



sequoia needles

June 1986

Vol. 34, No. 10

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

SAS' GENERAL MEETING

Doctor Todd Keeler Wolf of the Earth Watch Scientific Organization will be our featured speaker. His topic will be the birds of Trinidad and Tobago with emphasis on how they have been affected by man.

Of special interest will be his findings that the more densely populated island of Trinidad also supports a greater population of birds and his reasons for those findings.

This illustrated program was suggested by Charles Newman and John Silliman, who saw it elsewhere and who recommend it highly.

POTLUCK TIME!

This month also brings us to our year-end Potluck Dinner so dust off your favorite "sharing" or "show-off" recipes.

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

For the Potluck please remember to bring your own utensils and plates and a paper bag in which to take them home. Those people whose last names begin with the letters A through F should bring a dessert, those whose names begin with the letters G through M, a casserole or other hot dish; and N through Z should provide the salads. The social hour begins at 6:00 PM, the Potluck at 6:30 at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

--- Linda Kypta

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM

As has become traditional, our first meeting of the new Audubon year will begin with what has been variously called "SHOW AND TELL" or "DO IT YOURSELF" or "WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER" Night. On this night our members bring their own slides of something they did during the past year that they believe will be of interest to the rest of us. It is usually one of our most popular programs and judging by the vacation plans we've been hearing about this should be a super program.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the by-laws of Sequoia Audubon Society, the Nominating Committee has come up with the following slate of officers for the forthcoming year.

For PRESIDENT -- LINDA KYPTA: Since first appearing on the Audubon scene three years ago, Linda has been our most active member. She has been on the Conservation Committee, the Sequoia Natural History Series Committee, the Field Trip Committee and the SAS Board of Directors. She has been in charge of Programs and Hospitality at the meetings, is responsible for the management of the office and the collating and mailing of the *NEEDLES* and has rarely missed an Audubon meeting or field trip. She is also one of the most dedicated volunteers at Wildlife Rescue. For the past year she has been Vice-president.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT -- CHARLES NEWMAN: Charles is best known to meeting attendees as the protagonist of the "Bird of the Month" feature at many of our monthly meetings. Inactive for the last few years because of illness in the family, Charles has assisted at meetings during the last year and was appointed to the Board of Directors to fill a mid-term vacancy.

FOR SECRETARY -- ED MC ELHANEY: During the last few years Ed has concentrated his energies serving on the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch and so has not been as obviously active as many of our other members. In the past, he has served in a variety of offices and as newsletter editor. This year he was Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

FOR TREASURER -- The Nominating Committee was unable to find a candidate who was both willing and qualified. It is hoped that at least one such candidate will be available for nomination from the floor by the time of the meeting.

FOR DIRECTORS --

RICK JOHNSON: Rick comes from an Audubon family. Bill and Myrtle Johnson have been well known in SAS for many years. Other commitments have kept Rick from most of our meetings over the last few years and but he has extremely effectively behind the scenes as Chairman of our Conservation Committee. CLIFF RICHER: Cliff has been editor of the *NEEDLES* and a member of the Board of Directors for the past four years. He has also been Field Trip Chairman for the last three. He has been in charge of the Birdathon for the last three years and is the creator and chief fund-raiser for our Wild Goose Chase.

WALTER SMITHEY: Walter is retiring from his position as Math and Science Coordinator of the San Mateo County Schools and will be becoming more active in SAS. During the past year he was instrumental in setting up and administering the selection process for our camp scholarship program. He has been involved in nearly every public education environmental program in this county over the last decade and his efforts on behalf of Coyote Point Museum have been legion.

CALENDAR

JUNE 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					

JUN 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America
THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

JUNE 7 SNHS SEMINAR AND FIELD TRIP --- SURVIVAL AND THE
SATURDAY FAMILY FARM. Reservations and Fee Required. With
Tom Phipps at the Phipps Ranch. See article on
opposite page for details.

COORDINATOR SHARON HOM 365-3369

JUNE 7 SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK FIELD TRIP. This
SATURDAY wooded park provides a variety of habitat for
migrating and resident species of vireos, warblers
and thrushes. Our leader knows the park well and will scout
it intensively prior to the trip to assure the maximum
enjoyment for all of us. The trip will entail some walking
along easy trails. Lunch is optional and birding will
continue into the afternoon as long as the birds (and the
birders) remain active. This is an initial leadership
effort for our youngest leader, who is also one of our most
skilled birders. The trip will begin at 8:30 in the parking
lot of the park. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica
and, turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar
to its end and follow the signs to the park.

LEADER SCOTT SMITHSON

JUNE 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING, ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS
THURSDAY AND POTLUCK. Doctor Todd Keeler Wolf of the Earth
Watch Scientific Organization will be our featured
speaker. His topic will be the birds of Trinidad and Tobago
with emphasis on how they have been affected by man.

JUNE 14 YUBA PASS - "THE CALL OF THE HIGH SIERRA" - This
SATURDAY trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on
JUNE 15 any of our other field trips. The trip features
SUNDAY easy trail walking through lovely mountain and
Sierra Valley habitats. We have made arrange-
ments to use the facilities of the Sierra Campus of San
Francisco State University for the weekend. These include
large two person tents with bunks and mattresses, hot-water
showers and lavatory facilities, hot breakfasts and dinners
and make-your-own box lunches. Bring your own sleeping bags
and bedding. Cost is \$29.00 per person for two nights
(Friday and Saturday) and five meals or \$19.00 for meals
only. Meals are ample and have sufficient variety to
satisfy any taste or non-medical dietary requirement.
Birding will begin immediately after breakfast on the
Campus. At 9:00 we will proceed to Wild Plum Campground
just out of Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for
dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak, summer
warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll pack up
immediately after breakfast and go on to the Summit
Campground. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to
see the birds of the Eastern Slope and Modoc Plateau. The
Campus is on Highway 49 approximately 2 miles east of Sierra
City and 6 miles west of Yuba Pass summit. It is marked
with a small sign. For those wishing to make other
arrangements, motels are available in Sierra City.
Reservations are advisable since there may be several other
birding groups in the area at the same time. Some of the
moteles are:

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

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

Record attendance figures are being set
this spring at ACR's Bolinas Preserve.
Manager Skip Schwartz reports 8230
visitors not including school groups
from March through April. Sunday, April
27, set an all time one day high of 786.
As of May 1 totals were well over 2500
visitors ahead of the same period last
year.

Most of this is due to a surge of
publicity. *Sunset* magazine ran a piece
in its April issue. The *San Francisco
Chronicle* had both a feature in its
Sunday "Image" section in May and a
piece by Margot Patterson Doss in April.
Channel 4's Sunday evening program, "Bay
Area Back Roads" and Channel 5's
"Evening Magazine" have both prepared
segments on the Ranch as well as ABC's
"Good Morning America".

"The influx of visitors makes the spring
weekend hosting by Audubon chapter
members so very important," Schwartz
stressed. He also spoke of the tre-
mendous appreciation by visitors for the
Preserve's beauty and the friendly
spirit of the staff. "I just hope we're
not loving it to death," he added.

The Volunteer Council or educational arm
of the Bolinas Preserve will be hosting
two interview days in Picher Canyon for
prospective docents. On June 4 and
August 27, those interested in becoming
natural history educators and guides for
the weekday elementary school program
are invited to visit the Ranch to meet
docents and ask questions about the
program. Training classes will begin
September 10.

This spring 75 docents worked with 1800
children from 49 Bay Area elementary
schools. Experiences at the Heronry
Overlook and Pierson Pond as well as
along the trails helped to instill in
youngsters the value and necessity of
understanding and caring for this one
and only earth and its creatures.

Anyone interested in the training
program should call ACR at 383-1644.

BYLAWS CHANGE

The SAS Board of Directors has approved
and recommends to the General Meeting
the following change in the bylaws:

"ARTICLE VIII - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. Prior to March 1st, the Board of
Directors shall designate a Nominating
Committee consisting of three (3)
members in good standing at *least two of
whom* are not officers or members of the
Board."

The italicized section represents the
change. Under existing by-laws no mem-
ber of the Board may serve on this
committee. This will allow one member
of the committee to be a Board member.

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

Survival and the Family Farm

June 7, 1985
9 A.M. at Duarte's Restaurant
and the Phipps' Ranch
Pescadero

Host and Lecturer; Tom Phipps

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

Fee: \$12.00 (Includes lunch)

Advance reservations are required.

Reservation requests will be honored in the order in which checks are received.

Class Coordinator: SHARON HOM 365-3369

SUNBEAM ECOLOGY EXPLORATIONS

A field trip series to study summer birds will be offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. The trips will take participants to a variety of habitats to observe birds and a potpourri of trees, flowers and magnificent landscapes. The series will include:

June 6-8	Eagle Lake & the surrounding area	----	\$50.00 fee
June 28	Mount Diablo	--	\$10.00 fee
July 12	A Day on the Coast	--	Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Bonita \$10.00 fee
July 19-20	The Sierra between the East and West Slopes		\$35.00 fee
August 16	Shorebird Search		\$10.00 fee

Signups may be made for individual trips but people signing up for the entire series will be given preference. Series fee is \$100. Trip details will be sent upon receiving registration. Instructor will be Maryann Danielson. For further information call (415) 342-6919.

CALENDAR JUNE 1986

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Please call the coordinator or the Audubon Office (593-7368) to make your reservations for the trip. Reservations can be made up to June 1. After that date we may not be able to arrange accommodations or meals at the Sierra Campus. Please let us know if you need transportation or can take riders. Car-poolers will be requested to assist in defraying the drivers' expenses. Detailed directions will be provided for all drivers who need them. Nights and mornings can be cool and the afternoons quite warm so bring appropriate clothing. Walking will be generally along level trails and will be minimal, but stout shoes or boots are recommended.

Those of you who are members of or are interested in the Nature Sounds Society will have an opportunity to "double up" your enjoyment, since the Society will also be using the Sierra Campus for their field trip headquarters on this weekend.

COORDINATOR

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

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### SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

JULY 20 CHARLESTON SLOUGH IN THE SUMMER. The ducks and the SUNDAY shorebirds will be mostly missing but this trip can provide an opportunity to confirm the nesting of burrowing owls and redheads and to search for the elusive little blue heron who has been a summer visitor for the last several years. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the foot of San Antonio Road near the entrance to Mountainview Shoreline Park. To get there take Hwy. 101 south to San Antonio Road and take the San Antonio Road (North) exit. Follow San Antonio Road for a short distance until it makes a right angle turn and becomes Terminal Road. Stop and park as close to the intersection as is feasible. Trip will break up at noon.

LEADER

LINDA KYPTA

591-9053

AUG. 16 CONDOR WATCH AND THRASHER CHASE. If there are any SATURDAY condors left in the wild by that time, your leader AUG. 17 will make his annual pilgrimage to the famous Los SUNDAY Padres National Forest Sign. Despite the decreasing number of birds each year we have been able to get looks at them each of the last four years. Last year one third of all the wild California Condors in the world flew by within 100 yards. On the way, we will look for LeConte's thrashers among the oil wells in the San Joaquin Desert and Cassin's kingbirds in Klipstein Canyon. If we are fortunate enough to get good views of the remaining THREE OR FOUR wild condors with time to spare, we will bird the road to the top of Mt. Pinos for high altitude birds and on the way home we will bird the grassland refuges for indigo buntings, blue grosbeaks and lesser nighthawks. This will be a car pooling trip and participants will be asked to share the costs. We plan on leaving the Bay Area on Friday - either late in the afternoon or early in the evening and returning before dark on Sunday. Reservations are an absolute necessity and must be made no later than August 1. If you are not sure but want further information please call as soon as possible so we can assess the extent of the interest in this trip.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

(Continued on Page Five)

## TIMBER TROUBLE

In January, Senator Barry Kern (D-Vallejo) unveiled a major bill (SB 2394) to substantially deregulate logging in California. His proposal was written by the timber industry.

The bill would make it virtually impossible for California's environmental protection agencies to prevent logging from harming important fisheries, reducing wildlife habitat, degrading water quality and increasing erosion.

The bill supposedly provides the timber industry with flexibility to do long range planning by allowing them to receive approval for logging plans that will last ten years or longer.

The real purpose of SB 2394 is to insulate timber companies from meaningful environmental controls. Once a 10 year plan has been approved by the industry-dominated Dept. of Forestry, the logging company can ignore any new regulations designed to protect the environment.

The 10 year plans allowed by the bill can cover tens of thousands of acres and the bill allows several of these mega-logging proposals to be submitted at once. State agencies are given only 60 days to review and approve the plans and the public is given very little opportunity to get involved.

Budget cuts have already impaired the ability of agencies to do an adequate review of the existing five year timber plans and the major impact of SB 2394 will be to lock in existing weak forest rules for plans that will receive little scrutiny for at least a decade.

A broad range of organizations are opposing SB 2394 including the Planning and Conservation League, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, California Trout, the Marin Conservation League, Friends of the River, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and the Woodworker's Union.

-- From *California Today*, the newsletter of the Planning and Conservation League.

PESCADERO MARSH  
ASSOCIATION

On May 14 a group of concerned citizens met for the purposes of forming an Interpretive Association for Pescadero Marsh.

An agreement in principle was reached that the persons present (not including State Parks personnel) should constitute themselves as an Organizing Committee for that purpose and that additional members should be recruited from the community of Pescadero.

Rick Baird was elected Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The next meeting is June 11 for the purpose of reviewing articles of incorporation and bylaws.

PAGE FOUR

"In summary, damage may have already been done to the least tern habitat and caution is needed to remedy those problems and to prevent future degradation."

## GARDENERS, TAKE NOTE

PETER J. METROPULOS

To appreciate the role our feathered friends have in controlling insect populations one may simply pause and observe a nesting pair of birds noting what the parents bring to their young.

While performing some tree-trimming work this spring in a San Carlos garden I found myself surrounded by a pair of scolding Bewick's wrens, each bird with a beak full of green caterpillars. Backing off a bit, the birds unknowingly revealed to me the location of their nest. It was in a small wooden bird-house thoughtfully placed just outside the homeowner's kitchen window.

Throughout the day the attentive wrens tirelessly delivered wriggling prey to their anxious young. Impressed by the quantity of caterpillars being consumed and curious as to what beneficial impact this perky pair of wrens had on the landscape, I pulled out my notebook and watch and undertook a bit of backyard ornithology. Here is what I learned:

During a five-minute period of time the youngsters were fed four times, each time with at least one, and often more, caterpillars (let's say 1.5). Foraging intensity did not appear to decrease throughout the duration of the day. With this in mind, simple calculations illustrate the rate at which the wrens eliminate their foliage-devouring prey:

In one hour the pair takes 48 insects.

In a single day they consume at least 528.

The birds snatch up over 3696 bugs per week, and a respectable total of 14,784 in one month!

The moral of the story is this: Put away those insecticides, build a wren house and let those feisty little bug-snatchers do the work for you.

## CALENDAR

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS  
(Continued from Page 3)

AUGUST 29 SALTON SEA SAFARI --- Enduring the heat of summer in the Southern California  
FRIDAY of summer in the Southern California  
SEPT. 2 Deserts can have its rewards. Wood  
TUESDAY storks, black skimmers, Lucy's warbler  
white-winged doves, yellowfooted gulls, gull-billed and black terns are usual summer visitors. Ground doves, burrowing owls, yellow-headed black-birds, cattle egrets, Gambel's quail and roadrunners are abundant. Least bitterns, white-faced ibis, ladder-backed woodpeckers, Cassin's kingbirds, verdins, cactus wrens, Crissal's thrasher and Abert's towhee are year-round residents. Fulvous whistling ducks are former nesters and occasional visitors. Stilt sandpipers, Franklin's and laughing gulls, brown-crested flycatchers, bronzed cowbirds, and magnificent frigatebirds are rare but possible vagrants. Along the way stops at the Kern River Preserve, Morongo Valley and possibly Big Bear Lake should produce yellow-billed cuckoos, vermilion flycatchers. Scott's orioles and Pinon jays. Reservations are an absolute necessity and must be made no later than August 8. If you are not sure but want further information please call as soon as possible so we can assess the extent of the interest in this trip.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

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*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).

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
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    |

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society  
270 El Camino Real #403  
Belmont, Ca. 94002  
Allow 14-18 days for delivery

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS



**San Francisco  
Peninsula  
Birdwatching**

## SCHIZOPHRENIA?

CLIFF RICHER

The Interior Department must surely be the most schizophrenic of all Cabinet Departments. Entrusted with protection of the Environment it is also mandated to assist loggers, grazers, miners and drillers. And within Interior, many of its agencies have schizoid features. The Fish and Wildlife Service concerns itself with endangered species and protection of habitat while promoting hunting and fishing. The National Park Service has task forces on prevention of degradation of our parks and another on how to promote increased use and attendance. The Bureau of Reclamation studies water conservation while selling irrigation water below its delivery cost.

One of these multiple personality agencies is the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM, once almost entirely concerned with preserving the open range for the benefit of stockmen and with recording mining claims, has, over the years, developed more ancillary functions. Along with these functions has come more environmental awareness.

While hardly a model for conservationists to follow, the attitudes and actions of the BLM are changing - albeit slowly. With 17 million acres of land under its management in California it is a powerful force for environmental good or evil within the state. Its "constituency" is as diverse as the state itself. Cattlemen, sheepmen, miners, lumberers, hunters, campers, hikers, sunbirds, birders, wildflower lovers, off-road vehicle users and many others feel they have a vested interest in the BLM's stewardship.

The BLM is so big in this state that it publishes and distributes a highly polished and professional newsletter, *Newsbeat*, which deals exclusively with its activities in California. Official publications - naturally - tend to emphasize the positive and ignore "business as usual" but nevertheless some of the schizoid personality manages to show through. For example:

The QuickSilver Enduro motorcycle race was held on BLM lands

32 Sierra Nevada bighorns were relocated from BLM lands to historic habitat in Yosemite National Park.

By purchasing or swapping land, the BLM was able to convert an old railroad line near Susanville into a hiking trail.

Wild horse and burro adoption programs continued with dates scheduled in May (Clovis), June (Dixon), August (Red Bluff) and September (Salinas).

The American Motorcyclist Association held a Barstow to Las Vegas race on BLM lands and provided 200 hours of labor at the Desert Tortoise Natural Area.

The state and the BLM are cooperating in the use of off-road vehicle (green sticker) funds to repair damage, protect endangered plant species and provide better facilities.

More mineral surveyors were appointed to facilitate prospectors filing their claims.

A BLM fire crew was flown into the isolated Cimarron Spring area to clear the exotic tamarisk plants from the area so as to allow native plants to grow and bighorn sheep to use the spring. This was characterized as the *first* in a series of habitat improvement projects. (The italics are mine.)

An environmental report card on the above would probably rate a C- or D+ indicating that the BLM's overall rating would be considerably lower, showing that they still have a long way to go.

For May the BLM's "Critic of the Month" is the tarantula, the hairiest centerfold since Burt Reynolds posed for Cosmo.

**MOUNTAIN LION  
VICTORY**

On April 25, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the Department of Fish and Game's recommendation that the mountain lion population be studied before any further decisions are made on protection or management.

Public outcry and opposition to the North Kings Study which called for eradication of the mountain lion from the North Kings area of Fresno County was so vehement that it is now being denied that any serious consideration was ever being given this plan.

The Mountain Lion Coalition emphasizes however that this is only a temporary victory and that the issues of trophy hunting and degradation control remain. If you want more information or want to help, contact the Coalition at either

PO Box 1896  
Sacramento, Ca. 95809  
(916) 448-8805  
or  
PO Box 51115  
Pacific Grove, Ca. 93590  
(408) 375-5161

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SKYLINE RIDGE  
PRESERVE

The MROSD grant proposal for \$392,500 from the California Park and Facilities Act funds for Skyline Ridge Preserve has been placed on the list of recommended projects.

This is tantamount to receiving the grant and official approval is expected in July.

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### SF BIRDING CLASSES

Free evening bird classes are being offered through the John Adams Community College starting June 4-5, 1986.

Classes will be at Room 260, the Arts Building, near the corner of Judson and Phelan Ave. at City College of San Francisco near the Balboa BART station.

Classes are for six weeks, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Text is the National Geographic Field Guide, (available through SAS), and the instructor is Joe Morian, the compiler of the weekly Rare Bird Alert. The Wednesday class will deal with woodpeckers and flycatchers. Thursdays will cover blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and finches.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON BUDGET

NAS President Peter Berle - in his second President to President letter - has announced a number of changes in National Audubon's budget plans for Fiscal Year 1987. The skyrocketing costs of postage and insurance have been significant in necessitating a reduction of \$200,000 in *Audubon Magazine's* budget and suspension of the publication of *Audubon Action*. Other reductions in Education Center, travel and office expenses have brought the total down by more than one million dollars.

Four staff positions have been added - a Vice-president for Science and three fund raisers.

Of greatest importance to SAS is the announcement of a new formula for sharing of dues. During the coming year, every chapter will receive the same amount as they did in 1986 but in 1987 local chapters will receive \$15.00 of each new membership which they generate and \$5.50 from every other membership category.

This greatly simplifies the membership bookkeeping and has little effect on nearly three-fourths of the chapters. For the remaining one quarter it will mean an increase in income for those who have active recruitment programs and a reduction for the remaining 38.

NAS falls within the latter group. Beginning in July 1987 we can anticipate a budget shortfall of more than \$1000. from FY 1985 and 1986. With a fourteen month advance notice NAS is giving "stable" chapters such as ours or "declining" chapters an opportunity to work for greater financial independence or belt tightening as they may decide.

## RAPTOR OBSERVATORY

The Raptor Migration Observatory of the GGNRA is launching a volunteer-based, pilot Hawk Watch Program to record the numbers and species of raptors as they cross the Golden Gate.

The Hawk Watch Program will run the length of the fall migration; August 18 through December 14. Volunteers will need to commit to several weeknights of training in late July and to hawk-watching on one scheduled day every two weeks during the migration season. Some prior bird identification experience is essential.

If you want to contribute to an ecological research program with conservation implications, please attend the Orientation Meeting, at 7 PM, June 26 in the Conference Room at the Park Service Headquarters, Building 201 at Ft. Mason in San Francisco.

For more information call Allen Fish at 331-0730.

## MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NAS President Berle initiated his President to President letters in February 1986 as a means of improving communication between the National and the Chapters. A second letter was issued on May 2. General comments from chapter members who have received a copy and from other chapter's officers have been overwhelmingly favorable. Some extracts (selected by the Editor and/or the Conservation Committee) from these two letters follow:

### THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR:

National Audubon is fighting to prevent...taking all the remaining wild condors into captivity. We believe it essential...that a remnant wild flock be left in the traditional condor habitat."

"NAS will continue to press for the acquisition of critical portions of presently unprotected foraging habitat (i.e. the Hudson Ranch), which is essential if the wild flock is to be restored to healthy population levels."

Please be sure to watch the World of Audubon television special, "Condor", narrated by Robert Redford which will... be shown on public television on Sunday evenings beginning in July."

### AUDUBON ACTION ALERT SYSTEM:

"The Alert System began in 1982. Today we have well over 60,000 names of dedicated Audubon activists like yourselves willing and able to respond to action alerts calling for political action. ...Action Alert mailings are carefully targeted and sent to Audubon activists in selected congressional districts whose Representative or Senator is considered to be a swing vote. Chapter Conservation Chairs automatically receive a copy of any Action Alert sent to their members."

### AUDUBON HOTLINE:

"The Audubon HOTLINE provides some of the same information in abbreviated form. ...The HOTLINE is updated every Friday afternoon to allow people to take advantage of low weekend rates. The number is 202-547-9017."

### NAS BOARD MEMBERS:

"The NAS Board endorsed a policy requiring that no fewer than 25% of its members have strong chapter experience. It is the intention to select these candidates so that they are distributed geographically as evenly as possible... This is a positive affirmation of the importance of maintaining a vigorous chapter perspective...currently there are 8 out of 36 (22%) NAS Board members with strong chapter experience."

### ACID RAIN:

"Audubon is taking the lead...to secure passage of a good acid rain bill through Congress this session."

### THE AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT:

"The 1986 edition of our annual Wildlife Report features a comprehensive assessment of the US Forest Service. The new edition also includes sections devoted to 20 different wild-life species. The cost for the 1986 edition is \$4.95 and for the 1985 edition, \$24.95. Contact Roger Di Silvestro (212) 546-9201 or write to him (at NAS headquarters.)"

### GARRISON:

"The (plan supported by Audubon) has been passed by both houses of Congress and will soon be sent to the White House for the President's signature."

"This is a landmark event and should bring to a close one of our generation's toughest controversies..."

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If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one.

John Galsworthy

## 1986 CAMPERSHIP AWARD

The recipient of Sequoia Audubon Society's 1986 Campership Award is JONATHAN C. PARSONS, a biology teacher at South San Francisco High School. SAS will sponsor Jonathan for two weeks, July 20 to August 1 at the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming, where he will be studying field ecology.

SAS's Board of Directors revived the campership program in the fall of 1985 after a year's hiatus. The revitalized program calls for the sponsorship of a San Mateo County student or educator in the biological sciences.

With this mandate in mind the Campership Committee of Win Dye and Walter Smithey designed and prepared application forms and mailed them to the various school systems in the County.

Upon receipt of the completed applications, Win and Walter reviewed them carefully, selected the one they thought showed the greatest promise of future returns for conservation in the county and made their recommendation to the Board which unanimously ratified the selection of Mr. Parsons.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS - PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY SEQUOIA MAIL TO THE OLD POST OFFICE BOX AS IT MAY NOT BE FORWARDABLE. PLEASE CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS TO SHOW THE ADDRESS GIVEN BELOW!!!!**

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MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED IN SEQUOIA NEEDLES. THESE MAY BE ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ORIGINAL ARTWORK OR CARTOONS, OR UNCOPYRIGHTED MATERIAL 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.

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