within the past few weeks Audubon Canyon Ranch has mailed its annual letter to the members of the three sponsoring societies, Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia. This letter solicits support for the Ranch and its 1977 activities. It is earnestly hoped that all Sequoia members will read this letter carefully and respond generously. Audubon Canyon Ranch needs and deserves your support.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Shorebirds and migratory waterfowl have been arriving at Bolinas Lagoon almost daily and there are many birders along the shore welcoming old friends.

Adult classes at Volunteer Canyon are a weekly event. On one of these weekends there was a very special experience--because in the lapse of one half hour between Volunteer and Audubon Canyon Ranch canyons, the class saw a Bobcat, then a male Marsh Hawk, 2 Golden Eagles and Redtails being harrassed by a White-tailed Kite and a Kestrel. The Badger did not appear but left a fresh calling card of scat.

At Cypress Grove on Tomales Bay, there is now a new resident. Late in June an injured Black-crowned Night Heron was left at the Marin Museum of Science for care and rehabilitation. One of its legs was injured. Late in October when it seemed the bird might be able to care for itself, it was brought to the Ranch. As there is a heronry at Cypress Grove, it was decided that this was the best area for its return to a natural habitat. It was released there on October 26 and has been observed orienting itself slowly. The bird was banded at the Museum--its number is 887-18052.

Can you help?? There is a shortage of floor lamps at the Thompson House which is being used for weekend classes. Please call Kathy or John Kipping at 883-0884 if you can be of assistance.

The Ranch is very grateful to:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Ruff who have become sponsors of the Ranch in honor of Mary Hegner Ruff on her 87th birthday.

To the Sequoia Audubon Society for its gift of \$1000 toward the construction of the water system at Volunteer Canyon.

To the California Alpine Club for its very generous donation.

To Mrs. Alexis Becker, W.S. Picher and Mrs. Edward M. Shelton for their contributions in memory of Mrs. Harry B. (Winifred) Allen.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING:

In the absence of President John Prime, the November General Meeting was ably conducted by Vice President Steve Aldrich as he opened the meeting by reading a letter from National Audubon Society thanking Sequoia for a donation of \$1500 to their Bicentennial Sanctuary Fund. The donation puts us on the honor roll of societies contributing over \$1000 or \$1 per member.

Pearl Morgenstern reminded us that if anyone wants a ride to any of our field trips or has room in his car to take an extra person or two, she is the catalyst to smooth out the transaction. Her phone number is 341-2510.

To help us get in the mood for George Peyton's program on birds of South America, Charles Newman played his tape of tropical birds proving that colorful beautiful birds make colorful beautiful sounds. A duet by Mottled Owls at 4:30 AM, beautiful? It was. Charles said so.

At our September meeting Bruce Howard presented a program on a trip to Alaska which was lead by George Peyton. November found us moving appropriately south with a program by Mr. Peyton, himself: Bogota to the Amazon to the rain drenched Andes; glimpses of beautiful country, colorful birds, lush and tropical as one would imagine it to be; scenes from a way of life very different from ours.

Then on to the Galapagos, still on the equator but so different; the abundance of animals, the barren landscape, the lack of people. Cold water currents bring the Penguins to the equator here. Slow moving

iguanas abound, Galapagos finches cleaning bugs off as they ride the iguanas' backs. Turtles ponder the action. Blue-footed Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Frigate Birds, Whimbrels, Galapagos Doves, a strange mixture of sights and sounds so much so remarkably unchanged by time. As Mr. Peyton says, it is a "must" for those who would travel to diverse and distant places.

GARDENING DESPITE BIRDS -- By Sheile Davies

There was a time when we were taught about the big, bad wolf and our little feathered friends. Now we know that the wolf is our friend, but I'm not sure about all birds. There are hazards for the gardener when the Golden-crowned Sparrow returns to the Bay Area.

The first sweet "oh dear me" song is heard in October and is a signal to check your seedling protection devices. If there is a good natural supply of Golden-crown treats, your lettuce seedlings may be safe from attack for a few weeks but don't procrastinate or you may lose your entire first sowing.

If I had been a member of Audubon before becoming a gardener, I would have known that some birds like fresh greens; in my innocence I thought all birds ate seeds and insects. Now I know which birds are resident in the Bay Area, which are winter visitors only and when they arrive and leave, and which birds eat cherished plants and how to protect the plants. Learning about birds and making my own observations has added to my gardening knowledge, and my garden seems lifeless when it is without visiting birds.

The list of favorite foods for these gourmet birds is varied. Highest on the list is newly sprouted lettuce, but somewhat surprisingly, the first shoots of Ranunculus are dearly loved. For a time I had a planting of Blue-eyed Grass and often saw Golden-crown appreciating my use of a native plant. An English garden writer observed birds eating primrose flowers of certain colors. My blue primroses never seem to get beyond the bud stage so possibly they too are liable to attack although I have not yet actually observed the predator.

In May the Golden-crowned Sparrow leaves the Bay Area for breeding grounds further north and the gardener can relax security measures. In fairness I must say that other species like an occasional garden salad too. I have seen White-crowned Sparrows snatching at a lettuce leaf or sorrel, but they don't appear to have the same aggressive flair. Forgive an anthropomorphism, but the Golden-crowns seem to swagger through my garden, confident of a welcome and successful foraging. I call them "The Thugs" but the title is affectionate--mostly.

So if you want to increase your local Golden-crown population, plant for the birds. If you love the birds but don't want to share your vegetables, cover the plants you want to protect with hardware cloth tents of plastic strawberry baskets. Make your own observations of the birds in your garden and add to our knowledge of birds and their needs.

SIGHTINGS: Barry Sauppe and Peter Metropulos

An incredible 30,245 Loons were observed flying south from Pigeon Point, Nov. 9. Unusual away from the open ocean, a Northern Fulmar was on the lagoon at San Gregorio Beach, Nov. 7. On Nov. 9 eight were seen from Pigeon Point. They were all dark-phase birds.

Rare in San Mateo County, a Green Heron was at San Gregorio Beach lagoon, Nov. 7.

A Ferruginous Hawk was observed flying south at Half Moon Bay, Nov. 6. Another one was seen in the fields near Pigeon Point the next day.

A Golden Eagle (adult) was at Crystal Springs Reservoir, Nov. 3.

Single Merlins were at Belmont, Oct. 23, and Ano Nuevo Point, October 27.

Individual Red-Shouldered Hawks were noted at Ano Nuevo Point, Oct. 31, and Moss Beach, Nov. 10.

Two Common Terns were at Foster City, Oct. 19.

Five Ancient Murrelets were at Pigeon Point, Nov. 6. A high count of nineteen were present there Nov. 9. A Rhinoceros Auklet and a Pomarine Jaeger were also observed at the Point, Nov. 9.

A Long-eared Owl observed in a willow thicket near Half Moon Bay, October 27, was the first county record (and long overdue!).

One Tropical Kingbird was photographed on the wires around the pasture north of Pigeon Point, Oct. 31--Nov. 1. This species breeds from Mexico to South America and occurs as a rare wanderer to the California Coast in the Fall.

Much excitement was generated by the discovery of a Prairie Warbler at Sharp Park golf course in Pacifica, Oct. 24. Many birders from all over Northern California have seen the bird. It was still present Nov. 8. A female Parula Warbler was seen at Moss Beach, Oct. 27. One Blackburnian Warbler, also very rare, was at Montara, Oct. 25. A Black-and-White Warbler was at Sharp Park Golf Course, Oct. 25. Another eastern bird, a Palm Warbler was at Moss Beach, near the marine refuge, Nov. 10. A Hermit Warbler was in cypresses near Moss Beach, Nov. 10. Rare along the Coast, a Yellow-headed Blackbird was in fields south of Martin's Beach, Oct. 27.

A Swamp Sparrow was seen in a marshy field in south Half Moon Bay, Nov. 6. And, a White-throated Sparrow was at Montara, Oct. 28.

NON GAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:

Hunters, through their purchases of licenses and equipment, have provided the great bulk of financial support for wildlife conservation programs. Now, however, non-hunters may also participate in such programs through the California Department of Fish and Game. Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program. Write a check for one dollar or more to NONGAME WILDLIFE and mail it to:

Wildlife
Box DFG
Sacramento, CA 95801

If you plan to attend the December 9 meeting, we hope to have Nongame decals for sale at \$5 each. All contributions are tax deductible.

Two projects using funds from this program have been approved. One involves the guarding of the Peregrine falcon nests on Morro Rock and the other the construction of three desert watering facilities for wildlife.

WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC.

-- By Carol Hamilton

Happy Holidays from Wildlife Rescue, Inc. The following song, written to the tune of "A Partridge in a Pear Tree" was composed by Jinny Collins and Phyllis Pierce in honor of the retirement of Founder-president, Carol Hamilton. We would like to share it with you. (One

note...the PROGRESS NOTES refer to the progress record that goes home with each animal and is kept up by the volunteer until returned to WRT upon release of the animal.)

On the....FIRST....day of Christmas Wildlife Rescue sent to me:

A Pigeon in a Pine Tree
Two Tiny Titmice
Three Thrashing Thrushes
Four Frisking Fawns
FIVE PROGRESS NOTES
Six Shrikes A-Shrieking

Seven Sparrows Singing
Eight Owls A-Clacking
Nine Nutty Squirrels
Ten Tawny Towhees
Eleven Angry Eagles
Twelve Sassy Scrub Jays

COLOR BANDED LONG-BILLED CURLEWS:

Adult and juvenile long-billed curlews have been banded with red, yellow, green, or light blue plastic leg bands (and with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg bands) in the Columbia Basin of south-eastern Washington. The bands are the same size as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands and are placed on the opposite leg. They each have a black number (from 1 to 100) printed on them, and are visible on standing or perching birds.

Status, behavior, migration, and territory selection are several of the more important points being studied.

Should you see any of these birds, please write: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811. Include date, time of day, and location of the observation; plus name of observer(s), color of band, and if possible, the number printed on the band. Also include the activity of the bird at the time of siting, the type of habitat it was sited in (e.g., grassland, mudflats along a lake, etc.), and the number of other curlews associated with the marked individual(s).

Julia N. Fitzner
Battelle-N orthwest Laboratories
P.O. Box 999
Richland, Washington 99352

BIRDS OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION:

The Peninsula Conservation Center Gift Shop now has offset printed copies of The Birds of South San Francisco Bay Region by Charles G. Sibley. This is a 54 page booklet packed with birding information of the highest quality. Its author, Dr. Charles Sibley, is an outstanding research ornithologist and geneticist. Although published in 1952, the material is still pertinent. In the few instances where species and area data have undergone change, the birder can bring his own observations, records and expertise into play. This historical information alone is worth the price--it is full of such tidbits as, under Pacific Artic Loon, "one was found in a vacant lot in Gilroy, October 19, 1937, and was released in Soap Lake." The dedicated birder will enjoy incorporating this rich localized information into his or her personal pleasure while birding the south San Francisco Bay area.

The Peninsula Conservation Center Gift Shop, 1176 Emerson Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301, will be pleased to accept mail orders. The price is \$2.50 plus sales tax plus 75 cents for mailing.

If you plan to visit the Peninsula Conservation Center you will

find many conservation-oriented items for Christmas: Bird books, calls and feeders; Wildflower seeds, notepaper, books and prints; Handcrafts, jewelry, pottery; Sierra Club books, calendars, posters; Committee for Green Foothills Christmas cards and wrapping paper; Audubon magazines, notepaper and wrapping paper; and many more nature-oriented gifts for all ages.

NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular meeting on November 4.

A contribution to the Pescadero Marsh Fund was voted in memory of John Morrill.

The board discussed participation at the National Audubon Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, June 10-12, 1977.

The board decided to purchase 20 decals at \$5 each from the California Department of Fish and Game Nongame Wildlife Conservation Program. These will be offered for sale at the December regular meeting. Dr. Norman Fox will be in charge.

Max Krueger and Cliff Lindquist attended the meeting and described in detail their program for the rehabilitation of raptors. The present status and goals were discussed. It was voted to continue SAS support at \$25 per month.

JOHN L. MORRILL:

Jack Morrill died suddenly early this month at his home in Coquille, Oregon. Jack was treasurer of Sequoia Audubon in 1963-34, President in 1964-65 and editor from December, 1963 to February, 1972. He served on several Sequoia committees including the Pescadero Marsh sub committee commencing in November, 1965. He was also a member of the board of the San Mateo County Junior Museum, now the Coyote Point Museum, and served on the board of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Jack was a dedicated, effective conservationist, a lover of nature and a good friend. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

The family prefers memorial contributions be made to Sequoia Audubon Society, 6736 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014.

FIELD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS:

A series of three weekend workshops which will concentrate on field identification techniques will be offered in December, January and February, conducted by Jon Winter. The workshops will be designed for the more experienced birder, but beginners can benefit as well. They will begin where the standard field guides leave off and will be illustrated with slides. The material will emphasize problem groups such as immature gulls, terns, sparrows, Empidonax flycatchers, sandpipers, immature cormorants, immature hawks and fall warblers to cite a few examples. The lecture and slide presentations will be followed up by local field trips.

Workshop Dates:

December 11-12
January 22-23
February 5-6

Cost: \$20.00/workshop

For reservations and details, mail checks to:
Jon Winter
1277 Yulupa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 528-7488

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 2 - Thursday - Sequoia Board Meeting
December 3 - Friday - San Mateo Garden Center Holiday Botique
December 9 - Thursday - Christmas Potluck at the Garden Center
" " " General meeting following Potluck
December 18 - Saturday - Crystal Springs Christmas Count
December 24 - Friday - Prepare your Christmas feast for the birds
January 2 - Sunday - Ano Nuevo Christmas Count

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S ! !

THE SEQUOIA December, 1976
Sequoia Audubon Society
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010

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