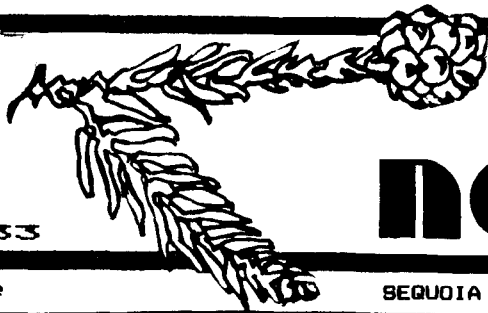




sequoia needles

SAS GENERAL MEETING

The theme of the May Program will be ANTARCTICA with Doug Cheeseman -- a dual projector show with 158 slides of the surprising natural abundance of our coldest and most remote continent. The Cheesemans are well known to Bay Area Auduboners and birders who have enjoyed their naturalist tours to exotic lands or who have attended their previous programs.

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 PROGRAM

Ray Petersen's outstanding photography of the insects of Audubon Canyon Ranch and his light-hearted narration were well received by another fine turnout at last month's General Meeting. Despite -- or perhaps because of -- his humorous approach to a serious subject, Ray was able to teach us a great deal about the insects and their relationship to us, to each other and to the world around us.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Bob Breen, of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, will show us another exotic world -- the small universe of the tide pool -- and follow his program with a weekend field trip to observe the creatures that live in this restricted and cyclical environment.

It's also Potluck Time! Linda Kypta, who has been doing such a fine job with our programs, is doubling as Hospitality Chairwoman for this event. Here's your opportunity to show your appreciation for her efforts. Volunteers are needed to help out in the planning and setup as well as at the Potluck itself.

This is our SECOND ANNUAL SEQUOIA AWARDS DINNER in which we will honor those individuals and groups who have advanced the Audubon Cause in San Mateo County.

And it is the time when we select our officers for the forthcoming year. After months of effort the Nominating Committee has finished its work. Their slate of nominees will be found on page three.

FROM THE PRESIDENT and FROM THE EDITOR

THE CONDOR PROGRAM's Spring report is extremely depressing. The Program's researchers have only been able to find nine birds -- possibly eight -- left alive in the wild and only one breeding pair. Until the cause of this drastic decline can be ascertained, there will be no release of the captive birds this year. There has also been a revival of the plan to net all of the wild birds and so preserve the species in captivity. This plan has not yet received serious support and Audubon has taken a "wait and see" position.

---Rick Baird

While it has been apparent for some time that the California condor is a senescent species with little hope for surviving on its own, this news comes as a shock. What little optimism we can generate from this is the hope that the research work of the last few years will give us insight into the many complex factors that propel a species into extinction. As a personal view it is our hope that the birds will be allowed to remain wild and that funding will be concentrated on research efforts into the causes of its disappearance.

---Cliff Richer

THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS' new area commander was a guest at the April Bay Area Audubon Council and impressed most of the participants with his grasp of conservation issues. Lt. Colonel Perkins seems to be giving the environmental community a fair shake. One of his priorities is to move the decision-making process along more swiftly. Our hope is that this accelerated approach will result in less of our valuable wetlands being lost by default.

SEASONAL AND DIKED WETLANDS are a matter of increasing concern. Technically these are outside the jurisdiction of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and there is considerable question as to how much jurisdiction can be exercised by the Corps of Engineers. We hope that Colonel Perkins will exercise his considerable discretionary powers to intervene in this area.

Inside this month's "NEEDLES" you will find a resolution adopted by Sequoia Audubon and the Bay Area Audubon Council relative to this issue.

---Rick Baird

On March 3, the Sunday "Examiner" also had an excellent feature on the development of these wetlands. In the article, it was pointed out that many of these areas had been disc'd or plowed under to destroy their value as wildlife habitat and give the illusion that they were agricultural lands and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Corps.

You only have to cross the San Mateo Bridge to see the results of this ruinous and spiteful practice. At the end of Eden Landing Road in Hayward you will find an office trailer belonging to a firm called Shorelands Development. Immediately behind it and extending south are a series of abandoned salt ponds enclosed by wooden dikes and sluice gates. Despite the obvious historic use of these areas and their unsuitability for agriculture, these fields have been disc'd under. The result is a sterile scab on the landscape.

(Continued on Page Four)

CALENDAR

MAY IS SEQUOIA AUDUBON'S MONTH TO HOST AT AUDUBON CANYON RANCH. WE STILL HAVE A FEW OPENINGS FOR HOSTS. CALL DONNA OR PETE PETERSEN TO VOLUNTEER!

MAY 2 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings 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. On a less cheerful note, take this opportunity to observe the encroachment of the East Bay developers into the area. 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. Because of the construction be sure to pay close attention to all signs. An entrance fee may be required. The trip should break up at noon. A GOOD TRIP FOR BEGINNERS.

LEADER EMILY FREEMAN 871-8377

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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 CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT OR :
\===== PRIOR EXPERIENCE. /=====
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MAY 9 SAS GENERAL MEETING. ANTARCTICA with Doug Cheese-THURSDAY man. Take this opportunity to view the penguins and marine mammals of the south polar land mass from your comfortable seat at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, west of the Alameda in San Mateo. Social mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. See the article on page one for further details.

MAY 12 JASPER RIDGE & SEARSVILLE LAKE. Our second annual SUNDAY Mothers' Day on Jasper Ridge should coincide with the height of the spring migration and the peak of the wildflower displays. Meet at the Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill Gate). From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west approximately 2 miles to a gate on the left side of the road. Meet promptly at 7:30 A.M. as the gate will be open only the half hour from 7:30 to 8:00. We will go rain or shine. We will begin a gentle 2 mile walk in the grasslands before the day begins to warm up. Bring lunch. A voluntary contribution of \$2.00 per person is suggested. The size of the group is limited so please call the SAS office (593-7368) to make your reservation.

LEADER SHARON HOM 592-0243

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Memorial Day has many poignant memories at Audubon Canyon Ranch - the list is long and varied of friends who have supported ACR with their talents and resources.

At the Bolinas Preserve we remember our founder, Stan Fisher, in the name of the Canyon and the drinking fountain; others are commemorated by the Dorothy and Herbert Schwarz Redwood Heron Grove; the Clem Miller Overlook; the Phyllis and Paul Wattis Building (our newly restored headquarters building); the Clerin Zumwalt Gallery; the Alma Walker Indian Exhibit; the Faith Crocker Bird Hide; the Garden Club of America Canyon; the Mary Menzies Beach; the Steve and Mary Chase Swing; Volunteer Canyon; the Wellington Henderson Overlook; the George Sheerin Bridge and the many woodland trails.

At Muir Beach we have the Elizabeth Terwilliger Monarch Butterfly Grove;

At Inverness, the William Page Shields Salt Marsh;

At Cypress Grove, the Caroline Livermore Marsh; and...

At Bouverie Audubon Preserve, the Chris Gilman Knoll.

Ray Petersen reminds us of the following continuing classes:

May 4-5 - Birds of ACR
 May 11 - 1st Annual ACR Downhill Hike
 May 18 - Moon Spring
 May 18-19 - Herbal
 Brews and Garden Concoctions
 June 1-2 - Moths and Butterflies
 June 15-16 - Family Fathers' Day
 June 21-23 - Learning from the Old Ways

Don't forget the Mothers' Day Barbecue on May 12.

Sequoia Audubon is hosting during May.

--- ACR Press Release

WORLD OF AUDUBON

"World of Audubon" will present two new programs this summer. Hosted by Cliff Robertson and produced by the National Audubon Society and Superstation WTBS these shows will feature the California condor, Florida wildlife, Chesapeake Bay, Roger Tory Peterson, Audubon's wardens, peregrine falcons, Idaho's wilderness and Texas' African wildlife.

Times and dates will be in next month's NEEDLES.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE 1985-1986

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the candidates it will present to the membership at our June Business Meeting.

PRESIDENT	John Silliman
VICE-PRESIDENT	Linda Kypta
TREASURER	Ruth Simonson
SECRETARY	Emily Freeman
BOARD MEMBERS for the term expiring:	
June 1987	Mary Bresler
June 1988	Win Dye
June 1988	Scot Rohrer

Additional nominations may be made from the floor - with the permission of the nominee - at the meeting itself.

The nominating committee wishes to thank the many members who cooperated with the Committee and helped in its efforts to put together this excellent slate of candidates.

---H. Frank Allen
Chairman
1985 Nominating Committee

WILDLIFE GARDENING

The National Wildlife Federation has put together a Gardening with Wildlife Kit designed to attract birds and other animals to your backyard. The kit contains seeds, tools for planning a backyard habitat, booklets on plants that attract hummers and butterflies, advice on bird feeding, plans for building feeders and nest boxes, and much more. The package also contains forms for you to have your backyard certified as a wildlife habitat. The kit is \$14.95 postpaid and can be obtained by writing to the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

THE WISH LIST

Thanks to Marian Lockwood for her recent donation of books to the Sequoia Library and to Chuck Echternacht for his donation of bulletin boards to the office.

The Editor, however, is still wishing for a computer and printer with which to produce the NEEDLES and - once again - thanks Rick Baird for continuing to donate the use of his Compaq.

The Field Trip Chairman, who lost a car while leading his last field trip, is wishing for a pair of portable CB radios for birding caravans. With one mounted in the lead car and the second in the last car, we could avoid the problems that sometimes arise from a "good bird" being spotted by someone in the middle of the caravan...or by an uncooperative traffic light cutting off the last two cars...or when the caravan gets spread out by poor road conditions.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

MAY 12 SUNDAY THE 30TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BARBECUE AT THE AUDUBON CANYON RANCH. This popular event is sponsored by the Marin Audubon Society. Visit the Ranch and its heronry while enjoying old-fashioned barbecued chicken or a vegetarian picnic. Beer and wine available. Donation \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children under 12. From noon to 2:00 PM. To reserve your meal(s) send your check to Mary Fishman, Barbecue Chairman, 61 Cloudview Rd., Sausalito, Ca. 94965.

MAY 17-19 JOHN JAMES AUDUBON FESTIVAL at the Richardson Bay FRIDAY Audubon Center. Friday, 6-8 PM, a Wildlife Film Festival - \$3. per person. Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM - SUNDAY A Tribute to Wildlife - Demonstrations, exhibits, walks, programs, art contest, Audubon's Birds of America, concert - \$1 per person; 6-8 PM, Wildlife Film Festival - \$3 per person. Sunday, 2 PM, Wine Tasting and the Audubon Jazz Quintet - \$25 per person.

MAY 18 SUNDAY GRANT RANCH AND SMITH CREEK. Grassland birding is the order of the day at the Joseph D. Grant Ranch where magpies, orioles and bluebirds range over the hillsides; ducks, grebes and blackbirds cruise the pond; and hummingbirds, swallows and sparrows augment the spring colors of the garden. We will meet at the parking lot behind the visitor center on the ranch at 8:30 A.M. To get there drive south on US 101. About 2.5 miles past the junction of Hwy. 17 take the Santa Clara Ave/Alum Rock Ave. exit and cross over US 101. You are now going east on Alum Rock Ave. Follow Alum Rock Ave. for about 4 miles and take a right on to Mt. Hamilton Rd. Follow Mt. Hamilton Rd. about 7 miles. This is a mountainous road, so drive carefully. Go past the well marked entrance to a parking lot approximately 200 yards on the left. Later, when we enter the visitor center, there will be a \$2.00 fee per car. There will be some walking at a leisurely pace with very little hill-climbing. This appears to be a banner year for ticks so anti-tick spray might be a useful accessory. Following lunch we will caravan approximately 5 miles further up Mt. Hamilton to Smith Creek where the riparian habitat attracts a great variety of birds. If you have not already seen Lawrence's goldfinches at Grant Ranch, you'll probably find them here. The trip should break up at about 2:00 P.M.

LEADER

TO BE ANNOUNCED

JUNE 1 SURVIVAL OF THE FAMILY FARM - PART II. A repeat SATURDAY of 1983's popular seminar and field trip to the Phipps Ranch in Pescadero. Lunch at Duarte's is included at no additional cost. See the article on Page 7 for details. Seminar fee - \$12.00.

CLASS COORDINATOR SHARON HOM 592-0243

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

JUNE 13 ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS... THURSDAY ...SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
...AND THE JUNE POTLUCK BESIDES!

JUNE FIELD TRIPS - Dates are tentative

JUNE 9	POINT REYES with Cliff Richer
JUNE 22	YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY
JUNE 23	With Gil West

WATER WORRIES

In California, when you have nothing else to worry about, you can always worry about water. Here are a few of the water problems you can worry about in the next year or two or more.

THE SAN LUIS DRAIN is a problem that's going to be with us for at least one more year. Interior Secretary Hodel "bit the bullet" and took the only step that would insure the future of the Kesterson Refuge and Central Valley ground water supplies by ordering the San Luis Drain closed and shutting off the supply of irrigation water to the farms in the affected area. After the initial furor and a series of meetings with the farmers and their attorneys, a compromise was reached and the water supply was guaranteed for one more year. After that continuation of the water supply would depend upon the farmers' ability to come up with alternative disposal techniques.

ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL TECHNIQUES for the contaminated waste water constitute another worry for us. Some of the proposed alternatives seem to be little - if any - improvement over the present situation. Private evaporation ponds are the most commonly cited disposal techniques and may be the only ones available to the small growers, but they conjure up the image of a chain of tiny Kesterons from Corcoran to Los Banos. The three largest farming combines in the area - Salyer, Boswell and Wolfson - account for about 85% of the total acreage of the affected area and have 100% control of the Tulare Lake Basin Water District. Having already attempted to twist, bend and break the law in an attempt to drain the lake basin and re-plant it to cotton, they may now decide to redirect some of their canals to create a new wastewater sump at Tulare Lake. Deep disposal in played out oil wells is another proposal. This technique is already being used for other toxic waste disposal and it's difficult to believe there are that many empty oil wells in the state. Watch this situation, the solution may be as bad as the problem!

MONO LAKE remains at a high level despite continued drawdowns from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Diversions from Rush Creek were stopped when it was discovered that brown trout had repopulated the stream. Fish and Game census teams estimated that there are 30-50,000 mature brown trout in the ten miles from Grant Dam to Mono Lake. DWP's immediate reaction was to shut off all water to the creek! This brought a lawsuit and a restraining order restoring the waterflow. The suit appears to be on sound grounds and appears to have a good chance of success despite a 1940 agreement between DWP and the state which exempted the department from some provisions of the California Fish and Game Code. In addition to the usual Mono Lake proponents, California Trout and Mammoth Fly Rodders were instrumental in bringing the suit.

DELTA LEVEES have been found to be particularly susceptible to earthquake damage according to a recent article in "California Geology". The author, Michael Finch of the state Department of Water Resources, maintains that recent repairs with sand and other unstable materials have created a situation where a moderate earthquake centered in the area could cause a massive levee failure and an inflow of salt water that could contaminate the Delta for years. Speaker Willie Brown has proposed that a study be conducted to determine which of the islands might be susceptible. Current thinking is that it would be

more cost effective to flood some of the islands than to repair the levees. Since the Delta's agricultural "islands" are almost entirely below river level and some are below sea level they could then serve as reservoirs for the State Water Project. This plan could have considerable conservation benefits, creating badly needed waterfowl wintering areas and saving striped bass and salmon fingerlings that are now being destroyed by the Water Project pumps at Tracy.

LEGISLATION on water related issues constitute a large part of the Senate and Assembly workload at any time and this year is no exception. There is at least one new Peripheral Canal bill, but it is generally believed that it will die in committee. There are half a dozen bills addressing various aspects of the Kesterson-San Luis Drain problem. There are others dealing with small hydro projects, state takeovers of Bureau of Reclamation projects, river rip-rapping, river contamination, water rights, water fees, development of wetlands (pro and con), streamflow regulation, home rule of water sources, groundwater management, wild trout streams, wastewater disposal, mandatory water conservation devices, salinity repulsion, expansion of the State Water Project into conservation (as well as development) areas, agricultural water conservation plan requirements, tidelands control, riparian habitat, recreational river systems, bond issues, groundwater pesticide pollution, toilet design, Orange County and San Joaquin County flood control and a San Francisco Bay water quality study.

So, now that you don't have your income tax to worry about, why not join most of your fellow Californians and worry about water? We guarantee you that there are at least 20 or 30 good worrying subjects hidden in the above paragraphs - regardless of your feelings about them.

---Cliff Richer

FARALLON UPDATE

By mid-March, the avian breeding activity had begun and the elephant seal breeding season was over. Seal pup births were down 18% from last year but pup mortality was down so that the net result appeared to be about the same.

Last year there was a high loss of pups due to winter heat riots, when pups were trampled underfoot as the overheated males wreaked havoc in the harems making their way to the sea to cool off. Pups die by being crushed by males defending their status or merely shifting position, by being bitten by females other than their mothers or by falling into the sea.

California and Steller sea lions were returning to the islands, sometimes conflicting with the gulls in their searches for breeding sites and as many as 30 gray whales a day were passing by on their northward migration.

Since migration, vagrant landbirds have been few in number and all of common coastal species. The most unusual was a rough-legged hawk who stayed from mid-December to the end of February.

A few oiled birds show up periodically and there is a continuing watch for oil slicks from the sunken stern of the Puerto Rican, a potential disaster that will hang over the Farallones for years to come.

---Harriet Huber and Stephanie Kaza, PRBO

**J. ED. MC CLELLAN
1895 - 1985**

**SWIFTS, SWALLOWS
AND MARTINS**

Jed McClellan passed away on March 27 at Peninsula Hospital. Jed was instrumental in establishing the Sequoia Audubon Society and served as President in the early years.

In addition to his interest in birds, Jed was an amateur botanist of long standing and enjoyed the friendship and respect of many professional botanists. Jed liked to lead spring field trips where both birds and flowers could be observed.

Jed presented a series of programs at Sequoia meetings entitled "Plant of the Month" -- several slides plus narration covering a native plant of current interest.

Jed is survived by his wife, Bonnie, who shared Jed's interest in natural history and who helped in accumulating their collection of over 20,000 botanical slides and a vast library of natural history books.

--- Ed Mc Elhany

The California Department of Fish and Game is gathering information on the Black Swift, the Bank Swallow and the Purple Martin in California to document distribution, abundance, habitat requirements and reproductive success. The DFG is especially interested in documenting threats to these species' habitats.

Send any reports of recent sightings (within the last 10 years) of breeding black swifts, bank swallows and purple martins to Ronald W. Schlorff, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Nongame Wildlife Program, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Include your name, address and phone number along with the location of the sightings (as exact as possible), observation date, behavioral notes and any other relevant information, such as evidence of competition with other species or destruction of nest sites.

This information will assist state and federal agencies in developing habitat protection and species management plans for these species of special concern.

--- Ronald W. Schloff
Wildlife Biologist, CDFG

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 94002

Allow 14 to 18 days for delivery

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**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

WETLANDS POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Bay Area Audubon Council and the Sequoia Audubon Society to promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and marshes. In addition to the statements and policies contained in the WETLANDS RESOLUTION promulgated by the Wetlands coalition in June 1984, the Bay Area Audubon Council URGES:

1. That the QUANTITY AND DIVERSITY of wetland habitats be maintained or increased whenever possible.
2. RESTORATION as a viable and essential means to renew productivity in damaged wetlands. Our policy is to search out and identify sites suitable for restoration and to support efforts to restore them.
3. That MITIGATION for the loss of wetlands assure:
 - a) there be no net loss of wetland acreage.
 - b) wetland acreage be of equivalent (or better) habitat value, including, but not limited to factors such as size, continuity, vegetation and wildlife requirements.
 - c) wetland acreage not be reduced during or following the development. In certain circumstances, mitigation may be needed before the development occurs.
 - d) mitigation be accomplished on-site, if technically feasible; or, if not possible, off-site mitigation should be accomplished on the closest area where environmental conditions can be created which will be similar to, or better than, those being destroyed.
 - e) permit approvals stipulate timing of mitigation consistent with (c) above, and monitoring and enforcement plans sufficient to insure the success of the wetland enhancement. Monitoring should be conducted by an agency independent of the developer.
4. The retention and protection of SEASONAL WETLANDS as an essential part of total wetland resources, or their enhancement as more biologically productive habitat. Seasonal wetlands are areas which become saturated or inundated during the rainy season. These include diked historic wetlands, some now used in agriculture. Seasonal wetlands provide important habitat for migratory birds.
5. The retention of commercial SALT PONDS as working salt producers or their enhancement as more biologically productive habitat. Numerous species of waterbirds, fish and invertebrates now favor salt ponds over surrounding baylands with lower salinities. Created from historic baylands, salt ponds should be preserved as bay-related wildlife habitat whenever salt production is abandoned.
6. Provision for and protection of BUFFER ZONES between development projects and wetlands. These zones must provide areas of refuge for wetland species during high water periods and protection from human disturbance.
7. That PUBLIC ACCESS be governed by the sensitivity of the wetlands involved.
8. Establishment of WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY INFLOW STANDARDS which protect the health of San Francisco Bay. The legislature should establish and maintain programs to monitor both bay and inflow water quality with specific emphasis on agricultural and urban/industrial toxic substances. When established, fresh water inflow standards must be enforced.
9. Strict enforcement of existing laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of wetlands. We call upon the COE, EPA, BCDC, RWCB and local governments to allocate adequate funding for enforcement, and to move rapidly in issuing citations and prosecuting violators.
10. The state to maintain wetland restoration and acquisition as the most important priority in the expenditure of monies from appropriate bond acts (Prop 18 & 19, 1984).

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We often receive calls asking when membership cards are sent or how to replace one that is lost.

National Audubon only issues one card per member per year. It comes attached to your first renewal reminder. It will not come attached to any subsequent notices so if you do not pay your renewal promptly it would be well to keep the notice in a "pending" spot so that you will have it on hand when you get ready to send in your check or detach the card from your first notice and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

Even if you pay your renewal membership promptly, you may still receive further notices because it takes some time for the payment to be recorded.

---Jean Allen
Membership

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Anent your charming "I Told You So" column on a column in the April NEEDLES I never heard piliated pronounced any other way than "pill", etc. Though modern Latin pronunciations tend to vary with the school attended, I feel very sure the Ancients never heard of nor said "pie".* According to my Church Latin at least, they would have called the cap "peeileus".

I find Webster, however, gives both "pie" and "pill" in that order. But I will stick with Roger Tory and you.

Keep up the erudition --

Ruth

*I'll bet "pie" originated with the British, who tend to Anglicize all foreign words to suit themselves, such as "Wipers" for Ypres in W.W.I.

(Ruth Tangier Smith, M.D.)

(Thanks for the kind words and an interesting observation on the origin of the "pie" pronunciation. This would seem to be in line with the continuing tendency of the A.O.U. to replace our U.S. names with their British counterparts. While there is something to be said for kestrel, merlin and peregrine; I find it difficult to accept British nomenclature when it perpetuates such gross inaccuracies as moorhen for common gallinule or Siberian tit for brown-capped chickadee. ---Ed.)



OOPS

Bill Bousman, recently reviewed our San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching Guide in Santa Clara Audubon's Avocet. While generally favorable the review did pinpoint some of the known typographical errors in the checklist and made particular mention of the Cloverdale Loop writeup, which listed Hammond's flycatcher as a summer resident.

The author of that particular segment of the guide (who also happens to be your editor), when he first read this said, "He's crazy, I never wrote that!". Unfortunately, in checking over the guide, the first draft and the final draft we found that not only had he written it, but that he had repeated the error in his final draft!

The error is in the writing, not in the identification of any mysterious flycatcher. The bird to be listed should have been the western flycatcher. Hammond's flycatcher - if found in this area at all - should be present only in migration.

Now, two years later, it is impossible to determine how the error was made. Even more inexplicable is that the error survived the first draft and readings by at least one highly regarded birder and by the guide's editor - herself a pretty fair birder.

Our apologies to the readers of the guide and our thanks (I think) to Bill Bousman for pointing this out to us.

--- Cliff Richer

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

SURVIVAL OF THE FAMILY FARM

June 1, 1985

9 A.M. at Duarte's Restaurant and the Phipps' Ranch
Pescadero

Host and Lecturer: Tom Phipps

This is a repeat of a program first offered nearly two years ago. Tom Phipps will outline the novel approaches he and other coastal ranchers have taken to remain in business. Following the short lecture and a question and answer session, participants will tour the farm and have an opportunity to visit the Phipps' farm stand, exotic vegetable and herb gardens, berry patches, petting zoo and artichoke fields. Lunch at Duarte's will follow, prepared entirely with produce from the farm.

Fee: \$12.00 (Includes lunch)

Class Coordinator:

SHARON HOM

592-0243

BATS -- SEPARATING THE MAMMAL FROM THE MYTHS

August 3, 1985

9:00 A.M. at the California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Leader: Jacqueline Schoenwald

They DON'T get tangled in your hair, drink your blood or many of the other things they've been accused of. Come find out what they do do as Jacqueline Schoenwald, recipient of last year's Sequoia Audubon Award for Research, tells us about their behavior and habitats and shows us Academy specimens of some of our local species. We'll also be allowed to tour the academy after the seminar.

Fee: \$10.00 (Includes admission to the Academy)

Class Coordinator:

Anne Scanlan-Rohrer

571-7972

FROM SFBBO

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has established a Coyote Creek Riparian Station inside the projected flood control levees for management-related and pure wildlife research devoted to the preservation and enhancement of the riparian habitat along lower Coyote Creek. Special donations to support the work of the station are being solicited.

They are also inaugurating a birding class for beginners. Don Stark will teach the class in six two hour lectures on Wednesday evenings beginning May 8 at 7:30 PM at the Observatory offices. The cost is a tax-deductible \$25 donation to the Observatory. Call Don Starks (408) 371-9720 or the Observatory office (408) 946-6548 for information or to register for the classes.

Their 1985 studies and projects include:

BAIR ISLAND banding and nesting census*
CALIFORNIA GULL PROJECT*
BOTULISM STUDY*
COLONIAL BREEDING BIRD SURVEY*
CLAPPER RAIL STUDY*
COYOTE CREEK BANDING PROGRAM*
FORSTER'S TERN STUDY
SALT MARSH YELLOWTHROAT STUDY

*Volunteers are needed for these studies.

Contact SFBBO for details.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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