



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Volume 26, No. 8

April, 1977

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, APRIL 7, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings & Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 14, THURSDAY, 8:00 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.

Paul M. Howard, Jr. will present a program on Alaska featuring some beautiful and spectacular pictures. Paul will explain the opportunities and needs for action in the protection of public lands in Alaska. In addition to the 83 million acres of "national interest" lands on which the present Congress must act, there is the matter of a natural gas pipeline route through the Arctic National Wildlife Range which drew "unalterable opposition" from National Audubon.

Paul Howard has been on the National Audubon staff since 1960 and is presently serving in Sacramento as our Western Regional Representative. One of Paul's major accomplishments was a campaign which led to the elimination of the wildlife hazard of the San Joaquin Valley oil sumps. Each year the oil sumps had been killing some 50,000 waterfowl, 100,000 songbirds, shorebirds, raptors and many mammals. Paul has recently been elected Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of National Audubon. He will take over his new duties on July 1.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will have a new chapter in their Bird-of-the-Month "hear and see" series.

If Cliff Lindquist's turkey vulture boarder, Junior, is in the proper mood for people watching, Cliff will bring it to the meeting so that it can add us to its life list.

FIELD TRIPS:

For Field Trip ride sharing phone Pearl Morgenstern at 341-2510.

APRIL 2, SATURDAY SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

Meet at 9:00 AM at Guadalupe Parkway and Radio Road. This point is conveniently reached by turning left northbound on the Old Bayshore Highway near the top of the hill just north of Brisbane. There should

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

2 THE SEQUOIA April, 1977

be many wildflowers.

Our leader will be Enes Millar. 566-6119

APRIL 12--MAY 1, MEXICO

See page 2 of the March SEQUOIA for details. Contact Charles Newman to ascertain if there are any openings. (Days 755-6808 or evenings 697-5601.)

APRIL 23, SATURDAY FILOLI GARDENS: Cost \$3.00

Meet at the stone gates on Edgewood Road at 9:30. The tour through the beautiful formal and informal gardens of Filoli will take place between 10:00 and 12:30. Be prepared to pay \$3.00, the tour fee. The leader will be Max Krueger, phone: 593-2501.

APRIL 30, SATURDAY, MT. DIABLO:

Meet at 8:30 AM at a point 1½ miles beyond the lower gate. Suggested route would be across San Mateo Bridge, north on #17 freeway, east on #238-#580 freeway, north on #680 freeway. Near Danville take freeway exit and proceed east on Diablo Road to Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard and turn left (about 2 miles from freeway). Mt Diablo Scenic Boulevard becomes South Gate Road. (If you missed the left turn you will be on Blackhawk Road, in which case go back.)

We are fortunate to have Jean Richmond as our leader for this trip. Jean is a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon and editor of their newsletter, the QUAIL. Phone: 837-2843.

MAY 7, SATURDAY, STONE AND PILARCITOS DAMS:

Details in May SEQUOIA

The leader is Maryann Danielson, phone: 342-6919

MAY 14 and 15 MYSTERY TRIP: See page 11 for Registration Form

Shades of Monty Montgomery! Where will we go? What will we see? Only the committee knows but in the best tradition of Sequoia Mystery Trips we will embark with great expectations and return with fond recollections. If you like back roads and barnyard birding, you will enjoy this trip. We will leave Foster City at 8 a.m. on May 14 and return at 5 p.m. May 15. The bus can carry 48 passengers. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis so fill out the form on page 11 and mail it promptly to Al Bergeron, 251 Killdeer Court, Foster City, CA 94404. Be sure to include your check for the whole cost or a deposit of not less than \$12 per person to be followed by a balance payment by May 1st. Cancellations and/or requests for refunds should be received by May 1st. Registration Form on Page 11.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

February 26, 1977 Los Banos Leaders: Fran and Leroy Nelson

The enthusiastic participation of the twenty-four who met at Los Banos Wildlife Area made for an interesting two days of birding despite drought conditions. Vast areas normally under water were bone-dry. This was especially evident at Merced National Wildlife Refuge.

At Los Banos, it took some effort to see Gallinules and three White Swans. Normally these species are much more abundant. With hunting pressures off, the geese had forsaken the refuges for farmlands. From the northern limits of the refuge, we saw distant clouds of geese rise into the air from time to time. We did see a few stragglers at relatively close range on the refuge and small flocks occasionally were seen over-

head but the multitudes kept their distance. Many American Bitterns were sighted in marshes and in the air--a lot of them at close range. The highlight at this refuge was the striking silhouettes of many White-faced Ibises both foraging at the water's edge and in flight.

At San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, we saw part of the Tule Elk herd which has been established there. While watching the elk, 2 flocks of White Pelicans performed overhead against a clear, blue sky. Along the tour route, we observed a rookery comprised of many nests in three large leafless trees. A good many Great Blue Herons had already staked their claims and were carrying in sticks to refurbish their nests. A little farther on we sighted a Red-shouldered Hawk and a male Merlin.

Sunday morning we met at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters where we saw the nesting Great Horned Owl and her mate as well as a Barn Owl. A large flock of Sandhill Cranes was foraging in the stubble of the refuge cornfield. While on a levee road where we had gone for a better look at the cranes, we sighted two Golden Eagles, one of which landed on a nearby fence post. In the wet fields along Sandy Mush Road, we saw great numbers of Long-billed Curlews. At one location along this road, a special treat was a number of Vesper Sparrows.

A memorable feature of the two-day trip was the great number and variety of raptors throughout the area. The number of Rough-legged Hawks was especially appreciated since we have seen relatively few on the Coast this year.

Species seen: Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes - White Pelican - Double-cr. Cormorant - Great Blue Heron - Common and Snowy Egrets - Bl.-cr. night Heron - American Bittern - White-faced Ibis - Whistling Swan - Canada Goose - White-fronted and Snow Geese - Mallard - Pintail - Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal - American Widgeon - Shoveler - Canvasback - Ruddy Duck - Turkey Vulture - White-tailed Kite - Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks - Golden Eagle - Marsh Hawk - Pigeon and Sparrow Hawks - Ring-necked Pheasant - Sandhill Crane - Common Gallinule - American Coot - Killdeer - Black-bellied Plover - Common Snipe - Long-billed Curlew - Greater Yellowlegs - Dunlin - Dowitcher Species - American Avocet - Black-necked Stilt - Ring-billed Gull - Rock and Mourning Doves - Barn Owl - Great Horned Owl - Belted Kingfisher - Red-shafted Flicker - Black and Say's Phoebe - Horned Lark - Tree, Barn, and Cliff Swallows - Yellow-billed Magpie - Common Crow - Long-billed Marsh Wren - Mockingbird - California Thrasher - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Water Pipit - Loggerhead Shrike - Starling - Audubon's Warbler - House Sparrow - Western Meadowlark - Redwinged and Tricolored Blackbirds - Brewer's Blackbird - House Finch - Savannah and Vesper Sparrows and White-crowned and Song Sparrows.

March 13 Alum Rock Park Leader: Andy Kratter

Eighteen people showed up for a fairly clear day of birding, seeing 53 species. Everybody got good looks at the Canyon Wren and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. At the end of the day a Golden Eagle Circled overhead.

Species seen: Pintail - Turkey Vulture - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks - Golden Eagle - Sparrow Hawk - California Quail - Band-tailed Pigeon - Rock and Mourning Doves - White-throated Swift - Anna's, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds - Belted Kingfisher - Red-shafted Flicker - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Hairy, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpecker - Black Phoebe - Violet-green, and Rough-winged Swallows - Steller's and Scrub Jays - Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Plain Titmouse - Common Bushtit - White-breasted Nuthatch - Brown Creeper - Wrentit - Be-

wick's and Canyon Wrens - Mockingbird - California Thrasher - Robin - Hermit Thrush - Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Starling - Hutton's Vireo - Orange-crowned, Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers - Brewer's Blackbird - House Finch - Lesser Goldfinch - Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee - Oregon Junco and White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Song Sparrows.

CONSERVATION NEWS:

Both Congress and the State Legislature have now moved into high gear and are considering the usual myriads of bills. Of prime importance to Audubon members are the Alaska Lands bills, HR 39 and S 500, the federal aid program for non-game wildlife being introduced by Senator Gary Hart and Congressman Robert Leggett, and the threat to weaken Section 404 of the Water Pollution Control Act which provides vital wetlands protection. Such weakening amendments have been introduced in both the House and Senate. Letters are needed to our Senators and Congressmen opposing these changes and asking that they support keeping Section 404 intact. Wetlands have been disappearing at the rate of 250,000 acres a year before activation of Section 404. Letters to Congressmen and Senators are also needed in support of the Alaska Lands bills and the non-game wildlife aid bills.

The Senate in mid-March restored funding on all but one of the 19 water projects deleted by the President from his budget as uneconomical. These included the Garrison Diversion project long opposed by NAS and the Auburn Dam on the American River, as well as other environmentally destructive projects whose total cost comes to \$5 billion. Senator Cranston voted to uphold the President's deletion of the projects. There may still be a chance to stop these pork barrel schemes in the House, or at least others like them which President Carter also wants to stop, if enough letters go to our Congressmen as well as to President Carter commending his action.

Senators Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa can both be addressed at Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, while Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. and Congressman Leo J. Ryan are in the House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Address of President Carter is The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Those who have already reached the last pages and Update in the March AUDUBON will have noted that the rejoicing over the apparent saving of Suisun Marsh by the withdrawal of the Dow Chemical Company's plans for a petrochemical plant at Collinsville is tempered with caution. The item warns that the move may be only a feint to put pressure on the regulatory authorities. The company still retains its land holdings there, and its president was quoted in the January 21 issue of the SACRAMENTO UNION as saying that if the state would "stop challenging us and simplify the permit process" that the company would reconsider its withdrawal plans. So those who wrote letters as suggested in the February SEQUOIA need not feel that their labors were wasted. In fact, since Assemblyman Boatwright is still pushing his Resolution, ACR 9, which requests all involved state agencies to allow siting of the Dow plant regardless of its adverse environmental effects, letters should also be sent to San Mateo County Assemblymen opposing this Resolution.

Mr. Boatwright has also introduced AB 293, which with a similar Senate bill, SB 193, purports to preserve agricultural lands. The Senate bill was introduced by Senator Zenovich who introduced a similar, business supported bill last year. Both bills will do little to hinder the continued urbanization of prime agricultural land, and they are opposed by the Sierra Club and the Planning and Conservation League. In contrast, Assemblyman

Warren has again introduced a bill, AB 222, to establish a prime agricultural land preserve system with assurance that lands so designated will be taxed as agricultural land, and this should have support.

The drought and the Dow pull-out have triggered other anti-conservation bills in the Senate, notably SB 345 which would repeal the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, a couple of other Senate bills favoring conservation are making some progress. SB 4, the bill requiring deposits on all beverage containers, passed the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee after amendment to provide time to retrain displaced workers, and it has gone to the Finance Committee. Here it will need support, and SAS members are urged to write supporting the bill to Senator Arlen Gregorio who is a member of the Finance Committee. Those not in Senator Gregorio's district should write Senator John F. Foran, or their own Senator if out of county.

The other bill, SB 68, introduced by Senator Jerry Smith of Santa Clara County, promotes collection and recycling of used automotive and industrial oil in an effort to conserve oil and also to prevent pollution, since much used oil now goes into the ground or the ocean. This bill has also passed the Natural Resources Committee and has gone to the Senate Finance Committee, and support should also be addressed to the above Senators. The February-March issue of Audubon Conservation Topics West which just came, mentions Senator Alquist's bill, SB 160, the "Oil Re-refining Act," which I have not seen. It would appear to be similar to SB 68, but the latter is the one being supported by the Sierra Club and the Planning and Conservation League and was developed with the help of the AAUW and League of Women Voters, sponsors of the successful ROAR voluntary oil recycling program in Santa Clara County.

All state legislators can be addressed at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. San Mateo County Assemblymen are Dixon Arnett, Leo T. McCarthy, and Louis J. Papan.

On March 8 the County Supervisors held a hearing in San Bruno on the San Bruno Mountain County Park Master Plan and EIR, which Marian Lockwood and I attended. On behalf of SAS I agreed with representatives of other conservation organizations there that the Plan provided overdevelopment both from the standpoint of protection of the natural resources of the Mountain and from that of excessive cost, which would total roughly \$3¼ million. The Plan also fails to mention or suggest coordination with plans the State Parks Department will have for the land on the Mountain to be purchased by the State with the \$4 million recently provided by popular vote. At the end of the meeting the Supervisors voted unanimously that the EIR was adequate (which had not been contested) and to postpone action on the Plan for consultation with the State and further citizen input.

The fate of San Francisco's Hassler property in San Carlos seems pretty well assured now since withdrawal of the State's proposal to use it as a women's prison and since the agreement of the Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District to acquire the property and keep it as open space.

-- Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW By Fran Nelson

A Scrub Jay is taking a sunbath in the dust-bowl area. His eyes look glazed, head and body are held at an awkward angle, wings and tail spread so all the lovely vibrant blue is catching the sun. His mate guards from the wind-bent branch at the top of the birch, the unofficial

guard post. She has an acorn in her beak.

I begin to ponder this bird who is sometimes "the good guy" and sometimes "the bad guy" not only as seen by the human eye but to other bird species as well.

Right now the guarding jay is the "the good guy". When a jay is on guard duty, the smaller birds come out of hiding and are more free to move about in their search for food knowing that they will receive ample warning should an accipiter make an appearance. If the guard takes a dive, they all take a dive.

Now the sunbath is over. The jay heads for the sunflower seed area and with a magnificent flourish, lands in the midst of a flock of finches and sparrows who are eating sunflower seeds. They pop up like popping corn! He gathers a beakful of seeds, hops on his pogo stock and bounds to the other side of the yard. The birds resume their feeding. The jay is at a favorite burial place for his sunflower seeds, at the header board in front of the xylosma senticosa. He digs a hole in the gravel in front of the header, places a seed in it, covers it over and carefully selects a small stone for the top as if to mark it. He puts the next one on the other side of the board, following the same ritual. The next one is for eating. He chooses a heavy horizontal branch of xylosma just a few inches off the ground and, holding it firmly with his toes, pounds the seed with his beak. After he gets the meat of that one, he tackles another. The last one is buried. Every move this bird makes is an athletic endeavor. The slightest thing he does seems to take every muscle in his body, even to picking up a grain of scratch! I have to wonder how many of the seeds he buries in this area are retrieved by him. It is a favorite scratching place for Fox Sparrows, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Brown and Rufous-sided Towhees. It must be fruitful for them to hunt there as much as they do--perhaps like an ongoing Easter egg hunt. It is again time to make popcorn of the seed-eaters. He seems to enjoy this power he has!

Now it is time for the changing of the guard. Through all this, she has been sitting in one place with the acorn in her beak patiently awaiting her turn. Her mate enters the birch at the lower part and works his way up swiftly in giant zig-zags to the wind-bent branch. With him now on guard duty, she is free to bury her acorn. She takes it down beneath the birch and scrapes aside some of the leaf litter with the pointed end of the acorn and finds a place where that pointed end will go easily into the soil. She covers it with dead leaves and, as always, selects one leaf to top it off. When she has finished, no one would ever guess that anything had been disturbed there at all! The Scrub Jay is a master planter of oak trees. One season, I pulled up about 70 seedlings before I stopped counting! Each one hurt me more than the last. How I wished they could have been growing on some of our hillsides--or that we had enough acres to accomodate them. Several years ago, one grew where I could let it be and it is now about seven feet tall!

At nesting time, the jay is "a bad guy". Ask any distraught little bird who has not been able to keep its nesting location a secret--or its fledglings well hidden until they are skilled enough in the arts of survival. Or ask most any sorrowful birdwatcher who has observed the hard work that has gone into the project--the countless trips, the long hours. Still, the jay is really only doing his best to keep his internal fires burning brightly--even as you and I.

So far, I have used "he" and "she" arbitrarily but I have just discovered which is which! One is sitting at the birch top but not at the

guard station. The other is on the way up. This time the bird at the top does not move to make way for the other but instead waits and is fed. At this instant, I know them apart! I hasten to find some little difference in their plumages which will let me tell them apart later. There is a difference! The male has a narrower white eyebrow--hers is much wider and less well-defined. It doesn't really matter too much whether or not I know them apart. They'll probably make out okay either way.

A Scrub Jay is a provident fellow. He'll bury anything he can carry away in his beak--a beakful of scratch, a beakful of mixed seeds, a beakful of apple, a piece of suet. Once I watched one pluck a pyracantha berry from a large, heavy, solid clump and tuck it neatly inside that same clump! Sometimes I watch them bury raisins in the gravel right at the spot where I have put them! This eliminates costly time delays when other birds would have a chance to sneak in. When there are no more to bury, they uncover one cache at a time and take the contents off to other burial sites. Some are buried only a few feet away. After digging a hole, placing a raisin and covering it, a piece of gravel is carefully chosen. For years I have watched this same routine and wondered what could be so special about one stone over another. I have watched them come back to the exact spot and without any searching, retrieve the raisin or whatever. Now I think I have it figured out! They probably have pet pebbles who guard their caches!

Perhaps this bird's way of life does not always please our human way of thinking but most everyone will have to agree this big, bold, blustery fellow is indeed a beauty. And if you've never heard his beautiful, soft, sweet song, you have a treat in store. You'll have to listen carefully for it! It can only be heard on a still day with not too much space between the songster and the audience. It frequently follows a whispered gargle and sometimes is interspersed with this sound. How different it is from the boisterous calls we usually hear!

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.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH By Betty Boyd

The main canyon and its trails are looking spruced up after a party of 25 volunteers worked long and arduously one early Spring day in anticipation of ACR's opening. Many thanks to each and every one. Work parties are held from time to time and are enjoyed by all. If you would like to participate in one, please leave your name and telephone number with Skip Schwartz or John Kipping at the ranch.

The Ranch is open weekdays to visiting groups of children who come by bus to be guided over our trails and taken to the Overlook by members of the Volunteer Council. Unfortunately, there are a number of schools which cannot afford to hire the buses. These are, for the most part, in disadvantaged areas where the very children live for whom a visit to the Ranch would be a most significant and unforgettable experience. The buses run about \$50 each. Gifts to ACR in any amount earmarked for hiring buses will make a lot of children happy.

Circle Sunday, May 8, for the annual Mothers' Day Barbecue at the

Ranch. This is Marin Audubon's annual fund raising benefit for ACR. It is an occasion which brings old friends together and presents an opportunity to meet new ones. Send your reservation and check to

Marstin Tallant, Barbecue Chairman
30 Scenic Avenue
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Serving time is noon to 3:00 PM. \$3.75 for adults - \$2.50 for children under 12.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is deeply grateful to the late Emily Helen Dickie, a former member of Golden Gate Audubon Society, who remembered the Ranch with a very generous bequest in her will. The bequest adds significantly to the Ranch's Endowment Fund, a fund which must be built up if ACR is to have an assured income and be freed from dependency upon the annual letter of solicitation. It would be a great relief to our Board if all the friends of the Ranch who were in a position to do so had remembered the Ranch in their wills. All bequests and memorials go automatically into the Endowment Fund.

The Ranch is happy to add the names of Judge and Mrs. William H. Orrick to the list of its Sponsors. Audubon Canyon Ranch is very grateful for the many memorial contributions received from friends of MacBoyle Lewis and Eugene Huggins.

April 16 (Saturday) is the first day of Sequoia host duty at the Ranch. Our hosting continues each Saturday and Sunday through May 22. Several members signed up at our March 10 meeting and there will be an additional opportunity to sign up at the April 14 meeting. Shirley Sampson (591-8046) is our host coordinator and will be glad to add your name to the list.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING: By Sheila Davies

The March general meeting was something of an Audubon Canyon Ranch night in honor of our upcoming host duties. Our guests were Karen and Skip Schwartz, resident managers, and John Kipping, naturalist-biologist of ACR. We are fortunate to have such an educational facility within easy reach of San Mateo County. After 15 years of operation, Audubon Canyon Ranch is a secret place known only to the 15,000 to 20,000 people who visit it during the four months of each year that it is open to the public. The story of the Ranch is the story of one small triumph after another; the story of the right people using the right talents, and getting together at the right time. Audubon Canyon Ranch has never leaned back on its laurels but is continually increasing its boundaries in the physical and philosophical sense.

John and Kathy Kipping have been employed by ACR for a year. John brings with him experience at the Strybing Arboretum, where he had much to do with educational programs. He is continuing this work and his infectious enthusiasm is impossible to resist--particularly when you find that it is coupled with thoughtful research and interest. To whet the appetite of any who has been living in a cave and hasn't experienced the Ranch, John showed slides of some of the animals of the Ranch: the very shy harbor seals who need quiet places out of the water to rest and sun; a bobcat (once a hazard to a bicycle); brush rabbits more cuddly than anything Walt Disney thought up; badgers (with a word description of a badger family at play); the spotted skunk; and other creatures equally important in the natural world, spit bugs, wasps and butterflies, ladybirds, frogs, and perhaps best of all, the Giant Salamander that eats the loathsome (to me) banana slug. Skip Schwartz gave a brief history of the Ranch and its past accomplishments, des-

cribed the pleasant duties of hosts (if you can call such a happy experience a duty) and some of the exciting events planned for the near future.

But not all the interesting people in the Bay Area live at Audubon Canyon Ranch. Right here in San Mateo County we have Max Krueger and Cliff Lindquist who are using their special knowledge and experience to rehabilitate raptors. The latest of their pupils, an injured American Kestrel, was a guest at our March meeting. Rhonda used to live at the Coyote Point Museum but it was felt that she might be a suitable candidate for eventual release. Perhaps she liked all the admiring eyes on her because she certainly chattered loudly when returned to her dark box.

Several names were submitted to name the Harris' hawk shown by Max and Cliff at an earlier meeting. The Board of Directors chose the name "Kachina," a Pueblo Indian spirit, as being appropriate. Arrangements are being completed and Kachina is to be flown to Tucson where she will be met by representatives of the Tucson Audubon Society and released to a suitable secret spot. Hal Lucas showed movies of Kachina and Jack the Ripper, the Caracara seen at an earlier meeting, on a training flight. They were taking a wet, heavy line all the way out and doing well to prepare for their return to a natural life. Good luck and happy hunting, Kachina; fly well and long in Arizona.

Charles Newman and Frank Allen recently returned from a trip so the Bird-of-the-Month was the Black Vulture, photographed by Frank in Mexico. The sounds accompanying the pictures were the most unbirdlike snorts and chuffs of this efficient scavenger.

Norman Fox introduced another short movie taken by Elmo Hall of the shore birds near the San Francisco Airport. This film is valuable as future documentation of the numbers and variety of shore birds who use this area, and gave us a visual mini-field trip without the screams of the big, big birds.

BIRDING AT EAGLE LAKE:

A special three-day trip to one of California's most beautiful, and birdiest, areas will again be conducted by Phil Schaeffer, Manager of Audubon's Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Whittell Education Center, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 3-5, 1977.

This trip to Eagle Lake, located northwest of Susanville, will provide a unique opportunity for members of all of the northern California Audubon chapters to come together for an exciting weekend of excellent birding.

Last year saw 125 participants from ten Audubon chapters in attendance. More than 100 species were observed including nesting Black Terns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Mountain Bluebirds, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers as well as Bald Eagles, Purple Martins, Green-tailed Towhees, Pinyon Jays and Goshawks.

This trip will also be highlighted by a U.S. Forest Service presentation on their highly successful Osprey Management Plan and a visit to the Osprey nesting area.

The cost of this program will be \$2-\$3 per person. Reservation forms and further information may be obtained by writing to: National Audubon Society, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920. (Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope!)

WILDFLOWER SHOW, APRIL 30 and MAY 1:

The California Native Plant Society's 8th annual Wildflower Show will be held at the Oakland Museum, 10th and Fallon in Oakland on April 30 and May 1. Phone 273-3884 for further information.

SIERRA NEVADA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY:

The National Park Service has contracted with ecologists at the University of California and the University of Montana to inventory possible natural areas in the Sierra Nevada for classification as Registered Natural Landmarks. Dr. Robert Curry, geologist, and Drs. Jack Major, Dean Taylor and David Randall, plant ecologists, are the investigators carrying on this study.

The area being surveyed is defined by the physiographic limits of the Sierra Nevada, and includes the western foothills and eastern escarpment of the range. Areas recommended for classification as Federal Landmarks will be selected on the basis of their representation of characteristic Sierran eco-systems. Outstanding areas of unique integrity will be reviewed with reference to the potentiality of extending present Park Boundaries to fully include representative ecosystems of the region.

Correspondence regarding the details of site selection and evaluation, and suggestions of localities for consideration in this survey, should be directed to this address: Dr. Dean Wm. Taylor, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

RAPTOR REHABILITATION PROGRAM:

Max Krueger and Cliff Lindquist tell us that their program is more formally known as SET WILD ANIMALS FREE (SWAF). The first bird they rehabilitated was Regal, a Red-tailed Hawk who escaped from its falconer owner and was released in the San Francisco watershed in July, 1973. Since that time they have handled over 21 species and released 100 individuals into the wild. Included in their releases was Granny, a Spanish Imperial Eagle, which involved a trip to Spain. The program handles raptors principally but has released such wildlife as a rare and endangered San Francisco garter snake, raccoons, opossums, skunks and pheasants. Some birds cannot be released because of permanent disabilities. Max and Cliff have been able to make a trade now and then whereby such birds are turned over to a zoo and a healthy, releasable bird is taken into the program and eventually released.

The young female Harris' hawk who attended our February meeting was given the name Kachina. The name was selected by the Sequoia board of directors from a list submitted at the March meeting. Kachina has some Southwest Indian significance and was suggested by Steve Aldrich. Kachina was scheduled to depart in late March for Tucson, her normal territory, courtesy of Hughes Airwest. About a week before her scheduled trip she was observed to be favoring one leg and an examination by Dr. Roush of Santa Cruz disclosed a fracture. Kachina now has her leg in a tiny cast and her release has been re-scheduled for late this fall.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT - CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH JULY 1, 1977

San Diego photographer, Ron Shunk, has solved the usual problems of photographing birds in the wild... proper lighting, complimentary backgrounds and a calmly posed specimen. After careful study of migration patterns and the natural habitat of a particular bird, Ron collects not only the bird but surrounding natural foliage to create a perfect "set" for his normally nervous model. He then photographs the subject and releases it back to the wild. The result? A beautifully composed photograph of outstanding quality and accuracy in detail. Of the 70 photographs on display in Lower Cowell Hall Gallery, most are passerine songbirds found in California at various times of the year.

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular meeting on March 3.

President Prime read a letter from the San Mateo Garden Center expressing their appreciation for our \$200 contribution.

Ruth Smith called to the board's attention the provisions of new federal legislation which permits us to do a certain amount of "lobbying." Our efforts in this direction will probably take the form of suggestions in the SEQUOIA about letter writing to public officials on matters of environmental concern.

Al Bergeron reported that he and Jean Jones recommend John Hart and Craig Benkman for half scholarships and Su Lin Wilkins for a full scholarship to Audubon Camp of the West. The board approved their selection which was made from a field of 10 well-qualified candidates. It was also approved that the first alternate should be John Trapani.

The necessary permit has been obtained for the Filoli area bird census. The census will take a year to complete so as to include seasonal variation and will include a listing of other species of wildlife observed.

MYSTERY TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

-----tear off and mail-----

8 A.M. SAT. MAY 14 ***** MYSTERY TRIP REGISTRATION ***** 5 P.M. SUNDAY MAY 15

name	address	zip	phone	no. in party
------	---------	-----	-------	--------------

I/we want to take part in the Mystery Trip. I/we will bring a picnic lunch for Sat.

My party will include: 1 _____ 2 _____
 3 _____ 4 _____

I/we will need: Bus seats for () @ \$12 ea. \$ _____

() single occupancy hotel rooms @ \$15.37 . . . \$ _____

() double occupancy hotel rooms @ \$16.96 . . . \$ _____

() extra bed at extra cost

() Saturday evening dinners @ \$6 \$ _____

Camping space for () at no cost

Attached find my deposit for () people @ \$12 ea. \$ _____

Attached find my ccheck for payment in full \$ _____

CALENDAR

April 2 Field Trip - San Bruno Mountain
 7 Board Meeting
 12 Field Trip - Mexico - Charles Newman
 14 Regular Monthly Meeting - Garden Center - Paul Howard
 16 Audubon Canyon Ranch - 1st day for Sequoia Hosts
 23 Filoli Garden Tour
 29 National Audubon Convention Registration closes.
 30 Field Trip - Mt. Diablo

May 7 Field Trip - Pilarcitos and Stone Dams
 8 Audubon Canyon Ranch - Mother's Day Barbecue
 14,15 Field Trip - Mystery!

HOW MANY FEATHERS DOES A BIRD HAVE?

Two farmers once had an argument about this and finally solved it by plucking a hen. They found 8325 feathers. A Whistling Swan holds the record for the most feathers with 25,216 and a tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird has at least 940 feathers.

-- Gary L. Bogue - Curator, Alexander
Lindsay Junior Museum in OUTDOOR
CALIFORNIA

THE SEQUOIA April, 1977
Sequoia Audubon Society
1009 Laguna Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 152
Burlingame, California

TIME VALUE MAIL

Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Montgomery
2270 Summit Dr.,
Hillsborough, Calif. 94010