



sequoia needles

Sept. 1986

Vol. 35, #1

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

THIS MONTH'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.

Everyone is welcome to bring their slides (up to a maximum of 20) and share their experiences with the rest of the membership.

Just make sure that your slides are in the order you want them and properly oriented. It can be very embarrassing when that one very special slide that you were so proud of is the one that makes everyone tilt their head and start whispering "what is it?".

OCTOBER'S PROGRAM

Next month's program will feature Jan Wild, who is known locally for her work with Wildlife Rescue. Her slides of the plants, animals and birds of the Amazon River will give us a view of the abundance and variety of life in the rain forest. Come and share Jan's enthusiasm for the area to which she plans to return again this year.

HELP NEEDED

Juanita Heinemann, known to her fellow SAS members, as the "hummingbird lady", desperately needs an assistant for "avian chores". The days and hours are flexible (usually between 8-10 AM).

Although willing and enthusiastic volunteers are most desired, this can be a paid position for the right person.

Please contact Juanita at 593-4707 for further details. If she is not home, please leave your name and telephone number on her answering machine.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LINDA KYPTA

Three years ago I never would have dreamed I'd be writing a letter from the President. At that time I'd never given the Audubon Society a second thought, but here I am, older, much wiser and enthusiastic about the coming years with Audubon. How times change!

There is much to be gained from volunteer organizations. I find you receive much more than you give. A new knowledge, a greater awakening and appreciation of what people can do as a team. When you know you won't be paid you can go ahead and do a good job for the fun of it and the good feeling it gives you. I went from SAS to Wildlife Rescue and then this year to the Coyote Point Animal Center so you can guess I get lots of good feelings. It may be work but I wouldn't trade the rewards I get knowing I've helped someone or taught someone something that could save a wild animal in the future. The general public is shockingly ignorant about wildlife and the conservation of it. We have to constantly stress that wildlife and the environment must be preserved or it will be too late as has happened too many times by being at the bottom of too many priority lists.

Birding was the embryo of my awareness and is a constant joy to me. The bird world has opened my horizons and enabled me to use my knowledge and appreciation of birds almost anywhere I go. The recent article in *Audubon* magazine regarding highway birding had me laughing out loud. I even enjoy driving more than before. There's always a bird to watch or bird behavior to observe even in the most common species.

The upcoming year should be very rewarding. The most exciting is the newly formed Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Association. A steering committee of about fifteen people have met several times and are making progress towards the creation of a Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Center using a 40 foot van which we may see very soon. Many people are working hard with great enthusiasm, spearheaded by SAS' Rick Baird, Chairman of the Steering Committee; Executive Secretary Gary Strachen; and Attorney Rick Newkold, all of whom have put in long hours time to make this a reality.

A Sequoia Audubon Trail is now being cleared and hopefully in the not-too-far future we will have docents at the marsh to lead school classes down this and many other paths to observe the abundant wildlife and values of the marsh.

SAS has been concerned for many years about the future or non-future of Pescadero Marsh. We are very grateful now that many others are just as concerned. Our dreams will eventually be reality, so keep your eyes and ears on the Marsh.

This year's planning meeting took place in mid-July. I think it was very successful. Many volunteered for jobs and committee work but we need your help. The more people working on a job the more fun there is to be had by all.

Looking forward to a good year,

----- Linda Kypta

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 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
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SEP. 4 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

SEP. 9 FIELD TRIPS PLANNING AND ORGANIZING SESSION - 7:30 PM at the Audubon Office, 720 El Camino Real, Belmont. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

SEP. 11 SAS GENERAL MEETING. "SHOW AND TELL" NIGHT in THURSDAY which our members bring their own slides and narrate their summer adventures. Always one of our most popular meetings. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See the article on Page One for further details.

SEP.14 MOUNTAIN VIEW FOREBAY -- In recent years this has SUNDAY become one of better areas for observing shorebirds when high tide forces them off the mudflats. This trip is scheduled on the rising tide when the shorebirds will be arriving at this area to feed and rest. Pectoral, semi-palmated, sharp-tailed, Baird's and stilt sandpipers have all been seen here in recent migrations and least terns used it as a staging area last year. 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

SEP.21 POINT REYES FIELD TRIP. A search through the SUNDAY "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost anything at this time of year. We'll be looking for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect migrants and some early arriving winter residents as well. Walking will be minimal but sturdy shoes are recommended. Clothing should be layered since the weather on Pt. Reyes is extremely changeable. Although fall is normally the most pleasant time of year on Point Reyes keep in mind that it has the coolest average summer temperature in the continental US. We will meet at the new Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters building at 9:00 AM. To get there take Hwy 101 or I-280 north to Hwy 1. Take Hwy 1 across the Golden Gate Bridge where it once again joins 101. Follow 101 north to the San Anselmo-San Quentin exit and take a left at the bottom of the ramp. You will now be on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Follow this all the way to Olema. At Olema, take a right at the stop sign and within a hundred yards take a left. In about half a mile, you will come to the Headquarters complex. The trip will take place rain or shine. Bring lunch. The trip normally lasts until 2 PM. Anyone interested in car-pooling should call the Audubon office (593-7368) or the leader.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

Gilman Hall, the rehabilitated barn at the Bouverie Preserve, was dedicated July 26 and properly celebrated with food, music and speeches of appreciation. The handsome, high-ceilinged building designed by Clifford Conly and David Bouverie will serve as the center of educational activities at the Preserve, providing a library, a kitchen, a laboratory and offices as well as a light and airy assembly and exhibit hall.

The new facility is named in honor of its principal donor, the Gilman Family Foundation of New York City. Sylvia Gilman attended the dedication. In his remarks, David Bouverie acknowledged the generosity of the Gilmans saying, "We are five to six years ahead of schedule thanks to the Gilman family."

At the invitation of staff member Edris Cole, US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and some friends visited the Bolinas Preserve in July. Edris took them to the overlook where they spent about a half hour viewing the nesting birds. From all reports Justice O'Connor, whom Edris found to be warm and personable, was most enthusiastic about the Ranch, calling it the highlight of her trip to Marin.

This all came about through a chance encounter with a former Ranch visitor the bread shelf of Ed's Superette in Stinson Beach.

Final figures for the spring season at Bolinas show a meteoric rise of visitors and a slight decline in breeding birds. Heronry expert Helen Pratt reported 21 pairs of herons and 96 pairs of egrets this year.

Five thousand more visitors came to the Preserve this season than in any previous year for a total of 19,000 through June 19, according to Manager Skip Schwartz.

At Bouverie 60 groups visited during the spring for a total of 2000 visitors guided by a volunteer staff of 54 participating docents. Bolinas had 63 school classes visit this spring for a total of 1876 children with 76 participating docents.

QUOTES I'D RATHER NOT HAVE HEARD

"There's plenty of grizzly bears and wolves in North America. Forty thousand in Canada and Alaska, I'm told, and the rest make nice carpets." -- Senator Steve Symms (R-Id) in a 1985 speech the Idaho Cattlemen's Association

THE URBAN SPARROW

CLIFF RICHER

I received more of a reaction to May's article on the "lonely" white-crowned sparrow of Rincon Annex than to any other article in the three years I've been doing *NEEDLES*. (This vast outpouring of comments consisted of two letters, a postcard, two phone calls and a half-dozen comments at meetings or field trips.)

Those of you who may have been concerned as I was about the fate of our dispossessed sparrow can take heart. Two days after the June *NEEDLES* went to press, I emerged from my office building and heard - faintly - the unmistakeable song of a white-crowned sparrow. The evening rush hour was well underway so it took me some time to locate the singer over the traffic noise. Finally, I found him, in the canopy of one of the new plantings outside the Federal Reserve Bank Building above one of the busiest intersections on Market Street. Over and over he sang his song, accompanied by the clanging of the cable-car bell and the roar of the diesel buses. The bird was quite tame and I was able to get close enough to see a familiar triangular shaped break in the line above the left eye. It was "my" sparrow!

I have to admit that my emotions were out of all proportion to the significance of the event and when I finally turned my back on this tiny survivor I had a new appreciation for the aptness of the old cliché about "a spring in my step and a song in my heart."

As it turned out he was not exclusively my sparrow after all.

Sheila Davies wrote, "Your Rincon Annex friend not only most probably survived but may have moved to a more up-market address: Montgomery and Post. This spring as I came up the Crocker Plaza steps from BART I could hear that wonderful white-crown sound to greet me. About six floors up, on the Crocker Bank building, there he was, perched on a railing round a box hedge. A few weeks later he moved to a roof garden on the other side of the street. I heard him again this morning (May 14, 1986) but his song is less assertive now."

"You must have had different office hours when I was walking down Spear Street several years ago. Otherwise, you would have seen one passer-by stop and return the greeting."

Thanks also go to Dick and Sandra Eckstein and to Helen Davies for their kind remarks.

In August, the white-crowned sparrows are usually silent so I've lost track of this tiny survivor but I'll let all of you know when I hear him again in the spring.

CALENDAR (Continued from Page Two)

SEP. 28 PELAGIC TRIP FROM MONTEREY. This "reservations only" trip has been filled for some time but it may still be possible to "climb aboard" by contacting the tour operator directly. Call Debbie Love Shearwater, 408-688-1990, for information. Meeting time is 6:30 A.M. in Monterey, so you may wish to make arrangements for accommodations in the area.

SAS COORDINATOR LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

OCTOBER 1986

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OCT. 2 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

OCT. 9 SAS GENERAL MEETING. Jan Wild will take us with THURSDAY her into the up-river reaches of the Peruvian Amazon - a little known but rapidly declining area of abundant bird and animal life. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See the article in next month's *NEEDLES* for further details.

BIRDING CLASSES--SAN FRANCISCO

Free evening birding classes are being offered through the San Francisco Community College District. Although classes started in August, students may enroll at any time during the 18 week semester. Just go directly to the classroom indicated, near the intersection of Judson and Phelan Avenues at City College of San Francisco on the days and hours shown below. Parking is available in the North Reservoir off Phelan Avenue. A parking fee of \$7.50 per semester may be charged. The Balboa BART station is adjacent to the college.

Each class stresses identification, status and habits of North American birds in a two-and-a-half hour weekly slide lecture. The text for all classes is *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society. The instructor is Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the weekly recorded Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology. It stresses concepts in modern ornithology, including behavior, population ecology and evolution; illustrated primarily by common Bay Area birds. It meets Tuesdays starting August 19 from 7-9:30 PM in Room 268 of the Arts Building Extension.

Ornithology II is an in-depth systematic treatment of identification and status of landbirds including flycatchers, swallows, wrens, thrushes and vireos. It meets Wednesdays starting August 20 from 7-9:30 PM in Room 310 of the Arts Building.

Ornithology III will cover waterbirds including grebes, seabirds, pelicans, cormorants and herons. It meets Thursdays starting August 21 from 7-9:30 PM in Room 268 of the Arts Building Extension.

These classes are sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society as a public service and all evening classes are free of charge. Optional field trips may be arranged on weekends. The fee will be \$32 for seven half-day trips. Please bring binoculars and field guides to all classes if you have them. For more information, call the John Adams Community College Center at 561-1900.

MONO LAKE NEWS

The winter of 1985-1986 was very good for Mono Lake. In February, torrential storms forced the Los Angeles Department of Power and Light to stop diverting water from the lake's tributaries. By mid-summer the lake was at its highest level since 1974.

The storms that caused President Reagan to declare Mono County a disaster area and had Tioga Pass closed beyond its usual opening day were a miracle for Mono Lake's gulls. The rising waters once again isolated Negit Island and made it impossible for land predators to reach the gulls' eggs and chicks. Almost six times as many gulls nested on Negit Island in 1986 as in 1985 but the totals were still less than 5% of what they were in 1978.

Torrents of water roared down Rush Creek almost washing out the back roads from the South Tufa Preserve to Lee Vining and making the culvert over the creek impassible except for the most foolhardy drivers.

However, DWP continued to divert every possible drop of water. Lee Vining, Walker and Parker creeks remained dry until runoff finally breached the Lee Vining dam in May. "We have no intention of releasing water if we can avoid it," said DWP attorney Kenneth Downey while DWP engineer LeVal Line told the California Water Commission that "there is no degradation of the environment in the Mono Lake area."

Faced with this kind of intransigence, the Mono Lake Committee feels it has no choice but to defend Mono Lake through the courts, the Legislature and public censure. Governor Deukmajian continues to be deluged with letters to save the lake and has had to hire full-time staff just to answer mail on this one subject.

Nevertheless, the Governor remains uncommitted on the issue and his opponent in this fall's election is diligently trying to avoid it. Mayor Bradley's plan to end the traditional North-South water disputes ignores Mono Lake entirely. Both candidates claim to be "studying" the problem.

You can let them know how you feel about Mono Lake by writing to them at the following addresses.

Gov. George Deukmajian
State Capital
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mayor Tom Bradley
City Hall
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

MONO LAKE LAWSUITS: AN UPDATE

THE PUBLIC TRUST SUIT, filed by the Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon, Friends of the Earth and three individual landowners in 1979 is the only suit which seeks to protect the lake itself. This suit pits the "public trust" doctrine against state water rights policies. This case has been

shuffled from court to court. In 1984 the US District Court ruled that the public trust portion of the suit should return to the Alpine County Superior Court and a federal nuisance claim based on alkali dust pollution should remain in Federal Court. This is being appealed by all parties with the Mono Lake Committee, et.al., asking for all matters to be retained at the federal level while DWP and the state are asking that all matters to be returned to the county and ultimately to the state water board.

THE RUSH CREEK SUIT has been deferred while the State Department of Fish and Game studies the stream to determine what flow levels are needed to keep the creek healthy. These studies are expected to take two to three years, but meanwhile the water continues to flow at 19 cubic feet per second (or more) into Mono Lake.

THE WATER LICENSE SUIT is an offshoot of the Rush Creek action, and asks the court to void DWP's licenses to divert water from any of the Mono Lake feeder streams. Hearings are continuing through the summer on this but no trial date has been set.

WRITE A BETTER LETTER

Today, perhaps more than ever before citizens are expressing their concerns to public officials. Interest groups mobilize their members and activists in sophisticated, coordinated campaigns through telegrams, phone banks, media work and personal visits. But even with all the different lobbying strategies that abound, one of the easiest and most effective ways of getting your message across is still the simple, direct personal letter.

Some people ask "Why not give me a pre-written postcard or message that I can simply drop in the mail?" The truth is postcard campaigns have little impact on influencing the position of public officials. They realize how little effort it takes to slap a stamp on a postcard. In fact, congressional offices are often so inundated with pre-printed messages that it's sometimes difficult to answer the real letter writers.

Some points to remember when writing letters to your public officials:

1. **BE BRIEF.** Try to keep your letter to a single page. Focus on one issue per letter.
2. **BE DIRECT.** Identify the issue (refer to a bill by bill number if possible) and say what action you want the official to take. Ask for a specific position or commitment.
3. **DON'T MENTION YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN AN ORGANIZATION.** The official probably knows the organization's position. They want to know what you, a voter, think about an issue and how it affects you and your region.
4. **THANK THE OFFICIAL** if they have taken a correct stand on a previous issue. You will be showing your awareness of their record and they will appreciate the praise in light of the letters from those constituents whose views differ from your own.
5. **FOLLOW UP.** By writing back you will show your continued interest in the issue and will increase your credibility with the public official and their staff.

One of the greatest ironies about writing constituent letters is that after taking the time to compose something original and thoughtful, you are likely to receive a pre-written response! Don't dismay. If the response you receive is either a form letter or too vague, feel free to write back and ask for a clearer response. After all, each public official has to respond to thousands of citizen Constituent letters are still a representative's primary form of voter contact.

(Reprinted fr *Activist*, vol.1, No.1, June 86, newsletter - Defenders of wildlife)

KEEP UP THE CRUSADE!

National Audubon is telling us to "pick up our lances and stay with those crusading to protect wildlife and the environment."

Audubon Action has been replaced by their new national newsletter the *Audubon Activist*, to give you all the information you need to slay the dragons.

To sign up for the Activist corps, send six dollars for one year's subscription to the *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

BAYDAY

The Marin Conservation League, Marin Discoveries and the Environmental Forum of Marin are co-sponsoring the second annual Bayday on October 11. Bayday gives you an opportunity to explore this amazing estuary aboard the three-decker catamaran cruiser, *Gold Rush*. Bay experts and naturalists will discuss its history, geology and biology as well as the impact of fill, dredging and pollution.

The trip begins at Pier 39 in San Francisco at 9 AM and returns at 2 PM. A box lunch is included in the \$42 fare and a snack bar on board provides a variety of beverages. Contact Sallyanne Wilson at 456-1912 for reservations or further details.

NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy continues to expand its holdings in California with eleven additions to present preserves, three new acquisitions and one stewardship lease in 1985.

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 Northern California - Jean Richmond	12.00
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
720 El Camino Real #403
Belmont, Ca. 94002

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS

OCEANIC SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS

The Oceanic Society has provided logistical support to the resident Farallon Island personnel since 1972 through the Farallon Island Patrol Program. Member-owned and operated vessels have logged over 25,000 miles ferrying supplies between the Bay and the Islands. Now the Society is offering natural history trips to Southeast Farallon Island to show the public the importance of continued protection for this important ecosystem.

Natural history trips are scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday through September and October. Trips depart San Francisco at 9:00 AM and return at 5:00 PM. Costs are \$44 per person with food and beverage not included.

Call or write Oceanic Society Expeditions, Fort Mason Ctr., Building E, San Francisco, Ca. 94123, (415) 474-3385.

SHER RECEPTION

A reception is being held on October 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM to honor Byron Sher, chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsors of the event include Peter Behr, Barbara Eastman, Clarence Heller, Huey Johnson, Gerald Meral, Lennie Roberts, and William Siri. Admission is \$20 per person.

If you are interested in attending, please call 494-7437 for reservations or further details.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

PCL MIDYEAR REPORT

At mid-year the Planning and Conservation League has a mixed report on environmental legislation this year.

It does not appear that the Urban Open Space Bond Act will make it to the ballot this year since the competition for ballot space is so intense. For this reason, the PCL is considering sponsoring an initiative to place this on the ballot in the next general election. Such an initiative has to be planned carefully and strategically designed so as to gain the maximum public support while not competing with other environmental bond acts. A proposed initiative will be presented to the PCL board this month.

On the legislative side there were the following hits and misses:

SB 1600 -- The Tahoe Compact Bill was supported by correspondence and testimony, passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

SB 1717 ---- The Urban Open Space Bond Act passed both the Senate and Assembly but was withdrawn after the legislatures and Governor's office reviewed all of the proposed bond acts and found that they exceeded the legal limit.

AB 2668 ----- Bond Act to Improve Drinking Water Systems included a PCL amendment providing for water conservation and was passed and signed.

AB 2977 -- Lead Poisoning Study in children. Passed and PCL is appealing to the Governor for signature.

Most bills die in committee and never reach the Assembly floor. At the mid-point there were some important bills that never made it:

AB 3598 - A \$600 Bond Act for Construction of the Auburn Dam died after opposition from PCL. A major victory.

AB 3096 -- Restriction of Coastal Access. Opposed and died.

AB 3049 --- Deregulating Pollution Control Devices on Used Cars. Strongly opposed by PCL. Died in committee.

AB 2908 ----- Prohibiting Hook-up Moratoriums where sewer capacity was inadequate. Died in Ways and Means after heavy PCL opposition. A worthwhile victory.

AB 2907 ---- Reducing the Authority of Local Government to Regulate Housing Developments. Strongly opposed by PCL and died in committee. A major victory.

AB 2228 - Requiring the State Water Board to Set Standards to Protect SF Bay. PCL was unable to come up with acceptable wording and it died in committee.

AB 1279 - Allowing Illuminated Billboards to Carry General Advertising. Defeated twice but will probably resurface next year.

AB 540 -- A Bill to Simplify the California Tax Code which would eliminate the checkoffs. Died in committee but will be back after Federal Tax Reform is completed.

SB 2612 -- The Return of Duke's Ditch died but may be resurrected again (and again).

SB 2458 -- An East Bay MUD Bill that started out with good intentions but ended up with bad amendments. Killed by legislative counsel.

SB 2427 -- Relaxing Standards for Orange County Landfills. Vigorously opposed and apparently dead.

SCA 31 - Toxics Bill of Rights. Supported but died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Since this is an election year PCL spent a considerable amount of time working on budget items, concentrating on "motherhood and apple pie" environmental issues.

Urban Streams Funding - blue-pencilled out by Governor.

Tahoe Conservancy - funding to purchase critical habitat. Agreed to by the Governor.

Lake Tahoe Water Quality Study Continued Funding - Signed.

San Joaquin and Sacramento River Funding - "Control" language inserted by PCL and designed to restrict re-rapping was vetoed out by the Governor.

Toxics Enforcement and Education - vetoed out by Governor.

(Continued on Page Seven)

COASTWEEK '86

COASTWEEK is a week-long celebration (Sept. 20-29) intended to increase the public's awareness of the nation's coasts. Cleanup Day (Sept. 20) is California's way of participating in this celebration -- an organized cleanup of the state's beaches meant to beautify them and to rid them of the dangers to wildlife.

Chapter members are invited to join other conservationists, civic groups, sports and recreation clubs, business organizations and individual citizens as Coastweek kicks off Saturday, September 20 with Coastal Cleanup Day.

The removal of debris from the beaches not only eliminates an eyesore, but also lessens the potential danger for wildlife who can ingest or get entangled in the debris that ends up on the beaches.

Wherever possible, coordinators will arrange for recycling collected debris to symbolize the goal of resource conservation.

The event's organizers include representatives from the Coastal Commission, the State Management Board, Californians Against Waste, the California Conservation Corps and RecyCal.

"This is a chance for us to give back, in a personal way, some of the value we get from our magnificent coastline," said Coastal Commission spokesman Jack Liebster. "We hope many chapter members will join in the cleanup and develop other Coastweek activities."

Interested volunteers should contact the Audubon office or Jack Liebster, Moira Dean or Leo Smith at the Coastal Commission, telephone 543-8555.

COMPLETE THE REFUGE

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge has received a \$2500 matching grant from Save San Francisco Bay Association. The Committee which is encorsed by 31 organizations, including all of the Bay Area Audubon Societies, is working for inclusion of seasonal wetlands in the original Refuge. Many species such as the cinnamon teal and the saltmarsh harvest mouse cannot survive without the seasonal wetlands this organization is trying to preserve. In order to permanently save these lands, it will necessary to obtain new Congressional authorization. A major grass roots effort around the bay will help.

Donations may be sent to the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, 575 South Rengstorff Ave., #148, Mountain View, Ca. 94040. All donations are tax-deductible and will be matched by the save San Francisco Bay Association.

CPM DOCENT CLASSES

Lori Mann, Coyote Point Museum Education Director, is taking reservations now for three fall docent training courses. Docent training classes provide volunteers with the knowledge to conduct tours about Bay Area ecology and local environmental issues for both youth and adults.

The docent training classes offered this fall are:
Intertidal Interpretation; on Thursdays from 9 AM to noon, Sep.18 to Dec.18:
Exhibit Interpretation; on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to noon, Sep.24 to Feb.11:
Wildlife of the Bay Area; on Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to noon, Sep.30 to Dec. 2.

Enrollment fee for each class is \$25 including one year's Museum membership.

Upon graduation docents are asked to give tours approximately two mornings a month. Active docents receive a reduced rate for Coyote Point Museum membership, free admission to the Museum and Park, free docent enrichment programs, two annual luncheons, a Museum store discount and a bi-monthly newsletter.

For additional information call Lori Mann at the Museum, 342-7755.

DESERT TORTOISES

Linda Kypta reports that she now has temporary custody of a second desert tortoise which she is fostering on behalf of Wildlife Rescue.

Obviously both of these creatures are well out of their normal range and were undoubtedly picked up by well-meaning animal lovers.

However, the Bureau of Land Management reminds us that the desert tortoise is an endangered species. Their education program has worked too well in that many tortoises have been turned in to the desert offices of the BLM for "protection" so they have had to clarify their intent.

Barstow Area Manager Alden Sievers urges citizens not to take them home or to a BLM office but to simply allow them to continue on their way. If they are crossing a highway or road drivers should stop for them or go around them. They should not be picked up except for their own safety and then they must be moved gently as they become easily frightened when picked up. When frightened they eliminate their body water, leaving them vulnerable to death by dehydration.

The desert tortoise is protected by state law. It cannot be collected or harassed and a permit is required to keep it in captivity.

MARINE ENTANGLEMENT MENACE

Marine entanglement and the incidental take of nontarget marine species by the fishing industry is an enormous problem that has only begun to be addressed. Plastic monofilament nets, soda and beer can holders and other plastic litter annually entangles thousands of marine mammals, sea birds, sea turtles and nontarget fish.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that over 298 million pounds of plastic fishing nets, buoys and lines are lost annually by commercial fishermen, while over 52 million pounds of plastic packaging are thrown overboard. Japan alone leaves 1624 miles of "ghost net" (discarded or lost nets) during the five month fishing season. These ghost nets continue to entangle marine animals for years.

Corrective steps are being taken but progress is slow. Congress recently approved \$750,000 in funding to the National Marine Fisheries Service. (NMFS) to help solve the problem. Other steps include a bill recently introduced by Senator John Chafee (R-RI) which will ban plastic six-pack and bottle holders, replacing them with bio-degradable alternatives.

Environmental organizations have expressed unanimous support for the US ratification of Annex V of the 1978 Protocol of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The MARPOL Treaty would provide stringent regulations for discharge at sea of ship-generated garbage. Most importantly, it would prohibit the disposal of plastics and other synthetic materials, including fishing nets. Ratification depends upon the Coast Guard receiving public support.

Most of the plastic debris ultimately ends up on the world's beaches. Beach cleanup efforts have therefore become important voluntary activities, helping officials pinpoint pollution sources. Last year the California effort resulted in volunteers cleaning up 300 miles of coastline, collecting tons of debris.

This year's national beach cleanup campaign, Coastweek '86 is scheduled for September 20-October 14. (See the separate related article in this issue.)

Concerned readers are encouraged to help stop the plastic pollution by writing to Rear Admiral J.W. Kime, Office of the Commandant, US Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second St., SW, Washington, DC 20593 and to Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Secretary of Transportation, Room 10200, Nassif Building, 400 7th St., Washington, DC 20590. Urge them to support US ratification of MARPOL Annex V, and support federal regulations to stop plastic disposal at sea.

(Reprinted from Defenders of Wildlife's *Activist Network News*, Volume 1, No. 2, August 1986.)

Carol Larsen passes along this unusual item from the Youngstown, Ohio *Vindicator*. "Birds do not like the color blue, so to keep them from eating planted seed, soak them in water to which a little laundry bluing has been added."

PCL MIDYEAR REPORT

(Continued from Page Six)

It is obvious from reading of the non-legislative activities of the Planning and Conservation League that it continues to grow in status and influence under Jerry Meral's leadership and is more and more being regarded as a semi-official voice on environmental issues. PCL's growth in influence and prestige is especially noteworthy when one compares their tight and limited budget with those of industrial lobbyists.

They deserve our continuing support and our thanks for their continuing vigilance.

BIRDING CLASSES ON THE PENINSULA

The Sequoia Adult School will offer two classes of interest to birders.

BIRDS AT HOME AND IN THE FIELD

For beginning and intermediate birders. The fall quarter of this year-long course will focus on water birds. Bird behavior and habitat preference as well as identification will be covered in the ten slide lectures and five Sunday field trips. Classes will be held at the San Carlos Senior Center, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM, starting Wednesday, September 10. The fee is \$40.

The instructor will be Maryann Danielson. Registration is made at the first class. For further information call (415) 369-6809.

BIRD STUDY FOR SERIOUS BIRD WATCHERS

For intermediate and advanced birders. This year-long course will blend identification and avian biology, focusing on birds found in California. The fall quarter will highlight birds in migration. Ten slide lectures and five Saturday field trips. Classes will be held at the Menlo-Atherton High School, Room C-6, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, starting Monday, September 8. The fee is \$40.

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