



sequoia needles

Volume 33

number 3

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS GENERAL MEETING

This month's program involves many elements of interest to our members - birding, conservation, endangered species, wetlands and scientific research.

Our speaker is Peter Perrine, the Project Leader for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Clapper Rail Project who will outline the purposes of the project, describe the color bands used and the banding process.

MAIL CALL!

A volunteer is needed to perform a small but vital function for SAS: checking the incoming mail at the Capuchino Ave. Post Office in Burlingame.

Duties consist of checking the Post Office Box three or four times per week and forwarding each piece of mail (usually five to 8 pieces per day) to the proper Board or Committee member. Information will be provided as to who is to receive what.

You need not volunteer for LIFE! A person or persons willing to check the mail for the next three months would be ideal, but if you can offer even 3-4 weeks of commitment, you will be heartily accepted.

Call Donna at 593-7368 (the Audubon office) to volunteer.

--- Donna Kirsacko

**WANTED:
A PERMANENT ROOST**

Sequoia Audubon is currently searching for a permanent office. The ideal situation would be located in Belmont or San Carlos, have 200-225 square feet, have natural light (a window), be in a well-traveled part of town and be inexpensive. If you know of anything that would come close to this description, call Donna at the Sequoia office (593-7368) or Anne Scanlan-Rohrer at 571-7972 (evenings).

--- Anne Scanlan-Rohrer

FROM THE EDITOR

From a strictly personal point of view, it seems that SAS is off to a somewhat slow start this year. Attendance at meetings and field trips seems to be down and there appears to be less enthusiasm than in the last two years. We have involved some of our newer members in our activities but seem to have lost touch with others who were previously active.

There may be many reasons for this, many of which have nothing to do with Audubon -- press of business, a major election year, late vacations, moving, etc. -- but what it boils down to is that Audubon needs your help and involvement.

This help can be as passive as renewing your membership on time or as active as volunteering to help out in some capacity. We had an excellent response to our article looking for volunteers to help assemble the newsletter and we hope that the requests for assistance in this issue will be just as well received.

We still need HOSPITALITY CHAIRPEOPLE for the general meetings, for our semi-annual potluck dinners and for our hosting stint at Audubon Canyon Ranch. The duties are not particularly onerous and the time investment is relatively small in each of these cases, but the functions are essential. If you would like to get involved but don't know how and where to start -- here's your chance!

Call Rick Baird (574-1067) or the Audubon Office (593-7368) to volunteer.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE is another area where your help is needed. We need your pledges and we need your assistance. See the article on page 8 for details.

We need volunteers to PICK UP THE MAIL and to help us find a PERMANENT OFFICE. (See the articles on this page for details).

We need FIELD TRIP LEADERS and FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS. As we have mentioned before, we especially need leaders with some knowledge in areas other than birding. In the birding area, we need leaders who would be willing to take us to places we have not birded in some time or which we may be overlooking through ignorance or forgetfulness. You do not need to be an expert birder - just have enough familiarity with an area so as to know where the birds (or wildflowers, or reptiles, or whatever) can be found and to avoid getting irretrievably lost. Some of the areas we would like to explore this year and for which we need leaders are Mt. Diablo, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Bay and the Sierras. Closer to home, you may have a favorite park, or back road

(Continued on page three)

CALENDAR

NOV. 1 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. (Note that we are back to our regular meeting place.)

NOV. 7 PRINCETON AND MOSS BEACH FIELD TRIP. We should see WEDNESDAY waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds along the coast. We will meet on Hwy. 92 at the parking lot just east of the Crystal Springs Lake Causeway at 8:30 A.M. or at Alpha-Beta, Half Moon Bay, at 9:00. Call the leaders in case of rain.

LEADERS FRANK AND JEAN ALLEN 344-9339

NOV. 8 SAS GENERAL MEETING. THE CLAPPER RAIL PROJECT. THURSDAY Featuring Peter Perrine, Project Leader, from the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. See Page One for details. At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, west of the Alameda, San Mateo. Social mixer beginning at 7:30 P.M.

NOV. 10-11 THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES. Clouds of SATURDAY geese and enormous rafts of ducks are typical of & SUNDAY the sights that greet the birder at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges or at the state's Gray Lodge refuge nearby. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. in the parking lot of the Blue Gum Motel on Saturday morning. The motel is just off I-5 3 miles beyond Willows. Take the next off-ramp after the motel's sign and turn right onto Blue Gum Road. At the end of the road turn left and the motel is approximately 1/4 mile on the left. There are other motels in Willows and along I-5 and camping at the state park in Colusa. Reservations are advised at this time of year. The Blue Gum Motel's telephone number is (916) 934-5401.

LEADER: GIL WEST 359-0820

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/===== WELCOME! \=====
! 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 !
\===== PRIOR EXPERIENCE. /=====
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NOV. 13 WADDELL CREEK FIELD TRIP. Woodland birds and TUESDAY especially wintering migrants will be our priorities on this trip. We will walk the trail toward Big Basin. Wear boots and bring a warm jacket and a backpack lunch. Call the leaders for the meeting time and place.

LEADERS FRANK AND JEAN ALLEN 344-9339

NOV. 18 THE FIRST ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE SUNDAY in which a team of SAS birders will bird from pre-dawn to post-dusk for the greater glory and financial benefit of Sequoia Audubon. To join the team or make your pledge of support call the leader or the Sequoia Audubon Office (593-7368).

TEAM LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

NOV. 20 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING ---- Time and place TUESDAY to be determined - Call the chairman, Rick Johnson for details (349-4546). 3rd tuesday of each month.

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Two groups of docents are at work or in training for the 1984-5-6 seasons Audubon Canyon Ranch.

At Picher Canyon on the Bolinas Lagoon Ranch, 37 new docents are in training to join the many previously trained docents. Ray Peterson, the ACR Resident Biologist, has presented the fall orientation theme as "Preparation for Winter", studying the many changes in the plant and animal world during this season. In addition, Point Reyes Bird Observatory interns will teach docent-led classes in "bird-in-hand" techniques at the Palomarin Center.

At Bouverie Audubon Preserve, 53 docents are continuing their training program and teacher education. During the 1984 spring season, 58 groups - comprising over 1400 persons - enjoyed docent-directed tours through our beautiful new preserve.

Ray Peterson is announcing the start of new fall classes:

Saturday, November 10:
An Audubon Canyon Ranch Special
Saturday, November 17:
Bouverie Audubon Preserve Special
Sunday, November 18:
Audubon Cypress Grove Special

---from ACR

HALA ARAJ TOURS

Geographer-naturalist Hala Araj has organized and will lead two tours to Central and South America in 1985.

Costa Rica: Departing February 7, Returning February 20, 1985: Participants will visit the Monteverde Cloud Forest, La Selva Rain Forest Preserve, the Nicoya Peninsula, and a variety of other habitats. Costa Rica is a land of diversity with a stable government and economy and a spring-like climate. The itinerary is designed so that participants will stay in or near nature preserves and national parks to take full advantage of the best bird and wildlife watching.

Ecuador, the Amazon and the Galapagos: Departing March 16, Returning April 2, 1985: Taking advantage of the tremendous variety Ecuador has to offer, this tour will include four days in the Amazon rainforest, five days in the highlands, and seven days on the Galapagos.

Both trips are fully inclusive of all airfares, meals, accommodations, land transportation, guides, fees and taxes. Both include the services of expert English-speaking local guides. For further information please call or write Hala Araj, 5326 Thomas Ave., Oakland, 94618. Telephone 655-5283.

FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page One)

or natural area. Why not show it off to the rest of us? If you would feel awkward or tongue-tied or wouldn't know where to begin, why not arrange to be a co-leader? You can be a guide and let someone else do the birding and organizing.

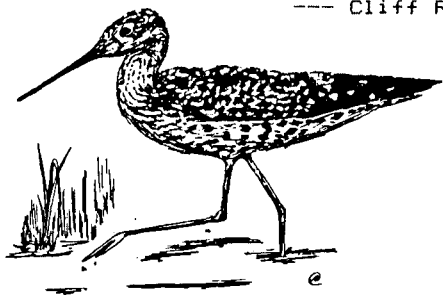
Call Cliff Richer (355-4058) if you can help.

(Those of you who have been leaders in the past and may be slightly miffed because you haven't been called yet - be patient - your field trip chairman hasn't forgotten you. He's just had an unusually busy fall.)

Volunteerism is at the heart of organizations like Audubon and it is your time and effort that makes the difference between existence and effectiveness. Help us to be effective. Getting involved can make you feel better about your Audubon Society and about yourself.

Call us today!

--- Cliff Richer



COYOTE POINT MUSEUM

WATERBIRD PHOTOS ON DISPLAY: Through November 12, the Coyote Point Museum is continuing its exhibit of black and white bird photographs by Kenneth Rosenthal, a San Francisco attorney, and Marin resident.

Rosenthal has exhibited extensively locally and has had his photos published in "Animal Kingdom", "Bayviews", "California Living" and other publications.

NATURE'S FAVORITES: The Museum has announced the results of a contest held this summer. Visitors were asked to vote for their favorite marine mammal, land animal, reptile, bird, tree, flower, rock, mineral and gemstone from pictures and samples of local specimens on display.

Winners (in order of most votes received) were the redwood (tree), poppy (flower), gold (mineral), otter (marine mammal), red-tailed hawk (bird), garnet (gemstone), raccoon (land mammal), mountain king snake (reptile), and granite (rock).

CALENDAR

(Continued from page two)

DEC. 6 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Bank of THURSDAY America Building, 400 El Camino Real (at Chapin), Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MONTH.

DEC. 8 A RAIL WALK AT RAVENSWOOD. The seasonal ultra-SATURDAY high tides flush the rails out of the marsh and into unfamiliar habitat where they can be more readily observed. This area near the Dunbarton Bridge is one of the few areas in San Mateo County where the black rail has been regularly observed. Documentation of the existence of clapper and black rails in this area could be useful in determining the future of a proposed marina to be built in this environmentally sensitive area. Time and place to meet will be in next month's NEEDLES.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

DEC. 13 SAS GENERAL MEETING. SEE NEXT MONTH'S NEEDLES FOR THURSDAY DETAILS. At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, west of the Alameda, San Mateo. Social mixer begins at 7:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Study your field guide and clean up your binocs! Our migratory birds are arriving and dates are set for the two CBC's sponsored by Sequoia Audubon Society: Crystal Springs on December 22 and Ano Nuevo on December 29. You are invited to participate in a couple of fun days and have a chance to make Sequoia Audubon's counts a success. Hot soup in the evening at the compilation is another reward. All birders are requested to take part, including beginners.

Each count circle consists of a 15-mile diameter as standardized nationwide by National Audubon. The Crystal Springs Count Circle centers on the west bank of the North Crystal Springs Lake just north of Highway 92 and includes San Francisco Airport, Millbrae, Burlingame, San Mateo, Foster City and their shorelines, Belmont, San Carlos and Redwood City north of Jefferson Avenue, Huddart Park, Half Moon Bay, Miramar, El Granada, Half Moon Bay Airport and San Pedro Valley Park. The Ano Nuevo Count Circle centers at the northwest corner of Butano State Park to include Ano Nuevo State Reserve, the shoreline north to Pomponio Beach, San Gregorio Road, Sam McDonald Park, Portola State Park, Big Basin and Waddell Creek. Both counts cover 177 square miles each.

We are privileged to have Barry Sauppe once again as our compiler who welcomes you to our biggest out-of-doors event of the year. He says we need a lot of birders in the field (rain or shine). There is a lot of private land which the field birders can't count; so we need all of you living within the circles to report the birds on your property. Set up a feeder and start identifying and counting the birds that come to it now. On count day, call in a party of friends to help you man the feeder during the daylight hours. Those of you living outside the circle - visit a friend within the circle. Scout the area ahead of time so you will know what you may find on count day. Field birders will cover the areas outside of the private lands.

If you possibly can participate call Frank Allen at 344-9339 and give your name, address, phone, birding experience, private property or field birder.

There will be more information in the December NEEDLES.

--- Frank Allen, CBC Coordinator

PCL SYMPOSIUM

The Planning and Conservation League, one of the most effective environmental lobbying organizations, will sponsor the Second California Environmental Legislative Symposium on January 26 and 27, 1985.

The location will be the Sacramento Inn, near Cal Expo, in Sacramento and the featured speaker on Saturday, January 26 will be Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles.

The purpose of the Symposium will be to plan environmental legislation to be introduced early in the upcoming two year legislative session, as well as to plan strategy for opposing legislation that would be dangerous and harmful to the environment in California. Individual workshops will be held on such topics as water development, pesticides, toxic materials, wildlife, renewable resources, new techniques in grass roots environmental lobbying and several others. The cost to attend the two day Symposium is \$50. per person and includes three meals.

Last year the PCL sponsored a similar event which was attended by representatives from environmental organizations, legislators and legislative staff, members of Local Government Commission and representatives from state agencies. The upcoming Symposium will be greatly expanded to include the public at large and an even greater number of California's environmental activists.

PCL is a nonprofit statewide environmental organization, devoted to improving the quality of the environment in California. PCL has been lobbying at the Capitol since 1965 and currently has over 3000 members.

Sequoia Audubon Society supports PCL through the Bay Area Audubon Council.

Please contact the Planning and Conservation League, 1228 N Street, Suite 33, Sacramento, Ca. 95814 by mail or telephone them at (916) 444-8726.

PCL ACTIVITIES

For our readers who may not be familiar with the work of the PCL here is a partial listing of their activities during the last hectic days of the just completed legislative session.

Awarded their Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Milton Marks.

Accepted the Bay Area Audubon Council on the PCL Board of Directors.

Stopped several attempts by the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power to further consolidate or expand their "rights" in Inyo and Mono Counties.

Successfully supported bills dealing with the listing, inventory, consultation and review processes for endangered and rare species.

Introduced a bill reducing the use of fish and wildlife funds for predator control on private land. Passed.

Had mitigation language inserted into the Los Banos Grandes storage reservoir bill.

At the end of this legislative session, Jerry Meral, Executive Director of PCL, summed it up this way, "Generally speaking, we did quite well during this two year session. We defeated essentially all the bad CEQA bills, the terrible tidelands bill by Senator Nielson was killed, the Governor's water bill died and nearly all bad air quality bills were defeated."

"On the positive side, several excellent bond measures were passed for wetlands and parks, and this fall, two more will be voted on (toxics and water quality). We passed nearly all the bills we had introduced, (predator control, pesticides, Environmental License Plate Fund, Tulare Lake), and several other good measures we supported also passed."

SAMTRANS EXPANSION

(The following is the text of a letter sent to the Design Review Board of BCDC by President Rick Baird, at the request of the Conservation Commission and with the approval of the Board of Directors)

Subject: SamTrans North Maintenance and Operations Base. A proposed 26.3 acre bus yard and maintenance complex, Belle Air Island, South San Francisco, San Mateo County.

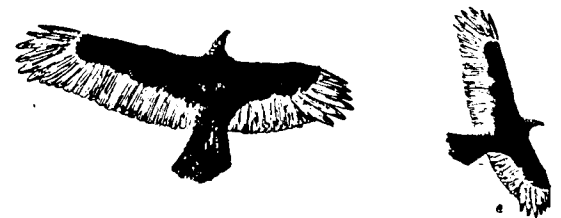
"...One of our important organizational goals is the protection and preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. the continuing impact of development on the wetlands of San Francisco Bay is our growing concern."

"Two Board members of Sequoia Audubon attended the meeting of the Design Review Board on Monday, July 30, 1984. They reported their observations of the proceedings and shared the project and site data and agenda information with our Conservation Committee..."

"On planning the proposed Belle Air Island project, we hope the maximum public access width of 50 feet will be established along the shoreline. this would be particularly advantageous on the bayside frontage since it is more protected from the prevailing winds, more attractive to shorebirds and more scenic than is the northwest shoreline."

"It would be additionally advantageous to negotiate with the proposed marina property owner now, before development, to share a road and walkway easement on the adjacent boundary lot line to permit wider shared access to the SamTrans landscaped frontage. we hope you will find the marina property owner willing to accept such a design plan."

--- Richard B. Baird



BIRDATHON RESULTS

Beginning at 2:00 AM on Saturday morning and continuing on until well after dark in the evening, Gil West conducted his solo fundraiser for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, finishing the loooong day with a count of 111 birds.

From Palo Alto to Ano Nuevo to Princeton to Patterson, Gil covered portions of five counties. Those of you who have pledged your support should make out your checks to P.R.B.O. and mail them to Gil West, 104 Angelita Avenue, Pacifica, Ca. 94044.

STATE PARKS TESTIMONY

(The following is the text of testimony given before the California State Parks and Recreation Commission on behalf of Sequoia Audubon Society.)

"My name is Anne Scanlan-Rohrer. I represent Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. Sequoia Audubon has approximately 3000 members in San Mateo County. Our goals include helping to establish and protect wildlife refuges, parks, ecological preserves and supporting the protection and enhancement of wetlands and the protection of sensitive habitats and endangered species. We support the enhancement/development and acquisition of recreational and open space lands close to large population centers."

We present to you today three areas in San Mateo County that we feel deserve full consideration for acquisition and development/restoration funding by the state Department of Parks and Recreation."

"PESCADERO MARSH is a place that is very special to Sequoia Audubon. Our society was instrumental in its purchase by the State in the mid-1970's. Pescadero is the largest marsh remaining on the Pacific Coast between Elkhorn Slough in Monterey County and Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County. In 640 acres it has a wide diversity of wildlife, birds, and plant species, including several endangered species. Pescadero Marsh itself is now endangered. Since acquisition was completed by State Parks in 1978, few actions have been taken to either protect it from damage or improve its usefulness. The severe storms of 1981 and 1982 have produced exceptionally high rates of sedimentation in the marsh - in excess of 4 feet in several places. Other manmade obstacles from

the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's have made the siltation much worse. If immediate action is not taken the reduced tidal action and reduced channel capacity will cause the remainder of the marsh to silt in even more rapidly. Pescadero Marsh is in imminent danger of becoming Pescadero Meadow."

"The marsh, even in its present state, is heavily used by students and teachers of all ages, the general public and scientists. Our society has records of 160 bird species seen regularly at the marsh. It is a stopover on the Pacific Flyway and also provides habitat for many species that breed locally. This freshwater marsh is truly unique. Funding for its restoration is desperately needed."

Sequoia Audubon and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) have joined together to implement restoration. Some progress is being made; much more is required. Acquisition of certain portions of land adjoining the marsh is required, including the area above North Pond, and the wooded area south of Pescadero Road. Money is required for restoration: this could come from Proposition 18 funds. We would specifically ask for a \$10,000. grant for Sequoia/POST to develop interpretive programs at the marsh."

"A second area that we feel should be acquired by the state is Cascade ranch in southern San Mateo County. Its proximity to Ano Nuevo, Butano and Big Basin make it a natural link between these three parks. Cascade Ranch would also increase recreational opportunities in an area where public use is near capacity."

(Continued on Page Six)

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching is Sequoia Audubon Society's new guide to birdwatching sites from San Francisco to southern San Mateo County. Over 30 different spots are described and accompanied by maps, directions and helpful notes about each spot. A helpful species index directs you to habitats for the birds you want to see. Order one for yourself and several as gifts!

Only \$8.95 or \$8.00 each for three or more

Use this form to order your copy **today!**

Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society
Post Office Box 1131
Burlingame, Ca. 94011

Orders will be shipped in November

NAME.....

STREET.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....

QUANTITY WANTED @ = \$.....

[1-2 @ \$8.95; Three or more @ \$8.00]

Add \$1.25 each for postage and handling=.....

Add 6.5% for California sales tax =

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$.....

Just in Time for Christmas!



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

Sequoia Audubon Society

STATE PARKS TESTIMONY
(Continued from Page Five)

"The third area we recommend for acquisition by the State is Bair Island (also known as South Shores). This 1100 acre parcel lies east of the Bayshore Freeway in Redwood City. Bair Island fronts on San Francisco Bay and is the last remaining chunk of open land on the bay from San Francisco to Palo Alto. Its habitats include sloughs, wetlands, upland areas, tidal salt marshes and diked salt evaporator ponds. further out toward the bay and along the sloughs, salt marsh has survived, and shorebirds find valuable roosting areas in the uplands. Bair Island is used by four endangered species - the California least tern, the California clapper rail, the salt marsh harvest mouse and the brown pelican. Bair Island is one of the last remaining breeding sites for the least tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*) in California."

"It would be in the public interest to allocate funds for the restoration of Pescadero Marsh, and the acquisition of Cascade Ranch and Bair Island. There is a demonstrated need for more recreational lands within the County. People from San Francisco, Santa Clara and the East Bay use the parks and beaches found in San Mateo County."

"Sequoia Audubon thanks you for this opportunity to present our nominations for the Proposition 18 funds."

---Anne Scanlan-Rohrer

PESCADERO, MARSH
OR MEADOW?

As Anne Scanlan-Rohrer pointed out in her testimony before the State Parks and Recreation Department, the transition of Pescadero Marsh into Pescadero Meadow is well underway. Siltation in the lagoon reached such a point that the outflow was insufficient to keep the channel clear and it has been blocked by a sandbar of ever-increasing size. As a result, any sediment in Butano and Pescadero Creeks has no other place to go than into the marsh. This sedimentation has continued to fill the channels and the rising waters are spreading to areas that are usually wet only at extreme high tides or at the end of the rainy season. Mudflats and marsh verges normally exposed at this time of year now lie underwater and the migrating and wintering shorebirds have bypassed Pescadero Marsh this fall. A number of observers who have been birding at the marsh for years have never seen the water level so high except during periods of flooding.

It is obvious that the capacity of the marsh to absorb the inflow from the creeks is severely impaired. Unless something is done soon, even a normal rainfall could result in serious flooding in the town of Pescadero and along the creeks. An unscientific and limited inspection of the area from the lagoon to the ocean leads us to believe that removal of the sandbar will be insufficient and that dredging 5-10,000 cubic yards of silt will be required to re-open the channel and restore a minimal outflow.

If this is not done and flooding does occur, public clamor could lead to short-sighted "quick-fix" flood control remedies that could destroy the marsh forever.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SAN
MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE
CHASE - NOVEMBER 18, 1984

Cliff Richer will lead a team of crack(?) Sequoia Audubon Society birders on a WILD GOOSE CHASE from Ano Nuevo up to San Francisco and back down the Peninsula to the Dumbarton Bridge beginning one hour before dawn and ending one hour after dusk. With the help of the new San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching Guide, they will identify as many different species as possible.

The objective of this WILD GOOSE CHASE is to raise funds for the "wish list", those non-budget items that every organization wants but can't afford "this year".

You can help out by pledging a nominal amount (from 5 cents on up) for each species identified by the team.

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confidence in the leader's estimate of more than 100 different birds by "pre-paying" your pledge for 100 species.

Make all checks payable to Sequoia Audubon Society and mail to:
Post Office Box 1131
Burlingame, Ca. 94011



YES, I will support SAS's WILD GOOSE CHASE with a pledge of _____ per species.

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 100 different birds being identified.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

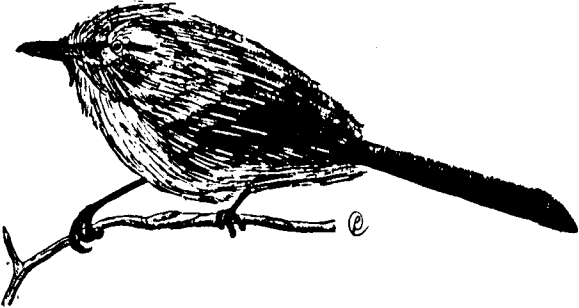
TELEPHONE _____

All honored pledges are tax-deductible.

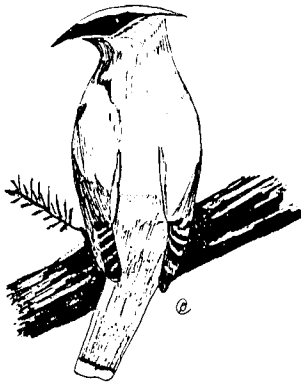
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Apropos of the new Audubon Education Program---

If you are planning for a year, sow seeds.  
If you are planning for a decade, plant trees.  
If you are planning for a lifetime, educate a person.

~~~~~  
---Chinese proverb
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The SAVE THE EAGLES FUND still needs your cancelled postage stamps. Cut them off with a wide margin of envelope around them and bring them to the meetings. Donna Kirsacko is collecting them for transmittal to the fund.
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FOR THE _?_ WHO HAS EVERYTHING

In case you're wondering what to give that man, woman or family that has everything, why not give a gift of Audubon - especially Sequoia Audubon.

If you don't know how to go about it, call Jean Allen (344-9339) for details.
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## WILDLIFE FOR SALE

The one environmental area in which the Reagan Administration has been prominent is one that is also in keeping with its law and order image. Additional enforcement personnel, undercover "sting" operations and federal prosecutors who take wildlife cases seriously have resulted in a multifold increase in arrests and convictions.

A second result of this increased enforcement has been the shocking revelation of how widespread and blatant is the traffic in exotic items and endangered species.

In the Far East where population pressures have not fostered environmental concerns, many of their own wildlife species have been extirpated and traditional remedies and delicacies are no longer available. This has led to a flourishing illegal trade in bear paws and gall bladders with particular premiums being placed on the paws of endangered grizzly and polar bears.

Mounted heads of mountain sheep and other protected species are sold on the black market - apparently to wealthy "hunters" who wish to brag about their trophy without going to the effort of obtaining it themselves.

Woods-wise poachers act as guides on illegal hunts into Yellowstone and other large national parks seeking elk and grizzlies. Particularly in Yellowstone, many of these creatures have lost their fear of man and are easy prey for the wealthy "sportsmen" who are willing to pay large sums to the poacher who can virtually guarantee success.

Until recently, there was little risk in these operations since both prosecutors and judges tended to treat such cases - particularly for the first-time offender - as little more than woodland parking violations. Diligent prosecutors still find themselves fighting frustration in many cases when they have to deal with judges who are annoyed with the prosecutor for wasting their time or who treat these cases with a "boys will be boys" mentality. Attitudes in the legal profession are slowly changing however as the magnitude of the problem becomes apparent.

The illegal import of exotic birds into the United States has been well known for many years. Less well known except among ornithologists, birders and falconers has been the domestic and export trade in birds of prey. Gyr falcons, peregrines, goshawks and Harris' hawks command immense sums - particularly from the oil sheiks and barons of the Middle East, where falconry is a major recreational activity. "Operation Falcon", one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sting operations, has alleged that illegally obtained falcons were shipped to Arabia with the assistance of the Saudi embassy and the government-owned Saudi airline.

The newest and most appalling manifestation of the selling of our natural heritage has come about as the result of the current European interest in the American West and especially the Plains Indians. "Authentic" reproductions of ceremonial Indian headdresses are sold at prices ranging up to \$5000. When treated to simulate aging, many of these are sold as antiques at many times that price. The rarest and most conspicuous components of these headdresses are tail feathers from the immature golden and the adult bald eagle. Since only perfect feathers will do, a single feather may be worth as much as \$40. and as many as 50 eagles may have to be killed to reproduce a Crow chief's ceremonial headdress.

A number of these cases are about to come to trial in Colorado, Montana and South Dakota. It is to be hoped that they will be treated with the seriousness that they merit and that any guilty parties will receive penalties sufficiently rigorous so as to make these enterprises unprofitable and deter future poachers.

---Cliff Richer

## CALL OF THE WILD GOOSE

Our FIRST ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE is off to a slow start. So far we have received four unsolicited checks and a half dozen unsolicited pledges. A special thanks goes to one of our newest members, Irene Quirolo, who had her check in the mail before most of you received your **NEEDLES**. We need more of you to follow suit and to go one step further.

You may be pleasantly surprised to find out how easy it is to obtain pledges of 5 or 10 cents per species or \$5 or \$10 in total from your friends

and acquaintances for a good cause.

We need you to call others and ask their help.

We need you to call the team leader and tell where a "good bird" might be found. (Owl roosts in particular would be helpful.)

And if you're willing to go from dawn to dusk, we want you for our team!

Return your pledge form (see page six) today or call Cliff Richer (355-4058) with your pledge or other assistance.

### OFFICERS:

President: Richard B. Baird 574-1067  
Vice-Pres.: Anne Scanlan-Rohrer 571-7972  
Secretary: Mary Bresler 994-3587  
Treasurer: Nick Coiro 349-1834

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#### Elected for Term Ending:

June '85 Dr. Ruth Smith 424-4375  
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June '86 Kathy Graves 368-0087  
Cliff Richer 355-4058  
June '87 Elgin Juri 325-7470  
Linda Kypta 591-9053

### STANDING COMMITTEES:

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Finance: Elgin Juri 325-7470

Hospitality: OPEN  
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Program: Linda Kypta 591-9053  
Publicity: Anne Scanlan-Rohrer 571-7972

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Sequoia Audubon Society Office 593-7368  
Rare Bird Alert 843-2211  
SEQUOIA NEEDLES EDITOR:  
Cliff Richer 355-4058

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INFORMATION FOR ALL OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS --- INCLUDING EXCHANGE BULLETINS --- SHOULD BE MAILED TO POST OFFICE BOX 1131, BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA 94011.

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## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION---SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY Chapter C16

☐ YES, enroll me as a member in the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY PREFERRED

☐ Individual/\$30 ☐ Family/\$38 ☐ Student/\$18 ☐ Sustaining/\$50  
☐ Senior Citizen-Individual/\$21 ☐ Senior Citizen-Family/\$27 ☐ Supporting/\$100  
☐ Contributing/\$250 ☐ Honor/\$500 ☐ Life/\$1500 ☐ Dual Life/\$2000

☐ MY CHECK FOR \$\_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED. ☐ PLEASE BILL ME.

Please have checks payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to:

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DO NOT DELAY!!

DONNA KIRSACKO  
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