

September

1984



sequoia needles

Volume 33

number 1

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS GENERAL MEETING

Once again it's time for our traditional opening meeting called -- variously -- DO IT YOURSELF or SHOW AND TELL or WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER. No matter what you call it, it's good fun. The program for Thursday, September 14 will be a members' participation meeting. If you want to take part, please bring some slides (up to 20) that show off some activity that you participated in during the past year.

Please arrange your slides in the order in which you want them projected. Be sure to orient them correctly. It is embarrassing to explain why one is upside down.

Start your Audubon year out right by arriving at 7:30 PM to enjoy a social hour, then watch and enjoy as your friends show and narrate their slides.

HELP WANTED

The job of getting the NEEDLES to you involves five major steps. The first and most visible of these is the Editor's task. The second is the printing, which is done commercially. Third is the addressing and last is the mailing -- monumental jobs performed with their usual efficiency by Frank & Jean Allen. However, between addressing and mailing someone has to collate and fold the 1500-1700 newsletters. For most of last year this was done by a private contractor at a fee of two cents each. This year the private contractor (the youngest Richer daughter) will be attending U.C. Santa Cruz so we need some dependable volunteers who can contribute two to four hours per month -- on or about the 20th of the month -- to help get the NEEDLES out on time. Experience has shown us that three or four people sitting around the kitchen or dining room table can get the job done quickly and painlessly. If you think you can be of assistance call the Richers (355-4058) or the Allens (344-9339) for more information.

FROM THE EDITOR

(Rick Baird is on vacation and your editor takes the opportunity to be editorial with a few personal comments. FROM THE PRESIDENT resumes in next month's NEEDLES.)

WELCOME BACK!! We hope you enjoyed your summer as much as we did and that -- even more importantly -- you are looking forward to another Audubon year with your Sequoia Audubon Society. The coming year should be an exciting one. We have some long-term projects underway and some unfinished business from last year. There are new challenges to be met and our usual round of activities for the members who want to get the most from their Audubon Society.

PESCADERO MARSH: Our initial efforts at marsh restoration have been both rewarding and frustrating. It now appears that State Parks has taken a more active interest in the project and has included it in their budget for this fiscal year. Under state sponsorship, the University of California at Santa Cruz is completing its hydrology studies and we look forward to their recommendations. But Nature (with an assist from the human race) is being less than cooperative. A sandbar has formed across the mouth of the creek, cutting off any outflow and blocking the tidal action required to keep silt from turning the marsh into a meadow. The pampas grass invasion continues as this foreign aggressor has made serious inroads on the native vegetation and has nearly taken over some of the trails cut so laboriously by our work crews last fall. While both of these are natural processes, the siltation has been grossly aggravated by upstream logging and pampas grass is an introduced ornamental plant gone wild. With the water levels so high and the vegetation so rank we have decided to postpone our Pescadero field trip until later in the year.

BAYLANDS: Anyone who has driven along the East Bay shoreline from Oakland to San Jose has to be discouraged at the inroads being made into the wetlands and near-wetlands. Industrial parks, shopping centers, sanitary landfills and housing developments are rapidly filling the meadows and encroaching on the salt ponds and marshlands; rip-rap is replacing mudflats and pickleweed; and there are plans for a racetrack and entertainment complex in prime shorebird breeding grounds in Hayward.

EDGEWOOD PARK AND DEVIL'S SLIDE: The fate of these two areas is still undetermined and SAS will continue to be active in pushing for a satisfactory outcome to both issues.

THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE and its **AUDUBON OBSERVERS** became a much more visible and active part of SAS last year. One result of this increased activity -- three of its members were elected to the Board at the June meeting. The Committee and the Observers will play an increasingly important role in keeping us informed and recommending responsible courses of action during this year.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

CALENDAR

SEP. 6 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings
THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL
MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

SEP. 8 BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING at the Richardson
SATURDAY Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood
Beach Rd., Tiburon. All members are welcome.
Refreshments will be available at 9:30 A.M. with the meeting
starting at 10:00. Bring a lunch and enjoy the beautiful
surroundings. Take Hwy. 101 north across the Golden Gate
Bridge and exit at Tiburon Blvd. Go east on Tiburon Blvd.
approximately one-half mile and take a right on Greenwood
Beach Rd. Follow this for about one-half mile more to the
Education Center on the right.

SEP. 8 PISCADERO MARSH - GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SATURDAY FIELD TRIP. We do not normally note field trips
by other groups but we have postponed our own
September field trip due to the poor condition of the marsh.
We recommend this trip to those of you who may want to see
the marsh problems for themselves. TED CHANDIK leads. Meet
at the parking lot on Hwy 1 opposite Pescadero Rd. at 9 A.M.

SEP. 13 SAS GENERAL MEETING. OUR ANNUAL DO-IT-YOURSELF
THURSDAY SESSION. See the article on Page 1 for details.
Social mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. and the program
at 8:00 P.M. OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

SEP. 16 POINT REYES FIELD TRIP. A search through the
SUNDAY "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost
anything at this time of year. We'll be looking
for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect migrants
and some early arriving winter residents as well. Walking
will be minimal but sturdy shoes are recommended.
Clothing should be layered since the weather on Pt. Reyes
is extremely changeable and although fall is normally the
most pleasant time of year on Point Reyes keep in mind that
it has the coolest average summer temperature in the
continental US. We will meet at the new Point Reyes
National Seashore Headquarters building at 9:00 AM. To
get there take Hwy 101 or I-280 north to Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1
across the Golden Gate Bridge where it once again joins
101. Follow 101 north to the San Anselmo-San Quentin exit
and take a left at the bottom of the ramp. You will now be
on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Follow this all
the way to Olema. At Olema, take a right at the
stop sign and within a hundred yards take a left.
In about half a mile, you will come to the Headquarters
complex. The trip will take place rain or shine. Bring
lunch. The trip normally lasts until 2 PM. Anyone
interested in car-pooling should call the Audubon office
(593-7368) or the leader.

LEADER; CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

SEP. 18 SKYLINE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE --- FIELD TRIP.
TUESDAY Our first mid-week trip of the year is to this
nearly 1000 acre preserve purchased by the Mid-
Peninsula Regional Open Space District in 1982. It is a
beautiful area with a diversity of habitat and numerous bird
species throughout the year. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at
the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Road.
Bring lunch or a snack for a leisurely one to two mile walk.
To get there take I-280 south to Hwy. 92, take 92 west to
the intersection with Skyline Blvd. (Hwy. 35) and take
Skyline south to the Alpine Road intersection OR take I-280
south to Alpine Road and follow Alpine Road west to the
Skyline Boulevard intersection.

LEADERS FRANK & JEAN ALLEN 344-9339

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

SKYLINE RIDGE PRESERVE

Skyline Ridge Preserve covers just under
1000 acres west of Skyline Boulevard
its intersection with Alpine Road. Most
of the preserve has been owned for years
by the Wasserman and Allen families of
New York City and have been most
familiar to Peninsula residents as the
Skyline Ranch Christmas tree Farm. In
1982 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space
District purchased the land and
Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is
funding the master plan and providing an
advisory committee to work with the
consultants.

One of the three homesites on the
Preserve is being retained by the
Wasserman family under a lease-back
arrangement with MROSD while the other
two will be considered as sites for
recreational facilities.

However, most of the area is in its
natural state with the eastern slope
being characterized by a mixed evergreen
forest dominated by Douglas firs and
canyon live oaks. The oaks have
attained great size here and magnificent
specimens are commonplace. Much of the
area is unbroken by trails and virtually
inaccessible. Here and there on the
eastern slope there are patches of
chaparral and grassland and in the upper
pastures - formerly a working ranch -
there are many introduced plants. The
western slope is primarily a coastal
scrub area, often called soft chaparral.

Join the Allens in exploring this newly
accessible area on either the 18th or
the 22nd of the month.

PENINSULA BIRDING GUIDE

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA BIRDWATCHING,
Sequoia Audubon's Guide to birdwatching
sites in San Francisco and San Mateo
Counties is in the final stages of
production! The manuscript went to the
typesetter the first week of August and
editor Anne Scanlan-Rohrer expects it to
be in its final form by late September
or early October.

Members of our chapter produced the
descriptions, maps and illustrations for
the book, with contributions from the
Golden Gate Audubon Society.
Approximately 30 descriptions and maps
cover the area between San Francisco and
southern San Mateo County. The book
covers such favorite birding spots as
Pescadero Marsh, Golden Gate Park,
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Lake
Merced, and Nuevo State Reserve,
Princeton Harbor and many more.

Look forward to obtaining a copy of
San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching in the
fall!

—Anne Scanlan-Rohrer

CALENDAR

SEP. 18 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING ---- Time and place
TUESDAY to be determined - Call the chairman, Rick Johnson
for details (349-4546). 3rd tuesday of each month.

SEP. 22 SKYLINE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE ---- FIELD TRIP.
SATURDAY The details and directions for this trip are the
same as for the September 18 mid-week trip.

LEADERS	FRANK & JEAN ALLEN	344-9339
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SEP. 29 HAWKWATCH AT POINT DIABLO, MARIN HEADLANDS (GGNRA).
SATURDAY This is a traditional time and place to watch hawks soar and wheel as they gather their courage to cross the Golden Gate. Accipiters outnumber all other species combined so this trip should give everyone a chance to test their pet theories on how to distinguish between sharp-tailed and Cooper's hawks. However, bald and golden eagles, Swainson's and broad-winged hawks and goshawks have all been observed from here in past years. After a short, moderately steep walk from the road to the top of Bunker Hill this is strictly a sedentary day so air cushions or portable seating may be desirable. Bring lunch. We will meet at Tanforan Shopping Center's parking lot near the corner of El Camino and Sneath Lane at 8:30 A.M. for carpooling as parking on Bunker Hill is limited.

LEADERS: PETE AND DONNA PETERSEN 344-5582



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| FIELD TRIPS AND THE GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL |
| MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME |
| ON ALL OF OUR FIELD TRIPS. SOME TRIPS ARE DESIGNATED AS |
| BEGINNERS' TRIPS BECAUSE THEY ARE RELATIVELY NEARBY AND |
| MAY BE ENJOYED WITHOUT SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING OR |
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OCT. 4 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings
THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL
MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

OCT. 6 BEGINNER'S TRIP TO HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE
SATURDAY Most of our wintering waterfowl and shorebirds should have returned by this time and this gives us an opportunity to see them in numbers. Meet at the parking lot outside the entrance on West Winton Rd. at 9:00 A.M. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and exit at Hesperian Blvd. Proceed north on Hesperian to Winton and take a left. Winton narrows and soon becomes West Winton, terminating at the gate to the Shoreline. The trip should last approximately 2 1/2 hours and covers one to two miles of easy walking. Last year this area produced a number of rarities including golden plover, cattle egrets, blue-winged teal, merlin and longspurs and there is a small burrowing owl colony nearby.

LEADER SHARON HOM 592-0243

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REMEMBER TO CUT UP THOSE PLASTIC BEER
OR SOFT DRINK SIX-PACK HOLDERS. THESE
CAN BE DEADLY TO GULLS OR OTHER BIRDS
WHO GET THEIR HEADS CAUGHT IN THEM AND
STRANGLE OR STARVE TO DEATH!
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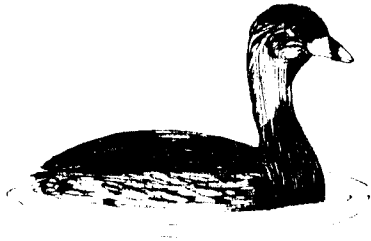
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GARRISON COMPROMISE

A compromise reached between the North Dakota Senatorial delegation and the National Audubon Society has been incorporated in this year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill which - at this writing - has been sent to the President for his signature.

The compromise is not a solution to the problems of the Garrison Diversion Unit /but does create a process through which differences can be settled. The compromise language requires Secretary Clark to create a 12 man commission to look at current water needs in North Dakota and develop recommendations for meeting these needs while considering 11 major issue areas. The commission must complete its report and submit its recommendations by year's end.

The compromise is a victory but it does not mean the war is won. Audubon still opposes the Garrison Diversion Unit in its present form but felt that agreement on the compromise wording was necessary to prevent destruction of two unique natural habitats - Sheyenne Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Kraft Slough wetlands - which are in imminent danger of being inundated.



OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS THROUGH OCTOBER, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) and Oceanic Society Expeditions (OSE) are offering 8 hour natural history boat trips to the Farallons. Call 474-3385 for information and reservations.

THURSDAY SEPT. 6-FARALLON ISLANDS LECTURE SERIES (FILS) presented by PRBO and OSE at the Fort Mason Center, Bldg.C, Room 300 from 6 to 8 PM. \$3 per person per lecture. The fourth in a series of five lectures on the Farallon Islands, this presentation is entitled "WHALES - ELUSIVE LEVIATHANS FOUND AT THE FARALLONS", with Marc Webber and Izzy Szczepniak of OSE. Call 474-3385 for additional information or reservations.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8 - BOLINAS LAGOON SYMPOSIUM -PRBO, AUDUBON CANYON RANCH (ACR) & GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (GGNRA) Biologist from PRBO and guest instructors will draw together the most up-to-date information on the natural history of the lagoon. Morning classes. Afternoon field trips. Registration is \$7 paid in advance or \$10 at the door at ACR. Call 415-868-1221 for details.

THURSDAY, OCT. 4-"TONS OF SEALS AND SEA LIONS" - FILS by PRBO & OSE-with Harriet Huber, PRBO Farallon biologist. See Thursday Sept.6 for details.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5 - MONDAY, OCT. 8 - LUXURY BUS TOUR TO MONO LAKE - MONO LAKE COMMITTEE (MLC) - with David Gaines. Includes sightseeing in Yosemite, Tioga Pass, Mono Lake and Bodie - the largest unrestored ghost town in the West. \$440 for one person, \$695 for two. For benefit of the Mono Lake Committee. Call 415-398-4744 or 415-956-7532 for details.

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

In June, the Board of ACR celebrated the completion of the Bird Hide in Piche Canyon with a dedication and lunch for generous donors.

Since its inception, the Ranch had always provided a building for the quiet observation or resident birds but the floods of 1982 swept away the original building.

The new building is a more environmentally sensitive structure. Built in a U shape it has been located on the creek bank with a running pool and feed stations in the interior courtyard. The hide is well-camouflaged with redwood bark siding, a sod roof and native shrubs and vines discreetly placed. The hide is named in memory of Faith Boilleau Croker - an early conservationist in West Marin.

ACR thanks Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wright and the San Francisco Foundation for their support of the project.

The designer was Clifford Conly and it was built by Jerry Fitzgerald and Skip Schwartz.

Audubon Canyon Ranch was closed to the public on June 15 to prevent overcrowding and minimize the fire hazard.

GILLNETTING UPDATE

Governor Deukmejian signed SB2266 into law on June 20 and with an emergency preamble, the law goes into effect immediately. SB2266 was introduced by Senator Milton Marks with Assemblymen William Filante and Louis Papan as co-authors.

The bill closes the area near the Farallones and Noonday Rock to all gillnetting at any season, provides a May 1 to September 30 closure at various points along the coast from Point Reyes to Ano Nuevo, extends the Monterey Bay closure to 15 fathoms, restricts the length of the gill nets and imposes a moratorium on any new gill net permits.

SAS members were prominent among those who wrote letters and articles, attended meetings, and walked the beaches. Credit for the enactment of this legislation should go to all who participated in this major public outcry against the indiscriminate slaughter of sea birds and mammals.



MARINE WORLD: POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

The impending move of Marine World to a new location has the makings of a possible environmental disaster. In their eagerness to attract or to keep the popular attraction, various public officials have made offers which should cause us to shudder.

The Port Manager of the Port of Redwood City has offered 138 acres of Bair Island which contains at least 2 sizable heron rookeries and in past years has had nesting colonies of least terns and Caspian terns. The creation of a land access to the island would open up these areas to predation and destroy the value of the island as a breeding area.

The City of Mountainview has offered a site which presumably includes a large portion of the newly created Shoreline Park and the flood control basin. This area has only recently become the principal roosting spot for the Bay's resident white pelican population and is a major feeding ground for shorebirds. One wonders if the pelicans can cohabitate with water skiers and power boaters and if the shorebirds can adapt to rip-rap and asphalt.

Hayward is making overtures to include Marine World in their proposed racetrack and entertainment complex which, if it goes through as planned, will destroy a snowy plover nesting area.

Vallejo, already enthusiastic about the massive Cullinan Ranch housing project (which abuts on a wildlife refuge) is enthusiastically courting Marine World.

Outside of the usual civic booster reasons for wanting to have such an attraction as Marine World in their community, the enthusiasm has been fueled by the sudden discovery that Marine World will have to close up at the end of this year and its caged birds and animals will be left homeless. Villains in this drama are the shadowy foreign executives of the Campeau Corporation while Marine World has been cast in the role of Little Nell, who will be evicted - with her pets - into the dark and stormy night.

Your editor takes a rather more cynical view. Marine World has existed on a year-to-year basis for the last several years and it was more than a year ago when we heard of the Campeau Corporation's intention to break ground for their office complex in 1985. Marine World has never been a high profit organization. It was on the verge of foundering when it came under its present ownership and management. It is questionable whether Marine World is capable of surviving the expenses of relocation without substantial assistance.

Could it possibly be that the Campeau executives are willingly allowing themselves to be cast in the villain's role in order to set up a wave of sympathy for the amusement complex?

Are we being too cynical to suggest that all those pictures of smiling tigers, cuddly simians and orphaned dolphins are deliberately designed to lure the city fathers of Vallejo (or elsewhere) into transporting and housing Marine World's animal population for the three years it will take for Mountainview (or some other enthusiastic community) to fill, drain and pave another one or two hundred acres of bay shore wetlands? Maybe...

Or then again...

Maybe not.

--- Cliff Richer

OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA

Outdoor California is a bi-monthly magazine published by the California Department of Fish and Game but unlike many similar publications in other states does not restrict itself to articles on hunting and fishing.

A review of a half-dozen issues selected random and covering a four-year period shows a commendable effort to cover the full range of outdoor activities with hunting and fishing articles covering less than 50% of the articles and an even smaller percentage of the total pages.

The July-August issue for example had 11 features with one each devoted fully to hunting and fishing and three others to hunter-related activities. Two of the articles were on birding and the remainder dealt with other "non-consumptive" activities.

At an annual (6 issues) subscription price of \$4 it looks to be a worthwhile investment for anyone who spends any amount of time in the outdoors. It may be obtained from the Publications Section, P.O. Box 1015, North Highlands, Ca. 95660.

RECYCLED READINGS

From "Birdwatcher's Digest" (BWD), May/June 1984 issue:

In an article entitled "Cave Swallows: Culvert Operations", George Miller, a Texas free-lance writer/photographer reports that cave swallows have adapted very well to nesting under culverts and bridges in West Texas, a situation very similar to that of cliff swallows elsewhere and most notably in the Central Valley.

Joan Easton Lentz, who teaches field identification classes in Santa Barbara has a humorous article entitled "Memorial Day Madness: California's Annual Suburban Housewives' Bird Watching Tour". Anyone who has either camped or birded will appreciate the humor and will find hints on where to bird in Southern California throughout the text.

BWD also reports on its 1983 hummingbird feeding survey. Some of the conclusions: "...the perfect hummingbird feeder has yet to be invented...it must be easy to clean thoroughly." "High in popularity are the small feeders with bent tubes and rubber stoppers...although they are notorious for sloshing out fluid in a wind." "NEVER, EVER USE HONEY... (which)...produces a fatal fungus infection and... contains botulism toxin." There were no hard conclusions on the use of red food coloring although the general feeling was that it was redundant and did no good and might do harm. The best mixture was generally felt to be one part of sugar (sucrose) to three or four parts of water. There were numerous - some elaborate - most unsuccessful - methods of dealing with insects.

BWD has reprinted an article by Kay McCracken, a well-known Texas birder, dealing with one of the great ornithological mysteries -- how young cowbirds learn they are cowbirds and seek their own.

From "Natural History", August 1984

An article by Sally J. McBeth entitled "The Primer and the Hoe" deals with the present and past conditions at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' American Indian Boarding Schools. During the course of the article many of the popular "truths" about the Native American culture are disputed, confounded and disproved.

From "Point Reyes Bird Observatory", Spring/Summer 1984

Rich Stallcup has an excellent article on the identification of what he calls "The Eye-Ringed Leaf Gleaners", detailing the differences in appearance and behavior of the ruby-crowned kinglet and the Hutton's and solitary vireos.

"CORRECTION: The peep that was on the Bolinas sewer ponds in September and October of 1983 and was identified at that time as a rufous-necked stint, has since been re-identified as a little stint -- the first record for California."



BIRDING CLASSES

A number of organizations and individuals are conducting birding and ornithology classes throughout the Bay Area. A few of these are listed below:

FOLLOW THE BIRDS - Mondays - beginning Sept. 10 - through the Sequoia District Adult School with Maryann Danielson. Learn about changing plumage patterns, lifestyle and behavior of birds as the season changes from fall to winter. Identification and activities of local birds will be stressed. For more advanced birders. 10 illustrated lectures and 5 Saturday field trips. 7:30-9:30 P.M. in the Teachers Lounge at Menlo Atherton High School in Atherton. Fee is \$35. For additional information call the Adult School Office 415-369-6809.

THE ABC'S OF BIRD IDENTIFICATION - Wednesdays - beginning September 12 through the Sequoia District Adult School - with Maryann Danielson. Participants will learn to recognize local fall birds using such clues as habitat Area, Behavior, Color and other field marks. For beginning and intermediate birders. 10 illustrated lectures and 5 Sunday field trips. 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Senior Center in San Carlos. Fee is \$35. Registration is at the first class. Call 415-369-6809 for details.

ORNITHOLOGY I - An Introduction to Avian Biology - Tuesdays 7-9:30 P.M.
ORNITHOLOGY II & III - **FIELD IDENTIFICATION** - Wednesdays & Thursdays 7-9:30 P.M. - All courses are sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and offered through the Chinatown Community College Center. Instructor is Joe Morlan, compiler and voice of the Rare Bird Alert and member of the California Rare Birds Record Committee. Text for all courses is the National Geographic Field Guide. Courses are free and enrollment is open. Course structure is such that students may sign up at any time during the 18 week semester. Optional weekend field trips are offered for a fee of \$30. Students should bring binoculars to class.

IDENTIFICATION OF BIRDS FOR BIRD BANDERS - Tuesdays - 7-9 PM Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and led by Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt. Beginning September 25 through November 27. Ten two-hour slide-lectures and lab sessions on capture techniques, identification, aging and sexing of the more commonly encountered birds of California. At the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Center in Alviso. \$20 for SFBBO members. \$35 for non-members. Register at SFBBO, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, Ca 95002 or call (408) 946-6548 for more information.

T I V C

The Trail Information and Volunteer Center is conducting a Trail Fair at the Los Altos High School on September 8. It will feature commercial and environmental exhibits, food, soft drinks, slide shows and book-signings. There will be carriage rides and free blood pressure checks as well as a drawing with a grand prize of a trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Other activities scheduled by TIVC include tree watering at Big Basin Park at 10 A.M. on Saturday, September 8; trail work on September 29 and October 20 and their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 18.

Call Georgia Perkins at 324-8482 for details.

MEMBERSHIP

Perhaps a few words are in order to let you know some of the problems we have keeping track of our members. If you have CHANGED YOUR NAME or YOUR ADDRESS, please drop a postcard to Jean Allen, Sequoia Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1131, Burlingame, Ca., 94010 and to National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 2666, Boulder, Co., 80322. Send an address label from your Audubon magazine and state your name and address BEFORE and AFTER the change. Don't wait until renewal time to make these changes. If you make any change in sending in your renewal, the computers may process you as a new member, you may acquire two memberships and our chapter may fail to receive our proper share of the renewal dues. It takes from six to eight weeks for the computer center to process most transactions!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS should be sent directly Boulder, Colorado, in the envelope provided with the renewal notice.

Lastly, we would like to spread the "Audubon Word". Share your Sequoia NEEDLES with a friend or give Audubon memberships for birthdays, anniversaries, housewarmings, thank-you presents, even wedding presents. As members your friends will receive a subscription to the award-winning "Audubon" magazine. The first issue should arrive within six to eight weeks. In addition the new member will receive this newsletter ten times a year.

Use the application in this bulletin, or, if you call me at 344-9339, I'll mail you one of the beautiful new Audubon Membership Applications.

FROM THE EDITOR: (Continued from Page One)

MEMBERSHIP: National Audubon's membership peaked two years past and has suffered a decline since then, forcing a cutback on some programs and canceling the National's planned move to Washington, D.C. This decline has affected nearly every chapter, including ours. Other conservation organizations have also been affected. Some are consuming their energy in intramural feuds as their funding shortfalls cause them to revalue their priorities. Many newsletters from other chapters and organizations refer to plans to reduce operating expenses and cut back on worthwhile projects. It is clear that we can no longer rely on our national office to maintain our membership and that local efforts will be required to stop the shrinkage. New memberships will be a priority for the coming year. This type of activity is one with which the officers and members of the board are unfamiliar and the suggestions and active participation of the membership are needed. We invite anyone who has any experience or any ideas along these lines to step forward and share their insights with us.

ALTERNATE FUNDING will have to be sought. We too could be satisfied to reduce our activities or we could sit back and wait for a kindly corporate benefactor or the Audubon equivalent to the legendary rich uncle. Instead, we hope to expand our activities, establish a fixed base from which to manage those activities, collect and coordinate the files now scattered among the membership and provide a greater degree of continuity from year to year. Once again, the Board needs the support and assistance of the entire membership. If you have any ideas or experience in this area or would be willing to help in any of our activities, pick up your phone and call any of your officers or Board members.

SEQUOIA NEEDLES has, we are immodest enough to believe, shown an improvement during the last year with increased input from the membership and an expansion in size and in outlook. It is, however, the most expensive continuing activity and we do not see any reduction in printing and mailing costs in the future. Under the terms of our charter from National Audubon, we are required to publish a newsletter but we could satisfy the charter with a photocopied single sheet sent out six times a year and reduce our annual expenditures by several thousand dollars. And if the time came to make a choice between the NEEDLES and any one of several other worthwhile projects, your editor would have to reluctantly vote for the alternatives. Instead, it is our intention to keep our approach flexible and continue to seek improvements. During this year, our goals are to continue the increase in membership participation and improve our readability by acquiring word-processing capability.

THE AWARDS PROGRAM was well received and should be continued this year. We overheard only one minor criticism - but it is one that merits some thought. Attendance at the June meeting often conflicts with vacation and other leisure-time activities and consideration should be given to scheduling the awards presentation at a time when it would receive the attention it deserves from the membership.

THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES was an intellectual and financial success (it didn't lose money) and will continue this year. We look forward to participating again and we hope that more of you will also take an active interest in these inexpensive and worthwhile seminars.

Last year was an exciting and rewarding year, with some frustrations and disappointments. We look forward to this coming year's opportunities and hope to see all of you taking an active part.

MDA/FALCON PROJECT

RATE YOUR REP.

Supporters of the Marine Disposal Alternative are looking for volunteer ornithologists and birders to assist in documenting the existence of and photographing the rarely seen but often rumored Montara Mountain peregrine falcon. If you are interested, call Jean Valentine at 726-5380 after 5:00 P.M.

How well is your congressman doing on environmental matters? If you want to know, ask the League of Conservation Voters. The League has published a 32 page booklet which charts the voting records of every congressman on every environmental issue in 1983.

To get your copy, send \$4.00 to the League of Conservation Voters, 320 4th St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 and ask for the "Voting Chart".

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