

January

1985

sequoia needles

volume 33

number 5

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS GENERAL MEETING

The January program is one which promises to be of interest to every member of Sequoia Audubon. Animal lovers, birders, conservationists - no matter what your interest are, this should be a fascinating evening.

Our speaker is Brian Walton, head of the breeding bird project of the U.C. Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Rehabilitation Center who will describe the work of the center using such standard visual aids as slides and - barring unforeseen circumstances - will have one or more of the Center's patients with him.

The anticipated star of the show should be a young peregrine falcon which was found - ill and near starvation - a few weeks ago along the bay shore in San Mateo County and brought to the Center where it has made a remarkable recovery.

Brian is also involved in the Predatory Bird Group at U.C. Santa Cruz. In conjunction with the Peregrine Fund, they are asking for your help in compiling habitat utilization data for peregrine falcons. If you have any peregrine observations in 1984, bring your notes to the meeting. There will be special information forms for you to complete to assist them in their work.

The meeting will be at the usual time and place on Thursday, January 10 at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, West of the Alameda in San Mateo.

The social mixer begins at 7:30, with the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

SANDERLING CENSUS

The Sanderling Project, based in Bodega, needs your help in conducting their annual mid-winter census for the local populations on the beaches from Pescadero Point to San Gregorio and the South Bay mudflats on Saturday and Sunday, January 5th and 6th. They are particularly interested in color-banded birds which they marked this past spring in northern Oregon.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is coordinating the local effort. If you can help, give them a call at (408) 946-6548 for information on times and places.

FROM THE EDITOR

Peter Steinhart, whose essays are normally examples of clear writing and linear logic, appeared to be having some trouble with the essay entitled, ironically enough, "Simplicity", which appeared in the November 1984 issue of "Audubon" magazine.

It is clear that Steinhart found himself at odds with himself. Throughout the essay he is nostalgic for the good old days of the '60s and '70s when so many longed for and believed in the "return to the simple life" and he finds it hard to believe the evidence of his senses, his logic and, ultimately, his writing.

The truth is that the "simple life" is immensely complex and demanding. In its most basic form the simple life devolves to basic subsistence, requiring all of the individual's time and attention merely to stay alive. At a somewhat higher level, the demands of the simple life require immense expenditures of personal energy and the acquisition of specialized knowledge and complicated physical skills. As a simple example, one does not merely take a piece of iron and bang away at a tree trunk. The mere selection of an axe is a largely lost art and even today, in the era of the chain saw, most woodsmen own several axes with each edge sharpened for a particular use. Once having acquired this tool, countless hours of effort are required in order to become reasonably adept in its safe usage. Additional skills are then required to know what to cut, how to cut it and how to reduce it to manageable and usable pieces. Having now gotten to this stage, a whole new set of skills must now come into play - stacking, drying, laying the fire, etc., etc.

How much simpler it is just to turn up the thermostat!

Nor is the simple life necessarily more healthful or beneficial. In the small town in northern New Hampshire where I grew up there were very few grown men who did not bear axe marks somewhere on their bodies and I can still remember vividly those cold and still winter mornings when my eyes burned and my throat ached from the residues of the acrid wood smoke that lingered. The worst of Los Angeles' famous smog has never even approached that sensation.

There is no simple life and there never has been. Life is a complex, ever-changing experience. The concern over carcinogens and contaminants is justified but should be kept in perspective. Past generations did not concern themselves with these problems because they seldom lived long enough to be affected. At various times they had far more to be concerned about from cave bears, the black plague, gangrene, malaria, pneumonia, smallpox or the great molasses flood than about potential long term dangers.

Almost everything in life is a compromise. If we are going to control disease, provide rapid communication and transportation and feed the hungry, we need the science and technology to do it and our concerns must be with minimizing and controlling their adverse side-effects, not with abolishing them and returning to the simple(?) life.

CALENDAR

JAN. 1 A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!!
TUESDAY

JAN. 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings
THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL
MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

JAN. 5 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 9:00 A.M. with the meeting
starting at 9:30. 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.

JAN. 10 SAS GENERAL MEETING. THE U.C. SANTA CRUZ RAPTOR
THURSDAY REHABILITATION CENTER with Brian Walton. An
illustrated talk with the possibility of meeting
one or two of the Center's distinguished patients. At the
San Mateo Garden Center, Parkside, west of the Alameda, in
San Mateo. Social Mixer begins at 7:30 P.M.

JAN. 12 STRYBING ARBORETUM IN GOLDEN GATE PARK. With its
SATURDAY outstanding variety of native, exotic and imported
plants. Strybing Arboretum attracts the unusual as
well as the more common wintering birds. For example, a
yellow-bellied sapsucker (red-naped race) is spending its
second winter at the arboretum and has been seen (as of
press time) with some regularity (but some difficulty also).
Our leader is particularly well qualified (as the former
President of the Arboretum Society) to lead us through the
sometimes confusing byways and point out many of its
attractions. We will meet at 8:30 A.M. in the parking lot
behind the Hall of Flowers at the intersection of 10th Ave.
and Lincoln Way on the north side of Lincoln Way. The
earlier than usual starting time is dictated by possible
parking difficulties and car-pooling is encouraged. To get
there take I-280 north to the left exit to 19th Avenue in
Daly City and follow 19th Avenue to Golden Gate Park.
Before 19th Ave. enters the park, take a right on Lincoln
Way and follow it to 10th Ave. Car-pooling is encouraged.
Call Cliff Richer (355-4058) or the Audubon Office (593-
7368) for details. Heavy rains cancel the trip, which will
otherwise break up at lunchtime.

LEADER

HADLEY OSBORN

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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. ALL OF OUR TRIPS THIS MONTH :
: ARE SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS SINCE THEY ARE NEARBY AND MAY :
: BE ENJOYED WITHOUT SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING OR PRIOR :
\===== \ EXPERIENCE. /===== /
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JAN. 15 PALO ALTO FLOOD CONTROL BASIN FIELD TRIP.
TUESDAY Geographically isolated from the other areas of
the Palo Alto Baylands, this complex area of salt
and freshwater ponds, brackish marshes, creeks, sloughs,
grasslands and riparian growth offers a wide variety of
wildlife in the midst of the highly industrialized and
developed western bay-front. As a result it offers much to
both the beginning and the skilled birder. Relatively rare
birds such as blue-winged teal, redheads, merlins, moorhens,
short-eared owls and Lincoln's sparrows are regular winter
residents and a wide variety of other species can be

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NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

For the past 23 years, the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch has successfully conducted property acquisitions, fund raisings and educational programs at its three preserves. But to further enrich and redefine future goals, the Board decided to call on outside planners for a professional overlook at all of its activities. With the help of the San Francisco Foundation, the planning and fund raising firm of Augment was chosen for this purpose.

Many people were involved in this review process...the members of the Board, the staff, and the members of the Volunteer Council. Individual and group interviews were conducted, culminating in a two day retreat at the Ranch's Volunteer Canyon where small study groups explored various alternatives and suggestions.

Augment personnel are now evaluating all of this information and will release their findings early in 1985.

The Board expects this cross-fertilization of new ideas to eventually create an ever more flourishing Audubon Canyon Ranch.



1985 SFBBO TOURS

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will be once again sponsoring a series of low-cost tours. From April 20 to May 5 they will be touring the coast of Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley in an attempt to hit both the migratory waves and the sub-tropical species in one trip. Previous tours covering these areas at this time of year have had lists of up to 300 birds. Cost is \$500 from Houston. Leaders are Dan Singer and Don Starks (tour organizer). Call Don at (408) 371-9720 (evenings) or write him at 2076 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose 95124 for further information.

Other tours in the planning stage include Death Valley in May, the Southern Sierra and Kern River in June, Yosemite in July, and separate trips to Arizona and to Comodor Country in August.

BIRDING CLASSES MARYANN DANIELSON

Maryann Danielson, who presented such a fine program in December, will be offering two class series for birders at the Sequoia Adult School. Each series will consist of nine illustrated lectures and five field trips. Registration is at the first class meeting. \$35. Fee.

THE ABC'S OF BIRD IDENTIFICATION - A class series for beginning to intermediate birders. Participants will learn to recognize birds using habitat Area, Behavior, Color and other field marks. Lectures start January 9, 7:30-9:30 P.M. at the Senior Center in San Carlos. Sunday field trips.

FOLLOW THE BIRDS - For intermediate to advanced birders. Emphasis will be on winter strategies used by birds to find food and escape predators and will also include information on bird identification and behavior, especially of local birds. Class will meet in the Teacher's Lounge at Menlo Atherton High School, 7:30-9:30 P.M., starting January 7, 1985. Saturday field trips.

SUNBEAM EXPLORATIONS MARYANN DANIELSON

Sunbeam Ecology Explorations invites interested birders to participate in two winter field trips. Instructor and tour leader - Maryann Danielson.

TULE AND KLAMATH LAKES FOR RAPTORS AND WATERFOWL: February 15-18. Wintering waterfowl and birds of prey are the objects of this trip. One of the highlights is the viewing of large numbers of bald eagles leaving and returning to their roost from their foraging area on the Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A pre-trip slide lecture on Thursday, February 7 will highlight the wildlife of the area. Fee: \$90 which includes three nights lodging. Registration is limited. Deadline is February 7.

SANTA BARBARA AND ENVIRONS: January 25-27. Santa Barbara led the National Audubon Christmas Count in 1982 with 212 species, so be prepared for a really good birding weekend. The mild climate provides a wintering area for birds uncommon in the Bay Area as well as for a number of vagrants. A pre-trip slide lecture on Tuesday, January 15 will highlight some of the birds that we hope to find. Fee is \$65 which includes two nights lodging. Registration is limited. Signup deadline is January 15.

For both trips, transportation and food are the responsibility of the participants. Carpools are encouraged and can be formed at the pre-trip meeting. Van rental may be considered. For further information call Maryann Danielson (415) 342-6919.

CALENDAR (Continued from page two)

observed in a relatively small area with a minimal expenditure of time. To get there, take Hwy. 101 to the Embarcadero exit and proceed east to the first traffic light at Frontage Road. Take a right on Frontage Rd. and look for a small parking lot on the left after approximately a half mile. We will meet there at 9:00 A.M. and bird until noon. Heavy rains will cancel the trip. Regardless of weather expect to encounter some muddy going. Other than that the terrain is flat and the small amount of walking that will be done will be easy going. A good trip for beginners.

LEADER ELGIN JURI 325-7470

JAN. 15 TUESDAY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING ---- Time and place to be determined - Call the chairman, Rick Johnson for details (349-4546). 3rd tuesday of each month.

JAN. 19 SATURDAY FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater and lesser scaup. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon. (Our distinguished visitor of the last two years had not put in his appearance at press time - but THINK SMEW!!)

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834



JAN. 23 WEDNESDAY EMERALD LAKE FIELD TRIP. Meet at 9:00 A.M. to walk this quiet residential lake in search of the green-backed heron and ring-necked duck. Wear boots for muddy areas. In Redwood City, take Jefferson Ave. to 939 Lakeview Way, the third house going south on Lakeview. The trip ends at noon.

LEADER GENEVIEVE MILLER 368-7169

JAN. 26 SATURDAY MARINE MAMMALS FROM SHORE. We will scan the ocean from various shoreline vantage points from Pescadero to Ano Nuevo in an attempt to identify migrating whales and foraging seals and sea-lions as well as beached pinnipeds. We will not venture out onto the breeding beaches at Ano Nuevo but, with luck, we expect to get close-up views of at least one or two elephant seals. As a bonus, you can expect the usual variety of coastal birds - black oystercatchers, surfbirds, turnstones and maybe even a rock sandpiper. We will meet at 8:30 A.M. at the parking lot just west of I-280 and before Crystal Springs Reservoir where Hwy. 92 meets Hwy. 35. It is recommended that you bring lunch as break-up time is scheduled for approximately 2:00 P.M. Steady rain and/or high winds cancel the trip. Bring telescopes if you have them.

LEADER SHARON HOM 365-3369

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

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INCOME TAX CHECKOFF

California's income tax checkoff program for rare and endangered species got off to a half million dollar start last spring, but more will be needed in succeeding years.

According to Department of Fish and Game Director Jack Parnell a contribution from every wildlife enthusiast and each of their friends would have an important positive impact in the endangered wild species problem.

The method is simple. Just look for the endangered species line on your California Income Tax return and fill in an even dollar amount. If your returns are done professionally, remind the preparer that you want to contribute and how much to include. If you forget, then make the change when you review and sign the form. Just ink it in and initial the change.

Last year's \$500,000? It's being used to purchase critical habitats for a number of endangered species, enhance and protect other habitats and encourage more giving. The goal for the 1985 campaign is one million dollars.

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Free evening bird classes will be offered through the John Adams Community College Center starting in January. Open enrollment permits students to enroll any time during the 18 week semester. Just go directly to the classroom, room 227, Marina Middle School, corner of Bay and Fillmore streets on the day and hour listed below. Free parking is available in the school lot off Bay Street on the east side of the building.

Each lecture consists of a weekly two and one-half hour illustrated slide lecture stressing identification, status and habits of North American birds. The text for all classes is the FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by the National Geographic Society. The instructor is Joseph Morlan, co-author of BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA and compiler of the weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert".

ORNITHOLOGY I (Tuesdays, beginning January 15, 7:30-9:30 P.M.) is an introduction to avian biology for those with no previous birding experience. It stresses concepts in behavior, population ecology and evolution illustrated through the medium of Bay Area birds.

ORNITHOLOGY II (Wednesdays, beginning January 16, 7:30-9:30 P.M.) is for those who already know most of the common birds and wish to sharpen their field

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(Continued from page three)

FEB. 9-10 LOS BANOS REFUGES AND PANOCHE VALLEY FIELD TRIP
SATURDAY One of our highlight field trips of the year
SUNDAY covering two diverse areas and exposing us to a variety of rare and unusual birds. The four refuges north of Los Banos are noted for white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes, a large variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, raptors and owls. Twenty miles south of Los Banos, Little Panoche Road winds its way through the Diablo Range into Panoche Valley where wintering flocks of mountain plovers, vesper sparrows, mountain bluebirds, long billed curlews, and perched raptors vie with the resident roadrunners, phainopeplas and chukars for the birders' attention. Saturday we plan on meeting in the parking lot of the Islander Motel at 9:00 A.M. before proceeding to the refuges. Sunday we will meet at the parking lot above Little Panoche Detention Reservoir at 8:30 A.M.. The trips will go on rain or shine. We have found the Islander [(209) 826-3045] to be clean, economical and friendly in the past. Reservations are recommended at this time of year. Additional details will be found in next month's NEEDLES and information packets should be available at the General Meeting or at the office.

LOS BANOS LEADER	JOHN SILLIMAN	585-3232
PANOCHE VALLEY LEADER	GIL WEST	359-0820
TRIP COORDINATOR	CLIFF RICHER	355-4058

FORMATION FLYING

Zoologists at the University of Washington have found that shorebird flocks react like ultra-fast chorus lines. Slow motion films show that the apparent simultaneous changes of direction by these flocks are all initiated by one bird. The question now is, how do they decide which bird?

OUR NEW OFFICE

Sequoia extends a big thank you to the following people for their donations to the new office:

Jean and Frank Allen	Kathy Graves	Ethel Ludovic
Mary Bresler	Sharon Hom	Ruth Smith
Mary Gorth	Elgin Juri, his sons & their truck	

While the office is nearly furnished, there is still a need for:

Metal file cabinets
Book case or shelves
Bulletin board

A business level desk-top computer (Ideally an IBM compatible, transportable, dual disk drive machine with 128K or more memory and a letter quality or dot-matrix printer would be most suitable for our needs.)

The SAS office is located at:

720 El Camino Real
Suite 403
Belmont, California 94002
Telephone 593-7368

Scheduled hours are:

Monday 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon
Wednesday-Closed
Thursday 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Friday 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Since this schedule is subject to change without notice, it is recommended that you call before visiting the office. The tape on the answering machine will have the current office hours. Special appointments can also be made by calling 593-7368.

--- Donna Kirsacko

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EDGEWOOD PARK

The battle to preserve Edgewood County Park's unusual and diverse assemblage of rear serpentine-dependent plants and the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly has taken a turn towards confrontation between San Mateo County and two other public agencies - the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

On September 11 the Service published a proposed rule to give the Bay checkerspot butterfly endangered status. This action triggers a one-year process of public input and review.

The county has been aware of the pending action to list the butterfly as endangered for some four years but has proceeded with a golf course plan at Edgewood that encircles the prime area for the butterfly and fails to address smaller colonies.

The historical distribution of the checkerspot butterfly over some 16 colonies in the Bay area is now down to five and two are threatened with imminent loss. The San Bruno Mountain colony has large population fluctuations that bring it to the brink of extinction. The Woodside colony has been effectively extinguished by the development of

Woodhill Estates. Only the Edgewood, Jasper Ridge and Morgan Hill colonies appear to be viable and Morgan Hill's is threatened by overgrazing and a proposed sanitary landfill.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors believe that the listing of the butterfly will make it extremely difficult to build the 18 hole golf course at Edgewood Park. Their options include fighting the listing of the butterfly as endangered, gerrymandering the critical habitat to permit the golf course or consulting with Fish and Wildlife and the National Park Service to get a favorable determination that the golf course will not jeopardize the continued existence of the butterfly.

To persons concerned with the long-term survival of rare and endangered species, the dilemma of Edgewood Park points out the continuing problem. Some proponents of the golf course have trivialized the problem by arguing that golfers are an endangered species, or that the dinosaurs were sacrificed so that we could have oil today and County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Schumacher of Daly City captured the spirit of this attitude by saying, "Put a butterfly in your gas tank." It was not a joke.

--- Lennie Roberts

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
720 El Camino Real, Suite 403
Belmont, California 94022

Allow 14 to 18 days for delivery

NAME.....

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QUANTITY WANTED @ = \$.....
\$9.53 each. Three or more - \$8.52 each (tax incl.)

Add \$1.25 for postage and handling

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San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching

Sequoia Audubon Society

**BIRDING CLASSES -
JOE MORLAN**
(Continued from Page 4)

skills. It is an in-depth systematic treatment of the identification and status of waterbirds including waterfowl, rails and shorebirds.

ORNITHOLOGY III (Thursdays, beginning January 17. 7:30-9:30) is a continuation of Ornithology II. It will cover land birds including gamebirds, pigeons, cuckoos, owls, nightjars, swifts and hummingbirds.

The classes are sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society and all evening classes are free of charge. Optional field trips will be arranged on weekends. The fee for field trips is \$30 for eight half-day trips. Details will be discussed in class. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the college at 346-7044 or 239-3070.

AUDUBON STAMPS

In April the U.S. Postal Service will be commemorating John James Audubon's 200th birthday with the issuance of a 22 cent stamp. As an avid philatelist and bird-watcher, Scott Klynstra has offered to prepare some very special FIRST DAY COVERS, combining the current issue with the 1940 one-cent Audubon stamp. Scott will offer these to any fellow SAS members at his cost plus a small donation to Sequoia. Please call him at 572-4429 if you're interested in taking advantage of this offer.

Scott also wrote to us about a weekend birding and camping trip taken by him and Tom Scott from Redwood City to the Tuolumne River via Patterson Pass Road, and returning by way of Del Puerto Canyon Rd., Mt. Hamilton and Alum Rock Park covering a total of 250 miles.

Some of the trip highlights were:

"A colony of yellow-billed magpies in midair confrontation with a large flock of starlings. (Gardner's Cove - San Joaquin River);
a live oak near La Grange filled with hundreds of singing black-throated gray warblers;
a closeup of an osprey clutching a salmon flying up the Tuolumne River near Robert's Ferry Bridge and hovering osprey at Turlock Lake;
soaring golden eagles in Del Puerto canyon;
a roadrunner standing along the roadside on the eastern slope of Mt. Hamilton; (And I was beginning to think I was the only one who had ever seen one on that side of the mountain --- Ed.)
thousands of migrating salmon in the Tuolumne River;
and bats skimming the river at evening."

Our thanks to Scott for his offer and for sharing his experiences with us.

KESTERSON REFUGE

The State Department of Water seems to have lost interest in the selenium buildup at Kesterson Refuge. Partly this stems from a feeling that it is a federal problem and partly from their failure in the last year to have come up with anything resembling a solution.

The state Water Resources Control Board is drafting a cleanup order but is reported to be holding it up pending action by the Federal Government.

The Federal agencies involved - the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation - have not progressed much beyond the talking stage either. The Planning and Conservation League's Jerry Meral was asked to sit on the Bureau of Reclamation's advisory panel on the San Luis Drain (Kesterson Refuge) problem and reports that in the first meeting it was "obvious the Bureau does not know what to do about the drainage problem."

In Washington, the Department of Interior has earmarked a total of up to \$30 million for research into the problem and is expected to ask the Water Resources Control Board to hold up its cleanup order until the research is completed (Probably 3 years).

Certainly this problem requires study - primarily to prevent its recurrence in other areas such as the private evaporation ponds of the Salyer and Boswell agri-complexes, Buena Vista Lake, the Salton Sea, or other heavily irrigated areas. However, neither the cause nor its solution requires research. The cause is the use of large quantities of cheap water to flush the soil contaminants from the top layers of the West Valley fields. This wastewater then follows the 82 mile San Luis Agricultural drain and eventually reaches the San Luis Sump, otherwise known as the Kesterson Refuge. Both the quantity of water used and the levels of contamination reached are far greater than originally anticipated. As a result the evaporation rate is insufficient to allow the ponds to be scoured periodically and the level of contamination is too high to permit discharge into the San Joaquin River during the winter months.

One solution is to raise the cost of water to the break-even point. Another is to eliminate the use of subsidized water entirely in the West Valley. A third is to construct a "state of the art" detoxification plant to clean and recycle the wastewater. All of these have one major deficiency; the costs of paying their own way would put most of the West Valley farmers and ranchers out of business. This may make good environmental sense but is poor politics, so the Washington reaction is to delay biting the bullet and hope that \$30 million spread among 200 million taxpayers will be less noticeable than the same economic cost to 200 farmers and ranchers.

Meanwhile a group composed of duck hunters and abutting landowners has filed suit against the Fish and Wildlife Service alleging that the problem was foreseeable and avoidable, that the present conditions were known to the Service for some years, and that further delay will result in irreparable damage to the Refuge and the surrounding private marshes and farms.

The developing scenario for the Refuge promises to be interesting...but don't forget that, "May you live in interesting times" is an ancient Chinese curse!

--- Cliff Richer

SJSU FIELD STUDIES

San Jose State University has announced its 1985 programs of Field Studies in Natural History. Each of these programs will provide general on-site lectures to provide an overview of the area and specific information on its natural history.

BAJA IN JANUARY - JAN. 6-16 (FILLED)

DEATH VALLEY - MAR. 31 to APR. 6: More than 600 kinds of plants offer a spectacular show in the spring, providing a background to studies of the desert's geology, botany, zoology, ecology and history. One unit of credit is offered. Registration fee - \$67 plus an additional \$34 food fee. The program is based at Ryan - an abandoned mining town.

MARSHES, HILLS AND BEACHES OF THE SOUTH BAY - JUNE 22 to 27: The course will be taught by faculty members who have worked or done research in the area. Their will be daily field trips throughout the South Bay and the Diablo Range. Two units of credit are offered. A Junior Program may be offered if the interest exists. Registration fee - \$115.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE GRAND CANYON - JUNE 28 to JULY 3 and JULY 3 to 11. The field portion of these summer courses will be spent rafting the Colorado through the Grand Canyon. The second week may be taken separately or as a continuation of the first week. Two units of credit for each week. Approximate costs - \$650 for the first week, \$850 for the second and \$1375 for both.

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK - AUGUST 5 to 9: From 1914 to 1921, Lassen Peak deposited fire and lava over the immediate area providing a unique geologic backdrop to a week of natural history studies. Two units of credit. \$115 registration credit.

For more information on any of the programs contact:

Mrs. Kitty King
Field Studies in Natural History DBH 214
Office of Continuing Education
San Jose State University
San Jose, Ca. 95192
(408) 277-3736

THANK YOU TO THE GARDEN CENTER

As a member organization of the Garden Center SAS is "entitled" to the use of the Center for its meetings. Nevertheless, we believe we should extend our appreciation for the use of these nearly ideal facilities in such beautiful surroundings particularly after a month in which we have had one of our potluck meetings and two Christmas Counts.

Thank yous and our appreciation go to Garden Center and to all of its members.

WILD GOOSE CHASE - FOLLOWUP I

As of press time, contributions received for the First Annual San Mateo Wild Goose Chase totaled \$859.30 with \$179 in pledges yet to be redeemed. Final expenses totalled \$57.20, mainly for postage.

The members of SAS contributed \$453.42 with no unredeemed pledges. Your team leader expects all of the remaining pledges to be redeemed with two possible exceptions because of medical emergencies involving the pledgers.

We are especially gratified at the results since other commitments prevented the team leader from doing the all-out effort he had planned and we consider this a very auspicious inauguration for what is planned as an annual fund-raising event.

This year's contributions have been earmarked for newsletter and office improvement and a committee has been appointed to determine the feasibility of applying this toward the acquisition of our own personal computer. The committee, consisting of Elgin Juri, Donna Kirsacko, Cliff Richer and Scot Rohrer is expected to report at the Board's January meeting.

Our thanks go to all of those listed below who supported us so generously.

Frank & Jean Allen*
Peter Andreini
Rick Baird*
Mary Bresler*
Gary Cardane
Virginia Clifford*
William Collins
Mike Colzani
The Cron Corporation
Mr. & Mrs. Davies
Richard H. Devoe*
Edwin Duerr
John Finch

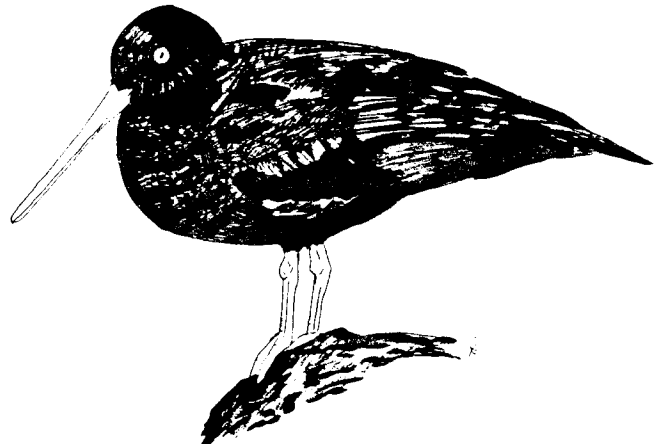
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Bob Webster
Gil West*

* SAS member

--- Cliff Richer



BITS AND PIECES

The Nature Conservancy will once again be offering its 11 day birding tour of Central California from June 14-24. Leaders will be Bob Barnes and Rob Hansen. Write to California Birding Adventure, PO Box 749, Porterville, Ca. 93258 for details.

The Planning and Conservation League's Second Annual Environmental Legislative Symposium is being held at the Sacramento Inn on January 26 and 27. Principal speakers on Saturday will be Los

Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy. Contact the PCL, 1228 N St., Suite 23, Sacramento, 95814 (Telephone [916] 444-8726) for details or reservations.

Golden Gate Audubon Society has selected Louis Carpenter as extended field trip organizer. Plans for 1985 include trips to Texas (Apr-May), Death Valley (May 24-27), Southeast Arizona (July), San Diego Pelagic (Sept.), Kenya (Oct.) and Southern Mexico (Nov.). For further details contact the GGAS office at 843-2222.

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