



sequoia needles

Volume 34, No 2

October, 1985

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

We're in for a very special treat with this month's program. Our featured speaker is one of the finest birders in California. Don Roberson is the author of *Birders' California* and *Rare Birds of the West Coast*. The first of these is an amusing and informative account of Don's first try for a "big year" and is supplemented by his itinerary and a number of excellent bird-finding articles by other well-known California birders. The second is one of the three indispensable reference works on the distribution of our state birds and is particularly valuable since it includes not only the "accepted" records of rare bird occurrences but many of the more reliable "pending" or "un-accepted" sightings.

In 1983 and 1984 he became well-known as the planner and ramrod of the record-setting California "Big Day" team. He is sought after as a tour guide, pelagic trip leader and lecturer and - in his spare time - is a practicing attorney in Monterey.

Don's talk will focus on learning to identify the difference between juvenile and adult shorebirds as a means of easing the task of identifying the bird.

If you find this confusing, come and let Don explain it with slides.

Those on the September 8 field trip got an excellent review of some of the more common species. Here is an opportunity to duplicate that experience and cover the more exotic species as well.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

President John Silliman will cull through his more than 1500 slides taken on his recent trip to Australia and New Guinea and "try to find a few that will interest us".

If you were at the September meeting, you were treated to a preview of the spectacular scenery, exotic wildlife and primitive cultures encountered by John on his trip. Come and let him share his experiences with us.

SAWDUST

UNOFFICIAL NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The September Board Meeting is the first regular Board meeting for the new officers, is the time when the budget for the forthcoming year is approved, and takes place after a recess of three months. In past years this combination has often led to lengthy discussions into the late hours of the night. This meeting was an exception however thanks to the preparation by the Budget Committee, to the inter-communication maintained by the Board and Staff members during the summer and to John Silliman's ability to keep the meeting moving along on a brisk and relevant pace.

After the routine acceptance of the minutes of the Board and Membership Meetings and the Treasurer's Report, the Board heard and endorsed the Audit Report as presented by Elgin Juri.

The 1985-1986 Budget was then presented by Elgin Juri and Rick Baird. The estimated income for the year was \$29,920. and the total expenditures \$29,395., leaving an estimated surplus of \$525. for the year. It was pointed out that this budget had no room for contingencies or emergencies and did not allow any reserve for the replacement of present capital equipment such as the computer system, addressograph machine or slide projectors. It also relied heavily on some of our newer sources of income - book sales, Birdathon and Wild Goose Chase - in order to produce a balanced condition. Education and Scholarship activities and Pescadero Marsh Committee expenditures were not included in the budget statement since special funds exist for these areas.

The budget was approved after a minimum of discussion and debate.

Frank Allen reported that a memorial contribution in the amount of \$1000. had been received from the estate of Laverne Goodwin and in accordance with the previous actions of the Board was allocated to the Education and Scholarship Fund.

Jean Allen distributed new copies of the "Active Members" listing and newly typed copies of the by-laws. She noted that the new "one-time bargain-rate" Audubon memberships would produce income for the local chapter *only if these memberships were generated by the local chapter*. To this end she had included Sequoia membership applications in all copies of the *NEEDLES* being mailed to former members.

Jean then announced that because of other commitments and the probability of computerizing the chapter membership list, that she would be submitting her resignation as Membership Chairwoman in December. The Board thanked Jean for her past and continuing efforts and the Board members agreed on the necessity of appointing a qualified and dedicated individual to this vital and often thankless task. (See the related article on Page 5 for further information.)

(Continued on Page 7)

CALENDAR

OCT. 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. MEETING PLACE TO BE THURSDAY DETERMINED. Call the Audubon Office (593-7368) for details. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

OCT. 10 SAS GENERAL MEETING. FALL SHOREBIRDS with DON THURSDAY ROBERSON. One of California's premier birders in an illustrated lecture on the identification of fall shorebirds, with special emphasis on juvenal plumages. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM. General Meeting begins at 8:00. See the article on Page One for further details.

OCT. 5 BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING. Featuring SATURDAY Congressman George Miller, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power; Jerry Meral of PCL; and a slide show on the Birds of Mt. Diablo by Phil Gordon. At the San Francisco Federal Savings Building, the Mt. Diablo Room, 1660 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

OCT. 12 BEGINNER'S TRIP TO HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE SATURDAY Most of our wintering waterfowl and shorebirds should have returned by this time and this gives us an opportunity to see them in numbers. Meet at the parking lot outside the entrance on West Winton Rd. at 9:00 A.M. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and exit at Hesperian Blvd. Proceed north on Hesperian to Winton and take a left. Winton narrows and soon becomes West Winton, terminating at the gate to the Shoreline. The trip should last approximately 2 1/2 hours and covers one to two miles of easy walking. Last year this area produced a number of rarities including lark bunting, dusky warbler, blue-winged teal, golden plover, cattle egret, merlin and longspurs and there is a small burrowing owl colony nearby.

LEADER SHARON HOM 365-3369

OCT. 17 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING. 7:30 PM at the THURSDAY Audubon Office, 770 El Camino Real, Suite 403 in Belmont. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. Call the office (593-7368) for details and to confirm time and place.

/=====\
/===== 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. \=====

OCT. 27 PIGEON POINT AND AND NUEVO STATE RESERVE. Access SUNDAY to the reserve is being limited and may be subject to restriction without notice so we will begin our trip at the Pigeon Point lighthouse where we will scope for alcids and other waterfowl. Meet outside the gate to the lighthouse premises at 9 AM. To get there take Hwy. 1 south and take a right at the first lighthouse (approximately 22 miles south of Half Moon Bay). Trip will take place, rain or shine although rain, high winds or poor visibility may call for a change in itinerary. Warm clothes, sturdy boots and lunch are recommended. Bring scopes if you have them.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

NOV. 7 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M. MEETING PLACE TO BE THURSDAY DETERMINED. Call the Audubon Office (593-7368) for details. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Watch for details on
THE SECOND ANNUAL SAN MATEO
COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE
in next month's NEEDLES!
PAGE TWO

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

A new fall education program of "Preparing for Winter" begins this month at the Bolinas Preserve.* A full schedule of 42 third through fifth grade classes were signed up by July.

Created by Ray Peterson and the Education Committee of the Volunteer Council headed by Jane Ferguson, it will include a classroom visit with a slide show and a kit containing hands-on learning about photosynthesis, seeds, migrating birds and weather which will prepare each class for a three hour field trip to the Ranch.

"Fall is a great time to observe and learn about spiders," said Mildie Whedon who has also worked on the new program.

There will be a visit under the redwoods, which is off-limits to spring classes, to the pond, the weather station and to the Clem Miller Overlook to observe migrating birds on the lagoon.

Jane pointed out the program is more properly entitled "Preparing in Winter" because in California's mild climate, plants and animals use the rainy winter months to prepare for the more difficult season of summer drought.

It is hoped all children who visit in the spring may also come in the fall and vice-versa so they can observe the seasonal changes.

The new program is similar to the original fall program conducted in the '70s. A trip to the ranch has been optional in the most recent fall program which included four classroom visits and a field trip within walking distance of the school.

(*Recently the ACR Board voted to apply the Audubon Canyon Ranch name collectively to all the properties, which will now be known individually as the Bolinas Preserve, the Cypress Grove Preserve and the Bouverie Preserve. --- Ed.)

The Nature Conservancy's Mile Hi Ranch, located 90 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona in the Huachuca Mountains, now has modern housekeeping cottages available for visitors. The ranch is in the center of one of the most biologically diverse and lovely areas in the South west. The ranch and adjacent Ramsey Canyon are noted by birders as the northernmost range of several Central American species and hummingbirds to be found there.

To arrange a visit or obtain a brochure and birdlist, write the Mile Hi, RR 1, Box 84E, Hereford, Az. 85615 or phone (602) 378-2785.

CONDOR UPDATE

CLIFF RICHER

(Research by Donna Kirsacko)

Our SAS birders who attended the August condor field trip were rewarded - after three hours - with two extraordinary fly-bys. Each bird was in view for more than five minutes, the first approaching within 75 feet and the second within 200. At their closest approach, every detail could be seen without binoculars.

It was a glorious sight - but a sad one. These two birds represented nearly 30% of the total wild population!

Since then one more has been brought into captivity and - under a compromise between state and federal wildlife experts - three more will be taken in.

The compromise plan calls for holding the remaining wild birds on the Hudson Ranch by providing "clean" food uncontaminated by coyote poisons or lead shot. This plan has been followed successfully since July and US Fish and Wildlife and Condor Project scientists believe it can be continued through the winter.

Three birds will be left free. If any of them is lost over the winter, then all will be captured and the condor will become extinct in the wild. If they survive, then some of the captive birds will be released in the spring in an effort to re-establish the species.

Keystone of the survival and release plan is the Hudson Ranch. For years this has been the fall feeding area for the great vultures and this summer's actions give indications that the birds will accept the area in other seasons if food is provided. At this writing, the Hudson Ranch remains in private hands even though money has been appropriated for its purchase. The present owners are willing to sell but would like more than the \$9 million appropriated for this purpose. To this end, and to avoid having to rely on Congress to vote additional funds, they have asked the US Fish and Wildlife Service to take the property by eminent domain. This would then guarantee the owners would receive at least \$9 million and would allow them to pursue their request for additional reimbursement through the courts.

So far, for his own reasons, Interior Secretary Hodel has intervened and stopped the taking procedure. Although he had previously indicated that he would make his decision after Labor Day he has not yet approved (or disapproved) the taking of the Hudson Ranch.

To save the California condor and give it a chance for survival outside of zoos and exotic aviaries we encourage you to petition your representatives and senators, Secretary Hodel and the President to take all necessary steps to acquire the Hudson Ranch without delay.

1985-1986 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

This tentative list of activities for the forthcoming year has been assembled by the Field Trip and SNHS committees for your information and advance planning. Efforts have been made to make date and leadership commitments as firm as possible; However, over the period of a year changes will be inevitable occur and you should check each month's NEEDLES to confirm whether the activity is still scheduled.

NOVEMBER 3 - Sunday	-SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES TRIP- BEHIND THE SCENES AT STEINHART AQUARIUM	Reservations and fee required
NOVEMBER 9-Saturday	John Silliman	PALO ALTO BAYLANDS+
	SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S SECOND ANNUAL WILD GOOSE CHASE	Exact dates and times to be determined
NOVEMBER 23-24 - Saturday & Sunday	Gil West	THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES
DECEMBER 6-7 Friday-Saturday	SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES SEMINAR AND FIELD TRIP - SHOREBIRDS	Bolinas Lagoon Dave Shuford
DECEMBER 14-Saturday	Leader To Be Announced	COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK+
MID-DECEMBER TO EARLY JANUARY	CRYSTAL SPRINGS AND AND NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNTS	Barry Sauppe
Frank Allen	Exact dates to be announced	
JANUARY 7 & 11 Tuesday Evening & Saturday Morning	SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES SEMINAR AND FIELD TRIP - RAPTORS	VASCO VALLEY
	Reservations and Fee Required	Maryanne Danielson
JANUARY 18 - Saturday	Nick Coiro	FOSTER CITY AREA+
JANUARY 26-Sunday	Linda Kypta, Coordinator	PELAGIC TRIP FROM MONTEREY
FEBRUARY 8-Saturday	John Silliman	LOS BANOS REFUGES
FEBRUARY 9-Sunday	Gil West	PANOCHE VALLEY
FEBRUARY 18-Tuesday	SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES	
	"THE DIRTY DOZEN"-SEMINAR FOR BEGINNING BIRDER'S	Reservations Requested Nominal Fee By SAS Birders.
FEBRUARY 22-Saturday	Elgin Juri	PALO ALTO FLOOD CONTROL BASIN+
FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 1 Tuesday and Saturday Evenings	SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES SEMINAR AND FIELD TRIP -- OWLS	Steve Laymon Reservations and Fee Required
MARCH 8-Saturday	Rick Baird	CYPRESS GROVE AND BODEGA BAY
MARCH 16-Sunday	Linda Kypta	RANCHO SAN ANTONIO
MARCH 24-Sunday	To Be Announced	PRINCETON HARBOR+
APRIL 5-Saturday	To Be Announced	SAN FRANCISCO WATERSHED
APRIL 8&12 Tuesday and Saturday	SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES SEMINAR&FIELD TRIP-WILDFLOWERS OF EDGEWOOD PARK	Susan Sommers Reservations and Fee Required
APRIL 20-Sunday	Cliff Richer	MINES ROAD
APRIL 26	Rick Baird	BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE
MAY 3-Saturday	Sharon Hom	JASPER RIDGE AND SEARVILLE LAKE+
MAY 17-Saturday	Fran and Roy Nelson	ALUM ROCK PARK
MAY 23-26-Thursdav-Monday	Cliff Richer	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN DEATH VALLEY
MAY 31-Saturday	SNHS SEMINAR AND FIELD TRIP -- SURVIVAL AND THE FAMILY FARM	Tom Phipps at the Phipps Ranch
	Reservations and Fee Required	
JUNE 7-Saturday-Sunday	Gil West	YUBA PASS
JUNE 21-Saturday	To Be Announced	TIDEPOLLS:FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE
JULY 20-Sunday	To Be Announced	CHARLESTON SLOUGH+
AUGUST 16-17 - Saturday-Sunday	Cliff Richer	CONDOR WATCH (??)
	or	
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1/Thursdav-Monday	Cliff Richer	SALTON SEA SAFARI (???)
SEPTEMBER 14 - Sunday	Linda Kypta	MOSS LANDING
SEPTEMBER 21 - Sunday	Cliff Richer	POINT REYES

+ Indicates the trip is especially suitable for beginners.

The Field Trip Committee wishes to emphasize that these are not absolutely fixed and we expect to add more local trips and many more trip leaders. The tentative schedule reflects the attendance at the September 17 meeting plus those who had indicated a willingness to lead certain trips.

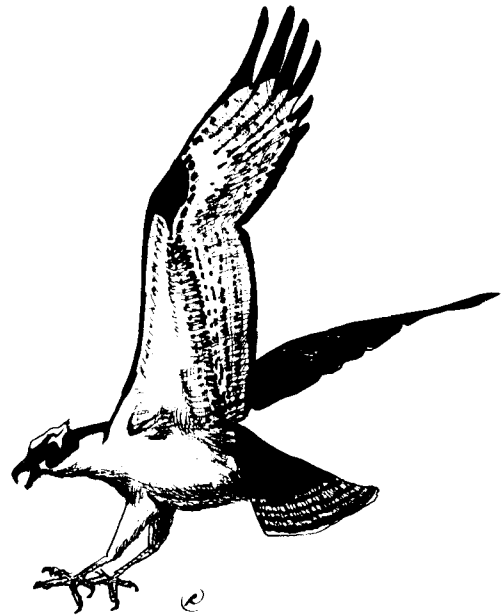
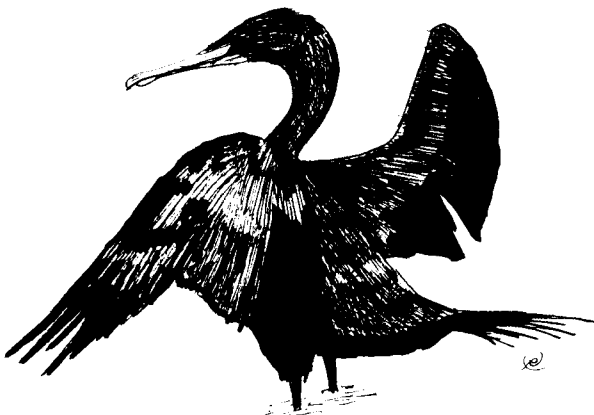
RICHER RAMBLINGS

CLIFF RICHER

Beginning this month and more or less every month hereafter the editor will impose his highly personal thoughts on you in this column. While the subject matter will usually be of some interest to Audubon and Auduboners, the opinions will be strictly the author's.

NOSTALGIA TIME - This subject falls under the "Now It Can Be Told" category. While leafing through the May/June issue of The Nature Conservancy News, I had a sudden sense of *deja vu* and turned back to page 24 where the Conservancy's Frank Bolles Nature Reserve was described. A quick look at the map confirmed that I knew the area well even though I had never been there. Nearly thirty years ago I had written a master's thesis on the management of the wildlife of this particular area and the neighboring Clark Reserve. Since any applicable statutes of limitation must have run their course, I can now admit that I was doing the thesis for a fraternity brother. The research and organization was his, but this normally fearless individual became terrified every time he faced a blank sheet of typing paper, and so I volunteered to help. The collaboration was successful and so I soon found myself in demand from Seniors and Master's candidates in the Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlife Management Departments and developed a needed source of extra income. However, today the only one of these that I remember at all is the first one. My collaborator's research had been so well done, that now, 30 years later, the Nature Conservancy's map fairly leaped off the page and their descriptions and names took me back once again to the north shore of New Hampshire's Lake Chocorua.

NOSTALGIA - PART II. Three years after graduation and five years after "ghosting" this thesis, I returned to the University of New Hampshire for the fraternity's annual clambake. The guest of honor was Dr. Clark Stevens, the retired head of the Wildlife Management Department, whom I had never met before. We were duly introduced and after some idle conversation on both of our parts he remarked, with a slight grin, "You know I was really sorry when you graduated. I enjoyed reading your stuff."



CHEERS FOR TED WILLIAMS - I thought I had given my last cheer for Ted Williams 25 years ago when the great Red Sox hitter retired from baseball. However, when I read the September *Audubon* magazine, I almost rose to my feet in a standing ovation. I assume that Audubon's Ted Williams is not the same person even though he shares a love of the outdoors and outdoor sports with the former left fielder. He also shares an affinity for controversy with his namesake and is often the subject of scathing letters to the editor. A recent column on dove hunting, for example, seemed more suitable for *Field and Stream* than for *Audubon* and certainly offended many Audubon members. After his most recent column we can expect more angry letters from the "Bambi" school of wildlife enthusiast. Williams addresses the environmental havoc being wrought by the herds of feral burros roaming California's deserts. Since I had just read three Sunday supplement features about this "survivor of the Gold Rush days", where I saw it described as "lovable and cute" and learned of the "success" of the BLM's Adopt-A-Burro program in an article as poorly documented as it was emotional, I was delighted to see Mr. Williams "telling it as it is". Whatever your feelings on the matter, it's an article you must read if you have any interest in preserving the deserts' environments.

SPEAKING OF THE BLM-- I've just received a copy of Newsbeat, the official California newsletter of the Bureau of Land Management. A substantial part of their September issue is devoted to Off Highway Motor Vehicles. Now I have little use for these monstrosities or their drivers but I was willing to concede that some advocates of this "sport" might love their mothers, believe in apple pie and the flag and not abuse their children. I am not ready to withdraw these concessions after learning that "BLM Chief Ranger Dennis McLane estimates that three-quarters of the OHV accidents... involve the use of mind-altering substances"!

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

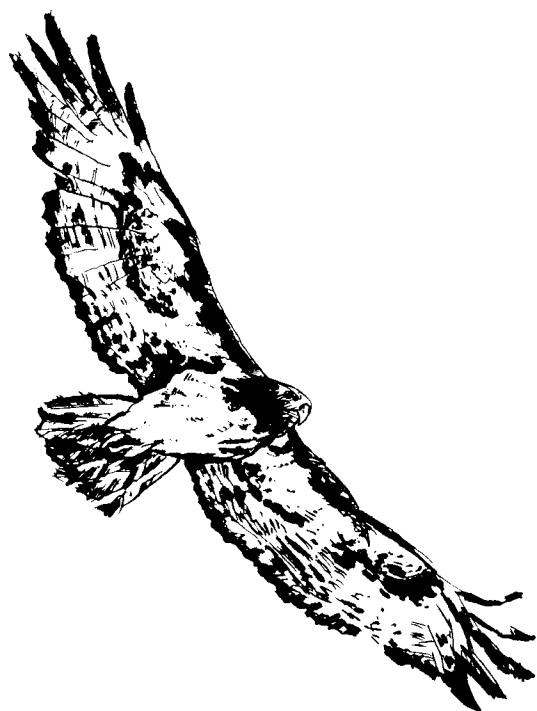
1985-1986

Sequoia Audubon Society

BEHIND THE SCENES AT STEINHART AQUARIUM. November 3, 10:30 - 1:00 PM, at Steinhart Aquarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park. Bruce Hiler, Steinhart biologist, will lead participants on a tour of the inner workings of this top aquarium that features a meeting with Ursula the penguin, a visit to the world famous Fish Roundabout from a different angle, and the chance to "shake hands" with an octopus. Fee: \$6 (includes admission to the Academy).

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION. Lecture, December 6, 7:30 PM - 9:30 in San Mateo (location to be announced); Field trip, December 7, 8 AM - 2 PM, Bolinas Lagoon, Marin County. Dave Shuford, field biologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will give us helpful hints on identifying members of this puzzling group, backed up by slides and study skins. We'll test our new knowledge during the field trip to Bolinas Lagoon. Fee: \$10.

RAPTORS OF THE BAY AREA: Lecture, January 7 (hours and location to be announced); Field trip, January 11, Vasco Road (near Livermore). Maryann Danielson, well-known Bay Area naturalist and educator for Sunbeam Ecology Excursions, will teach us about the abundance of different hawks and eagles found in the Bay Area. We'll see many of them on the field trip to Vasco Road, an uninhabited oak woodland-savannah area. Fee: \$10.



COMING IN THE SPRING:

February - Beginning Birdwatching

March - Owls of San Mateo County

April - Wildflowers of Edgewood Park

May - The Survival of the Family Farm

For more information, contact Sequoia Audubon Society
720 El Camino Real #403
Belmont, CA 94002
(415) 593-7368

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SEMINAR _____ FEE ENCLOSED _____

Make checks out to SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY and send to above address.

SIGN UP NOW!

NEEDED

To complete our library of Audubon Magazine, the office needs these issues:

ANY earlier than 1965;
Mar/Apr'65; Jul/Aug'65; Sep/Oct'65;
May/Jun'68; Sep/Oct'75; Jul/Aug'77;
Nov/Dec'77; Mar/Apr'83; Jan/Feb'84;
Mar/Apr'84; May/Jun'84; Nov/Dec'84;

We also need a benefactor who would be willing to donate forthcoming issues to the office. We do not automatically receive a copy. We must subscribe. Donating your copy or providing us with a subscription would save Sequoia the cost of a membership.

If you have any of these issues please call Donna at the Audubon office (593-7368). We also have extra copies of some issues available FREE to anyone who wants them to cut photoes and articles or fill in the gaps in your personal collection.

SIERRA CLUB PROGRAM

On Monday, October 7 the San Francisco Chapter of the Sierra Club will present a fifteen minute slide show entitled "The Ultimate Environmental Issue". Billed as a "powerful and moving" statement against the global nuclear arms race, it will be narrated by Steve Rauh. Admission is free and is open to the general public. 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Church, corner of Santa Ynez and Ellsworth in San Mateo.

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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DESPERATELY NEEDED! JEAN ALLEN RESIGNS AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMAN NEW CHAIRPERSON AND CIRCULATION EDITOR NEEDED

Jean Allen tendered her resignation as membership chairwoman at the September meeting of the Board of Directors. In order to allow time to find replacement and to make for an orderly transition, the resignation is effective January 1.

It is imperative that this vital position be filled as quickly as possible by one - or more - dedicated members. As presently constituted this job requires from 8 to 20 hours per month...but - as is usual with the Allens - Jean has done far more than is required of the job. For example, Jean - with considerable help from Frank - has been in charge of mailing out the newsletter for years, and last year assumed the additional responsibility of seeing that it was properly collated and folded as well. And in most months the Allens have also taken care of the delivery to and pickup from the printer.

So, we are losing not only a Membership position but a Circulation Editor as well. Both are vital positions that must be filled before the first of the year. The job(s) could be filled by one, two or even three or four individuals and with the exception of mailing out the newsletter, all of the work can be done as your other commitments may dictate.

For more information, call any of the officers or directors or the Audubon office (593-7368).



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

There are approximately thirty different local authorities which have jurisdiction over development projects on the Peninsula between San Francisco and San Jose. These are basically the cities and counties within that area. There is another series of organizations who are involved at times. This includes organizations such as BCDC, ABAG and MTA. The effect this group of organizations has on specific development is minimal because of various charter and/or membership composition.

It is unfortunate, but nevertheless true, that none of the authorities which have the power to approve new development projects presently are required to consider regional impacts in their decision making process.

How can this be? Actually the answer is fairly simple. Each of the city and county jurisdictions presently have almost total authority within their jurisdiction. There is no state or federal requirement or agency beyond these local authorities which mandates analysis of the regional impact of specific development plans nor, more importantly, the cumulative impact of the total developmental plan of these jurisdictions. Projects are approved based solely on the net effect of a specific project on that specific jurisdiction. This often means projects being approved because of a short term economic gain to the city or county, even though the overall costs of the project on a regional basis may be far greater than any benefits ever derived from that project.

The net effect of this lack of regional planning is already seen every day by thousands of commuters as we sit in the Highway 101, 17 or 238 "parking lots". It is seen within many cities on clogged city streets. It is further seen as bay lands, tidal marshes and bay wetlands are being drained and plowed under to provide the space for this massive amount of development. Even the so-called "clean" and therefore attractive industries of yesteryear have been found to have allowed toxic wastes to permeate our water supplies with disastrous results in some areas.

Today the cumulative impact to the Peninsula of projects either approved or publicly announced is staggering. Tomorrow it will be even worse if a change is not made in the existing approval

PROTECTING WETLANDS

Concern for the existence of historic diked wetlands in San Francisco Bay has prompted seven Bay Area Congressional Representatives to make formal request of the Environmental Protection Administration to resolve problems at these sites.

In a July 26 letter to Lee Thomas, Administrator of the EPA, the Congressional group, who represent all counties bordering San Francisco Bay, voiced fears over "intensive development pressures" and associated proliferation of incompatible activities currently "threatening the natural resource diked wetlands" that "have unique values" including "purification of urban runoff, floodwater storage, recharge of underground aquifers, improvement of air quality, as well as the provision of refuge, nesting sites and food reserves without which migratory waterfowl could not survive."

process. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO CORRECT THIS MAJOR PROBLEM!

There are several avenues we might take to help correct this lack of regional planning. One avenue would be to set up a planning agency which would be responsive to regional concerns and have a role in the approval process of the various development projects. Although this is one answer, it has many drawbacks. It would become another level of government and would be most difficult to sell to the cities and counties and their politicians - much less to the public.

We may find a better answer if we look at what has provided the public with the greatest protection from uncontrolled development in the recent past. These are the NEPA and SEQA laws. These regulations have a parallel in the Uniform Building Code which is also used by most jurisdictions. The basic concept behind these laws is they don't tell anyone how they must do anything, nor do they require any additional layers of government. These laws simply say what general criteria must be considered when the jurisdictions are in the decision making process on a project.

This approach to regional planning seems to offer the most promising avenue to explore. It would not take any of the present powers away from the local jurisdiction. It would mandate that they consider additional regional criteria in their decision making process. Politically, with the current state of affairs, this approach could have great public appeal and thus should be much easier to accomplish through the State Legislature.

Obviously this type of effort would require a great deal of leadership and support. Audubon chapters, through BAAC, may be able to be a lead organization in such an effort. The support of other organizations is, of course, a must if there is to be any chance for success in getting such a regulation through the State Legislature.

It will be a major effort with many pitfalls along the way. However, if successful, it would have an extremely beneficial effect on the quality of life on the Peninsula in the years to come.

REGIONAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS - HAS THEIR TIME COME? It's up to you!

MARY BRESLER

While praising the Corps of Engineers for their handling of the Cullinan Ranch Marina Proposal in Vallejo and the San Francisco District for implementation of guidelines, the legislators doubted that the COE has the ability* to protect sensitive wetland sites and asked the EPA to provide a status report and action plan to resolve problems within 60 days.

Six sites of greatest concern are:

1. Perry-Arrilaga Proposal (Newark)
2. Renco (Fremont)
3. Stauffer Chemical Company (Martinez)
4. Revolting Development Company (Vallejo)
5. Turk Island Duck Club
(Franco Baretta Proposal) Union City
6. Baumberg Tract, Hayward

The signatories included Representatives Burton, Boxer, Edwards, Miller, Dellums & Minetta.

SAWDUST
(Continued from Page One)

Cliff Richer then reported on a number of items, apologizing that - because of work commitments - he had been unable to personally and individually invite key people to the September 17 Field Trip Planning Session but that he hoped to be able to do so within the next ten days. He indicated that one of the items in the Field Trips budget had been the purchase of a first aid kit for approximately \$50. and wished to apprise the Board. No objections and several valuable suggestions were received. He also announced that in accordance with the Board's actions in the June meeting that he had proceeded with the purchase of a computer, printer, furniture and accessories at a total cost of slightly less than the allocated \$3000. and had received a donation of word-processing and spreadsheet software and a supply of used, but reusable, diskettes from a source that preferred to remain anonymous. The retail value of this donation is approximately \$700-900. He then sought permission from the Board to join a computer users' group and obtain any public-domain software that might be useful and available. Cliff stated that if permission were obtained he would fund any expenditures as a contribution to the chapter. A motion to that effect was made, seconded and passed without debate.

Linda Kypta reported on her conversations with a representative of Capitol Cities, reiterating many of the points made in last month's *NEEDLES* article and emphasizing her belief that their corporate interest in the environment was more than just lip service. Rick Baird reported on the current status of the Pescadero Marsh restoration and presented the Board with a copy of the hydrology survey done by Doctor Curry of UC Santa Cruz. He also reported on the outcome of discussions with John Wade on the relationship of Sequoia and Peninsula Open Space Trust in this project. No action was recommended to the Board at this time.

Donna Kirsacko reported that we had been asked to assist in sponsoring the State of the Coast Conference to be held at the College of San Mateo in February. A contribution of \$400. would be required. The Board decided there was insufficient information on which to act and postponed taking any action until more information was forthcoming.

Anne Scanlan-Rohrer provided the Board with copies of the finished educational brochure on the Marsh and with some materials to be used in a Teachers' Guide to Pescadero Marsh. These were prepared by two students at UC Santa Cruz who were partially funded by a grant from Sequoia's Pescadero Marsh Committee.

The agenda item provoking the greatest debate was the proposal to revive the campership scholarship program. Many of the Board members were unfamiliar with the previous program and some felt that the program should be re-implemented with youths - rather than adults - in mind. Since the Board lacked sufficient information on which to make a decision further debate was tabled until the October meeting. Donna Kirsacko was requested to investigate the alternatives. After routine reports from the staff and from the Conservation Committee and a brief outline of the BirdWatchers' Digest subscription program from Cliff Richer, Donna Kirsacko announced that the Sears Savings Bank would be closing its San Mateo branch and that a new meeting place would have to be found for the Board meetings. After a short discussion of possible meeting sites, Donna was requested to investigate these possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.

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Ernestine Harvey has 9 Audubon prints - all properly matted and "beautifully framed" which she is offering for sale. Call 364-3219 for further information.

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< SAWDUST is the Editor's unofficial >
< notes from the Board meeting. The >
< official minutes and copies of the >
< Treasurer's and Audit Reports may >
< be obtained from the office after >
< their reading and acceptance by the >
< Board. >
<~~~~~>

BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST

"Bird Watcher's Digest" is a chatty, non-technical - but informative - magazine, published bimonthly in Marietta, Ohio.

Most of the articles have appeared elsewhere before - in newspapers, newsletters, and magazines - and tend toward personal birding experiences. Contributors come from all over the country and are usually weekend birders rather than professional writers or ornithologists. The most notable exceptions are Roger Tory Peterson and the Stokes' - Donald and Lillian.

Peterson is a regular contributor - appearing monthly - and, befitting a man of his prominence and experience, indulges in a great deal of reminiscence and comparison of "then and now".

The Stokes are the authors of the popular behavior guides series and write a monthly column, "The Behavior Watcher's Notebook".

Subscriptions to this little gem are only \$11.00 per year and can be ordered through SAS. Subscription enrollment forms and sample copies of the magazine will be available for examination at the monthly meetings.

For new subscribers, a portion of the subscription fee is tax-deductible as a donation since Sequoia Audubon keeps almost half of the first year's subscription price. More details will be available at the meeting or call Cliff Richer (355-4058) or the Audubon Office (593-7368).

CALIF. WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

The first California Wilderness Conference will be held at the Visalia Convention Center on Oct. 25-27. This will be the largest gathering of environmental leaders ever assembled in California. As of Labor Day there were 500 confirmed attendees. Program and seminar participants include Senators Cranston and Wilson (possibly personally - but at least represented by staff); Delegations from the offices of Representatives Rick Lehman and Charles Pashavan; National Audubon's Brock Evans; and leaders from many environmental organizations.

Registration is \$15 until October 15, \$20 thereafter. Call or write to Bob Barnes, California Wilderness Coalition, PO Box 269, Porterville, Ca. 93258. Telephone (209) 784-4477.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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

IN MEMORY OF ANN ELIZABETH NEWMAN

Byron and Sheila Davies

IN MEMORY OF MARY KEOHANE

Frank and Jean Allen

Beth M. Payne

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