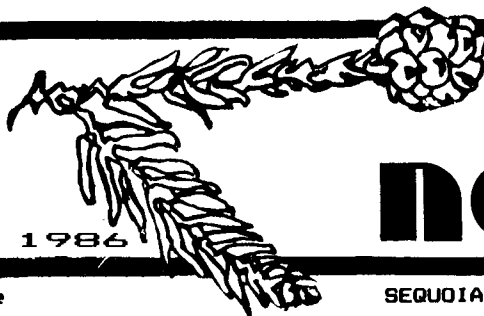




# sequoia needles

March 1986

Vol. 34, No. 7

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

## SAS' GENERAL MEETING

Kevin McRae, a member of Santa Clara Audubon, will give a presentation of falconry as it is currently practiced in the United States. It will include a narrated slide show, a question-answer segment and a live raptor exhibit of birds used in falconry. The talk will focus on the art and science of hunting with raptors and quarry, and the legal status of the discipline today in 1986.

Kevin has given this talk to several conservation organizations including the Santa Clara and Napa-Sonoma Audubon Society, where it was extremely well-received.

He lives and works in San Jose and has practiced falconry for over four years.

The program will be preceded by a Social Mixer at 7:30 PM and the General Meeting at 8:00. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

## NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Skip Schwartz, Executive Director of Audubon Canyon Ranch, will be our featured speaker. His appearance coincides with the height of the herons' nesting activities at the Ranch and will provide a fitting accompaniment for any trip you may be planning to the heronry.

## LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Barry Sauppe went well beyond the field guides in teaching us a few of the tricks he has learned in 8000 hours of concentrated field work on identifying pelagic species. Despite the blustery weather, the meeting was well attended and note-takers were numerous.

## SAS' OFFICE RE-OPENS

Sequoia Audubon's office at 720 El Camino Real is once again open with regular hours. Our new hours are 9 AM to 12 noon Monday through Thursday.

Our new office coordinator is Liz Smith an experienced office worker with an interest in wildlife and in conservation as evidenced by her work as a volunteer at Wildlife Rescue for the past several years.

## GETTING INVOLVED

In the last two months the lead stories have been about people who were getting involved and the extraordinary ways in which some of them had come forward to help out.

Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, we've had a decided return to passivity.

Exception number one is Charles Newman who has become our newest Board member. Charles has been a member of SAS for more than twenty years and is well known to our monthly general meeting regulars as the narrator, photographer and recorder of the popular "Bird of the Month" presentations. Charles is a Past President, having served in that office for two years from 1970 to 1972 and is a welcome addition to our executive body.

Pete and Donna Petersen have once again consented to act as coordinators for our Audubon Ranch Hosting stint this year. They have been members for more than six years and - individually and collectively - have served the Chapter in a number of capacities. Nominating Committee, Hospitality and Field Trip Leadership are only three of the areas in which they have been active. We're happy to welcome them back to this important task.

Win Dye has been successful in completing the make-up of the Nominating Committee. Louise Fletcher, a member of SAS since 1966, and Roy Nelson, a 16 year SAS member, will be joining Win in assembling a slate of officers for approval at the General Meeting in June. Both have been active in attending meetings and field trips and have stayed current with the activities at SAS and will also bring a historical perspective to their deliberations. Roy is one of our most erudite and respected field trip leaders and Louise will be arranging and leading a field trip to Jasper Ridge in the near future.

After this however we are left with a spate of openings and a dearth of volunteers. The office of Secretary remains unfilled as do the important Finance, Membership and Publicity Committee chairs. The Sequoia Natural History Series needs a coordinator and its time to form an Awards Committee again.

It's obvious that over the years we have come to depend on a very few people to do most of the "nuts and bolts" work of the organization. For years it was the Allens who were always there and could always be counted on to do what had to be done. This year the burden has fallen increasingly on Linda Kypta who has performed admirably.

But there is a limit to what one individual or a few individuals can do. "Burn out" is not restricted to business or the professions. Enthusiasm turns quickly to apathy when it seems that no one else cares about the objectives of the organization or is willing to do the work necessary to achieve those objectives.

(Continued on Page Four)

## CALENDAR

| March 1986 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun        | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|            |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| 2          | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9          | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16         | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23         | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 30         | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |

**MARCH 1 SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES SEMINAR AND FIELD SATURDAY TRIP -- OWLS.** Many creatures of the night - bats, rattlesnakes and scorpions - are regarded with fear and loathing. Yet the most efficient predators of the night are universally regarded with affection. Owls - with their large eyes, super-sensitive hearing, silent flight and sharp claws are capable of hunting in the daytime and often do, but it is after dark that their special adaptations give them an immense advantage over their prey. Steve Laymon has been studying these fascinating creatures for years and will share his knowledge and experience with us. 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Sears Saving Bank in the Carlmont Shopping Center at the intersection of Ralston Ave. and the Alameda del la Pulgas in Belmont. The exact time and meeting place for the evening field trip will be announced at that time.

Owling is far from an exact science and there can be no guarantee of any success. It can be the most frustrating and the most rewarding birding of all. Patience, quiet and a powerful flashlight or lantern are all helpful and an experienced leader is essential but the main requirement is luck. Our previous owl seminar had everything except the last. *This one should have everything.*

SEMINAR LEADER

STEVE LAYMON

Enrollment Limited -- Reservations and \$10.00 Fee Required  
Send your check made out to Sequoia Audubon to:

Sequoia Audubon Society  
720 El Camino Real, Suite 403  
Belmont, California 94002

Please make sure that you include your name, address and telephone number and indicate that the check is for the Owl seminar. Reservations will be confirmed in the order in which checks are received.

**MARCH 6 SAS BOARD MEETING.** 7:30 PM at the Bank of America THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

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

**MARCH 8 THE FIELD TRIP TO CYPRESS GROVE HAS BEEN CANCELLED SATURDAY** due to problems caused by the recent storms. An attempt will be made to reschedule it.

**MARCH 13 SAS GENERAL MEETING.** FALCONRY with KEVIN MC RAE. THURSDAY At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See page one for further details.

**MARCH 16 MARSH ROAD FIELD TRIP.** Atherton, like Mountain SUNDAY View, is converting a land fill into a bayshore park. Early indications are that this should produce a premier birding area. Shorebirds, ducks and gulls have always been found in this area. Recent explorations

(Continued on Page Three)

## AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Friends:

As you may already know, I have resigned as Sequoia's part time office coordinator and am now working full time for the Committee for Green Foothills in Palo Alto. I have requested this opportunity to tell you that I have really enjoyed working with you in my capacities as volunteer, Board Director, and office coordinator over the 12 years since 1974 when I joined Sequoia. Time after time you have shown the greatest warmth, enthusiasm and friendliness in welcoming new people and fresh ideas. Three years ago I felt it was a high vote of confidence to have been allowed to mold my ideas for a natural history series and an award program into substantive and successful endeavors. Your support for these programs has been most gratifying.

These years have been a wonderful learning process for me. I would especially like to thank Wilma Rockman, who is now living in Arcata, for her tutelage and support. I thank all of you for having made my years of involvement with Sequoia fun, challenging and rewarding. Perhaps we'll meet on a birdwatching trip; in any case, I hope you will feel free to call me or visit me at the Green Foothills office in the Peninsula Conservation Center.

With great affection,  
DONNA KIRSACK

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

We have a number of Field Trips coming up for which advance reservations will be requested or required. Because of the distances involved or the necessity for making lodging or traveling arrangements it will be necessary to know if there is sufficient interest in the trip before undertaking it.

MAY 3 -SATURDAY- JASPER RIDGE/SEARSVILLE LAKE (Limited access.)

MAY 10/11 -SATURDAY/SUNDAY-. YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY. (Distance, accomodations)

MAY 23/27 - FRIDAY through TUESDAY - MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN DEATH VALLEY (Accomodations and travel arrangements)

LATE AUGUST - CONDOR WATCH or SALTON SEA SAFARI (Condor status, distance, accomodations, travel arrangements)

At this time we only need to know your interest not a commitment. If you are interested in any of the above please call the office (593-7368) or Cliff Richer (355-4058). We will call you back later for a confirmation or to advise you of any changes.

## HIGHWAYS VERSUS MASS TRANSIT

Last month we ran two articles side by side dealing with this issue. The purpose was two-fold. First to provoke some debate and secondly, to provide two articles which used identical fallacies to prove opposite points.

The exercise appears to have been a failure on both counts. The only comment received was not addressed to the newsletter or to the editor and so cannot be reprinted here. My recollection of it however is that it made two points. The first was that Jerry Meral, author of the "pro" article was the highly respected Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League and the second was contemptuous of anyone who believed that energy costs were higher for rapid transit than for highways. Neither of these statements was at issue in the two articles.

Thus our letter writers themselves provided a third example of the fallacy upon which the original two articles were based. Depending upon the context in which it is used, this fallacy goes by a number of different names. I call it the "straw man" fallacy. It is abundant in California political advertising and is used extensively by both despoilers and defenders of the environment in their arguments. The operation of the fallacy is simple. First you set up your "straw man", a weak argument that can easily be refuted, and then you proceed to refute it. The assumption - sometimes stated, more often tacit - is that the straw man represents the opponent's point of view or a deplorable situation that needs correction.

Let's examine the straw men in the two articles. In Jerry Meral's article he writes, "The rate of population growth is highest in counties which are poorly served by public transportation and where local governments spend the least on this important service." This is a true statement (as were all statements made in both articles) but the counties in question are the desert counties of San Bernadino and Riverside whose vast areas and diverse reasons for growth pose a whole set of problems among which mass transit is scarcely yet a priority.

In my article, I set up my straw man tacitly. Jerry Meral's article dealt with mass transit. My article chose to ignore this and addressed only rapid transit rail lines - the most vulnerable link in the mass transit chain.

The moral of all this; unless you're watching The Wizard of Oz, beware of straw men.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Monterey Rare Bird Alert has a new telephone number, (408) 449-6100.

## CALENDAR (Continued from Page Two)

have added Lapland longspurs, peregrine falcons and merlins to the birds seen here. This will be a walking tour on new paths and trails with some easy grades and - weather permitting - may include a short hike on the levees of the bayfront. To get there take the Marsh Road exit off Highway 101 and proceed east on Marsh Road. At the traffic lights proceed straight ahead through the gates and continue straight ahead until you come to a locked gate with a parking area on the right. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:00 AM. Heavy rain cancels the trip which should last until noon.

LEADER LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

MARCH 22 PRINCETON HARBOR. The only sheltered harbor between Santa Cruz and San Francisco, Princeton Harbor is winter home to a good variety of bay ducks, loons, cormorants and other divers as well as gulls and shorebirds. More than 100 species were seen in this area on the Christmas Count. Oldsquaws, glaucous gulls, and rock sandpipers were seen here this winter and the area almost always has one or two surprises like last year's fork-tailed storm-petrel. Snowy plovers and brant can be expected at this time of year and some of the shorebirds and loons should be changing into their breeding plumages. To get there take Hwy. 1 to Capistrano Rd. Take the first left into the marina area and continue straight ahead to the "remote" parking area where we will meet at 9:00 AM. From there we will carpool to other areas where parking is more limited. This will be a short level walk (1 to 3 miles) with some areas of broken and possibly slippery footing, so boots are recommended. The exact itinerary will depend upon weather, tides and current scouting reports. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

MARCH 22 NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE SATURDAY 1986 at Asilomar Conference Center on the Monterey Peninsula. This year's main themes are The Protection of Old Growth Forests and Wetlands. New MARCH 25 TUESDAY National Audubon President Peter Berle will be the Keynote Speaker.

| April 1986 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun        | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|            |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6          | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13         | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20         | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27         | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |

APRIL 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

APRIL 5 BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING. At the San Mateo SATURDAY Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. All members are welcome. Refreshments will be available at 9:30 A.M. with the meeting starting at 10:00. Bring a lunch. Sequoia Audubon is hosting and volunteers are needed to bake cookies, breakfast rolls or just plain munchies and to assist in preparation. Call the office (593-7368), Rick Baird (574-1067) or Mary Bresler (994-3587)

APRIL 8 SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SEMINAR -- WILDFLOWERS OF TUESDAY EDGEWOOD PARK with SUSAN SOMMERS. Serpentine soil is deficient in many of the nutritive elements required by most plants. But since "Nature abhors a vacuum" some plants adapted to survive and even thrive in this inhospitable medium. Among the plants that have adapted are many wildflowers. By mid-April these should be in full bloom. In her lecture Ms. Sommers will discuss the delicate (Continued on Page Four)

## CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Three)

balance that enables wildflowers to survive where even the hardier weeds cannot and will illustrate the plants that can be expected. 7:30 at the at the Sears Saving Bank in the Carlmont Shopping Center at the intersection of Ralston Ave. and the Alameda del la Pulgas in Belmont. The exact time and meeting place for the Saturday field trip will be announced at that time.

### SEMINAR LEADER

SUSAN SOMMERS

Enrollment Limited -- Reservations and \$10.00 Fee Required  
Send your check made out to Sequoia Audubon to:  
Sequoia Audubon Society  
720 El Camino Real, Suite 403  
Belmont, California 94002

Please make sure that you include your name, address and telephone number and indicate that the check is for the Wildflower Seminar. Reservations will be confirmed in the order in which checks are received.

APRIL 10 SAS GENERAL MEETING. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH with THURSDAY SKIP SCHWARTZ. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NAS VACATIONS

If you're looking for a different vacation, let your senses run wild with these National Audubon opportunities:

**WILDERNESS RESEARCH BACKPACK:** Participate in an extensive, ongoing research effort by Audubon biologists while back-packing in the spectacular Wind River Mountains. Learn the skills of bird-banding, animal censusing, insect survey and collection, plant identification and herbarium collection. Small groups of 10 persons will accompany our research staff on 12-day expeditions. Moderate hiking ability is needed to cover 5-7 miles daily. Time is also allowed for fishing and relaxing.

**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM:** The Wind River Mountains and Yellowstone National Park are the settings for this field seminar on the use of 35mm camera equipment. Professional photographers Bill Ratcliffe and Perry Conway will guide you in photographing mountain scenery and wildlife.

**AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMP IN WYOMING:** Clear, star-filled nights, evening campfires by snow-fed Torrey Creek, and the time spent among bighorn sheep, moose, mink, beaver, otter and eagles highlight this adult camp. The setting is a glaciated valley 7500 feet high in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains among 13000 ft. snow-capped peaks. Unique birds, mammals, insects and flowers are tools in the art of understanding this rugged mountain environment. There's also time for hiking, rock climbing, square dancing, canoeing and volleyball - plus an optional trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. The facilities include original homestead cabins, providing rustic yet comfortable accommodations.

For a free brochure and registration information, call or write the National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, Co., 80303 (303/499-5409)

## ENDANGERED SPECIES CHECKOFF

Give a few dollars to the Rare and Endangered Species Program on Line 90 of your California Income Tax Form. Your donations are tax-deductible on your Federal Form and go to the highly successful program of wildlife and habitat preservation on statelands, administered by the Department of Fish and Game. Come tax time do something that will really help.

## GETTING INVOLVED

(Continued From Page One)

Recently the members of SAS had a unique opportunity to affirm their commitment to the preservation of wildlife and enhancement of the environment. A small spill resulted in the death or oiling of thousands of oceanic birds. The Humane Society and Wildlife Rescue were deluged beyond their capacity and sent out calls for help. Volunteers came from the County, from San Francisco and from the East Bay but, appallingly, only two - Winkie Lennihan and Linda Kypta - represented SAS. Elgin Juri in a separate volunteer effort walked the beaches of Anu Nuevo. Where were the rest of us? Some of us had good excuses - work, prior commitments, allergies, etc. - but were they good enough? And where were the rest of us? Money and materials came from a number of sources and we would hope that SAS' members were well represented. But where were the rest of us? After two weeks, the birds still would not come clean; some were dying; volunteers were physically and spiritually exhausted; and where were the rest of us?

Perhaps some of you were there, quietly and anonymously. If so, we apologize. But overall, this was a very disappointing demonstration of our individual and organizational commitments.

One person whose commitment is never in doubt and who often works quietly and anonymously is Mary Bresler. Mary never does the flashy or obvious things but she is our conservation conscience. Mary has been a resident of California for just a little more than two years but in that short time has become as knowledgeable and effective as most conservation-minded natives. She is an outstanding example of how to get involved quickly. From nearly her first day as a member of SAS she was a member of the Conservation Committee and was pointed out as a possible future member of the Board of Directors. Even before being appointed to the Board, Mary began attending its meetings and reporting on Conservation matters. When the Secretary's position became vacant Mary was the obvious choice and served in that capacity until her election as a director last year. In addition she agreed to serve as one of our representatives to the Bay Area Audubon Council. This year, when Emily Freeman, our elected Secretary moved to Bakersfield, Mary volunteered to perform the duties of that office until a new Secretary could be found. Like Frank, Jean and Linda, Mary is one of those people who we often take for granted. In your editor's opinion, there is no higher tribute.

*(Mary is not Conservation Chairwoman and there is no official title of Conservation Conscience, but in recognition of her activity and interest in this area you will find her name listed under Conservation on Page Eight -- Ed.)*

# THE MOUNTAIN LION FOLLIES

CLIFF RICHER

The California Department of Fish and Game - which in the past has impressed me as being one of the most enlightened in the nation - has come up with a plan that is so grotesque, so manic and so contrary to all current principles of wildlife management that it is all but impossible to believe.

The euphemistically named North Kings Proposal is a deer management program that calls for the killing of every mountain lion in a 250 square mile area of US Forest Service Lands in Fresno County and half of the mountain lions in an adjacent buffer zone (most of which lay in the John Muir Wilderness Area). The number of animals affected is estimated to be somewhere between 90 and 150!

The overwhelmingly negative public reaction - from hunters as well as the general public - has apparently caused this plan to be withdrawn but hard information is difficult to obtain. Normally open and cooperative Fish and Game personnel are being unusually evasive and we have on two occasions been referred to senior officials who always seem to be in conference and who do not return telephone calls.

The hastily assembled Mountain Lion Coalition, a group of concerned and responsible conservationists from groups like the Wildlife Conservancy and Friends of the River have

apparently had little better luck despite the support and encouragement of the responsible and respected lobbyists from the Preservation and Conservation League.

The proposal apparently has some politically powerful support somewhere and is likely to resurface at some future date, perhaps as early as the March or April meetings of the DFG.

Let's try to bury this one completely. Please write to:

Mr. Jack Parnell, Director,  
Department of Fish & Game,  
1416 9th Street. 12th Floor  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

or

Mr. Brian Kahn,  
California Fish & Game Commission,  
1416 9th Street. 12th Floor  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

In addition to urging the Commission to reject any such proposal, I would suggest that you demand to know who is responsible for this scheme so that you can work for his or her removal from office or position of responsibility. I would personally feel far safer in the state of California with its mountain lion population intact and its number of DFG officials reduced by at least one.

\*\*\*\*\*

*San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching* is Sequoia Audubon Society's guide to birding sites in San Francisco and San Mateo County. More than 30 different spots are described and accompanied by maps, directions and helpful notes about each spot. A 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. Only \$10.78 (Taxes, shipping and handling included).

Also available by mail - including postage and tax

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| National Geographic Field Guides | \$16.00 |
| Birding at the Bottom of the Bay | 8.25    |
| Mono Lake Guidebooks             | 7.60    |
| Birds of the Sacramento Area     | 4.50    |

Send checks to:

|                                  |                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allow 14-18 days<br>for delivery | Sequoia Audubon Society<br>720 El Camino Real #403<br>Belmont, Ca. 94002 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS



**San Francisco  
Peninsula  
Birdwatching**

## UC EXTENSION LECTURE SERIES

To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the University of California's Natural Reserve System the UC Berkeley and UCLA Extension Programs will present "In Celebration of Nature," a five week series of lectures at both campuses featuring distinguished professionals discussing their visions of the natural world.

The series will take place on consecutive wednesdays in April and May: April 16: 23: 30; May 7 and 14 at Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley. The low \$40 fee is made possible in part by funding from the Office of Statewide University Extension. Single admissions (\$9) will be sold at the door if space permits.

Speakers and topics will include:

April 16 ROBERT BATEMAN  
Internationally acclaimed Canadian wildlife artist - "An Artist's Unique Perception of Natural Landscapes."

April 23 JOSEPH SAX  
Educator and author (*Mountains without Handrails*) - "The Interdependence of Conservation & Sustainable Development."

April 30 THOMAS LOVEJOY  
Exec.VP, Wildlife Fund-US - "The Importance of the Design of Natural Areas to Conservation Biology."

May 7 IAN MCHARG  
Educator and author (*Design with Nature*) - An Ecological Approach to Environmental Planning and Landscape Design."

May 14 PETER RAVEN  
Director, Missouri Botanical Garden - "The Value of Genetic Resources from Our Natural Ecosystems to Agriculture, Medicine and Industry."

For complete program details and a brochure, write or call:  
Division of Letters and Science, UC Berkeley Extension, 2223  
Fulton St., Berkeley, Ca. 94720, (Telephone 642-1061)

\*\*\*\*\*

## FIELD TRIPS

We welcome all of you on our field trips - members and non-members, young and old, beginner and expert. Our field trips are educational and *fun*; come get acquainted with your local wildlife and with your local Auduboners. Meet new and old friends, both human and bird! Enjoy the fresh air and open sky, but be sure to dress for the weather.

Our field trips are free of charge except for fees charged by state and county parks and shared transportation expenses.

Enjoying nature is one of the least expensive hobbies around. We usually have an extra pair of binoculars and a field guide or two that can be borrowed if you want to investigate before investing.

A few of our long-distance field trips may require reservations so that we can coordinate travel and lodging but we've never refused stragglers from other groups or passers-by who've asked to join us.

All of our leaders are volunteers. All were beginners at one time and many of us still think we are. All of us love passing on what we may know of the out-doors. Come and join us!

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The December 20 issue of the "San Mateo Times" featured as Plant of the Week, a Christmas cactus grown by Jean Durick of Burlingame. Jean has been a member of SAS since 1977 and served as Secretary from 1982 to 1983.

Christmas cacti (*Zygocactus truncatus*) are epiphytes from the forests of South America.

Dr. & Mrs. W. B. Freedman (Bill and Louise) were featured in the January 8 issue of the "Hillsborough and Burlingame Boutique and Village" pursuing one of their favorite hobbies - mushroom-hunting. They have been members of SAS since 1965. Louise's mushroom recipes will appear in the upcoming book "Wild about Mushrooms, the Cookbook of the San Francisco Mycological Society of San Francisco"

## BIRDS OF MARIN

The Marin Parks and Recreation Dept. presents "A Rite to Spring", a narrated slide presentation featuring the birds of Marin by Gordon Sherman on Thursday, March 20 at 8:00 PM at the Showcase Theatre of the Marin Civic Center. Admission is free.

Well known naturalist Bob Stewart has said of this presentation, "I have seen many slide programs, but I have seen nothing to match Gordon's performances. A retired business man, he is passionate about his photography and works full time at it. From a unique floating blind he literally goes into the birds' world; he has captured them on film in a fresh new way. The presentation of these images comes through a man who has had diverse interests and is, in a nutshell, eloquent."

## TICK ALERT

Please take special precautions when hiking in the moist coastal hills or Sierra Foothills throughout the rainy season. Lyme disease is carried by the Western black-legged tick and you or your companions may be infected. Victims are often not aware of being bitten, but if symptoms (including vague muscle aches, swollen glands, heart palpitations, temporary paralysis) should occur 2-10 days after an excursion, be sure and contact your doctor. Treatment with tetracycline has proven effective but early recognition and treatment are important.

Never break off a tick if you find one imbedded. Smearing it with Vaseline or other similar material will deprive it of oxygen and will force the tick to back itself out.

(Reprinted from the Feb. 86 *Madrone Leaves*, monthly newsletter of the Madrone Audubon Society of Santa Rosa)

## COASTAL CONFERENCE

The Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation is sponsoring a public education conference with speakers and panel discussions on coastal issues, workshops and field trips to points of interest on the San Mateo Coast.

Sequoia Audubon is a co-sponsor of the event along with many other conservation and public service groups.

The program will consist of a panel of distinguished speakers on Coastal Management, the California Coastal Act, and the status and future of the Coastal Commission. Additional speakers on offshore oil drilling; ocean incineration and garbage disposal; Devil's Slide; the County General Plan; and problems of agriculture, fisheries, marine mammals, habitat preservation, coastal access and recreational facilities are expected. There will be showings of the KQED programs, "Trouble on the Coast" and "Oasis" about the Cordell Banks.

Field trips to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Cascade Ranch, Pescadero Marsh (conducted by SAS), Agricultural Lands, Ano Nuevo and Montara Mountain (Devil's Slide) will be conducted in the afternoon.

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the Coastside Community & Senior Center, 535 Kelly Ave., Half Moon Bay. The registration fee is \$15 and includes both the program and a field trip. Lunch is available for pre-registered at additional cost. To pre-register or for more information call the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation at 415-328-5313.

You may also register the day of the Conference. Registration begins at 9:15 AM, the program at 10:00 and the field trips at 2:30 PM.

## GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

Golden Trout Camp is a semi-primitive high-altitude camp at 10000 ft. near Mt. Whitney and west of the Owens Valley. It can be reached only by a 2.5 mile trail. Accommodations are in dormitory (4-6 persons) tents with canvas cots for which you provide your own sleeping bags. There is an outdoor washstand and an indoor hot (sometimes) shower. Meals are provided. There are daily hikes with naturalist guides and informal evening sessions around the campfire.

The camp is sponsored by six Southern California chapters of the National Audubon Society.

There are three weekly sessions beginning July 13 and ending August 2. Cost is \$150 per adult per week. Children's rates are lower.

If you're interested call or write Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, Ca. 92373 (714/793-7897)

## CHIPS FROM THE REDHOOD LOG

The *Redwood Log* is the monthly newsletter of the Marin Audubon Society. Its February issue contained the following articles of general interest.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REFUGE** - A group of south-bay citizens are forming to protect the surrounding wetlands by working to bring these wetlands under the shelter of the San Francisco Bay Refuge. In 1972, when the Refuge was established, none anticipated the tremendous growth in the Bay Area nor was the habitat value of the neighboring wetlands as clearly understood as it is today. Today, virtually every privately owned wetland in the south bay is slated for development, and we know that the loss of these wetlands would seriously reduce the value of the refuge habitat and be a significant loss in themselves. If you wish to help the Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge contact Florence LaRiviere (956-1931) or Rick Epstein (493-5540), or write the Committee at 575 South Remington, #148, Mountain View 94040. The Committee needs help with coordination, planning, publicity, education, political action, etc.

**THE MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA FUTURE** in your hands. Early this year the Inyo National Forest began soliciting public participation in the development of a comprehensive management plan for the 57,000 acre scenic area. The plan will address such issues as roads, campgrounds, trails, interpretive facilities, hunting, grazing and off-road vehicle use. The first public meeting was held in Lee Vining in January and addressed historical recreational uses within the Scenic Area. If there is sufficient interest, future meetings will be convened in San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles as well. It is essential that meetings be held outside the Mono Basin to be sure that the Forest Service hears from as many people as possible who care about the Scenic Area. Please contact Mono Basin Scenic Area, PO Box 10, Lee Vining, Ca. 93541 and ask: 1) to be placed on their mailing list for announcements of all public meetings and workshops and 2) that a public hearing or workshop be held in your area. Please write today!

## CONDOR UPDATE

As of this writing there are rumors of a previously unknown California Condor in Tulare County. As yet there has been no confirmation but there is some optimism.

The recently captured female condor died from having ingested lead shot at some time in the past. This leaves five of the giant birds left in the wild plus (hopefully and possibly) the mystery bird of Tulare County.

The National Audubon Society is now on the opposite side of the fence from its former associates in the Condor Recovery Program. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Los Angeles and San Diego Zoos feel that the last remaining condors should be brought in and added to the gene pool at the zoos. This has led many to wonder at the seriousness of the zoos' earlier commitments to reintroduce some of the captive birds into the wild. This criticism is particularly apt in view of the admission by zoo biologists that the young bird previously scheduled for release this past fall has become too tame and could not survive in the wild.

The battle is being fought in the courts and Audubon seems to have won the first round. A restraining order has been issued stopping the capture of the few remaining wild birds. This may be enough to settle the issue since a reversal is unlikely before spring and one of the main arguments by the Fish and Wildlife Service was that they wished to protect the birds from the winter die-off that has severely reduced the number of birds over the last several years. Should all five birds survive the winter, then a large part of the arguments for capture would collapse. Should two or more condors die over the winter, the Fish and Wildlife case would become much stronger and the likelihood of ever reintroducing the condor to the wild would be remote.

## 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 Sequoia Audubon Society.

A Happy New Year Gift to Sequoia Audubon  
from  
RALPH KEATING

Wild Goose Chase Contributors  
HERBERT DENGLER      ROSE HERNANDEZ      ? HOYT

Our apologies to Ralph for the late acknowledgement of his gift and to contributor Hoyt, whose check was deposited before we had an opportunity to record all the information. Please give us a call so we can make a proper acknowledgement. Thank you all.

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>OFFICERS:</b><br><br>President: John Silliman 585-3232<br>Past Pres.: Richard B. Baird 574-1067<br>Vice-Pres.: Linda Kvota 591-9053<br>Secretary: Nick Coiro 349-1834<br>Treasurer: | <b>DIRECTORS:</b><br>Elected for Term Ending:<br>June '86 Kathy Graves 368-0087<br>Cliff Richer 355-4058<br>Charles Newman 697-5601<br>June '87 Mary Bresler 994-3587<br>Elgin Juri 325-7470<br>June '88 Win Dye 591-8674 | <b>STANDING COMMITTEES:</b><br>Audubon Canyon Pete & Donna<br>Ranch Hosts: Petersen 344-5582<br>Christmas Count: Frank Allen 344-9339<br>Conservation: Rick Johnson 571-8533<br>Mary Bresler 994-3587<br><br>Finance:<br>Membership: | Field Trips: Cliff Richer 355-4058<br>Program and Hospitality: Linda Kvota 591-9053<br>Publicity: NEEDLES Editor: Cliff Richer 355-4058<br>SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE 593-7368<br><br>Rare Bird Alert 943-2211 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEEDLES SEPARATELY IS \$5.00 PER YEAR.

If you CHANGE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, send the label from a recent Audubon Magazine wrapper with your new name or address to: NATIONAL AUDUBON, MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER, PO BOX 2066, Boulder, Co. 80322. Then, please notify the Sequoia Audubon office (593-7368) of the change. Be sure to give the name and address where Audubon Magazine is to be delivered. This avoids duplicate listings and incorrect expiration dates. Please send RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS directly to National Audubon in the envelope accompanying your renewal notice. LATE RENEWALS should be sent through Sequoia to avoid a lapse in magazine or newsletter issues. The following application is for NEW MEMBERSHIPS only.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
720 El Camino Real, #403  
Belmont, Ca. 94002

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Burlingame, Ca.  
PERMIT NO. 1521

### NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION---SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Chapter C16

[ ] YES, enroll me as a member in the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY PREFERRED

[ ] Individual/\$30    [ ] Family/\$38    [ ] Student/\$18    [ ] Sustaining/\$50  
 [ ] Senior Citizen-Individual/\$21    [ ] Senior Citizen-Family/\$23    [ ] Supporting/\$100  
 [ ] Contributing/\$250    [ ] Donor/\$500    [ ] Life/\$1500    [ ] Dual Life/\$2000

[ ] MY CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED.    [ ] PLEASE BILL ME.

Please make checks payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to:

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
720 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 403  
BELMONT, CALIFORNIA 94002

TIME VALUED MATERIAL! PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!!