



sequoia needles

SAS GENERAL MEETING

Barry Sauppe, one of the finest birders anywhere and certainly the best in Sequoia Audubon, is our principal speaker this month.

It is Barry's opinion that while slides will show you the appearance of a bird, only motion pictures can capture its essence and give you a true feeling of the bird in the wild. He has travelled and photographed throughout the United States and will share his "home movies" and his commentaries with us.

No birder or member interested in birds should miss this program.

The meeting will be at the usual time and place on Thursday, March 14 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.

BIRD SKETCHES

Cliff Richer has donated the original sketches for some of the artwork that has appeared in the **NEEDLES** and in the San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching guide book. These will be on display at the General Meetings. You can take one of these home for a small tax-deductible donation to SAS.

SIGN NEEDED

Now that SAS has an office, we need a "shingle" to tell people who we are and to help our members find their way "home".

If you have any experience in woodcrafting and would be willing to design and create a small (approximately 4 inches by 12 inches) sign, please call the office at 593-7368.

--- Donna Kirsacko

FROM THE EDITOR

Spring marks a renewal of life for many of Nature's creatures. Inside of every bird, a silent biological clock ticks away the seasons. For the Anna's hummingbird and the great horned owl the alarm clock has already rung and by now they are intent on raising a new generation. For others the urge to reproduce themselves is just beginning and is showing itself in plumage changes - sometimes spectacular in the shorebirds and warblers - or in a restless desire to be on the move. Within the radius of the Antarctic Circle, the Arctic Tern wheels and points itself to the north. By mid-June it will be on its nesting areas 12,000 miles away.

In human beings the stirrings are less compelling but no less certain. We all know the vacant stare, the itchy feet and the absent-minded restlessness known as spring fever.

Why not channel that annual malaise into more constructive channels? Come join us on one of our field trips. If you've never birded before or don't have binoculars, don't let that deter you. None of us experts but we are anxious to share our love of birds and the outdoors and we can always find an extra pair of binoculars.

If your interests are elsewhere, why not volunteer for the Conservation Committee or the Pescadero Marsh Committee and help us retard or reverse the deterioration of our environment? If you're interested in meeting people and helping them enjoy the outdoors, call Pete and Donna Petersen (344-5582) and tell them that you would like to be a volunteer host or hostess at Audubon Canyon Ranch in May. If you're an organization person, call the office (593-7368) to find out what needs to be organized, catalogued or calculated. How about calling one of the Nominating Committee members (Frank Allen [344-9339], Donna Petersen [344-5582] or Nancy Richer [355-4058]) and letting them know that you might be interested in one of the elective offices? The Treasurer's and Secretary's offices are two jobs that are ideal for the new or newly active member. The primary qualification for each job is a willingness to work.

If we still haven't found anything that appeals to you, why not call Linda Kypta (591-9053) and offer to help with the June Potluck Dinner. Call the office (593-7368) and offer to help in selling San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching to bookstores or other conservation organizations. Call Kathy Graves (368-0087) and find out how you can bring the outdoors into your classroom. Are you free during the workday? Join the Allens (344-9339) on their weekday field trips or on their monthly **NEEDLES** folding and mailing workday. Do you have only a half-hour to spare once a month? Lend a hand to Gladys Booher (348-5320) on her Hospitality chores before the general meeting. Are you an experienced or willing-to-learn fund-raiser? Call anybody! NOW!

When you see the same names over and over again you may think we're a closed organization. Look again! A majority of the Board of Directors has been active less than three years. The Nominating Committee is talking to members who have been active for decades and to others in their first year. But, if we don't know you're interested we can't call on you. Let us know that you're out there! --- Cliff Richer

FARALLONES REPORT

Late December and January weather on the Farallones was relatively mild but an east wind made landing operations rough.

The aftermath of the oil spill continued to provide only minor problems and the phenomenon of the red swimming crabs continued well north of their usual range.

The southward migration of the gray whales peaked on January 14 with 62 sightings. The beginning of the northward migration will follow almost immediately as adult males and non-breeding females head for the feeding grounds of the Arctic. The last of the migration will occur in late March, April and sometimes even into May as the mothers and calves return north.

California sea lions numbered 900-1000 on the islands - about half of last year's El Nino inflated population. Many of this year's sea lions seem to be tame and friendly but are actually sick and may be dying from the infestation of Leptospirosis parasites.

This is also the peak of the elephant seal season. Most of the sub-adult bulls have left since the islands are primarily an adult reproductive zone. The female population is down 10% and the male population nearly 20%. This is within normal variation and not considered any reason for alarm. The mild weather has enhanced the survival chances for the pups and only a few have been lost, these through trampling by the large bulls. Records have now been kept long enough so that some third generation births can be identified. These are an exception though, since most of the Farallon elephant seals are immigrants, not offspring of earlier years. The total population in late January was approximately 300 pups, 350 females and 114 bulls. By the first of March most of the females will have gone, leaving their pups (now weighing about 350 pounds) to fend for themselves.

The Cassin's auklets temporarily left the island in January but are expected back for spring breeding. A flock of pine siskins were the only land birds noted in January but the cattle egrets that strayed to the island in December lingered on, but were slowly starving to death.

The lack of rain and the unfavorable winds at the landing sites created some problems for the humans on the island but the Coast Guard was finally able to deliver a new water pump and avoid a crisis.

The Farallon Symposium to be held March 15 at the California Academy of Sciences will feature a summary of this year's elephant seal observations.

—Harriet Huber and Stephanie Kaza
— Farallon Poop Sheet #12

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

MAR. 16 SAN FRANCISCO WATERSHED FIELD TRIP. On this trip SATURDAY we'll explore nature in this 23,000 acre scenic woodland. We'll be inside of locked gates between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM so be prepared to stay for the full length of the trip. Participation is limited so please call the leaders to reserve your space. If there is no one home, please leave your name and phone number on the answering machine tape. Bring lunch and meet at the Pulgas Water Temple south of Highway 92 on Canada Road.

LEADERS

FRANK AND JEAN ALLEN

344-9339

APR. 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.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

SNHS TRIP TO MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

ALUM ROCK PARK FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 27



JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

April 26, 1985 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous wildlife artists in America, John James Audubon.

Although the exact origin of Audubon is cloaked in mystery, this pales into insignificance when compare to his accomplishments.

Audubon was extremely talented in many areas. He was an expert dancer, marksman, swordsman and skater. He could speak fluent French, Spanish and English and he could paint or draw with either hand, or both at the same time.

It was his artistic talent, however, that led to his place in the history books. In the early 1800's, little was known about the wilds of America or its bird life. The task that Audubon assigned himself, to depict in lifesize the birds of America, was to consume the rest of his life, most of the family wealth and result in several business failures. In 1807 Audubon embarked on this monumental effort and until 1838, he worked night and day to accomplish his task. Throughout this effort, his one constant support was his wife, Lucy Bakewell Audubon. She and their two sons, John W. and Victor, were constantly left to fend for themselves as John James would be off in search of new birds or subscribers. Even when Audubon spent nearly 13 years in England supervising the final printing and securing subscriptions, Lucy supported his efforts, expending most of her inheritance to do so.

In 1838, *Birds of America* was published. Subscriptions for the 435 plates in 4 volumes were sold for \$1000 (Equivalent to more than \$50,000 in today's terms). For the first time, pictures and descriptions of birds were brought into the homes of many who probably had never even considered the worth of a bird. One can most assuredly trace the history of "bird watching" as a hobby to the release of *Birds of America*. Bird watching leads to other pursuits, such as the study of forests, wetlands, prairies, etc. The case could be made that the tap root of the entire conservation movement began to form with the publication of the *Birds of America*.

Even after Audubon's death in 1851, Lucy went on supporting his work. In 1868, at the age of 70, she was teaching at her home, using his art as a teaching aid. One of her students, George Grinnell, would later become editor of *Forest and Stream* magazine and in 1886 would found the Audubon Society.

In some ways the work of today's Audubon Society is similar to that of Audubon. The efforts of our chapters to save an endangered species, a wetland or establish educational programs are sometimes long and difficult. The rewards for these efforts, however, will last forever.

Join in the 200th birthday celebration on April 26. Celebrate the birth of John James Audubon. Celebrate the efforts of the Audubon Society.

--- Press Release, National Audubon Society

COUNTERPOINT

Men who accomplish great deeds are not always great men. And so it was with Audubon. Some anecdotes from his early years show that his genius did not go far beyond his obsession with birds. The illegitimate son of a French colonial planter, John James was sent to the United States

to avoid conscription. The family wealth was dissipated by colonial revolution and when he married Lucy Bakewell, Audubon was a comparatively poor man. Yet through his life he retained the airs and egotism of the colonial lord.

Using Lucy's dowry as capital Audubon set up as a storekeeper in Louisville, where the two major events of his life were a shooting match with the aging Daniel Boone and a meeting with Alexander Wilson who tried to sell him a subscription to his soon to be published *American Ornithology*. It was at this meeting that the germ of Audubon's later obsession was planted.

He soon moved downriver to Hendersonville, where his partner managed the few goods in the store while Audubon hunted, fished and sketched. He went through several businesses and partners and supported himself more through his services as a guide and his skills as an outdoorsman than his business acumen. He left the town in disgrace, bankrupt, accused of fraud by his partners and followed by subpoena servers after having stabbed a business acquaintance in a street brawl. Shortly after his departure another man with whom he had quarreled was found shot to death. Since the victim had been known to be involved in a number of shady dealings no formal investigation was made. Frontier justice did not concern itself overly with private quarrels.

Months later, having lived day to day by his outdoor skills and occasional portrait commissions he was able to bring Lucy to New Orleans where she was able to support her family by working as a governess. Audubon had acquired a reputation as a "ladies' man" and many believed that his limited success as a portraitist was more due to his charm than his talent. Since he had no knowledge of oil painting and little skill at water colors at this time, the conclusion is not surprising. On at least two occasions he was challenged to duel, but his reputation as one of the finest marksmen along the river caused the challengers to withdraw.

Wanderlust prevailed again and he set off into the wild, turning up more than a year later in Philadelphia. Philadelphia was still the largest city in the land and the center of scientific research. Audubon found that some of his drawings and a legend as a backwoods naturalist had preceded him. He became friends with Lucius Bonaparte and was invited to attend a meeting of the Academy of Arts and Sciences. The euphoria was short-lived. Arrogant in his contempt for the drawings of Titian Peale and the deceased Alexander Wilson, and headstrong in the defense of his own, he was goaded into making stupid and ill-timed remarks and made a life-long enemy of George Ord, the Academy's most prestigious member. Audubon guaranteed that no Philadelphia firm would reproduce his paintings when he responded to a request for some technical corrections to his drawings with a series of personal insults to the engraver. Joseph Mason, a former student and partner of Audubon's attempted to come to his help but was rebuffed when Audubon refused to acknowledge that he had had any assistance of any kind.

Nevertheless, he gained enough support to finance a trip to England where he remained until the completion of his masterpiece. For the rest of his life he was to go on making enemies and abandoning friends, but his growing reputation and his backwoods image were to guarantee his success.

--- Cliff Rich

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

The Sequoia Audubon Natural History Series and the Santa Clara Audubon Society are cosponsoring a trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Saturday, April 20.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium has an array of exhibits and habitat galleries which offer a dramatic undersea tour of Monterey Bay, one of the world's richest marine regions. Two of the most popular exhibits are the Sea Otters and the Kelp Forest with its unique "wave machine".

Participation in a group tour such as this is a sure way to avoid waiting in the long lines which have characterized the Aquarium since its opening last year.

The fee for the trip is \$18.00 for adults and \$15.00 for seniors and students and \$13.00 for children 3 to 12 years old. This includes admission to the Aquarium and a chartered bus ride to and from Monterey.

Passenger pickup in San Mateo County will be at 8:30 AM at Woodside Road and I-280 and at the Valley Fair Shopping Center in Santa Clara County. Group admittance to the Aquarium will be at 11:00 AM. Return to San Mateo County is scheduled for 4:30 PM. Advance registration is required and seats are limited.

For further information and to make your reservations, call the Audubon Office at 593-7368.

-- Donna Kirsacko

-NATURE- -SOUNDS- -SOCIETY-

The Nature Sounds Society is sponsoring the presentation, "Song Learning and Song Dialects in Birds", given by Dr. Luis Baptista. Dr. Baptista is Chairman of the Department of Birds and Mammals at the California Academy of Sciences and is well known for his research on song-learning in white-crowned sparrows. The talk will include a discussion of song learning in several species.

The meeting will take place on Sunday, March 17, 1985 at 2:30 P.M. It will be held at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, in the Goethe Room. A business meeting at 1:30 will precede the regular meeting.

Nature Sound Society meetings are open to anyone with an interest in natural sounds, whether amateur or professional. For further information contact Paul Matzner in Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Department at 273-3884.

WORLD OF AUDUBON

The second program in the World of Audubon series will feature stories on the Cuyahoga River, acid rain, the loggerhead turtle, puffins and Robert Redford's Institute for Resource Management, an interview with Walter Cronkite and a profile of Rachel Carson.

The program will be aired on SuperStation WTBS (available on most cable systems) at a special West Coast Prime Time on April 1 at 9:05 PM.

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 (\$8.00 each for 3 or more-Expires 2/28)

Use this form to order your copy today!

Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society
120 El Camino Real, Suite 403
Belmont, California 94002

Allow 14 to 18 days for delivery

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San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching

Sequoia Audubon Society

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM

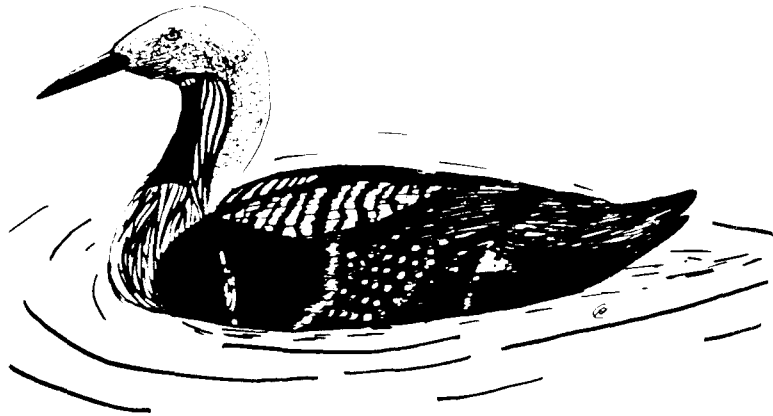
Entry forms for the sixth annual photography contest sponsored by Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education are now available. Entry forms may be obtained by calling the Museum at 342-7755 or at local camera shops.

The photo contest is open to youths through age 17 and to adults. Prints (no slides) and an entry form may be mailed to the Museum between March 1 and March 22. Entries postmarked after the 22d will not be accepted. Walk-in entries will be accepted March 29 and 30 from 1:15 to 4:30 PM.

All color and black and white prints of environmental images from throughout the Bay Area with emphasis on landscapes, plants, wildlife, urban environments and abstract forms of nature will be accepted.

Ten cash prizes will be awarded. The winning photographs - along with a number of Judges' Selections - will be hung in the North Gallery of the Museum from April 14 to May 19.

Now through June 16, the Museum challenges visitors with its "What on Earth" Exhibit asking them to identify 18 objects found in our environment using touch and sight. Each object has an accompanying close-up photograph and some are in boxes for touching. Located in the Concourse, the exhibit is free with Museum admission.



BITS AND PIECES

Wilderness Press has just published South Bay Trails: Outdoor Adventures Around the Santa Clara Valley by local authors Frances Spangle and Jean Rusmore, who previously wrote Peninsula Trails. The book describes 70 outings ranging from easy strolls to longer backpack trips. Trails for equestrians, runners, the disabled, bicyclists, etc. are listed in the appendices. The book is \$9.95 in local book stores.

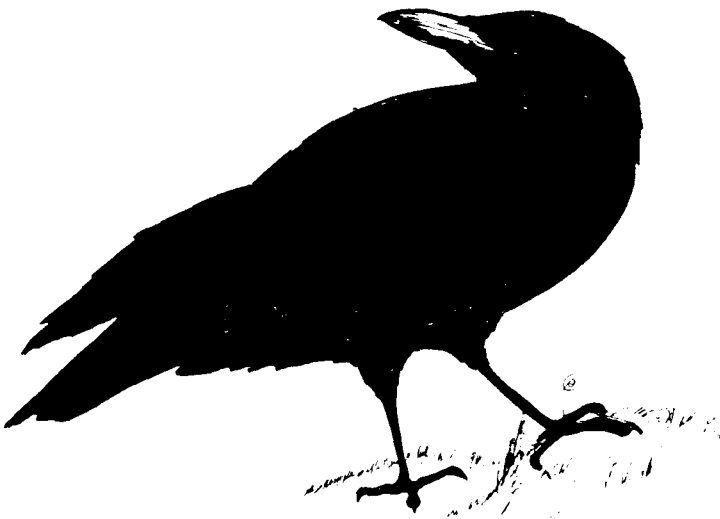
THE DITCH WON'T DIE! Assemblyman Stirling has introduced AB15 which would direct the Department of Water Resources to construct the Delta facilities of the State Water Project, including a through Delta canal.

THE CONVEYOR, the newsletter of the California Grain & Feed Association has this to say about the Kesterson Refuge. "The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that it would cost more than \$500 million to line the ponds with clay. By law, the Bureau would have to pass the costs on to the farmers who utilize the San Luis Drain."

"The alternative to cleaning up Kesterson is to close the San Luis Drain and would take an estimated 42000 acres of farmland out of production...and remove 1.5 billion from the region's economy. West side communities such as Firebaugh and Mendota would cease to exist."

"The implications of the Kesterson decision will impact agriculture throughout California. Water quality in the Sacramento River, Tulare Basin and Salton Sea are just a few areas where further actions may be taken..."

A nationwide North American Rare Bird Alert has just been inaugurated. It is, however, a subscription service with fees ranging from \$12.50 to \$300 depending on the degree of service involved. For the \$300 they will call you when any one of 200+ rare birds is reported. For more information write to: Bobel-Lint, Inc., PO Box 1161, Jamestown, RI 02702 or call 800-438-7539.



THE SECOND ANNUAL SEQUOIA AWARDS PROGRAM

The Awards Committee has announced that the Second Annual Sequoia Awards will include a new major award - tentatively titled the "Environmentalism of the Year Award", to be presented to the nominee who, in the opinion of the committee, has been most instrumental in promoting the objectives of the Audubon Cause during the past year.

To nominate an individual for this or any other of the various categories of awards use the form below and outline why you feel the nominee should be presented with an award. Supporting paragraphs should include timely, specific examples. Background information should include information on the nominee's volunteer or paid work, community activities and pertinent educational or professional affiliations. The inclusion of supporting documents and peer recommendations is encouraged but not required.

The Sequoia Audubon award committee may not necessarily present an award in every category.

The awards will be presented at the Sequoia Audubon general meeting on June 13, 1985. The public is invited.

Nominees for community awards need not be members of the Audubon Society

CHAPTER AWARDS

LEADERSHIP - To be given to a member who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment and dedication to the goals and membership of the Sequoia Audubon Society.

ACTIVITY - To be given to a chapter member who has improved or developed and implemented an activities program which contributes to the goals and purposes of Sequoia Audubon.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

One or more awards in each of five categories may be given to individuals, groups, businesses or government agencies for projects or activities within San Mateo County.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION - To be given to those who, through public education, have contributed to the better understanding of the interdependence of natural resources and the need for protecting native ecosystems.

ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION - To be given to those whose work has resulted in a significant reduction in energy consumption; who have contributed to progress in the use of substitute renewable energy sources; Or who have demonstrated strong commitment to the conservation/recycling of all limited, non-renewable natural resources.

URBAN ENHANCEMENT - To be given to those who have demonstrated or successfully promoted environmentally sensitive development or rehabilitation in the urban areas of San Mateo County

OPEN SPACE/UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION - To be given to those who have defended and protected the public trust and worked for the preservation and protection of open space or unique ecosystems within San Mateo County.

RESEARCH - To be given to those whose research in the field or in the laboratory has added significantly to the knowledge of the native ecosystems of San Mateo County.

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR

This award is to be presented to the nominee who has achieved outstanding success in the protection and improvement of San Mateo County's environmental quality. The recipient will be chosen from among the finalists in the above categories.

--- Donna Kirsacko

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE'S NAME.....

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

I BELIEVE THIS INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE HONORED BY THE CHAPTER FOR HIS/HER SERVICE BECAUSE:

.....
.....
.....
.....

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESSCITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

RETURN NOMINATIONS TO:

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
720 EL CAMINO REAL SUITE 403
BELMONT, CA 94002

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 6, 1985.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Sequoia Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general or on behalf of, or in memory of relatives or friends. Such gifts may be designated for education, for Pescadero Marsh development or for any other specific purpose. All other gifts will be used for the advancement of the objectives of the Sequoia Audubon Society at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All gifts are tax-deductible. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in Sequoia Needles and personally on behalf of the Society.

IN MEMORY OF

WILLIAM PAGE SHIELDS	from	Frank and Jean Allen
LAVERNE GOODWIN	from	Frank and Jean Allen

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 June '86 Kathy Graves 368-0087
 Cliff Richer 355-4058
 June '87 Elgin Juri 325-7470
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 Program: Linda Kypta 591-9053
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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
 Sequoia Audubon Society Office 593-7368
 Rare Bird Alert 843-2211
SEQUOIA NEEDLES EDITOR:
 Cliff Richer 355-4058

SEQUOIA NEEDLES IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL IS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

INFORMATION FOR ALL OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS --- INCLUDING EXCHANGE BULLETINS --- SHOULD BE MAILED TO 720 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 403, BELMONT, CALIFORNIA 94002.

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED IN SEQUOIA NEEDLES. THESE MAY BE ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ORIGINAL ARTWORK OR CARTOONS, OR UNCOPYRIGHTED MATERIALS FROM OTHER SOURCES. ITEMS DEALING WITH CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEEDLES SEPARATELY IS \$5.00 PER YEAR.

If you **CHANGE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS**, send the label from a recent Audubon Magazine wrapper with your new name or address to: National Audubon, Membership Data Center, PO Box 2666, Boulder, CO 80322. Then, please notify the Sequoia Audubon office (593-7368) or your membership chair, Jean Allen (344-9339) of the change. Be sure to give the NAME AND ADDRESS where Audubon magazine is to be delivered. This avoids duplicate listings and incorrect expiration dates. Please send **RENEWALS** directly to National Audubon in the envelope accompanying your renewal notice. Late renewals may cause a lapse in Needles issues. The application below is for **NEW MEMBERSHIPS**.

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 _____

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY PREFERRED

[] Individual/\$30 [] Family/\$38 [] Student/\$18 [] Sustaining/\$50
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