



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
November, 1988

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 37, #3

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

This month's program features one of the world's most endangered species - the mountain gorilla. Doug Cheeseman, one of our regular program presenters, is a noted photographer, tour leader and educator. His slides of the gorillas of Rwanda and the other wildlife of East and South Africa will thrill and excite you.

(Our congratulations to Program Chair Janet Duerr for one of the most amazing publicity feats in recent years. But she refuses to tell us how she ever got Sigourney Weaver to do that long commercial for our November Program)

Meetings are held at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside on the second Thursday of every month. The Social Mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. with the General Meeting and Program at 8:00. The public is invited.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Next month is Potluck Month. And befitting a very special event, a very special speaker. Maryann Danielson returns after too long an absence to give us a program on the Birds of Chile.

Watch next month's *NEEDLES* for full details.

NO JANUARY NEEDLES

The newsletter has always been one of our major budget items. We were especially hard hit by the increase in postage rates last year and even though our membership is up almost 25%, our dues income from National Audubon has not increased significantly.

We have therefore reluctantly come to the decision that our only way to reduce our newsletter expense is to eliminate one month's issue.

Putting together the January newsletter has always been the most difficult task of the year for the Editor. The problem of scheduling the holidays, the Christmas Counts, and the *NEEDLES*, has caused some major time-juggling crises. So it was decided that the January issue was the most expendable. We will publish a December-January issue next month and none in January.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, I promised to continue discussing the inner workings of SAS and its committees. Unfortunately, the rest of the space in the *NEEDLES* has already been used and there are a number of important last minute items to pass on.

OLD GROWTH FOREST UNDER THE AXE

Up north in Humboldt County, Pacific Lumber, (which used to be one of the good guys before it was taken over by Maxxam) has plans to cut virtually all of California's remaining old-growth forest. California Director of Forestry Jerry Partain denied two timber-cutting plans by the firm because they failed to provide wildlife information required by law. Pacific Lumber appealed and the State Board of Forestry overruled the Director 8-0.

On June 17, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Protection and Information Center of Garberville filed suit against the State Board and against Pacific Lumber. Attorney Thomas Lippe, fresh from two court victories over PL has said that this is an even stronger case.

Unfortunately the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is already over-committed with National Forest cases in Alaska, Washington and Oregon and is unable to help in this situation. An appeal is being mounted directly to the members of conservation groups throughout the state. Your tax-deductible check for \$5.00 or more can help preserve this Audubon priority habitat for the spotted owl and the other species who depend on these few remaining stands of old growth timber. Please send any contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation and note "SC vs BOF" on the bottom. The address is 30001 Navarro Ridge Road, Albion, CA 95410.

MONO LAKE UPDATE

The EPA has downgraded the Mono Basin from Air Quality Group III to Group II because of the pollution from dust storms. The dust storms come from the alkali flats exposed by the falling lake level. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is allowing the court ordered water flows to continue (barely) in Rush and Lee Vining Creeks but evaporation has dropped the level nineteen inches since last year.

The Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI) has released its report. Entitled *The Future of Mono Lake*, the study echoes the National Academy of Sciences' 1987 report. A lake surface at 6382 feet above sea level is needed to protect "all key aspects of the lake" and a lake level of 6352 would cause "ecosystem collapse". The September level was 6377 feet. At the present rate of diversion, the collapse of the lake's ecosystem is less than 20 years away. The report was commissioned by the State Legislature.

NO WILD GOOSE CHASE NEXT MONTH

The originator and organizer of SAS's Wild Goose Chase (who also happens to be your President and Newsletter Editor) has decided to suspend it this year. The time demands of his new job are going to be heavy for the next few months and something has to be sacrificed-hopefully for this year only.

PAGE ONE

CALENDAR

November 1988

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			

NOV. 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence. THURSDAY ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, but those wishing to attend should contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) to be sure there is room to accommodate everyone.

NOV. 5 FIELD TRIP TO THE PALO ALTO BAYLANDS. The Baylands SATURDAY is one of the few remaining and best preserved of the once numerous bay salt marshes and is the home of the endangered black rail and California clapper rail. It is also the winter home of many species of waterfowl, prime feeding grounds for five species of heron and a stopover for migrating birds. Many rare birds have been reported from this area during the fall and winter months and our previous trips have found a number of them. We will meet at the farther end of the duck pond at 9:00 AM. To get there take Hwy 101 south to the Embarcadero exit. Follow the Embarcadero east to its end and take a left. The duck pond is a short way up on the left opposite the Yacht Club buildings.

LEADER STEVE SCHAFER 689-0788

NOV. 10 THE MOUNTAIN GORILLAS OF RWANDA will be the main THURSDAY theme of Doug Cheeseman's illustrated travelogue on the birds, wildlife and outdoor attractions of East and South Africa. At the San Mateo Garden Center at Parkside off the Alameda. General meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. with the social mixer beginning at 7:30.

NOV. 12-13 THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES. Clouds of SATURDAY geese and enormous rafts of ducks are typical of & SUNDAY the sights that greet the birder at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges or at the state's Gray Lodge refuge nearby. These are primarily car-caravan tours since walkers tend to disturb the wildlife. We will meet at 7:00 AM in the parking lot of the Blue Gum Motel on Saturday morning and again at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. The motel is just off I-5 3 miles beyond Willows. Take the next off-ramp after the motel's sign and turn right onto Blue Gum Road. At the end of the road turn left and the motel is approximately 1/4 mile on the left. There are other motels in Willows and along I-5 and camping at the state park in Colusa. Motel reservations are advised at this time of year. The Blue Gum Motel's phone number is (916) 934-5401. Trip reservations are not required but you are requested to call the office (593-7368) or the leader so that we may know how many to expect at each rendezvous point.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

NOV. 19 LAKE MERCED FIELD TRIP. Lake Merced and its wooded SATURDAY surroundings rival Golden Gate Park with some of the best birding habitat within San Francisco city limits. This trip will combine walking and driving to cover many of its more productive areas. The trip will begin at 8:30 am in the parking lot at the foot of Sunset Blvd. To get there, take I-280 north to the 19th Avenue exit, and drive north on 19th Avenue to Brotherhood Way. Drive around and under the overpass and west on Brotherhood Way until it ends at Lake Merced Blvd. Go north (right) on Lake Merced Blvd. about 1-1/2 miles to the parking lot on the left, just before the road crosses Sunset Blvd. Bring a lunch if you wish to bird past noon.

LEADER DAN MURPHY 564-0074
(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

DAN MURPHY

The heronry at ACR experienced a good year according to Helen Pratt. Most exciting is the return of snowy egrets for the first time since 1969. Five nests were found. Two of those produced at least 6 young but great horned owls took 3 of them. Great blue heron nest numbers were down to 13 from 18 the previous year. Reproductive success was high though with 31 young being raised. Great egrets had a successful year as well, with 186 young being produced by a minimum of 113 nests. Volunteer board member and biologist Helen Pratt led the survey team which included Tom Queer and Lois Vansandt.

Welcome to new office supervisor Nancy Angelesco. She comes to us with an excellent professional background, experience in working with volunteers, and has established a volunteer organization. Best of all though, everyone who has met her likes her.

The November Annual Appeal, ACR's major fundraising drive is underway. The mailing should reach by mid-month. It is through your contributions that ACR is able to offer its unique education program, free to school children from around the Bay Area. This program includes a free transportation program to enable financially strapped schools to take advantage of the ACR experience. Your contributions enable us to offer programs such as this. If you don't hear from us you need only send your tax deductible check to Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4900 Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

About 70 enthusiastic new volunteers are training to join the ranks of our ACR docents. Twenty-seven are in training at the Bouverie Preserve and over 40 are training at Bolinas Lagoon Sanctuary. These volunteer educators will participate in a 22 day natural history and outdoor education course. Following that they will join the continuing docent staff, the core of the ACR education program, providing free classes to school children from around the Bay Area. Veteran docents will participate in other classes designed to add further depth to their expertise.

The 1989 Ranch Guide training class will begin in February. The 6 week class will focus on the heronry and on ranch history. All sessions will be held on weekends. If you would like to help interpret the ranch for weekend visitors this is a program you certainly would be interested in. Classes will be presented for experienced ranch guides as well. Watch this column for further details.

Congratulations to John and Susan Kelly, for the birth of their son, Shane. The excited and proud father is the resident biologist at the Cypress Grove Preserve.

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

always ACR is thankful to all who contribute their money, time and efforts to the Ranch's success. Clifford Conly, long time benefactor to the Ranch, through his contributions to the establishment of the Cypress Grove Preserve has contributed an additional 20% of his property at Cypress Grove, giving ACR about 49% ownership of that preserve. David Bouverie has once again made a substantial contribution to the endowment fund for the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. The generosity of David and Clifford in establishing two major Audubon Canyon Ranch Preserves is certainly appreciated by those of us active in the Ranch family. But it is most significant as a contribution to the visitors who will benefit from their caring gifts for generations to come.

The Executive Committee of the ACR Board had authorized the needed repainting of the Crum & Thompson houses in Volunteer Canyon. It has also authorized construction of a biologist's office in Pitcher Canyon. It will enable ranch biologist Ray Peterson to be even more available to docents and staff. The office will be located at the east end of the garage and shop building. Construction should be completed within 60 days.

(Dan Murphy, the author of this monthly column, will lead our Lake Merced Field Trip on Saturday, November 19.)

Sequoia Audubon sent a contribution to the Ranch in memory of Karen Schwartz and received the following handwritten acknowledgement.

"Dear Sequoia Audubon Folks,"

"Thank you for your thoughtful note and contribution. We are coming along OK."

"Best regards,"

"Skip Schwartz and Family"

ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

As a rule, it is not necessary to make reservations for single-day field trips, as there are no real constraints on the size of the group. Currently, the only exception to this is the Jasper Ridge trip in April, which is limited to thirty participants. On the other hand, those who wish to take part in any of the weekend trips should contact the trip leader as far in advance as possible, since overnight accommodations usually must be made well before the trip date. An extreme example of this is the Yosemite trip next spring, for which campground reservations will be made eight weeks in advance. Any special considerations such as these will be indicated in the newsletter description of the affected trip.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

NOV. 30 FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and WEDNESDAY shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater from lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon.

LEADER

NICK COIRO

349-1834

December 1988

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

DEC. 1 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence. THURSDAY ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, but those wishing to attend should contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) to be sure there is room to accommodate everyone.

DEC. 3 FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and SATURDAY shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater from lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon.

LEADER

NICK COIRO

349-1834

DEC. 8 SAS GENERAL MEETING. MARYANNE DANIELSON: THE BIRDS THURSDAY OF CHILE. Maryanne, well known as a long-time member and friend of Sequoia Audubon, a lecturer and teacher on bird identification, and founder and leader of Sunshine Ecological Safaris will be our program lecturer for December. December is potluck time. See next month's NEEDLES for full details.

DEC. 17 THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT. SATURDAY AND

DEC. 31 THE AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT. SEE PAGE FOUR FOR SATURDAY DETAILS AND THE SIGN-UP SHEET. This year for the first time Sequoia Audubon joins the rest of the Christmas Count sponsors in requiring a \$4.00 fee from all counters who wish to be listed and have their birds included in the compilation. Call the Audubon office (593-7368) now to sign up, fill out and mail in the form or contact one of the coordinators.

COORDINATOR

PETER METROPULOS

591-2417

COMPILER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

BARRY SAUPPE

726-1081

NRA AD

The September issue of Audubon Magazine carried a full page advertisement for the National Rifle Association. Featuring Curt Gowdy, the ad depicted the NRA as a "just folks" conservation organization.

So vehement and adamant was the storm of protest, (SAS was one of the protesters), that it prompted a response directly from National Audubon Society President Berle.

In his letter President Berle wrote, "In my capacity as publisher, I have instructed our magazine staff that in the future Audubon will no longer accept or print advertising for the NRA."

Call the office (533-7368), Peter Metropulos (591-2417), Cliff Richer (355-4058) or Barry Sauppe (726-1081) or fill in and mail the form on this page to register for either count.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

POINT REYES: Sunday, September 25

A crew of 15, including 12 newcomers and a guest from San Antonio assembled at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters and headed for the lighthouse. The weather was perfect for Pt. Reyes birding. A low overcast and no wind is supposed to guarantee good results. Unfortunately no one had explained that to the birds. At the lighthouse trees the birders were greeted by Steve Schafer and Janet Duerr. Unfortunately the greeting was "I've never seen things so dead out here!"

That was to set the tone for the day. I set a new record for lowest number of species on a Point Reyes trip. To emphasize how bad things were, I never saw a meadowlark and only heard two, a bird usually as common as the blackbirds. The high-points of the trip were a very visible young great horned owl, a passing osprey and a chance to compare willow and western flycatchers at the fish docks; pectoral sandpipers at the Spaletta and Mendoza farm ponds; and the winter-resident flock of lesser golden-plovers on the Spaletta plateau. Oh well, the weather was good and the company better. --- Cliff Richer

=====

"The problem was a burning in my throat, my ears, my eyes. I started coughing badly and got dizzy. Within a day I had pain in the bronchial tubes of my lungs." -- EPA toxic waste specialist Bobbie Lively-Diebold, explaining why she was on sick leave from the air pollution in the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency.

%%
 SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY PATCHES ---- \$4.00 BY MAIL
 %%%
 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! Only \$6.00!

(Taxes, shipping and handling included).

%%
 Also available by mail - including postage and tax
 The Birder's Handbook-Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye 17.60
 National Geographic Field Guides-New Edition 17.25
 Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00
 Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.50
 Pacific Coast Checklist-in pads of 25 3.50
 %%%

BIRDING VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING by Arnold Small - \$2/wk.

VIDEO GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA - \$5/wk.

%%
 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

SHARK SPECIAL

The next Audubon Television Special confronts the challenges facing the sharks of the world. Sharks are an essential part of the marine environment. And several species are now threatened and greatly reduced in numbers.

The Audubon Special contains dramatic footage shot in oceans around the world and is narrated by Peter Benchley, the author of *Jaws*.

The air dates on cable station WTBS are December 16 (7:50 pm), December 24 (1:05 PM), December 27 (6:20 PM) and December 30 (7:05 PM). The program will be seen on public television in June.

I WE I HRT

(I WISH I HADNT READ THAT)

An unusual sheep-hunting "contest" conceived by a New Mexico rancher and planned for the Lincoln National Forest has been turned down by US Forest Service officials at least until detailed studies are completed.

The rancher advertised that for a \$50 entry fee deer hunters could pursue ten red-painted domestic sheep released on his ranch. Any hunter who killed and brought in one of the marked sheep could keep the mutton and receive a \$200 reward.

--- From *Outdoors* magazine, October 1988

Ah, for the thrill of hunting the wily woolly! Anyone for pursuing the elusive escargot? Or the savage celery?



**San Francisco
 Peninsula
 Birdwatching**

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

STEVE SCHAFER

The scientific name, *Ectopistes migratorius*, is somewhat redundant, as it means "migrating traveler." But it befits a bird that once roamed in enormous flocks over the eastern half of North America.

The Passenger Pigeon looked a bit like a Mourning Dove, though much more colorful and quite a bit larger (the longest, if not heaviest, of the North American pigeons). Its habitat was the eastern deciduous forest; acorns, beechnuts, and chestnuts were its principal food. Its call was said to be bell-like.

A few centuries ago, the Passenger Pigeon was the most abundant bird in North America, and probably the most abundant land bird that has ever existed on this planet. It is estimated that up to five billion individuals lived at that time. Alexander Wilson once reported seeing over two billion birds in a single flock. The Passenger Pigeon's gregariousness combined with its nomadic habits made for an incredible spectacle each spring, as the birds moved from their wintering grounds in the southeastern U.S. to their breeding colonies in the Midwest, Northeast, and eastern Canada. As the flocks passed through the forests, they left behind trees with great limbs shorn off under the weight of their roosts. Their foraging efficiency left squirrels, jays, and wild pigs starving. The breeding colonies were no less spectacular. The largest known colony was in Wisconsin; it covered 850 square miles and contained at least sixty million breeding pairs. A single tree could hold as many as fifty nests.

Today, there are no Passenger Pigeons. What happened? It appears that several factors may have acted together to extirpate the species. The birds were hunted mercilessly, usually at the breeding colonies, with takes of 25,000 birds a day at a single colony not uncommon. While the hunting was not by itself enough to destroy the colonies, the hunting activity disturbed them so much that the surviving birds would soon abandon their nests. In addition, the nestling birds were the ones most prized by the hunters. Year after year of reproductive failure thus led to a situation where birds were dying naturally but not being replaced by young birds. Eventually the colonies dispersed, and it was this event that led to the birds' ultimate end. The Passenger Pigeon's reproductive behavior was intimately tied to mass colonial nesting: Each pair laid only a single egg, in an open, unprotected nest. By nesting in huge, densely populated colonies, the birds managed to completely satiate the local predator population, so that a large fraction of the young survived to adulthood. After the colonies were devastated, the remaining widely scattered nests were extremely vulnerable to predation, and the birds were never able to recover.

Three hundred years ago, one out of three birds in North America was a Passenger Pigeon. On September 1, 1914, Martha, the very last Passenger Pigeon, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. She was twenty-nine years old.

"The pigeons were picked up and piled in heaps, until each had as many as he could possibly dispose of, when the hogs were let loose to feed on the remainder."

--- The Passenger Pigeon, from *Birds of America*
John James Audubon

The first stool pigeon was a passenger pigeon. Market hunters, seeking to lure the birds to a particular area, would set out decoys on perches. These decoys were often live birds, with clipped wings or sealed eyelids. The perches were called stools. Ergo, stool pigeons, those who betray their own kind to their enemies.

CONSERVATION NEWS

GAIL SMITHSON

HOPE FOR EDGEWOOD PARK

The Committee for Green Foothills reported in their summer newsletter that San Mateo County was proceeding with an environmental analysis of the southern San Francisco Water District lands across Interstate 280 from Edgewood Park as an alternative site for the golf course. In comparison with Edgewood Park, the site is far less significant botanically. No rare or endangered butterflies or other invertebrates were found nor expected there due to lack of indicator habitat, and, as the soil is not serpentine, more favorable to turf requirement for a golf course.

HOUSE PASSES SF BAY REFUGE EXPANSION

House Resolution 4272 was passed by the House of Representatives in September. The controversial map indicating the lands desirable to be included in the Refuge was eliminated from the bill before approval since the landowners felt that it had the effect of devaluing their property. The bill includes a willing seller clause which means the landowner will not be forced to sell to the government or have the property taken in eminent domain proceedings.

Much of the land is supposed to be free from future development since it is wetland and the bill authorizes the Refuge to include these lands within its management plan. A small portion of the land is upland, which is valuable to migratory birds as rest areas. Much of the land is in the hands of speculators or historic landowners who have been hoping to sell to developers.

The passage of this bill is a positive act as it approves expansion of the Refuge by an additional 20,850 acres, almost doubling its size.

HOPE FOR TROPICAL FORESTS

An electric utility company has decided to balance the books-somewhat. Applied Energy Services of Arlington, Virginia, concerned that its coal-burning power plant in Uncasville, Connecticut will contribute to the greenhouse effect, has donated \$2 million to plant 52 million trees in Guatemala. The total cost of planting the trees and educating the local farmers will be nearly \$14 million and will be shared by CARE, (the international relief organization), the Guatemalan and the US governments.

Brazil has done a reversal on its development of the Amazon basin. President Sarney announced last month that tax breaks and other incentives for projects that may harm the environment were going to be withdrawn. The "red light" that awakened him, Sarney said, was the revelation by scientists that 6000 man-made fires were set in the Amazon each day.

BIRDING SAN MATEO COUNTY

Peter Metropulos

OBSERVATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

PELAGIC REPORT: On September 4, the sportfishing vessel, "Salty Lady", left Sausalito. I was aboard with fellow Sequoia Audubon member Ron Thorn and we were heading for deep sea waters off the San Mateo coast. Our destination was the Pioneer Canyon, a submarine canyon 20-30 miles west of Pescadero. The ocean was extremely rough: the wind was cold and wet: but our persistence paid off. Our twelve hour ordeal resulted in the following species of birds: **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS** (2); **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER** (5); **SOOTY SHEARWATER** (150); **ASHY STORM-PETREL** (6); **RED PHALAROPE** (10); **SABINE'S GULL** (3); **SOUTH POLAR SKUA** (4); **LONG-TAILED JABGER** (3); **POMARINE JABGER** (2); **XANTU'S MURRELET** (2); **RHINOCEROS AUKLET** (8); and **CASSIN'S AUKLET** (5). Also noteworthy were the excellent close-up views of hump-backed whales and a leatherback turtle.

The trip was sponsored by the Whale Center of Oakland.

#####

Uncommon migrants through our area, single **OSPREYS** were seen flying over Menlo Park, September 6 (WGB), and Pescadero Marsh, September 10 (RF).

Rare but regular in fall coastally, a **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** was soaring south along the ridge at El Granada on September 8 (BS).

The first of our wintering **HERLINS** was zooming across Highway 101 at Redwood City, Sep. 26 (PJM).

Two **LESSER GOLDEN PLOVERS** were along the beach at Año Nuevo Point on September 18 (PJM, GJS) and three were in the cattle pasture north of Pigeon Point on September 29 (PJM).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS increased in numbers to a peak of twenty birds at Pescadero Marsh on September 8. Lesser numbers were reported from several other locations.

Very rare away from it's typical ocean-shore habitat a **VANDERING TATTLER** lived up to its name and wandered to the Bay at Foster City, Sep. 30 (NC).

The highest count of **BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS** was nine at Año Nuevo Point on September 18 (PJM, GJS), although lesser numbers were reported from other coastal localities.

PECTORAL SANDPIPERS numbered a respectable 23 on ranch ponds south of Half Moon Bay, Sep. 28 (PJM).

Three **STILT SANDPIPERS** at Pescadero Marsh, September 20 (AK), furnished us with our third county record. One bird was still there on Sep. 25 (RST).

A very uncommon **COMMON TERN** was fishing along the beach at Año Nuevo Point on September 29 (PJM).

A **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** dined on flying insects in the parking lot of the Gazos Creek Restaurant while people inside dined on seafood, September 4 (JRB). This montane-nesting species occurs only occasionally as a migrant along the central coast.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER was flycatching in the willows at the Half Moon Bay Airport, September 24 (RST).

(Continued on next column)

(Continued from previous column)

An influx of **TROPICAL KINGBIRDS** yielded the following sightings: one at a ranch pond south of Half Moon Bay, September 28; one at the town of Pescadero on September 29; and another at Coastways Pond near Año Nuevo Point, also September 29 (all by PJM). These birds breed in Mexico and Central America and each fall a few misguided individuals wander north past the border. Who knows where they go from here!?

A very late (and very lost?) **PURPLE MARTIN** was perched on the wires at Princeton Harbor on September 19 (PJM).

Seed-storing behavior, typical of squirrels and jays, was observed in **CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES** in a Pacifica yard. The chickadees were seen to stash sunflower seeds and peanuts in nooks and crannies in MacNab cypress.

One of our "to-be-expected-but-nonetheless-rare" vagrants was a **TENNESSEE WARBLER** at Princeton Harbor on September 1 (DK).

Even rarer were two **PRAIRIE WARBLERS**, one at Moss Beach on September 16 (AK) and another at the town of Pescadero on September 17 (RST).

A pretty salmon-colored **AMERICAN REDSTART** "flitted and flicked" for us at Moss Beach on September 26 through September 28 (DK, PJM).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS revealed themselves at two coastal weed-patches: one at Pescadero on September 11 (RST) and another at Pillar Point on September 21 (PJM, RST).

A **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** was scared up from the bluff above the beach at Moss Beach on Sep. 21 (PJM).

OBSERVERS J.R. Blair (JRB)
William G. Bouseman (WGB) Nick Coiro (NC) Roland Franz (RF) Antoinette Gamlin (AG) Dan Keller (DK) Andy Kratter (AK) Linda Kypta (LK) Peter J. Metropulos (PJM) Barry Sauppe (BS) Gary J Strachan (GJS) and Ron S. Thorn (RST)

=====

The BLM reports it has increased its California Ranger force to 50 and brags that they issued 1500 citations last year. That's less than three per ranger per month! They could issue more than that just watching 4-wheel drive commercials on TV!

=====

NAS INFORMATION SERVICE

Every week we get a few inquiries at the office. Some can be answered easily. Others are referred to the Humane Society (injured birds) or to members with specialized information resources.

However National Audubon's Information Services handles 300 inquiries or more each week on subjects from bird behavior to acid rain! During the school year about half of the calls come from students - especially elementary school pupils. They also fill hundreds of request from teachers who are looking for educational materials.

Beside answering questions, Information Services refers some callers to other organizations that have a specialty, helps newspaper and magazine reporters check facts, and distributes brochures to our offices, sanctuaries and chapters.

KATHERINE KROLL

Katherine Kroll, wife of Nicholas P. Kroll of Millbrae, died October 3 at age 87.

Katherine and Nick Kroll became members of Sequoia Audubon 33 years ago. They were faithful active members of the chapter until several years ago when Katherine's health failed and it was difficult for her to leave home.

Katherine's knowledge of birds, flowers and plants was very extensive. Although she was a very modest woman, she was always willing, in her quiet and gentle way, to help others with less knowledge.

We shall miss Katherine.

--- Carmen Gales

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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

IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE KROLL
FROM
Frank and Jean Allen

OFFICERS:		DIRECTORS:		STANDING COMMITTEES:	
President:	Cliff Richer 355-4058	Elected for Term Ending:		ACR Host:	Wknd Field Trips: Steve Schafer 689-0788
Past Pres.:	Linda Kypta 591-9053	June '89	Rick Johnson 571-8533	Bird Sightings: Peter Metropulos 592-2417	Mid-week Trips: Nick Coiro 349-1834
Vice-Pres.:	Gail Smithson 363-2725		Janet Duerr 689-0788	& Christmas Count: Barry Sauppe	Program: Janet Duerr 689-0788
Secretary:	Ed Mc Elhany 343-3219	June '90	Dave Augustine 879-0575	Conservation: Rick Johnson 571-8533	Hospitality: Linda Kypta 591-9053
Treasurer:	Colleen Horner 366-4282		Rick Baird 574-1067	Audit: Nick Coiro 349-1834	NEEDLES Editor: Cliff Richer 355-4058
		June '91	Steve Schafer 689-0788	Finance/Budget: Rick Baird 574-1067	SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE 593-7368
			Nick Coiro 349-1834	Membership: Walter Smithy 591-2501	Rare Bird Alert 528-0288
STAFF:	Sunny Green			Education:	

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEEDLES SEPARATELY IS \$7.00 PER YEAR.

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.

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
San Mateo, Ca.
PERMIT NO. 293

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION---SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter C16 -- 7XCH

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY PREFERRED

[] Individual/\$30 [] Family/\$35 [] Student/\$18 [] Sustaining/\$50
[] Senior Citizen-Individual/\$21 [] Senior Citizen-Family/\$23 [] Supporting/\$100
[] Contributing/\$250 [] Donor/\$500 [] Life/\$1500 [] Dual Life/\$2000

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

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

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

7XCH
PAGE EIGHT

TIME VALUED MATERIAL! PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!!