

June

1985

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number 10

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS GENERAL MEETING

The June meeting is our most important meeting of the year for a number of reasons.

First, we will be selecting those officers who will lead Sequoia Audubon through the next twelve months. (See the related article on Page Three)

Second, it is the time when we continue one of our newest traditions, the Awards Dinner, when we recognize those who have contributed to forwarding the Audubon Cause. Complete details can be found on Page Four.

Third, it is our second potluck of the year. Second only to the December potluck dinner in popularity, this is one of our more convivial meetings.

And finally, it usually features an outstanding program. Despite a last minute cancellation by our originally scheduled speaker, this year will be no exception. When Bob Breen found it impossible to appear, TED CHANDIK donned his white hat and came riding to the rescue. Ted is an old friend of Sequoia Audubon and well known to many of us through his activities as Naturalist at Palo Alto Bay Lands, field trip and tour leader, public speaker, birder and photographer. Ted's program will spotlight the natural beauties of NEW ZEALAND, the other "Land Down Under".

Special thanks are due to Ted since he is in the midst of preparing to lead another foreign tour - this time to the Andes and the headwaters of the Amazon. (Coincidentally, the tour sponsors are last months program presenters, the Cheesemans of Saratoga.)

The meeting will be at the usual place on Thursday, June 13 at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside west of the Alameda in San Mateo but will start a half hour earlier than usual so we may squeeze everything in.

The POTLUCK DINNER begins at 6:00, with the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Linda Kypta will be masterminding this whole operation and can use your help. If you have a few minutes to spare before, during or after the meeting, please call her at 591-9053.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my term of office comes to an end this June, I want to say it has been a privilege to have served as President of Sequoia Audubon these past three years. They have been good years. A great deal has been accomplished because of the efforts of so many. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has either helped in the organization of a particular activity or who has participated in one or more of our activities. Audubon is a grass roots organization and your participation is the most important contribution which can be made.

In retrospect, one of the major decisions made at the beginning of my term was to make Sequoia Audubon a more recognized, active and involved group within our community. In many ways we have been very successful. Sequoia Audubon has taken on a new look.

We have instituted several new major programs including the Sequoia Natural History Series, Awards Program, and publishing the *San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching*. The chapter newsletter, our principal means of communicating with our members, has been vastly improved, renamed and doubled in size. We have taken on an office and part-time staff.

Sequoia Audubon has become actively involved in and is now recognized as a responsible voice in the environmental and conservation arena. We have an active conservation committee and have established communication with other environmental groups with similar viewpoints. That Pescadero Marsh is finally receiving attention and money from the State is in large part due to Sequoia's efforts.

There are many people who have made the above possible. ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER, LINDA KYPTA, MARY BRESLER, and CLIFF RICHER, because of their tireless efforts on your behalf, deserve special recognition and thanks. The ALLENS continue to work many hours each week on behalf of Sequoia. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank DONNA KIRSACKO, our able office supervisor, for her help through the past two years.

In closing, I would like to talk briefly about a subject very near and dear to me, Audubon Canyon Ranch. As you are likely aware, our chapter has the privilege of being a sponsoring chapter of this organization which is acknowledged to be one of the finest non-profit environmental groups in the western United States.

ACR was originally conceived almost twenty five years ago as a means of protecting one of the most unique egret and heron rookeries you will ever see. This rookery at Bolinas Lagoon still remains a primary reason for ACR's existence.

Over the years though, ACR has taken on other tasks. It became a preserver of open space on Tomales Bay during the sixties and early seventies when this entire area was threatened with development. They became one of the first environmental organizations to set up decent training classes. These trained docents, using ACR's properties as a

(Continued on Page Seven)

CALENDAR

JUNE 1 SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES: SURVIVAL OF THE SATURDAY FAMILY FARM. A repeat of 1983's popular offering. At Duarte's Restaurant and the Phipps' Farm in Pescadero. See Page Five for details.

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 9 POINT REYES FIELD TRIP. A search through the SUNDAY "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost anything at this time of year. We'll be looking for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect a few late migrants in breeding plumage as well. Walking will be minimal but sturdy shoes are recommended. Clothing should be layered since the weather on Pt. Reyes is extremely changeable and it has the coolest average summer temperature in the continental US. We will meet at the new Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters building at 9:00 AM. To get there take Hwy 101 or I-280 north to Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1 across the Golden Gate Bridge where it once again joins 101. Follow 101 north to the San Anselmo-San Quentin exit and take a left at the bottom of the ramp. You will now be on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Follow this all the way to Olema. At Olema, take a right at the stop sign and within a hundred yards take a left. In about half a mile, you will come to the Headquarters complex. The trip will take place rain or shine. Bring lunch. The trip normally lasts until 2 PM. Anyone interested in car-pooling should call the Audubon office (593-7368) or the leader.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

JUNE 13 SAS GENERAL MEETING. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. THURSDAY OUR SECOND POTLUCK OF THE YEAR. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. OUR SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER. NEW ZEALAND with Ted Chandik! All in one package. See Page One and the articles on Pages three and four for details. At the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside, west of the Alameda in San Mateo. POTLUCK DINNER begins at 6:00 P.M. Note the earlier starting time.

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: 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 :
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WELCOME!
POTLUCK DINNER begins at 6:00 P.M. Note the earlier starting time.

JUNE 18 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING ---- Time and place TUESDAY to be determined - Call the chairman, Rick Johnson (349-4546) or the Audubon Office (593-7368) for details. The third tuesday of each month. Conservation committee meetings will be held in July and August. See Page 8 for related article.

JUNE 22 YUBA PASS - "THE CALL OF THE HIGH SIERRA" - This JUNE 23 trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on SATURDAY any of our other field trips. The trip features SUNDAY some easy trail walking through mountain and Sierra Valley habitats. On Saturday we will meet at 9 AM at Wild Plum Campground just out of Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak summer warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll meet at the Summit Campground at 8 AM. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to see the birds of the high plains and marshes. Bring lunch and liquids for two days. Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman Campgrounds on Hwy 49. Motels are available in Sierra City and reservations are advisable since there may be several other birding groups in the area at the same time. (Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

As the mid-year summer mark is approached, the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch looks back to assess a successful fund raising program, a successful school and adult education program, a continuing successful heronry nesting program, a successful bookstore operation and a successful public visitor program.

All Board members make regular contributions to many areas of this unique small operation, but some have contributed special services during this period. Board members Nancy Barbour and Debbie Ablin have begun an audio-visual taping of longtime members of the Board; and have prepared a special, soon-to-be published newsletter covering such activities. Board member Clerin Zumwalt has flown over the three preserves, taking beautiful photographs thereof. The results can be seen in a new display in the Exhibit Hall. Board member Clifford Conly has drawn architectural plans for both the Picher Canyon office and Bouverie barn remodelings. Board member Robert Conrath, together with Gay MacLise, has spent long hours updating our mailing and pledge letters. Board member Rick Baird has directed the Steering Committee studying various aspects of ACR.

Ray Peterson continues to hold weekend classes. The June ones are:

June 1 - Moths and Butterflies
June 15-16 - Family Father's Day
June 21-23 - Learning from the Old Ways

Madrone Audubon Society will host at the ranch during June.

Board Advisor Jeanne Price will serve as reporter for *News from the Ranch* starting in September.

Have a happy summer!

--- Clifford Conly

(Since September, at Mr. Conly's request, we have omitted his byline from the monthly ACR column. We are restoring it in order for us to thank him for keeping us informed not only for the last two years that I have been involved in the *NEEDLES* but for as long as I have been residing in the Bay Area.

While we look forward to Ms. Price's news releases, we will miss Mr. Conly's individualistic writing and typing style and the reliability of his submissions.

Besides functioning as correspondent from the Ranch, Mr. Conly has served on the Board for many years, been involved in every recent major design change renovation at ACR and is the donor of the valuable Cypress Grove Preserve. Thank you, Cliff Conly from SAS for all of your work at ACR. ---The Editor)

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE 1985-1986

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the candidates it will present to the membership at the General 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

POTLUCK INFO

Please remember to bring your own utensils and plates and a paper bag in which to take them home. Those people whose last names begin with the letters through F should bring a SALAD, those whose names begin with the letters G through M, a DESSERT and N through Z should provide the CASSEROLES or other hot dishes.

Bring enough to serve FIVE times the number in your party.

--- Linda Kypta

SWEENEY RIDGE PLAN

The National Park Service has announced its plans for incorporation of Sweeney Ridge into the GGNRA.

The development, restoration and usage plans follow almost exactly the recommendations made by SAS's Board of Directors earlier in the year.

1. Demolition of the Nike site and restoration of the natural setting for use as a small picnic area.
2. Trailhead improvements and easements to allow easier access by foot with a small visitor center with exhibits and restrooms at the Caltrans property on Hwy 1.
3. Permission for limited bus access for senior citizens and tour groups.
4. Negotiation with SF Watershed officials for acquisition of the Portola Discovery Site and a trail through the watershed area.
5. Maintenance of the area as a Natural Resource Zone.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

Some of the motels are:

HARRINGTON'S SIERRA PINES	(916) 862-1151
SIERRA CHALET	(916) 862-1110
BUTTES MOTEL	(916) 862-1170
SIERRA BUTTES INN	(916) 862-1122

In order to get there, take your favorite route to Sacramento. From Sacramento take I-80 west to Truckee (105 miles), Ca. Hwy. 89 north to Sierraville (26 miles) and Hwy. 49 east to Sierra City (23 miles). If you are traveling by daylight and don't mind mountain roads you can take Hwy. 49 west from Auburn. This is about 35 miles shorter but may take more time depending upon traffic and road conditions. AAA's Feather River map gives the best coverage for the area and you may find their Lake Tahoe Region map helpful as well.

LEADER	GIL WEST	359-0820
COORDINATOR	CLIFF RICHER	355-4058

JULY 16 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING ---- Exact time
TUESDAY and place to be determined - Call the chairman, Rick Johnson, (349-4546), or the Audubon Office (593-7368) for details. Third tuesday of each month.

JULY 20 LAKE MERCED - BEGINNER'S SPECIAL. Despite its
SUNDAY urban setting, Lake Merced offers a wide variety of birdlife at any time of

very few of the waterbirds but we have a good variety of waders and passerines. You can get "up close and personal" with house sparrows, Brewer's blackbirds and brown-headed cowbirds and see six species of swallows. Although beginners are welcomed on any of our trips, this one will be structured more on educational lines and will include comments on binoculars, telescopes, field guides, birding ethics and field trip etiquette. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the large parking lot at the north of the lake opposite Sunset Avenue. Lake Merced can be reached by taking Skyline Boulevard north or by taking I-280 north to the 19th Ave. (Rte.1) exit and taking a left from 19th Ave. onto Brotherhood Way. Take a right at the end of Brotherhood Way and follow Lake Merced Drive to the meeting place. We expect the trip to last until noon. There will be some walking and sturdy shoes or boots are recommended.

LEADER	CLIFF RICHER	355-4058
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AUGUST 3 SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES - BATS --
SATURDAY SEPARATING THE MAMMAL FROM THE MYTHS. 9:00 A.M.
at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Leader: Jacqueline Schoenwald
See the article on Page five for details.

COORDINATOR	ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER	571-7972
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AUG. 24 CONDOR WATCH AND THRASHER CHASE. The news from the
SATURDAY Condor Project scientists is not good. At this
AUG. 25 time they can positively identify only nine
SUNDAY condors left alive in the wild. So join us on our second annual pilgrimage to the famous Los Padres National Forest Sign, the habitat of the California condor watcher. From this overlook you can look out over the hills and valleys where the condors have traditionally gathered in the fall. With the numbers so drastically reduced, it may require great perseverance and patience for even a distant view this year. On the way, we will look for LeConte's thrashers among the oil wells in the San Joaquin Desert and Cassin's kingbirds in Klipstein Canyon. If we are fortunate enough to get good views of the condors with time to spare, we will bird the road to the top of Mt. Pinos for high altitude birds and on the way home we will bird the grassland refuges for indigo buntings, blue grosbeaks and lesser nighthawks. THIS WILL BE A CAR POOLING TRIP and participants

(Continued on Page Seven)

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY AWARD PROGRAM

The Award Committee of Bill Johnson, Donna Kirsacko, Peter Metropoulos and Rick Baird, extends its appreciation and thanks to all those who submitted nominations to this year's Award Program.

CHAPTER AWARD - LEADERSHIP

ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER. Since she joined Audubon in 1982, Anne has served as Chapter Secretary and - this past year - Vice-President. She has been Sequoia's most effective publicist, led field trips, participated in Birdathon '84 and been an active member of the Natural History Series Committee.

But Anne's crowning achievement has been, of course, her outstanding leadership as the editor of *San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching*. Under her capable hand, the idea of a birding site guide for San Mateo County became a reality in a short six months. The superior quality of the publication presents a strong, positive image to the general public and adds pride and a new dimension to the Chapter. Anne has demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to the Sequoia Chapter through her fine accomplishments, cheerful manner and willingness to involve herself in many aspects of the Chapter.

CHAPTER AWARD - ACTIVITIES

MARY BRESLER. Mary's commitment to Sequoia is demonstrated through her participation in many Chapter activities. As a member of the Conservation Committee, Mary's thorough research and thoughtful analysis of issues has made her invaluable. She has formulated position papers and written testimony; attended public hearings and Bay Area Audubon Council Meetings; and acted as liaison with conservation organizations and public agencies. Serving for the past year on the Board of Directors as Secretary, Mary has consistently provided clear and concise proceedings of the Board meetings. She is a regular at the General Meetings and has assisted in organizing Sequoia's potluck dinners.

COMMUNITY AWARD-INDIVIDUAL-ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

To Be Announced

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM
Presents
CONVERSATIONS WITH A TRAMP -
AN EVENING WITH JOHN MUIR
with

Lee Stetson

Spend an imaginary evening in John Muir's living room as he awaits word on President Wilson's decision on the fate of the Hetch Hetchy Valley. Based on Muir's own writings, the one-act play has been highly acclaimed both as an artistic and environmental success.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18 8:00 P.M.
COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO THEATRE ADMISSION \$8.00
Tickets available at the Museum, at Nature Company Stores at the Hillsdale and Stanford Shopping Centers, and at the Box Office. For the benefit of the Museum and the Yosemite Natural History Association.

The Committee is proud to announce the recipients in Sequoia's Second Annual Award Program for outstanding contributions to the environment of quality of San Mateo County.

They are:

COMMUNITY AWARD - INDIVIDUAL - URBAN ENHANCEMENT

LORI RADISCH. Ms. Radisch was appointed to the San Mateo County Planning Commission in 1976 and served until 1983. She has also served on the San Carlos Airport Planning Commission, the Regional Planning Committee and the Airport Land Use Commission. During the 13 years she has served the public, Ms. Radisch has taken the long view in land-use planning, avoiding land-use decisions based solely on short-term benefits. Ms. Radisch has demonstrated her commitment to the protection of the public trust and the wise use of land and water resources.

COMMUNITY AWARD - GROUP - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ANO NUEVO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION. This highly successful non-profit, volunteer organization has, since 1979, reached over 300,000 people through eight ongoing outreach programs - including the Elephant Seal Interpretive Program. Their Summer Roving Naturalist Program allows Ano Nuevo State Reserve to remain open during the summer months. The Association utilizes and coordinates cooperative efforts of public and private agencies, groups and individuals to assist the State Department of Parks in providing environmental education to the schools and general public.

COMMUNITY AWARD - GROUP ENERGY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

COASTSIDE ORNAMENTAL FLOWER GROWERS. The Coastside Ornamental Flower Growers have used imagination in developing and adapting available technology to make their greenhouses into models of energy and water conservation. Their techniques include aggressive insulation, cogeneration of electricity from waste heat, recycling of water and extensive water run-off collection systems. The ornamental nurseries of San Mateo County have sales of nearly \$15 million annually. They are one of the top income-producing industries in the County with products shipped world-wide.

--- Donna Kirsacko

WORLD OF AUDUBON

PROGRAM #3

Manatees
Florida Wildlife
Idaho Wilderness
Peregrine Falcons

June 24 -- 11:05 PM
June 30 -- 6:00 PM
July 7 --- 4:05 PM
July 9 --- 12:05 PM

PROGRAM #4

Eagles
Roger Tory Peterson
Audubon Wardens
Chesapeake Bay

August 29 -- 11:05 PM
September 7 -- 10:05 PM
September 10 -- 9:30 PM
September 15 -- 4:05 PM

Available only on your cable network or
SuperStation WTBS.

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

SURVIVAL AND 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 365-3369

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

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



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

NOT THE SUMMER OFF

A PERSONAL ESSAY

Have you ever thought about why our Crystal Springs Christmas Bird Count is one of the best in the entire country year after year?

The efforts of dedicated bands of birders, Count Coordinator Frank Allen and particularly Compiler Barry Sauppe are vital, but more significantly, it is because San Mateo County has a multitude of habitats providing for a hearty variety of bird species. In the 15 mile diameter count circle there are freshwater marshes, mudflats, deep waters of the bay and ocean, rocky inter-tidal areas, redwood and Douglas fir forests, oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral... This county is a birder's delight! But without protection of these habitats in state parks and beaches, city and county parks and reserves and openspace lands, we would not have the birds to count.

We are lucky that not so many years ago people had the wisdom to set aside areas for the protection of wildlife and natural resources and for public enjoyment.

We have been very lucky, but that luck may not hold out. There are many immediate threats to unprotected and even to protected public lands. This summer, Kuman's massive development in Belmont, Foster City's marina, Edgewood County Park's golf course plan, Devil's Slide, Skyline Ridge developments and Coyote Creek channelization - to name a few - will be pushed further along toward realization and completion. All of these projects, as presently planned, will have detrimental effects on birds, wildlife and native habitats - effects that can be avoided.

Sequoia traditionally takes a break from activities over the summer. But developers don't take time off. State and federal governments, planning commissions, city councils, and the Board of Supervisors keep on with business as usual. So, this year for the first time, Sequoia's Conservation Committee will continue to work on issues over the summer.

This is the last *NEEDLES* until September. Until then you will be free from the Conservation Committee's yammerings on Bair Island, Devil's

Slide, Cascade Ranch, San Bruno Mountain, Belle Air Island, Kesterson and Sacramento River riprap. You will be free to enjoy the land as the seasons pass from spring, into summer and on fall.

So go, explore and seek out the cool forests of Butano State Park, the unsurpassed wildflower carpets at Edgewood Park, the musty tang of the Baylands and the romantic beach sunsets. And as you do, don't forget that there are environmentalists who are continuing to hold the line for wildlife, green places and the Bay, who will continue to direct the bulldozers away from the redwood forests, wildflower ridges and pickleweed marshes we all love. And that Sequoia's Conservation Committee will be right there with them all summer long.

People who care about birds and wildlife must speak up so that our representatives know how we want our cities to grow. To grow, not like San Jose with sprawl into the hillsides, not like Los Angeles with 10 lane freeways encircling us - but compact and strong surrounded by nearby green open space.

If you feel that having healthy and vital economic growth does not automatically mean sacrificing wildlife and open space, then join Sequoia's Conservation Committee. The Committee is not an elite group. Like many of you we are birders who have developed an interest in protecting wildlife habitats. We are self-taught when it comes to commenting on public documents, working in coalitions or lobbying the state to take care of Pescadero Marsh. We can teach you what we have learned and you can share with us your special talents, interests, knowledge and enthusiasm. There is opportunity for you to be effective and make a difference. The Conservation Committee needs you, your support and your participation. Don't take the summer off. Call us today. Meet with us on Tuesday, June 18, 7:30 P.M. at the SAS office in Belmont.

Join us for the birds, for the wildlife, for the land, for our children.

--- Donna Kirsacko

BIRDATHON '85

Sunday, April 28, 2:30 A.M., Pacific Daylight Time -- and I am heading south on I-280, wondering whether it is really 2:30. This is the day we change from standard to daylight time, and in my still half asleep state I am wondering if I changed the clocks correctly. At 2:45, I am at the first meeting place and Linda Kypta is waiting. Therefore I have either set the clocks correctly or I will be confronted by a very angry redhead wanting to know why I am two hours late.

No, it is not an early morning tryst, but the beginning of Birdathon '85, our annual fund-raising effort for the chapter and National Audubon. The early start was dictated by our birding leader, Barry Sauppe, a last minute addition to the team.

A little after 3:00 A.M. and we are now heading south on Highway 1 with some minor abuse to the speed limit when Linda cries out "Stop - a barn owl!". After a panic stop and a U-turn, I am able

to get the bird in the headlights - thirty feet off the road, perched on a stump. One identification and one confirmation - our first bird of the day and as it will turn out - our only barn owl. Linda's remarkable night vision is a living commercial for vegetarianism.

We are a trifle early at Pescadero Marsh and scout around to be sure we have the right meeting place. By the time we return, Barry Sauppe and Gil West are already at marsh side with a tape recorder. The soras and Virginia rails call cooperatively and some of us are surprised to hear marsh wrens, song sparrows and yellowthroats singing in the darkness. Barry gives us a taste of what's in store for us by identifying the "chip note of a red-necked phalarope". (I never even knew they had a voice!.)

On Canyon Road, the spotted and saw-whet owls are uncooperative, but there are early wake-up sounds
(Continued on Page Seven)

BIRDATHON '85

(Continued from Page Six)

from the woods and creek. Barry identifies a strangled and abortive sound as belonging to a western flycatcher. A more typical sound and Gil confirms it.

At Butano Park, the owls are more cooperative. Screech owls and saw-whets return the calls from Barry's tape recorder and a great horned owl drops by to check us out. The morning concert begins to warm up and Barry continues to pick out specific chips, chortles, chirps and throat-clearings from the cacophony and identify them for us.

Dawn is now fully on us and the poorwills continue to be stubbornly silent. On Gazos Creek a large flock of red cross-bills causes Barry and I to cry "good bird!". Barry finds a pygmy owl and grasshopper sparrows for us.

At Pigeon Point, Barry calls out bird after bird. With his assistance the rest of us are able to confirm black-legged kittiwakes, rhinoceros auklets, black-vented shearwaters and a number of more common birds.

We are surprised to find bank swallows apparently nesting at Pescadero Marsh, we flush a green heron and a merlin swoops along Butano Creek looking for a mid-morning snack.

After a stop for tri-colored blackbirds, head inland. Near Canada Road, the writer demonstrates his famous talent for the instant nap, thereby missing the only Lincoln's sparrow of the day.

Foster City and Radio Road in Redwood Shores yield more shorebirds and scaups. I realize that I am seeing my first coot of the day. It is bird #108 on my list!

Leaving the county we get ring-necked pheasants, moorhens, redheads and a burrowing owl.

After a short conference we agree to "do" Mines Road after all. We pile coolers, notebooks and birding gear into Gil's van, leaving the one car in Palo Alto. On the long drive to Livermore, I once again show off my greatest talent - thereby missing the yellow warbler - but open one eye long enough to see the loggerhead shrike on a roadside wire.

Mines Road gives us all of the expected birds except Lawrence's goldfinch. At one point, Gil brings the van to a sudden halt for a roadside rock wren in a totally unexpected spot.

At 9:00 P.M., we finally hear poorwills at the hunting camps near the Stanislaus County line. An hour and a half later and twenty hours after our initial meeting, we break up and head for our homes.

The next day, we compare lists. Our final total -- 184 species, completely smashing last year's record of 133.

--- Cliff Richer

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Three)

may be asked to share expenses with the driver. Other expenses should be minimal since we will be staying in Motel 6's (double occupancy) in either Buttonwillow or Lost Hills and eating in inexpensive family style restaurants. We plan on leaving the Bay Area on Friday - either late in the afternoon or early in the evening and returning before dark on Sunday. Reservations are an absolute necessity and must be made no later than August 1. If you are not sure but want further information please call as soon as possible so we can assess the extent of the interest in this trip.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

SEP. 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. at the Sears Savings Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. THE FIRST MEETING FOR THE NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

SEP. 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING. OUR ANNUAL DO-IT-YOURSELF THURSDAY SESSION. Social mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. and the program of member's slides at 8:00 P.M. OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page One)

classroom, then exposed many intercity school children to the wonders of our environment. This program is widely acclaimed and has served as a model for many other organizations.

More recently, ACR has had the good fortunes to obtain two additional major properties, i.e., Cypress Grove on Tomales Bay, and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve above Sonoma. It will be some years before ACR will be able to open these properties to the general public as the donors still live there. However, ACR is presently in the process of planning how best to use these magnificent properties to their best and fullest extent possible without overstressing their environments once opened to the public.

Thus, Audubon Canyon Ranch continues to serve as a leader in the preservation of open space, a source of environmental education for both adults and children through docent-led classes, adult and family seminars and more recently in the field of research using their lands as a laboratory.

It is an organization which has earned and deserves both our personal as well as our chapter's support. I hope, collectively as a chapter and as individuals, we see fit to continue and even increase our support of this extraordinary organization in the future. It will be repaid many times over.

I could go on for hours, but that's enough about ACR for now. In closing, and on a more personal note, let me say thank you to the many who have become my friend through our mutual association with Sequoia. These friendships have been and will continue to be most cherished in the future.

--- Rick Baird

APOLOGIES

Last month's **NEEDLES** is a good (?) example of haste makes waste. The page one editorial which was to be continued on page six died ignominiously while a "filler" page which had already been pasted up was run instead. The dates of the Grant Ranch field trip were confused, the meeting directions ambiguous and the leader arrived half an hour late on Saturday due to minor car problems. Because of the mix-up the leader repeated the trip on Sunday. The net result was no participants on Saturday and only one on Sunday. (Incidentally, birding was poor at Grant Ranch but great at Smith Creek.)

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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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