

April

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Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS GENERAL MEETING

What better speaker could we have to celebrate Audubon's 200th birthday than Ray Peterson, the staff biologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch?

Ray is an entomologist/naturalist who has worked in places ranging from East Africa to the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon before coming to Bolinas Lagoon and ACR. He has worked with students - from grade school to graduate level - with senior citizens and pre-schoolers - every conceivable mixture of ages and backgrounds. Ray is well prepared for the diversity required by his present position with degrees in engineering, English and biology.

His topic will be the fascinating interdependent world which exists almost ignored around us - the world of insects and their relationships with plants.

The meeting will be at the usual time and place on Thursday, April 11 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.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

One of our largest turnouts in months came to see Barry Sauppe's films and hear his tips on bird identification. There were guests from the East Bay, from Santa Clara County and even one from Glendale to enjoy a most informative evening. We hope we can look forward to another evening of Barry's "home movies" in the not too distant future.

Barry's talents do not stop with birding. There is a good possibility that we may be given an opportunity to see some of his wildlife paintings at the June potluck meeting.

In the meantime, attendees will have to settle for Cliff Richer's line drawings. In March, three of them were taken home in exchange for donations of \$45. to SAS. They will continue to be available through June.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

DOUG CHEESEMAN - LIFE IN ANTARCTICA
Details in next month's NEEDLES.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bad news comes to us from the Condor Research Program. Their findings - admittedly preliminary in nature - are that there are only two breeding pairs nesting. Three of last year's nesting birds were lost in the winter and the three surviving adults have not formed any new pair bonds as yet. The total wild population may be as few as eleven or twelve birds. For the first time, it appears that the captive population represents a majority of the world's California Condor population. The National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are now evaluating this information and trying to determine if changes are needed in the direction and timing of the whole effort to save this "magnificent buzzard".

There are a number of new developments at Pescadero Marsh. State Parks has budgeted funds for trail enhancement and some of our members - notably Frank and Jean Allen, Mary Bresler and Elgin Juri (sitting in very ably for the ailing Bill Johnson) - have met with P.O.S.T. and State Parks Personnel to discuss trail routes and locations. By the time you read this, these trails will have been staked out by our volunteers and be ready for the strong backs of the California Conservation Corps' youths to do the actual trail construction. When completed the new trails will be designed to conform to the specifications of the National and State Parks Systems and will provide maximum exposure to the Marsh while reducing environmental impact to a minimum.

In other developments affecting the marsh, Caltrans has declared the Highway 1 bridge over the outflow to be unsafe and is making plans to replace it. Nothing has been made public as yet but there are rumors that Caltrans may seek a negative declaration bypassing the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement. There is great concern over their plans since what they do will affect the life or death of the Marsh. Caltrans has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to utilize current hydrology studies to enhance the Marsh. Let us hope they do so but let us also watch the development of these plans closely.

We expect both Caltrans and State Parks to proceed slowly and carefully they have both been the losers in recent litigation brought by upstream farmers who suffered flood losses in January 1982.

A Sequoia field trip to the Marsh last month showed the North Pond as being still too high to provide good dabbling duck and shorebird habitat, the lagoon to be shallow but with sufficient channel to attract diving ducks and the upstream marshes to be at approximately the level that should be expected at this time of year. Cinnamon and green-winged teal in good numbers were using the marsh and there were even three blue-winged teal - perhaps the same three who were first seen in the upper marsh in October. State Parks' program to eradicate the pampas grass seems to be working and overall, there does seem to be reason for optimism. While the apparent partial recovery of the Marsh is largely the result of Nature's flexibility rather than our efforts, the absence of pampas grass and the existence of trail-marking stakes shows that - when nudged properly - the bureaucracy does move.

--- Rick Baird/Cliff Richer

CALENDAR

APRIL 4 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

APRIL 11 SAS GENERAL MEETING. INSECTS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PLANTS with Ray Peterson, the resident naturalist at Audubon Canyon Ranch. See the article on Page One for further details. At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, west of the Alameda in San Mateo. Social mixer begins at 7:30 P.M.

APRIL 14 MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP. An auto caravan through an isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on despite the destruction of their habitats in the Cental and Livermore Valleys. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, purple martin, wild turkey, Costa's and calliope hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will never be more than 45 minutes away from either Livermore or Interstate 5 so that you can break away and return to civilization at any time. This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last four years varying between 40 and 90 degrees on this trip at this time of year; there are only two reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime and at mid-afternoon; and one service station at the half-way point so be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 for about 23 miles to the North Livermore Ave. exit. Take a right at the exit and follow Livermore Avenue through the center of town where it becomes South Livermore Ave. Approximately a half mile beyond the center of town you will see the Nob Hill Shopping Center on the left. We will meet in the parking lot and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and then take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

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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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APRIL 16 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING. At the Sequoia Audubon Office, 720 El Camino Real, Suite 403, Belmont - Call the office (593-7368) or the chairman, Rick Johnson (349-4546) to confirm meeting time and date. Normally the third tuesday of each month but subject to change. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

APRIL 17 FILOLI FIELD TRIP. For the past six years Sequoia Audubon has conducted a survey of the birds of this beautiful woodland area. We'll tally the birds and observe the wildflowers in the non-tour areas until 2:00 P.M. The trip will be limited to 15 participants so call the Allens to reserve your space. Wear boots for hiking about 2 miles and bring a knapsack lunch. We will meet at the first gate south of the Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road at 8:30 A.M.

LEADERS FRANK AND JEAN ALLEN 344-9339

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

At the audubon Canyon Ranch Preserve in the Sonoma Valley, Bouverie Audubon Preserve, changes are underway. the great hay barn is to be remodeled into an ecological center. Plans have been prepared by architects David Bouverie and Clifford Conly and will include a cruciform meeting hall with a stage for live and filmed performances, an office, library and conference room, a kitchen and laboratory and the usual other facilities. Large wood-burning stoves will provide the heat.

In the meantime, the ongoing docent education program continues, housed, along with the library, in the Bouverie Hexagon House on the Preserve.

John Petersen, a graduate student from Sonoma State, and a specialist in avian activities, has joined B.A.P. as a Bouverie Fellow.

In Volunteer Canyon, at the Bolinas Preserve, Ray Peterson continues to offer the following classes:

Apr 13-14 Spring Wildflowers
-A Personal Introduction
Apr 20-21 The Photo Setup-Turning Molehills into Mountains.
Apr 27-28 Water Bears & Tiger Beetles
May 4-5 Birds of ACR-A Double Feature
May 11 1st Annual ACR Downhill Hike
May 18 Moon Spring
May 18-19 Herbal Brews and Garden Concoctions
April hosting at the Ranch will be provided by Marin Audubon Society.

--- ACR Press Release

AUDUBON PRINTS

In addition to the program, members attending the April Meeting will be treated to a special showing of Audubon prints.

In honor of John Jean Audubon's 200th birthday Grace Sain and Shirley Sampson will exhibit eight to ten of his prints from the octavo editions of Birds of North America and Quadrupeds of North America.

While it was the oversized elephant folio edition of Birds of North America that brought respectability and stature to Audubon, it was the smaller octavo edition with more than a 1000 subscribers which brought prosperity and enabled him to finish Quadrupeds of North America, build a fine house on the Hudson in New York City for his family and in 1843, set out on his last great journey, which would take him to the headwaters of the Yellowstone.

Come to the meeting, enjoy this special treat, and join me in thanking Grace and Shirley for their thoughtfulness in sharing with us on this special occasion.

Your editor owes one of our members an apology. At some time in the distant(?) past, an anonymous member handed me a clipping from an unidentified newspaper containing an undated column entitled "Our Town" by Richard Allin.

Diligent detective work (I turned the clipping over) revealed that the paper probably originated in Little Rock, Arkansas but nothing else has jogged my memory as to details. So, whoever you are, thanks for the clipping and sorry that I can't remember who, what, where or when - the essentials of good reporting.

Mr. Allin, aside from being a columnist, is also a birder, and as part of the publicity surrounding the new, revised 1980 edition of Roger Tory Peterson's eastern field guide, was invited to attend a combination book-signing and birding trip with Dr. Peterson.

Mr. Allin relates "We were hiking, 50 of us, along the Chesapeake and Ohio canal just outside Washington, D.C....then Dr. Peterson quietly flabbergasted the birding world. 'Listen,' he said, hearing a distant chatter, 'it's a pileated woodpecker.'"

"Every birdwatcher knows it is pronounced PIE-lee-ate-ted. Gasps were heard. Dr. Peterson pronounced it PILL-lee-ate-ted. A train derailment couldn't have caused more consternation."

"'Er...., Dr. Peterson,' I said, 'I think you have just changed the pronunciation of everybody present.'"

"Dr. Peterson chuckled, and raised his glasses to frame a distant indigo bunting."

(I've been telling you that for years and if you can't believe Dr. Peterson, who can you believe? -- Editor)

The article continues, "Before we parted...we all got in line for the great man's signature...Using a red felt-tipped pen, the famed ornithologist signed every title page with his full name, 'Roger Tory Peterson'. When I presented my book, he penned 'Roger' and then suddenly looked upward and exclaimed 'that's a barn swallow'."

"Then returning to the book he wrote 'Peterson'."

"My book says 'Roger Peterson'. It's the only such copy in existence."

"The book may be viewed by appointment at my safe deposit box."

(I'd love to see it, but does Richard Allin live in Little Rock (Arkansas?) or Washington? --- the Editor)

APRIL 20 ALUM ROCK PARK - The Nelsons will once again lead us on a field trip to this unique and popular area where woods of varying density and rocky canyons provide a variety of habitat for both resident and migrating species. We will meet at 8:30 A.M. in the parking lot road along Penitencia Creek. This is the parking lot near the Junior Museum (Youth Science Institute) in Alum Rock Park. To get there drive south on US 101. About 2.5 miles past the junction with Hwy. 17 take the Santa Clara Ave/Alum Rock Ave. and cross over US 101 going east on Alum Rock Ave. This leads northeast about 4.5 miles to the park entrance where you will take a left and continue to the parking lot at the end of the paved road. There may be an entrance fee.

LEADERS FRAN AND ROY NELSON 593-7941

APRIL 20 THE MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM BUS TRIP HAS BEEN SATURDAY CANCELLED. Advance reservations were insufficient to guarantee group and charter rates either for the bus or the Aquarium.

APRIL 26 !!!!!HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, JOHN JAMES AUDUBON!!!!!!

APRIL 27 BIRDATHON WEEKEND - SAS will field an official team led by Cliff Richer, but the essence of the SATURDAY Birdathon is membership participation. All members SUNDAY are encouraged to bird on their own, with friends or with the official team on this 200th anniversary of Audubon's birthday. The Birdathon is similar to walk-, bike- and jog-a-thons in which participants seek pledges from sponsors. In the case of the Birdathon, a sponsor promises an amount (from 5 cents on up) for each species the counter records in a single day. Proceeds of the Birdathon are to be split evenly between the local chapter and the National Audubon's Western Regional Office. Call the Audubon Office (593-7368) for enrollment forms or to record your support for the official team.

MAY 2 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

MAY 4 COYOTE HILLS FIELD TRIP. A new leader for a SATURDAY familiar and popular area which - in recent years - has been most noted for producing unusual and unusually cooperative owls. Barn owls are easily seen here and with luck we may have a chance to observe the great horned owl and her owlets on the nest-box. Short-eared and saw-whet owls have also been seen here recently. Combine this with a stroll through the heart of a fresh-water marsh and a chance to observe shorebirds in breeding plumage before they head north and you have a full morning of birding close to home. We will meet at the parking lot in front of the Visitors' Center at 9:00 A.M. To get there cross the Dumbarton Bridge and continue on the freeway to the Newark Blvd. exit. Take Newark Blvd. north about one mile to Patterson Ranch Road on the left. Take a left on Patterson Ranch Road to the end. An entrance fee is required. Trip should break up at noon. A GOOD TRIP FOR BEGINNERS.

LEADER EMILY FREEMAN 871-8377

MAY 9 SAS GENERAL MEETING. ANTARCTICA with Doug Cheese- THURSDAY man. A dual projector slide show of the natural abundance of our coldest and loneliest continent.

FUTURE ATTRACTIONS

MAY - JASPER RIDGE FIELD TRIP

JUNE - YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY FIELD TRIP

JULY - NESTING BIRDS OF THE SOUTH COAST FIELD TRIP

AUGUST - CONDOR WATCH AND THRASHER CHASE

AUGUST - EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BATS - Sequoia Natural History Series with Jacqueline Schoenwald

FIRST TRIP OF THE YEAR

Oh, it's happened again, I could almost tell when,
By the magnetic pull of the land;
When the snows start to melt and the spring grass is felt,
On the heights where the bristlecone stand.

Yes, its summer below, but for those in the know,
Old Nature holds back on the best
And Spring doesn't come soon --- it's the middle of June ---
Ere the buds break at timberline's crest.

You've a feeling inside, and it can't be denied,
When Yosemite beckons you home ---,
When the year rolls around, and your pilgrimage bound
As your mind --- and your feet --- start to roam.

Then you closet your suits, and you pull out your boots,
Your backpack, your poncho, your gear,
And some old freeze-dried stew, and your Wyler's packs too,
And you look to another great year!

You try not to shirk, but you don't do much work,
On the day that your destined to go
For the memories swell -- Ah, the stories they tell!
Of the thrills you've had long ago!

Oh the sky is ablaze, and it captures your gaze,
As the town of Merced slips behind ---
And the purples and gold through the oak trees unfold
With a beauty that staggers the mind.

But you head for the Park and after the dark
Drops its cloak that falls soft as a sigh,
Then stars by the score - and, soon, ten million more
Do wondrous things to the sky.

And upwards you gain till Tuolumne's plain
Is lit by the stars overhead . . .
And traveling is past, there's rest found at last
With pine needles soft in your bed.

You don't really care where you start to from there
When the next morning's sun hits the ground;
For, do what you like, a cross-country hike
Will guarantee beauty is found.

So you slip on your pack, and you take in the slack,
And your step is as light as the air;
There's a coolness of breeze blowing soft through the trees
And - for once - you just don't have a care.

The trail starts to rise, there's delight for the eyes
As the colors of wildflowers blend --
The trees frame the skies, there's unending surprise
As new wonder appears 'round each bend!

Up past still ponds and lakes till the foliage breaks,
And you leave trails where others have trod ...
And there in the paces of vast granite spaces
You come once again to your God.

There you rest in a border of new-grass and flower
By a sparkling, thirst-quenching stream;
And the feeling of peace - of such perfect surcease ---
Makes you hope it's not only a dream.

What's more to be said? when your spirit is fed
And there's not enough words to impart
The joy that you feel --- it's simply ideal ---
When Yosemite flows through your heart.

--- Clark A. Barrett

FIELDTRIPPERS BEWARE

On March 16, a car was broken into and a purse stolen at the Pulgas Water Temple inside of locked gates! Although the purse was covered with a blanket, the thieves still broke into the car. The best advice is still to take everything valuable with you and leave NOTHING in the car to tempt someone to break in.

--- Jean Allen

I WIST (I WISH I'D SAID THAT)

"Each human generation knows only the wildlife and the wilderness that was left it, not what was there before. The loss during one person's lifetime is gradual, often relatively small -- a blur of small changes that go unnoticed. But over several generations, what remains may be no more than a shadow of what once was."

--- Jon Farrar
(Writing in the Nature
Conservancy News -Jan/Feb. 1985)

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS

So far this year when NEEDLES mailing time has come around we've had wonderful help with the collating and folding. Gladys Booher, Lee Brown, Chuck and Betty Echternacht, Frank, Gloria and Michael Minnick, Roy and Fran Nelson and Geri States have been cheerful and efficient helpers.

Thanks to all of them and to Alice Brockman, who helped Ed and Amy McElhany type the Audubon Canyon Ranch appeal envelopes.

--- Jean Allen

WASTE ALERT!

The Department of Health Services needs the assistance of concerned individuals and groups to help spot and report violations of California's Hazardous Waste Control Laws. To this end they have developed a brochure entitled Waste Alert to help publicize the Informant Reward Program. Under this program, persons who report violations may be eligible for rewards of up to \$5000.

Copies of the brochure may be obtained by writing:

Office of Public Information
and Participation
Toxic Substances Control Division
Department of Health Services
714/744 P Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
or by calling (916) 324-1789.

A PROCLAMATION

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

WHEREAS JOHN JAMES AUDUBON is recognized as the first American wildlife artist to accurately portray birds and mammals in life size natural poses in his Birds of America and Quadrupeds of North America, and

WHEREAS JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S dedication over decades to the drawing, preparation and production of the 435 prints contained in Birds of America is the most impressive set of bird drawings ever created, and

WHEREAS the Birds of America instilled in people throughout the world a sense of awe, respect, wonder and appreciation for the natural world, and

WHEREAS the writings and other artistic drawings by John James Audubon established a baseline of scientific knowledge for ornithologists and others who still refer to his works today, and

WHEREAS the protection of birds, other forms of wildlife and their habitat began to gain popular support soon after the publication of Birds of America, and

WHEREAS one of the first conservation organizations created in this country almost 100 years ago was called the Audubon Society in honor of JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, and

WHEREAS April 26, 1985 will be the bicentennial birthday of this world-famous artist, THEREFORE we, the Board of Directors of Sequoia Audubon Society, proclaim that the entire month of April shall be recognized as Audubon Month in honor of JOHN JAMES AUDUBON, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this proclamation shall be transmitted to the National Audubon Society in New York and to its Western Regional Office in Sacramento

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!

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.....

STREET.....

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

QUANTITY WANTED @ \$10.78 = \$.....

PRICE INCLUDES TAXES, SHIPPING AND HANDLING
ALSO AVAILABLE ON MOST FIELD TRIPS AND AT MEETINGS



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

THE SECOND ANNUAL SEQUOIA AWARDS PROGRAM

There is still time for you to present your nomination for a Sequoia Audubon Society Awards.

To nominate an individual 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 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 and the Award Committee may not necessarily present an award in every category.

CHAPTER AWARDS

MEMBERSHIP - To a member who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment and dedication to the goals of Sequoia Audubon.

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

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Awards may be given to individuals, groups, businesses or government agencies for their activities in San Mateo County.

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

ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION - To those whose work has resulted in a significant reduction in energy consumption; who have contributed to the use of renewable energy sources; or who have demonstrated commitment to the conservation of non-renewable natural resources.

LAND ENHANCEMENT - To those who have successfully promoted environmentally sensitive development or rehabilitation in urban San Mateo County.

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

RESEARCH - To those whose research has added significantly to the knowledge of the ecosystems of San Mateo County.

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR - To be presented to the nominee who has achieved success in the protection and improvement of San Mateo County's environmental quality.

NOMINEE'S NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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

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

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TURN NOMINATIONS TO: SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
720 EL CAMINO REAL SUITE 403
BELMONT, CA 94002

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS APRIL 16, 1985.

WILDLIFE FILM FEST

The California premier of the International Wildlife Film Festival featuring the award-winning films of 1985 will be held on Saturday, April 20, at the New Varsity Theater in Palo Alto.

Held each April in Missoula, Montana, this international wildlife film competition is "the Cannes of its genre, attracting many of the world's top animal films" (National Wildlife magazine, April 1984). The Festival aims to encourage excellence in wildlife filmmaking and to focus public attention on wildlife issues. Past winners have included films about tundra wolves, eagles, African habitat, the Platte River cranes, wetlands and gorillas. The films may be scientific, esthetic or political, but all chosen as winners in their categories are beautifully photographed, accurately told and offer provoking insights and spectacular events.

Winners from the 1985 Festival, chosen just two weeks prior, will be shown from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. at the New Varsity Theatre, 456 University Avenue in Palo Alto on April 20. A tax deductible donation of \$5.00. (\$2.50 for children under 12) will benefit the Peninsula Conservation Center. For more information, and advance ticket sales, call Deborah Jamison at (415) 328-5313.

CHEESEMEN TOURS

The Cheesemans of Santa Clara Audubon - our program speakers next month are sponsoring bird and wildlife tours to Australia, Kenya and Peru. There are still vacancies for "The Australian Wildlife Experience". This is a series of 21 day tours departing June 8, July 20, Aug. 17 and Sept. 14. Led by Ruth and Greg Hemphill these will cover the Queensland areas of Cairns and Brisbane, including Lamington National Park, Heron Island on the Reef, Carnarvon Gorge, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and Kakadu National Park. Cost is \$3650 total including airfare.

The bird tours to Kenya and Peru are limited to a maximum of 10 participants and are for non-smokers. Terry Stevenson, who holds the Kenyan "Big Day" record of 309 species will lead the African Safari covering the Kakamega Rain Forest, Malindi, the Rift Valley, Mt. Kenya, Tsavo, Samburu and the Masai Mara from June 15 to July 8. Cost is \$2600. plus airfare.

Paul Donahue, who has studied Peru's wildlife for the past eight years, will take his group to two areas of the Amazon Basin along the Napo, Tambopata and Amazon Rivers; to Paracas and Baldestas Islands on the coast; and Cuzco, Machu Picchu and Abra Malaga in the Andes from July 17 to August 6. The cost is \$2300 plus airfare.

SNOW GEESE

It was fall, but felt like winter,
Hands, face raw: lips cold and dry.
Risk, blowing, gawd-awful wind
Cold as ice through thin blue pants.
Cold, cold, cold numb feet.

Yet there -- the Reason!
There in glory,
wondrous, awesome clouds of white
against brilliant blue skies.

Flakes and flakes of snow taking wing
from bare, brown stubble fields.

Hundreds of thousands of graceful, feathered bodies.
The hollow whoosh of wings,
the incessant cries as in waves, the geese
lift off into flight.
Voices, a thundering crash,
as the ocean on a beach.

--- D. J. Kirsacko

BAAC RESOLUTION

The Bay Area Audubon Councils have adopted and sent to the chapters for ratification a resolution of principles which should govern the present and future disposition of San Francisco Bay wetlands.

The resolution goes into great detail with regard to objectives, restoration and mitigation efforts, inclusion of seasonal wetlands and salt ponds, creation of buffer zones, public access and priority-setting. After it has been reviewed by the Conservation Committee it will be presented to the Board this month for adoption. If adopted, it will become the official policy of this chapter and will be printed in full in next month's NEEDLES.

SPRING AT COYOTE POINT MUSEUM

The Coyote Point Museum will be open Easter Sunday, April 7 and will maintain its regular hours during school vacations. The Museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, open from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday through Friday and open 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekends.

The "What on Earth?" exhibit continues through June 16 in the Concourse.

The schedule of spring activities includes:

APRIL

9 7:30-9:00 PM Dr. Albert Baez will discuss the World Conservation Strategy and how various countries are reacting to it. "Planning for Survival", a slide show narrated by actor Ben Kingsley will highlight the evening. In the Museum theater. Admission is free.

20 9:30AM-12:30PM Jules Evens will lead a birding trip to PESCADERO MARSH to study migrating sea and shore birds. Fee is \$2 per person for members, \$4 for non-members with a maximum fee of \$12 per family. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required.

27 1-4PM & 7:30-9PM The Fourth Annual Astronomy Day with an afternoon of activities based on an astronomy theme. In the evening, Michael Ryan, past president of the County Astronomical Society will present a slide show followed by star-gazing (weather permitting). Afternoon activities are free with Museum admission. Evening activities free to members. \$1 to non-members.

MAY

12 1-5 PM Mothers' Day & Museum Marathon weekend with music, story and films. Free admission and gifts for Mom. Museum Marathon is being celebrated at Bay Area museums on May 11 and 12.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDES

We have obtained an additional supply of the National Geographic Field Guides which are rapidly becoming the new standard guide against which all others must be measured.

These can be picked up at the Sequoia Audubon Office for the price of \$15.00 or can be shipped to you for the price of \$16.00. Shipping and taxes are included. Call the office at 793-7368 to reserve your copy.

DONNA L. PALMER

We were both grieved and shocked to learn of the tragic death of Mrs. Palmer last month at the age of 33. Donna was a member of Sequoia Audubon and the recipient of the 1984 Sequoia Audubon campership. Our sympathy goes out to her family and loved ones.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Maryanne Danielson will be leading one of her popular Sunbeam Ecology Explorations to sample the best of northern Colorado's mountain and prairie birds from June 8 to June 16.

They will look for white-tailed ptarmigan and rosy-finches while admiring spectacular mountain vistas and showy tundra wildflowers. Prairie specialties will include lark buntings, chestnut-collared and Lapland longspurs, nesting mountain plovers, upland sandpipers, ferruginous and Swainson's hawks and further east, along wooded streams, they will search for red-headed woodpeckers, blue jays, gray catbirds, and bobwhites.

The cost is \$450. including motels (double occupancy), ground transportation and services of the leader. Air transportation and meals are not included. The group size is limited to 8 persons. Reservation fee is \$100. For further information call Maryann Danielson at 342-6919.

THE WISH LIST

THE OFFICE STILL NEEDS

Typewriter Typewriter Stand
Filing Cabinets An Outside Sign
Bulletin Board Message Box

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.

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