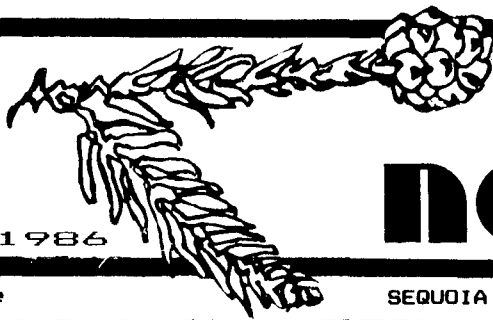




sequoia needles

April, 1986

Vol. 34, No. 8

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS' GENERAL MEETING

Bob Breen, County Ranger at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, will show us some of the wonders to be found in the mysterious and fascinating world of tidepools. **COMMON INVERTEBRATES OF OUR COASTLINE** will feature the startling colors, shapes and unlikely lifestyles of the tiny creatures who inhabit the many mini-worlds of the Marine Reserve. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

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

The falconry display and talk by Kevin McRae was remarkably well-received and the birds (a peregrine-gyr-falcon cross and a prairie falcon) much admired in a combination slide show, equipment demonstration and question & answer session.

ERRATA

In our description of last month's Marsh Road field trip, we wrongly gave credit to Atherton for converting its landfill into a shoreline park. As Elgin Juri - with due municipal pride - pointed out, this is Menlo Park's park. (Try saying that fast ten times and you'll attract half the dogs in the neighborhood.)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO.

Lee Brown, Tom Dye, Carol Larsen, Al Seubert and Board Members Elgin Juri and Win Dye for helping collate and mail the *March Needles*. --- Linda Kypta

BIRDING EQUIPMENT

Birding, the Amsterdam, New York supplier of binoculars, telescopes and other birding supplies is one of the most economical sources of quality equipment for the birder. We now have a packet of their brochures and order blanks available at the office for your examination.

MONO LAKE AND THE BIRDATHON

This year Mono Lake will be the main beneficiary of the proceeds from the Audubon Birdathon. Traditionally, 50% of the proceeds have been retained by the Chapter, 25% by the Western Region and 25% by the home office of National Audubon and we expect that Sequoia's Board will allocate at least a portion of its proceeds to that cause. We know that there will be at least one motion that Sequoia donate \$1.00 per species identified by the official Chapter team.

Traditionally, the Saturday closest to John J. Audubon's birthday is Birdathon day and this year is no exception. However, National Audubon is flexible and any date within a month is acceptable. Our official team will conduct its effort on Friday, April 25 and, as of this writing, consists of Barry Sauppe, Linda Kypta, Peter Metropoulos, Cliff Richer and Gil West.

The April 20 Mines Road field trip will also be dedicated to the Birdathon. Although we will make no requirement of any participant, we will offer it as a Birdathon opportunity. If you obtain pledges as a Birdathon fundraiser the leader(s) will make a special effort to help you get the maximum number of species.

Dan Taylor, National Audubon's Regional Vice President, writes, "It is absolutely essential that we raise significant funds for the Mono Lake lawsuit over the next several months in order to keep this important legal battle moving forward. As of now, we have \$16000 in our Mono Lake Legal Fund. We are aware that very soon we will be receiving bills amounting to \$38000. In addition we will need to raise an estimated \$18000 to pay for anticipated legal action through June."

Mono Lake needs your help. Use the pledge form on page 5 or call the office (593-7368) to make your pledge. For more information on Mono Lake see the article below.

MONO LAKE ALERT

ILENE MANDELBAUM
Information Coordinator
The Mono Lake Committee

The Mono Lake Basin National Forest Scenic Area has embarked on a comprehensive management plan that will greatly affect what the land around Mono Lake will look like in years to come. The Forest Service would like to hear from the public before May 1st on such issues as: preservation of natural resources; interpretive facilities; trails; camgrounds; grazing; mining; roads; off-road vehicle use; hunting; etc.

The Scenic Area legislation specifically prevents the Forest Service from challenging Los Angeles' water rights, through litigation or legislation that would force Los Angeles to release more water into Mono Lake. However, the Forest Service is not precluded from encouraging VOLUNTARY solutions that would keep the area "scenic". Nor is it precluded from acknowledging, based on studies like those

(Continued on Page Seven)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

(The ACR article did not reach us until after the deadline for the March issue, so this month, we are including the March and April columns - with some minor editing - as a single item.)

In March the Ranch opened its gates on another spring season of nature education classes at the Bolinas and Bouverie Preserves. Schools and other education groups are welcome Tuesday to Friday by appointment.

On weekends the Bolinas Preserve is open to the public from 10 AM to 4 PM from March first to the middle of July. The Madrone Audubon Society hosted in March and in April the Golden Gate Society will provide the weekend welcomes. Marin Audubon will host in May and Sequoia Audubon will cover June. The weekends in July will be shared.

Weekend visitors to Bolinas won't want to miss the new additions to the Zumwalt Gallery in the Wattis Building. There is a new feather exhibit, new photographs of the Ranch's founders and long-time volunteers as well as a story exhibit of how the ranch was rescued from development.

It's wildflower time! If you are eager to learn about them, but unsure how to go about it, Ray Peterson has the answer. Sign up for his personal introduction to spring wildflowers at Bolina on April 12 and 13.

Or you might prefer a Banquet for the Senses on April 19 at the Bouverie Preserve. Phyllis Ellman, Ray Peterson and John Peterson will be on hand to give you an unforgettable experience.

If your photographs don't always turn out to be what you'd like Ray will put the joy back in your photo taking on May 3 and 4. To sign up for any of these classes call 383-1644.

John Peterson, the educator-naturalist headquartered at the Bouverie Preserve, is now working full-time for ACR. Skip Schwartz, the Ranch's general manager, said, however, that Peterson's many talents will not be confined to Sonoma, but used wherever needed.

In celebration of Audubon Canyon Ranch's 25th anniversary year, Founders' Day was held March 22 at the Bolinas Preserve. It paid tribute to the vision, boldness and dedication of founders L. Martin Griffin, Jr., William S. Picher and Aileen Pierson in purchasing and forming Audubon Canyon Ranch and permanently establishing Bolinas Lagoon, Kent Island and Tomales Bay Wildlife Preserves.

The event also recognized the efforts of the Directors of Marin and Golden Gate

CALENDAR

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 avail-
able at 9:30 A.M. with the meeting starting at 10:00. In
addition to the general business of the meeting, the program
is scheduled to include Burr Heneman, Executive Director of
Point Reyes Bird Observatory to speak on gill-netting; Pam
Armstrong of the Richardson Bay Audubon Education Center who
will show us how to put on the perfect slide show; and
speakers on off-shore oil drilling. Bring a lunch and stay
all day. 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 Marv Bresler (994-3587)
to volunteer your services.

APRIL 8 SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SEMINAR with SUSAN SOMMERS
TUESDAY has been postponed until June due to conflicting
schedules. Watch for the re-schedule date.

APRIL 10 SAS GENERAL MEETING. COMMON INVERTEBRATES OF OUR
THURSDAY COASTLINE with BOB BREEN, County Ranger at Fitz-
gerald Marine Reserve who will show us some of the
wonders to be found in the mysterious and fascinating world
of tidepools. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda
at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting
begins at 8:00.

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/===== / WELCOME! \=====\  

: FIELD TRIPS AND THE GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL :  

: MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME :  

: ON ALL OF OUR FIELD TRIPS. SOME TRIPS ARE DESIGNATED AS :  

: BEGINNERS' TRIPS BECAUSE THEY ARE RELATIVELY NEARBY AND :  

: MAY BE ENJOYED WITHOUT SPECIAL CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT OR :  

\=====\  

\===== / PRIORITY EXPERIENCE. /=====\  

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APRIL 13 CHAIN OF LAKES FIELD TRIP - GOLDEN GATE PARK. This SUNDAY group of small ponds has become one of the favorite spots for inner city birders. Broad level paths, good sightlines and relatively tame birds make it a pleasant morning's walk with good birding. Blue-winged teal, wood ducks, wood thrush, red crossbills, rose-breasted grosbeak and a number of rare warblers have been seen near these lakes in recent years and in April almost anything might be found in the area. To get there take Sunset Blvd. north from Lake Marced (or any other convenient juncture) and follow it right into the park. Once into the park, take a left on South Drive and your second right on East Drive. We will meet in the parking lot on the right just before Middle Lake and across from the Equestrian Center at 9:00 AM. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

APRIL 19 THE STATE OF THE CALIFORNIA COAST CONFERENCE at
SATURDAY the Coastside Community Center, 535 Kelly Avenue,
Half Moon Bay. A public conference sponsored by
the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation and co-
sponsored by Sequoia Audubon and other groups interested in
preservation of the Coast. Speakers on The Future of

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued on Page Three)

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

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			

Coastal Management and Off-Shore Oil Drilling. Workshops on coastal agriculture, marine mammals, coastal access and recreation, urbanization, coastal geology and films. These will take place from 9:15 to 2:30. Registration from 8:30 to 9:15. Pre-registration fee for workshops is \$15. Lunch is available at the conference for pre-registrants only, or at local eating places or bring your own. Field trips to Ano Nuevo (marine mammals), Cascade Ranch (new park area), Farmlands (with John Wade), Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (tidepools), Geology of the Coast (with Lennie Roberts), McNee Ranch State Park (unique plants with Carl May), Pescadero Marsh (present problems, future plans and birding - with Rick Baird and Cliff Richer)

APRIL 20 MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP. An auto caravan through an isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on despite the destruction of their habitats in the Central and Livermore Valleys. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, purple martin, wild turkey, Costa's and calliope hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will never be more than 45 minutes away from either Livermore or Interstate 5 so that you can break away and return to civilization at any time. This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last four years varying between 40 and 90 degrees on this trip at this time of year; there are only two reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime and at mid-afternoon; and one service station at the half-way point to be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 for about 23 miles to the North Livermore Ave. exit. Take a right at the exit and follow Livermore Avenue through the center of town where it becomes South Livermore Ave. Approximately a half mile beyond the center of town you will see the Nob Hill Shopping Center on the left. We will meet in the parking lot and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and then take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

APRIL 25 SAS's OFFICIAL BIRDATHON TEAM IS OFF AND BIRDING, FRIDAY led by BARRY SAUPPE. See Page 5 for the Official Pledge Form. Help SAS and Mono Lake with your pledge of a nickel, or a dime or a dollar. Mail it in, call it in or sign up at the meeting.

APRIL 26 AUDUBON BOUVERIE PRESERVE. Come join us on this SATURDAY docent-led tour through oak woodlands, riparian growth and grasslands with rushing streams and a waterfall. Nestled in the fabled Valley of the Moon this preserve affords a fitting complement to the better known Bolinas Preserve. To get there, take US 101 north from the Golden Gate to Hwy 37. Follow the signs to Sonoma on 37 north to Hwy 121. Continue north on 121 to Hwy 12 and still north on 12 through Sonoma, Boyes Hot Springs, Bedder's Hot Springs and Aqua Caliente. Approximately 2-2.5 miles past Aqua Caliente you will see a small sign on the right saying Bouverie Audubon Preserve. This marks the gate to the preserve. We will meet at the gate at 9:00 AM. Three cautions - 1. Do not be late. The gate will only be open

(Continued on Page Four)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

Audubon Societies who initiated the project and formed the ACR corporation, as well as all the organizations and individuals who have selflessly given time and financial support during the past quarter century.

The celebration included the opening of the new history exhibit in Wattie Hall by its designer, Clerin Zumwalt. This was followed by a reception in Volunteer Canyon where guests were welcomed by founders Aileen Pierson and L. Martin Griffin, Jr.

ACR Manager Skip Schwartz reported some damage to creeks and trails at the Bolinas Preserve as the result of February storms. There was intense flooding in all three canyons which cut away banks and left heavy gravel deposits. A section of the marsh boardwalk was displaced at Cypress Grove and a large tree fell. There was only minor damage at the Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma.

Anne Monk will begin work this month at the Bolinas Preserve assisting Ray Peterson as an educator/naturalist. She graduated from UC Berkeley in biological science and is currently a Masters candidate in evolutionary science at San Francisco State University. She has most recently been an instructor at the California Academy of Science. In addition to her science background she has special skills in art and photography which she uses as an editorial photographer for the *San Diego Home and Garden Magazine*.

The following events are available next month at the Bolinas Preserve:

The Second Annual ACR Downhill Hike with Ray Peterson on Saturday, May 10. This is especially for the out-of-shape occasional hiker.

On May 17, It's Our Fault: The Geology of Bolinas Lagoon will be the focus of a field trip with Tim Hall. Come see the northern migrations -- of rocks, this time, not birds.

The weekend of May 24 and 25, Memorable Critters: Those Amazing Insects and Their Allies can be explored with Ray Peterson. Extension semester credit may be earned on this one.

For further information and to register call (415) 383-1644.

FOR SALE

FOCAL SPOTTING SCOPE
60 mm lens 20x-60x zoom
\$150.00

Call Kathleen Chamberlain
322-0949 After 6 P.M.

CALENDAR (Continued from Page Three)

for half an hour. 2. Do not turn in at the sign saying Bouverie Ranch. This is the driveway to private property. 3. If you find yourself at Jack London State Park or in Glen Ellen, turn back. You've gone too far. Bring lunch since the gate will not be reopened until mid-afternoon. Dress according to the weather. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended.

COORDINATOR RICK BAIRD 574-1067

May 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

MAY 1 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America
THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

MAY 3 JASPER RIDGE AND SEARSVILLE LAKE. This trip to
SATURDAY Jasper Ridge should coincide with the height of
bird migration and the peak of the wildflower
displays. Meet at the Stanford University Jasper Ridge
Biological Preserve Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill Gate).
From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west approximately 2
mile to a gate on the left side of the road. Meet promptly
at 8:00 A.M. as the gate will be open only the half hour
from 8:00 to 8:30. We will go rain or shine. Bring lunch.
A voluntary contribution of \$2.00 per person is suggested.
The group is limited to 30 so please call for reservations.
(As of press time, we had been unable to make absolute
confirmation of this date, so please call the office to make
a reservation and obtain the latest information.)

LEADERS: SHARON HOM AND LOUISE FLETCHER

MAY 8 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.

MAY 10 YUBA PASS - This field trip has been postponed un-
MAY 11 til June. Information will be available at the
SATURDAY office no later than April 15.
SUNDAY

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 22/27 - THURSDAY thru TUESDAY -MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN
DEATH VALLEY (Accommodations & tour arrangements)

JUNE ?/? -SATURDAY/SUNDAY- YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY.
(Distance, accommodations)

LATE AUGUST - CONDOR WATCH or SALTON SEA SAFARI
(Condor status, distance, accommodations &
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.

THE BOOKS ARE HERE!!

LINDA KYPTA

Our long-awaited supply of the National
Geographic Field Guide, *Birds of North
America*, is here. Order now or come to
the office and pick one up WHILE THEY
LAST!

We will also soon be offering Jean
Richmond's new book *Birding Northern
California*. We understand its very good
and covers most of the major birding
spots from Tule Lake to the Tehachapis.
If you're interested, call Liz Smith at
the office. (593-7368)

DESERT ADVENTURE

MARYANN DANIELSON

Desert wildlife, especially birds, will
be the focus of a trip to the California
desert areas, April 13-19, 1986. The
trip is being led by Maryann Daneilson
and offered through Sunbeam Ecology
Explorations. Some areas to be explored
are Devil's Punchbowl, Mohave Narrows
Regional Park, Morongo Valley, Joshua
Tree National Monument, the Salton Sea
and "hot" birding spots in the San Diego
area. Such varied habitat means a
variety of birds and hopefully such
specialties as Le Conte's and Crissal
thrashers, gray vireo, yellow-footed
gull, gull-billed tern, vermilion fly-
catcher and more.

Cost of the trip is \$175. which includes
six nights motel lodging (double
occupancy). Food and transportation are
the responsibility of the participants
and may be arranged at a pre-trip
meeting. For information call Maryann
Danielsen at (415) 342-6919.

DOWN WITH EUCALYPTUS

Golden Gate National Recreation Area and
the National Park Service are initiating
the removal of eucalyptus trees on GGNRA
land throughout Marin County both as a
fire preventive measure and to prevent
its further encroachment into native
plant communities. This plan is
expected to take from three to ten years
to complete in order to minimize any
adverse effects and allow mitigation.

THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR

The range of the California Condor is
more restricted than that of any other
bird of prey. The few left in the wild
state live almost entirely in the
coastal mountainous regions of southern
California... Unless careful protection
is given these few Condors remaining in
these wild mountainous regions, this
largest of flying birds will soon cease
to be a part of the natural history of
California.

From *Birds of America*, Garden City
Publishing Company, Inc., Garden City,
New York, 1936!!

BIRDATHON' 86! BIRDATHON' 86! ! BIRDATHON' 86! BIRDATHON' 86!

Barry Sauppe will lead a team of Sequoia Audubon Society birders on this year's BIRDATHON fundraiser. As has become traditional, the team will start early in the morning, well before dawn and assumedly end sometime around dusk. In between they will try to identify as many different species as possible.

You can help out by pledging a nominal amount (from 5 cents on up) for each species identified by the team.

This year as with the last three years, National Audubon is donating its half of the proceeds to the Mono Lake Committee. Your contribution will help preserve this invaluable and unique resource.

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confidence in the leader's estimate of more than 150 different birds by "pre-paying" your pledge for 150 species.

Make all checks payable to Sequoia Audubon Society and mail to:
Post Office Box 1131
Burlingame, Ca. 94011

All honored pledges are tax-deductible.

YES, I will support Sequoia Audubon Society and the fight to save Mono Lake with a pledge of _____ per species.

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 100 different birds being identified.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

The BIRDATHON is - after the Christmas Count - the largest participation event sponsored by the Natl. Audubon Society. I wish to join in. I will sign up pledges and conduct my Birdathon on _____.

BIRDATHON' 86! BIRDATHON' 86! ! BIRDATHON' 86! BIRDATHON' 86!

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

YES, I WILL HELP

I want to help preserve wetlands and complete the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. I will serve on the following committees:

FUNDRAISING

Solicit foundations and organizations
Committee fundraising efforts
Committee treasurer

PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

Slide shows for schools and clubs
Newspaper and TV coverage
Wetlands video project

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

Gain support from allied groups
Keep track of membership
Set up general meetings

POLITICAL ACTION

Gain political support
Facilitate action to acquire wetlands and complete the Refuge.
Facilitate Congressional action to preserve endangered wetlands.
Support efforts of allied groups to protect wetlands.

LANDS AND TECHNICAL

Expertise on land priorities
Expertise in biology and other disciplines.
Testimony to support Committee

EXECUTIVE

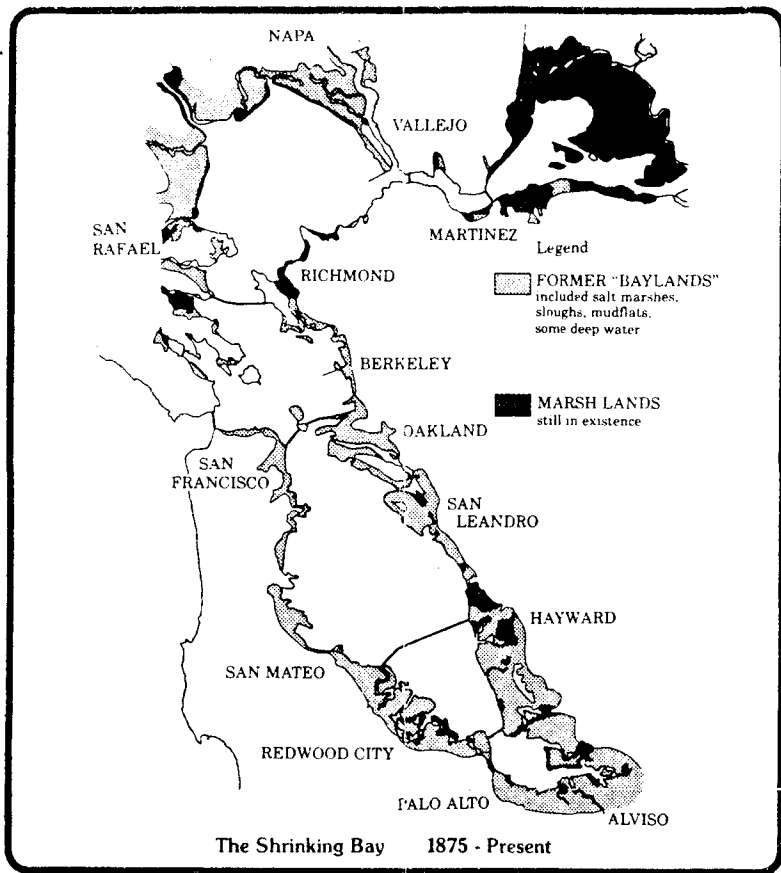
Strategy
Coordination
Planning

OTHER - Please describe

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Rick Epstein (415) 965-1931
Florence LaRiviere (415) 493-5540

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE
575 South Kenastorff, #148
Mountain View, California 94040



PROTECTING THE BAY IS EVERYBODY'S JOB!

(Please print.) NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed find \$ _____ to help complete the Refuge.

Tax deductible contributions will be accepted through the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.
Make checks payable to the SCVAS REFUGE FUND

COMPLETING THE SF BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Completing the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is the objective of a coalition called - surprisingly - The Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge.

Once the Bay contained almost 200,000 acres of wetlands teeming with wildlife...only 37,000 remain. And almost every wetland parcel in the South Bay has been proposed for urban development.

City, County, State and Federal Agencies all have some authority over wetlands in a confusing welter of overlapping and incomplete jurisdiction with no comprehensive planning. Even the regulatory agencies have proven to be uncertain and inconsistent guardians so that year by year our

wetlands continue to disappear.

The Citizens' Committee proposes to bring the threatened wetlands under the shelter of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. First, it is necessary that the US Fish and Wildlife Service accelerate the acquisition of the 5000 acres remaining from the initial Congressional authorization for the Refuge. Second, it is imperative that Congress pass new legislation protecting the most critical and endangered wetlands and completing the Refuge as it was originally envisioned.

If you want to help see the above "tear-out" showing how you can contact the Committee.

MONO LAKE ALERT

(Continued from Page One)

being conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, that a minimum lake elevation may be the only means of protecting Mono's ecological and aesthetic values.

The Mono Lake Committee believes the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area should be managed to preserve ecological, geological and aesthetic values in a condition of natural integrity for the enjoyment of present and future generations. We have drafted the following positions on specific management issues. If you disagree, please tell us why: we welcome and encourage your feedback. Our positions will be reviewed before being submitted to the Forest Service.

1. LAKE LEVEL. The future of Mono Lake needs to be considered in the management plan. The Forest Service should plan an advisory and facilitative role in seeking a solution that keeps the area "scenic".

2. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE. The protection of native plants and animals and their habitats should take precedence over conflicting uses, including recreation; sage grouse, antelope, bighorn sheep and other native species should be re-established.

3. GRAZING. Grazing should be prohibited in the relicted lands, meadows, marshes, stream banks and other sensitive habitats: elsewhere it should be managed to improve range conditions, restore native grasses and herbs, and not compete with native wildlife. If not possible, it should be phased out entirely from public lands.

4. GEOLOGICAL FEATURES. Protection of tufa, volcanoes and other geologic features should take precedence over conflicting uses.

5. MINING. Current mining operations should continue, but should not be allowed to inflict conspicuous new scars on the landscape.

6. HUNTING AND TRAPPING. Legal hunting of waterfowl, doves and deer should be allowed to continue in areas that do not endanger public safety. Other species, especially predators, should be protected.

7. ROADS AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE. Vehicular travel should be restricted to existing designated roads. No new roads or parking areas should be constructed around the lake and jeep trails should not be improved.

8. CAMPING AND CAMPGROUNDS. Campgrounds should be inconspicuous and primitive.

9. TRAILS, HIKING, BACKPACKING AND SKIING. Mono Lakes undeveloped shores should be left undisturbed by trails, signs or other development. Backpackers should be allowed to camp in most of the Scenic Area, including eastern shore relicted lands.

Please write the Forest Service before May 1st and share your visions of a Mono Basin Scenic Area. Ask it to play an active role in finding creative solutions to the lake level issue!

WRITE: Leon R. Silverberger,
Acting Forest Supervisor
Mono National Forest
873 North Main Street
Bishop, Ca. 93514
Tel. (619) 873-5841

For more information contact:

Dick Warren, Recreation Planner
at the above address and telephone

OR

The Mono Lake Committee
PO Box 29
Lee Vining, Ca. 93541
Tel. (619) 647-6386

Half of the proceeds from this year's Birdathon will go to the Mono Lake Committee. See Pages One and Five for how you can help -- Editor)

MOUNTAIN LION UPDATE

The Mountain Lion Coalition reports that your letters and overwhelming public opposition caused the Commissioners to discard the eradication plan and opt for recommending a state-wide mountain lion study. This is the course recommended by the overwhelming majority of the Dept. of Fish and Game's professionals.

However, hunters and hunting groups can revive other plans at meetings to be held on April 7 in San Diego and April 25 in Long Beach. Some options include a limited North Kings Lion Hunt involving 100 hunters with a maximum kill of 20 lions. DFG officials reluctantly admitted that there might be sufficient data to support such a plan in Fresno County. Some hunting groups (a small minority) proposed that the eradication plan be effected and hunters be allowed to participate. Most hunting groups recommended an immediate state-wide hunting season.

In a related issue the DFG asked the commission to continue the second year of a lion depredation control plan in the Foresthill Divide area of Placer County where two sheep ranchers utilize federal land for summer grazing. Last year these "vicious killer" lions took five sheep so DFG killed four lions. (Does this make sense to somebody?)

The Mountain Lion Coalition suggests that you send your letters supporting the study plan to:

Mr. Jack Parnell, Director
Department of Fish and Game
or

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

The January-March *Pacific Discovery* has a Peter Steinhart article on mountain lions. (Thanks to Nick Coiro for calling it to our attention.) In "Does Anyone Know Anything About Mountain Lions?", Steinhart identifies the originator of the Lion Eradication Plan as Don Neal, a biologist with the team studying the decline of the North Kings deer herd. While we see no reason to doubt Neal's data, some of his extrapolations and assumptions are clearly contradictory to past studies and to the information now available on the mountain lion. If Steinhart's facts are correct - and he is usually a meticulous researcher - I think it is time for the Forest Service to dispense with Mr. Neal's services.

Rumor has it that Neal's plan came to the attention of a high appointed official of the Resources Agency, which controls both Agriculture and Fish and Game. This official - a cattle rancher in Fresno County - became the driving force behind Fish and Game's lukewarm sponsorship of the "experiment". It would be comical were it not so sad.

BIRDSEED SALE

NSS AT JASPER RIDGE

LINDA KYPTA

Many other chapters have been very successful selling wild birdseed. We would like to begin this practice at Sequoia but we need a volunteer to handle the details.

This would involve taking orders, ordering what we need (usually in conjunction with one or more other Audubon chapters) and dispersal which is usually handled on one pickup day.

Please call me at home (591-9053) if you're interested or call Liz at the office (593-7368).

The Nature Sounds Society is sponsoring an outdoor lecture and walk through Jasper Ridge Nature Preserve.

Dr. Dave DeSante of Point Reyes Bird Observatory will be the leader for a walk starting at 8:00 A.M. April 20.

He will discuss the timing, motivation and mechanics of bird song; hopefully illustrating this with examples in the field.

Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling Jacquie Barshaw (408) 379-5526.

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