



sequoia needles

SAS GENERAL MEETING

This month's program will be presented by Mr. Tony Look, Executive Director for the Sempervirens Fund. The program, entitled "A Walk in the Redwoods", describes the work of the Fund which is one of the oldest conservation organizations in California. Since 1900, when they were known as the Sempervirens Club, they have been instrumental in establishing Big Basin State Park as the first in California and have over the years acquired much added land to both Big Basin and Castle Rock,

Come join us for this adventure through our magnificent redwoods with beautiful photography by Howard King.

Georgia Perkins

MONO LAKE UPDATE

Buried in the back pages of most of the local papers was the item that the U.S. Supreme Court had refused to review the State Supreme Court Ruling that Los Angeles' right to take water from Mono Lake may be restricted to save the lake from ecological destruction.

"It affirms the ...ruling that environmental factors must be considered," said Ed Grosswiler, Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

However, Ken Downey, an attorney for L.A. Water and Power, responded, "This is not a final decision. It doesn't prevent us from raising these issues again".

The case now moves back to the U.S. District Court in Sacramento for further hearings.

Meanwhile Mono Lake continues to rise and is now back to the 1976 levels.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A REVIEW AND A CALL TO ACTION:

As we begin the new year it is a good time to sit down and reflect on the achievements of the chapter these past few months and then look at what needs to be accomplished during the next six months.

In the October issue of Sequoia Needles we listed five goals for the coming year. These were:

1. The development of a strong conservation committee.
2. Increasing our membership by 10%.
3. Re-evaluating Sequoia's investment portfolio.
4. Actively pursuing the development and implementation of an adequate marsh management plan for Pescadero Marsh.
5. Up-grading our field trips.

I am pleased to report that with the exception of #2 above, your chapter has made a great deal of progress toward fulfilling the above goals.

We have an active Conservation Committee. Sequoia's investment portfolio is being revised to reflect the current investment policy as approved by the Board of Directors. We have completed a substantial portion of phase one planning covering Sequoia's role in getting a management plan implemented at Pescadero Marsh.

Thus with the help of many of our members, Sequoia is presently moving ahead and starting to achieve positive results. We are at a crossroads though. We can either continue to move ahead or else fall back. IT WILL ALL DEPEND ON YOU and YOUR PARTICIPATION in our chapter activities as to which road we take.

Chapter programs presently cover a wide range of topics and activities. Your participation could be as easy and enjoyable as going on some of the field trips, attending monthly meetings, attending a Sequoia Natural History Series seminar, or becoming a member of one of our action committees.

Some of the more exciting projects underway at present and where your efforts are most needed include:

1. BECOMING AN AUDUBON OBSERVER. Our Conservation Committee needs someone in each of the various cities to monitor what is happening to the wetlands, marshes and open spaces within your city and report back to the committee for appropriate action in accordance with the Audubon Cause.
2. BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE AWARDS PROGRAM COMMITTEE. This committee is responsible for soliciting applications for Sequoia's First Annual Awards Program, selecting award winners and doing the planning and implementation of the awards ceremony which will take place at our June potluck dinner meeting.

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CALENDAR



JAN. 1
SUNDAY

ANO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT. If you've received this in time and if you're wondering...YES, we still need volunteers. See the December Needles for details. Call Frank Allen to volunteer.

COORDINATOR: Frank Allen (344-9339)
COMPILER: Barry Sauppe

JAN. 5
THURSDAY

SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Allstate Savings and Loan Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

JAN. 7
SATURDAY

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING. S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center, Alviso. The morning is to be taken up with National, Regional and Chapter reports. Brown Bag Lunch is recommended. The afternoon will be occupied with reports from the Condor Research Center Staff, from Chuck Houghton, refuge planner for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the San Luis and S.F. Bay Refuges and by Tom Harris of the San Jose Mercury-News on the environmental problems of the Kesterson Reservoir Refuge. Coffee time begins at 9:30 AM. To get there, take Hwy. 101 South to Hwy. 237. Take 237 east to Taylor. Left on Taylor to Grand. Right on Grand and follow it to the end.

JAN. 8
SUNDAY

PALO ALTO BAY LANDS FIELD TRIP. This area is excellent for wintering ducks, waders and shorebirds and sparrows. The area is almost always good for a surprise or two. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the flood control ponds on Frontage Road. Take Hwy. 101 south to the Embarcadero exit. Go east on Embarcadero and take a right at the first traffic light. In about a mile, you will see a parking lot on the left which will be our starting point. Trip should break up at noon. This trip will proceed rain or shine. Boots may be required on the levees.

LEADER: Elgin Juri (325-7470)

JAN. 12
THURSDAY

SAS GENERAL MEETING: A WALK IN THE REDWOODS - Tony Look. See article on page 1 for details. At the San Mateo Garden Center, Parkside, west of the Alameda, San Mateo. Social mixer begins at 7:30 PM.

JAN. 14
SATURDAY

FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be our main interests along the Bay and lagoons, pointing out the field marks of such species as common and Barrow's goldeneyes, greater and lesser scaups, etc. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 AM, rain or shine. Trip should end at noon. THINK SMEW!

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

JAN. 17
TUESDAY

FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. A repeat of the weekend trip for the weekday birders. All details identical.

BIRDING CLASSES - Joe Morlan

Joe Morlan, the voice of the rare bird alert, will once again be teaching free evening birding classes at the Marina Middle School - Bay & Fillmore - in San Francisco. All classes meet in Rm. 227 from 7-9:30 PM. Classes are free. Optional field trips on weekends for a \$30. fee. Enrollment is open, in the classroom, any time during the semester. Text is the new Natl. Geographic Field Guide.

TUESDAYS ORN.I - An introductory course, stressing Jan. 17 basics rather than specific identification.

WEDNESDAYS ORN.II - Identification of land birds Starting January 18 discussing field marks of ea.species.

THURSDAYS ORN.III - Identification of water birds. Starting Jan. 12



HELP WANTED -- The Audubon Observer

Audubon Observers are needed to read and monitor local papers for articles and announcements that may be of interest to the Conservation Committee. The Observers will help us to be more effective in addressing local conservation issues. We should have at least one Observer in each community with the following responsibilities.

1. Monitor important land use decisions in the town.
2. Attend relevant hearings on those issues.
3. Notify the Conservation Committee when it would be appropriate for SAS to take a position on a local issue.
4. Subscribe to a local newspaper and clip relevant articles.
5. Identify natural resources that should be conserved in the local area.
6. Help SAS to find ways to contribute to conservation efforts in the town

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SEQUOIA AWARDS PROGRAM

Sequoia is about to embark on an ambitious project; A San Mateo County community and Sequoia Chapter Awards Program.

This is a new and much needed program that will recognize, commend and thank those hard-working and, so far, unacclaimed people who have significantly contributed to the advancement of one or more goals of the Audubon Cause; explained Audubon to the general public and promoted the goal of Audubon; or, contributed outstanding service to the Sequoia Audubon Chapter and the National Audubon Society.

At this time we are proposing two chapter award categories for members only:

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP AWARD
CHAPTER ACTIVITY AWARD

Community Awards - open to both members and non-members - are to be given in 5 categories:

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION
SOLUTIONS TO URBAN PROBLEMS
OPEN-SPACE AND ENIQUE ECO-SYSTEM
PRESERVATION
RESEARCH

Anyone having an individual, group, business or government agency that they would like to nominate please call 593-7368 for an application.

But we need your help to make SAS's first annual awards program a success. There is a lot of work to be done. Tasks include helping with publicity, soliciting nominations, putting together the program itself at the June Potluck and helping research the nominations for presentation to the Board.

If you can help, or if you can provide a donation for printing and typesetting costs, please call Donna Kirsacko (593-7368).

The nomination period will run from January 15 to March 21, 1984. We need you to step forward and volunteer as soon as possible

Donna Kirsacko

THE EDITOR APOLOGIZES - Last month we credited the list of various conservation groups to Ms. Kirsacko. We thank her for pointing out that the credit properly belonged to JEAN ALLEN.



CALENDAR



JAN. 17
TUESDAY

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING - Time and place to be determined. Call Rick Johnson for details. (349-4546).

JAN. 20-21
FRIDAY &
SATURDAY

SNHS SEMINAR -- SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION with Dave Shuford of PRBO. 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at Allstate Savings and Loan, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo, followed by a field trip to Bolinas Lagoon on Saturday at 8:30 AM. See the SNHS article on page 7 for details.

CLASS COORDINATOR: Anne Scanlan-Rohrer

JAN. 28-29
SATURDAY
& SUNDAY

No field trips are scheduled for this weekend but birders should note that this should be the last "high-tide" weekend at Palo Alto Baylands. Consult your local papers for the times and heights of the tides at the Golden Gate and add 52 minutes and 2.9 feet to the figures given in order to correct for Palo Alto. These winter high tides are a unique opportunity to observe rare, unusual and endangered species, but the highest standards of birding etiquette and good judgement should be observed to protect the habitat and its inhabitants who are already under intense pressure due to their exposure to predation during these tides.

FEB. 2
THURSDAY

SAS BOARD MEETING. See above for details.

FEB. 4-5
SATURDAY
& SUNDAY

PANOCH VALLEY AND THE LOS BANOS REFUGES. Join two of SAS's finest birders on a tour of some of Northern California's finest areas. The Panoche Valley is noted for raptors - golden eagles, ferruginous and rough-legged hawks, prairie falcons and merlins - while the Los Banos Refuges are the winter home of white-faced ibis and sandhill cranes. Mountain plovers and mountain bluebirds, roadrunners, ruffs, and bald eagles have been bonuses in past years. Details in next month's Needles.

LEADERS: Roy Nelson and Gil West
COORDINATOR: Cliff Richer (355-4058)

BIRDING CLASSES - Maryann Danielson

The Sequoia District Adult School is once again offering classes in watching and identifying birds. The instructor is SAS member Maryann Danielson. Both of the courses consist of 9 slide lectures and 5 field trips and require payment of a \$35 fee. Registration is at the first class.

KNOW THE BIRDS
WINTER -- 1984
First Class --
January 9

For more advanced birders, concentrating on inter-relationships of birds with their environment. Meets Mondays, 7:30-9:30 PM at Menlo Atherton H.S. Field trips are on Saturdays beginning at 9:00 AM. Classes are held in the teachers' lounge.

WATCHING BIRDS
WINTER -- 1984
First Class --
January 11

A beginning/intermediate class concentrating on locally wintering species. Meets Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 PM at the San Carlos Senior Center

CONSERVATION NOTES

GASQUET MOUNTAIN MINE (excerpts from a memo from Dan Taylor, Western Regional Audubon Representative)

An environmental problem is taking shape in northwest California and southwest Oregon. The issue is a proposal to stripmine cobalt, nickel, and chromium from Gasquet Mountain in Del Norte Co. near the Smith River. The mine is proposed to help the U.S. become less dependent on foreign suppliers for these minerals considered by the Defense Dept. to be of strategic importance.

The mine, by itself, is not economical. But the military value of its minerals makes it eligible for federal subsidies up to \$50 million per year. The Gasquet mine is the first of this type being proposed. There are at least eight other sites stretching from Mendocino Co. to Douglas Co., Oregon.

BACKGROUND

The Smith River is the only undammed river system left in the state. The area is renowned for its fisheries, wild scenery, recreational opportunities, and rare plants. Two state parks, Redwood National Park, the Kalmiposis Wilderness and the proposed Siskiyou Wilderness lie in the Smith River drainage. The river has been designated a State Wild and Scenic River.

Within the drainage are large areas of serpentine covered with a soil known as laterite, a deep red soil containing heavy metals. Laterite soils are residual, meaning that the metals have accumulated very slowly as the other soil constituents have been washed away.

California Nickel Corp. (Cal-Nickel) proposes to mine 5.2 million tons of laterite soil per year for 18 years. 2,300 acres will be mined and 900 other acres will be disturbed through the life of the project. The soil will be processed on site by a sulfuric acid pressure leach method. The waste tailings will be returned to the mined-out areas. Three dams will be built on Hardscrabble Creek, a tributary of the Smith River. The mine's power plant will burn 300,000 tons of high-sulphur coal per year. The proposed federal subsidy for construction of this project is \$300 million.

IMPACT

The cumulative effects on fish and wildlife are expected to be severe. They include:

1. Water degradation. The mine will use 525 million gallons of water a year. Heavy metals will get into the water table and rivers from disposal of contaminated water and leaching of residual toxic metals.
2. Emission of 11 tons of pollutants per day into the atmosphere. There will be acid precipitation in the area which may further mobilize toxic metals from the soil.
3. Landslides and erosion. One half of the area to be mined is classified as having a moderate to high slope failure risk. Increased stream turbidity and siltation would be unavoidable with the high rainfall in the area.
4. Lasting damage. Mine tailings returned to the surface mine pits would require extensive amendment before they could be expected to support vegetation, and there is no assurance that they ever would.

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MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH

On October 29, the California Native Plant Society honored the memory of Barbara Menzies at Audubon Canyon Ranch. A prettily carved bench was installed at Picher Canyon recalling her many years as one of the trio who put on the great Stinson Beach wildflower show.

On November 5, the sons of Audrey W. Evans memorialized the life of this long time Bolinas resident with the planting of a buckeye tree with a bench to follow near the public fountain.

Mrs. Carol Sheerin has honored the memory of her husband, Roger, with a greatly needed bridge over Picher Canyon Creek.

Peter and Maya Lit have given the ranch the lot next to the A.C.R. - Butterfly Grove at Muir Beach.

Also at Muir Beach, a donor has made possible the transfer of part of environmentally sensitive Redwood Creek from A.C.R. to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to extend their control of this threatened watershed.

Former Audubon Canyon Ranch Chairman, Thomas Price, and Docent-member Jeanne Price have been made honorary members of the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society to recognize their many contributions to historical and environmental preservation.

Cliff Conly

SPECIAL PRICE ON NEW FIELD GUIDE

The highly acclaimed and recommended National Geographic Society FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is not available through book stores but only through certain non-profit organizations. You may buy it from the N.G.S. directly for \$15.95 plus shipping or you may order it through Sequoia Audubon for \$13.00 including all shipping charges.

In order to take advantage of this special price, we must order 10 or more. Please telephone 593-7368 to indicate your intention to purchase a copy. Leave your name and telephone number. Do not send any money. You will be contacted by the 15th if there is enough interest to qualify us for the discount.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy is an organization whose objective is to acquire lands which may have natural values for future generations and conserve them until they can be turned over to other organizations.

The Southern California Project Office has available preserve fact sheets for many of The Nature Conservancy's 36 preserves in California.

The fact sheets provide information about the approximate location, history, geography, biota (flora and fauna etc.,) and includes visitor hints. It also tells you who to contact to obtain access and specific directions to the preserve.

The Nature Conservancy requests that you contact the preserve managers or their offices in Los Angeles or San Francisco before planning your trip. This is necessary in order to protect rare or delicate species at critical nesting or flowering periods in their life cycle.

To order these fact sheets send a stamped self-addressed envelope (37¢ postage) to the Southern California Project Office, 849 S. Broadway, Suite 660, Los Angeles, Ca. 90014 indicating which of the fact sheets you desire.

Complete sets may be picked up in person at the Conservancy office at 156 2d St., 5th floor, San Francisco.

Preserve Fact Sheets;

Baldwin Lake - near Big Bear
Big Morongo - Morongo Valley
Bishop Pines - Marin County
Boggs Lake - Lake County
Creighton Ranch - San Joaquin Valley
Desert Tortoise - California City
Ewing Oak - San Diego County
Hamilton - near Lancaster
Hibbard - San Luis Obispo Co
Jaeger - Near Indio
Jepson Prairie - Solano Co.
Kern River - Lake Isabella
Landels-Hill Big Creek - Monterey County
Oasis de Los Osos - Palm Springs
Paine - San Joaquin Valley
Pixley - " " "
Sacramento River Oxbow - Glenn County
Sand Ridge - San Joaquin V.
Vine Plains - Tehama Co.
Williams - San Joaquin Va.

Continued from Page 4 **CONSERVATION NOTES**

5. Degradation of wilderness values. Nearby wilderness areas would receive acid rain and fog, and the mine and its plume would be visible from these areas. Access roads built in formerly roadless areas would probably preclude their ever being designated wilderness areas.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write to Attorney General John Van de Camp and urge him to enforce the laws and regulations dealing with the mining permits being sought. He is being pressured to "cut" red tape to get this mine operational. Jobs and the economy are the reasons given to Mr. Van de Camp. We understand he is sensitive to the conservation position, but needs support to keep his position strong. His address is: 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 350, Sacramento, Ca 95814.

2. Send letters to Congress expressing concern about this threat to public lands and waters. (Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or Tom Lantos at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.)



Rick Johnson

PROJECT NETWATCH - PART II

(In last month's article, Ms. Lieber concluded with an apparent victory after the state hearings, but with a personal heartsickness that the victory had been fleeting and temporary. Note that in this month's article, she comes to some conclusions based on her two years' involvement with this problem. These conclusions and recommendations are a personal statement and do not necessarily indicate any official position taken by Sequoia Audubon Society)

After a year's hard effort battling the gillnet fishing industry in San Mateo County we had little to show for our efforts except for the fact that we had not lost ground. Fish and Game had not imposed restrictions until huge kills had occurred, the restrictions came nearly at the end of the fishing season and they did not address the problems of gillnetting. We had a bandaied solution instead of the surgery that was so desperately needed. We were all relieved that the restrictions had finally come but saddened that so much life had to be transformed into kill statistics before Fish and Game would act. After the August 5, 1983 public hearing we believed the killing season was over and began concentrating our efforts towards making 1984 the year when the killing would stop.

We had under-estimated the nets. For the harbor porpoise the killing had just begun. After the hearing the fishing boats working offshore of Pacifica and Montara were ordered to place their nets 90 feet below the ocean's surface. This greatly reduced marine bird mortality, since most birds will not pursue their prey to that depth. Ironically, protecting the birds created new problems. Harbor porpoise are found on the average at depths of 60 to 180 feet. Although porpoises had been regular victims before, the mortality increased when the nets were forced lower. In all, 42 harbor porpoises were to be found beached along the coast in 1983. (Previously the average number of porpoise strandings had been 2 per year.) Of the 42 porpoises, 25 were found on the San Mateo beaches. And 23 were found after the gillnet restrictions were imposed. There is no direct evidence linking the lower net depth to the increase in harbor porpoise mortality but the coincidence is compelling.

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The gillnet problem has become a complex issue hotly debated by a variety of polarized special interests. The Department of Fish and Game recognizing the gulf between the opposing groups, called for a series of workshop meetings aimed at hammering out compromise restrictions that would satisfy everyone. The first meeting was held on November 16 and for three hours gillnetting was alternatively defended and attacked. Marine biologists testified on the negative impact gillnetting was having on harbor seal, harbor porpoise and common murre populations. Gillnetters spoke of the necessity of supporting their families. Commercial line fishermen testified that gillnetters disrupted their traditional fishing areas. Sportfishermen complained that gillnetters were reducing the already declining population of salmon and sea bass in the Bay Region.

Fish and Game had been monitoring the gillnetting operations during the 1983 fishing season. On a voluntary basis, gillnet fishermen allowed Fish and Game employees to come aboard the boats and count the number of species caught in the nets.

The results of that survey were circulated and discussed at the meeting. Fish and Game found that halibut nets (8" mesh) were responsible for the marine mammal mortalities and both halibut and kingfish (2.75" mesh) trapped birds. The number of birds trapped declined by a third after the restrictions began. If the study represents a fair sample of net pulls then the statistics show that the larger halibut nets, on the average, killed 64% more birds than the smaller mesh nets. The monofilament gillnet was consistently found to be the type that trapped sea birds. It was noted that F & G observed more of the large mesh nets than the small mesh.

Using the data from the Fish and Game study, the chief of the marine resources branch, Al Petrovich, proposed a series of restrictions for the 1984 fishing season. He suggested that net length be held at 3600 feet and that the number of gillnet fishing permits be limited. Several areas of the Bay Area coast would be off-limits to all net fishing. Among the suggested areas would be the region from Mussel Rock to Montara and to a depth of 120 feet in the vicinity of Devil's Slide. Attendants at the hearing were asked to submit written evaluations of the proposed restrictions and eat December 12 for the next workshop meeting.

It was difficult to evaluate the proposed compromises offered by Fish and Game because I knew that I could not regard them as a solution. The law that currently regulates gillnet fishing in the Bay Area (AB1475) states that restrictions on the fishery shall be imposed when the viability of a local population of marine species is threatened. Both the harbor porpoise and the common murre are locally threatened. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory estimates that 12-18% of the common murre population in this area has been killed in the past year. It is possible that an equal number were killed in the year before. PRBO also estimates that 82 harbor porpoises were killed this year. While there is no accurate census for this animal, the few population studies that have been completed indicate that less than 1000 harbor porpoises inhabit Central California waters. Bird mortalities can be reduced by lowering the nets to 90 feet but nothing is known at this time that can save the harbor porpoise. Moreover the proposed restrictions did not cover San Mateo county south of Devil's Slide. The same area that had received the carcasses of 2000 birds and 30 marine mammals in 1982 would be left unprotected.

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FIELD REPORTS



Wet, cold and windy would sum up the field notes for this month. The last 5 weekend field trips have either been washed out or cut short by our early winter storms. Nevertheless, we were gratified to see a few brave souls ready to challenge the elements on each trip. A few more weekends like these and we'll never get the mildew off of our binoculars.

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being taken for the two scholarships to one of the Audubon Camps. The scholarship pays the entire camp fee and the recipient is responsible for transportation costs.

The scholarship awards are given each year to one or two individuals whose participation in the camp will benefit them in their personal or work life.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Donna Kirsacko at 593-7368.

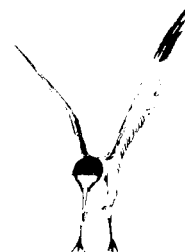
BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION

It was with regret that your Board of Directors during its December meeting accepted the resignation from the board of Kam Ghalamkar.

Kam, during his tenure, has provided our Chapter with sound financial planning, been instrumental in the development and implementation of our new, expanded financial reports and has been a contributor at our Board meetings. Your board will sorely miss his advice and counsel in the future.

On behalf of the entire Chapter, I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you, Kam" for the time and effort you have put into Sequoia Audubon.

Rick Baird





The January class should be one of great interest to birders from beginner to expert. SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION will examine in detail that family of birds that are often so difficult to identify. Dave Shuford, a field biologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will give a lecture on Friday, January 20, 7:30 to 9:30 PM at Allstate Savings & Loan Community Room, 1820 S. Grant, San Mateo. Dave will be using study skins in the lecture as an aid to identification. Dave will then lead participants on a field trip to B-linas Lagoon on the following day, Saturday, January 21 at 8:30 AM. The fee for the series is \$10 per person. The series is limited to 17 participants.

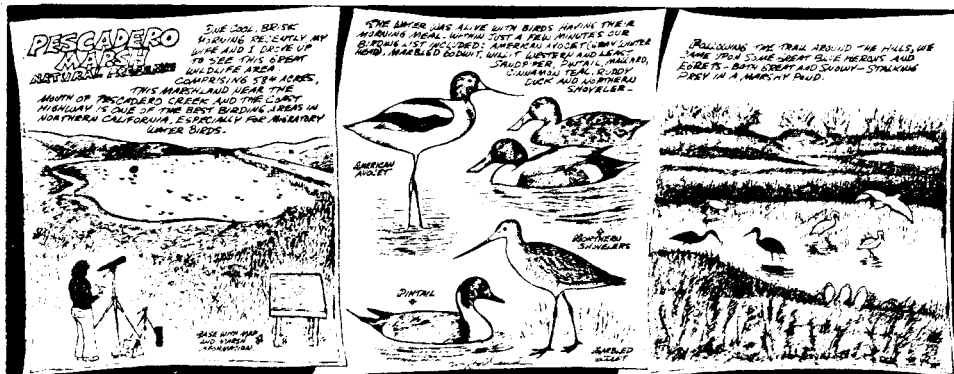
Checks should be made out to SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, and mailed to SNHS (Shorebirds), Sequoia Audubon Society, PO Box 1131, Burlingame, Ca. 94010 and should include name, address and telephone number. Reservations will be accepted in the order in which checks are received until the class is filled. Call class coordinator, Anne Scanlan-Rohrer, 571-7972 for further information.

BIRDS OF GRAY LODGE had a total of 8 participants but only 4, along with their leader, Maryanne Danielson, braved and sogged their way through the worst storm of the season. With heavy rain and 60 mph winds at 9:00 AM the chance of a successful outing seemed hopeless. However, the sighting of sandhill cranes picked up the group's spirits and after lunch the rains lifted and despite the high winds a total of 50 species were seen including four species of geese and white pelicans.

Sunday dawned clear and brisk with perfect visibility and one more participant. The band of six saw many of the same species as on the previous day and added 30 more including tundra swan, Eurasian wigeon, wood ducks, rails and moorhens.

Our thanks to Maryanne, who, under adverse conditions, labored mightily in the vineyard (and the refuges) to provide one of our more rewarding offerings.

WES HOLLAND'S NOTEBOOK



We wish to thank Mr. Wes Holland for allowing us to reprint the above selection from Wes Holland's Notebook, a regular feature in many local papers, including the Sunday Examiner and Chronicle.

In my conversation with Mr. Holland he expressed surprise at the deteriorating condition of the marsh and at Sequoia's involvement in rehabilitating it. We promised to keep him informed and are adding him to our mailing list in appreciation for allowing us to use his work and for providing one of the more pleasant features in our Sunday paper.

Cliff Richer

BIRDS OF PESCADERO MARSH

Five TUNDRA SWANS were seen in the North Pond near Round Hill at Pescadero Marsh during the Thanksgiving Day weekend. The swans are an infrequent winter visitor to the marsh. Larger concentrations of swans occur in the Central Valley, often associated with the wary Canada geese.

Formerly known as the whistling swan, North America's most abundant wild swan does not - however - whistle. Rather, its call has been described as a loud, high-pitched cooing or hooting. Nesting in the remote arctic, the tundra swan never suffered the human degradation of its much larger cousin, the trumpeter swan. Apart from its size and voice, the tundra swan can be told from the trumpeter by the yellow lores between the bill and the eyes.



Jerry Perkins

PROJECT NETWATCH - PART II - Continued from Page 6

eventually the gillnetters will have to adapt their techniques and find methods that will not trap porpoises and other marine mammals. Economics will have to force them to be more inventive. Until that time, I can only recommend that monofilament gillnets be banned within the 3 mile state boundary of ocean waters off San Mateo county. The oceans belong to us all and must be managed in the public trust. If marine resources are recklessly harvested the "uncommon" murre may be in our future and the harbor porpoise only a memory.

Wendy Lieber

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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3. HELPING OUT ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FUTURE WORK PARTIES being planned at Pescadero Marsh. There is a great deal our membership can personally accomplish to make the marsh more enjoyable, educational and rewarding for the thousands of visitors each year. At the same time, each of us will be learning a great deal more about the marsh and its potential future use as an environmental and education center.

During the upcoming months we expect to have an intensive membership campaign with a two-fold purpose; i.e. to increase our Chapter membership, and second, to increase the participation of our existing members in Chapter activities. As you can well imagine, maintaining our membership is of utmost importance to the Chapter as the members are the grass roots support of the total organization and a good part of the Chapter's yearly

income comes our share of the annual dues we all pay to belong to Audubon. This will be another area where your aid and time will be needed in the future and we hope you will be able to help.

A listing of Sequoia Audubon's opportunities and needs for volunteer help will be published in Sequoia Needles on a monthly basis. Please participate and help out whenever you can.

Information on any of our activities can be obtained from our staff assistant, Donna Kirsacko (593-7368) or form me at 574-1067. The time and effort you put into Sequoia Audubon will be returned many fold. As has been said before, AUDUBON IS A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE!

Rick Baird



OFFICERS:			STANDING COMMITTEES:		
President	Richard B. Baird	574-1067	Audubon Cyn. Donna and		
Vice-Pres.	Georgia Perkins	583-7815	Ranch Hosts: Pete Petersen	344-5582	Hospitality (Pot Luck) (General)
Secretary	Anne Scanlan-Rohrer	571-7972	Christmas		Bob and May Blossom
Treasurer	Nick Coiro	349-1834	Bird Count: Frank Allen	344-9339	Wilkinson
DIRECTORS:			Conservation Rick Johnson	593-5800	Charlie and Mary
Past Pres.	Wilma Rockman	366-3434	Development Charles Newman	697-5601	Beth Singleton
Elected for 3 Year Term Ending:			Field Trips:		Jean Allen
June '84	Frank Allen	344-9339	(weekend)	355-4058	Bill Johnson
	Kam Chalamkar	592-9239	(weekday)	344-9339	Georgia Perkins
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