



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
April 1989

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 37, #7

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

John Kelly, resident biologist at the Cypress Grove Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch, will give us a program on the Ranch. John will briefly discuss some of the history of Audubon Canyon Ranch. He will select from the slide archive collected by those at the ranch a number of beautiful slides to illustrate some of the activities of the wildlife at the ranch, concentrating on the behavior of the birds at the heronry. John will tell us about some of the research programs on the ranch which have broadened our understanding of the birds, the region, and its ecology. Finally, he will discuss Audubon Canyon Ranch's two newest acquisitions, the Bouverie Preserve and the Cypress Grove Preserve.

We at Sequoia Audubon have been deeply involved in the activities at Audubon Canyon Ranch since its inception. Here's our chance to get an update on the activities at the ranch. John's program will remind us of the beauty of the area and how wonderful its herons, egrets, and other wildlife are. This program should inspire us all to visit the Ranch this spring and experience it for ourselves.

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

May will bring us a program on birding in Southern Florida by our program coordinator, Janet Duerr. Janet was lucky enough to experience a major migratory bird "fall-out" last spring in the Dry Tortugas off Key West and will share some of her slides with us.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for the June elections has been named.

Rick Baird will once again serve as chairman. Assisting him will be John Willman, former President and one of our most active members over the years and Al Wofchuck, a member for more than 24 years, and a frequent participant in chapter activities.

THE MARBLED MURRELET

THE LAST ORNITHOLOGICAL MYSTERY

GARY STRACHAN

Years ago, in the summer of 1970, at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, I was working as one of those idealist park aides for a biologist-ranger named Dave Sears. During that time I discovered that there were still mysteries. Dave called one the "last ornithological mystery in North America, the marbled murrelet." When he had time to be in awe of the natural world, Dave pointed out this unique bird during foggy dawn sessions at Elk Prairie. Since then I have been attempting to solve some of the mystery while working for State Parks. Until last summer not much was known about this anomalous little seabird.

The name of the bird probably doesn't strike a bell in the heads of many, but this species is closely connected with the California State Park System; in fact, if it wasn't for the Department and organizations like the Save-the-Redwoods League and the Sempivirens Fund, it is possible that this bird would barely exist in California. As it turns out, State Parks manages about 80% of the probable nesting habitat of the species in this state.

During the spring and summer of 1988 the Federal and State wildlife agencies decided to evaluate the species and I was able to coordinate the southern portion of a statewide study for this small seabird. With the help of State Park rangers, County rangers and some volunteers we began an intensive evaluation of where these birds occur. We found that a major portion of the population utilizes the protected habitats of the California redwood parks.

The California Department of Fish and Game, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service funded this study. All along the coast of California we took to old growth coast redwood forests at dawn and dusk to gather the information necessary to estimate numbers and potential nesting sites. The information that was collected will assist in answering the long-standing puzzle of where they nest and how many there are in California. (Only one nest has ever been discovered in California. This occurred at Big Basin in 1974 and is one of only six nests ever found world-wide.)

The bird's nesting behavior, its habitat needs and biology are almost unknown. Over the years scientists have attempted to piece together fragments of information. There is now an urgency in the current inquiry. We have believed that it nests in old-growth redwood and fir forests along the coast and it appears that the same factors that threaten other old-growth related species, especially the reduction of habitat by logging, play a role in the future of this species. The question being evaluated is, if you cut down or mismanage the old forests that are left, would that lower the population to a point where the species would not be able to reproduce itself? This is a question we need to answer before time runs out.

(Continued on Page Six)

CALENDAR

April 1989

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

APRIL 6 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.

APRIL 8 AÑO NUEVO/WADDELL CREEK FIELD TRIP. Gary Strachan
SATURDAY will lead us on a field trip to one of these two areas. Actual selection of the field trip area will be up to the leader right up to starting time of the trip and will be conditioned on birding, weather and trail conditions. We will meet in the parking area of the Año Nuevo State Reserve at 9:00 AM. Wear clothing suitable for coastal birding at this time of year. Sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER

GARY STRACHAN

APRIL 7-9 CALIFORNIA-NEVADA AUDUBON CHAPTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. A Blueprint for Audubon Action in 1989.
SUNDAY A special gathering of NAS chapter leaders from throughout Nevada and California. The program will feature a blending of workshops and presentations using the protection of the desert as a case study for learning skills that will be of great value to the many other conservation issues we face in Audubon. NAS President Peter Berle and other officers and staff members of National Audubon will be in attendance. Conference begins with Friday night registration at 6 P.M. Saturday and Sunday sessions begin at 9:00 AM. Registration fee is \$18 which includes all conference activities. Meals are separate and overnight accommodations are up to attendees. Any member may attend. Call the Western Regional Office (1-916-481-5332) for more details.

APRIL 9 BIRDING SAIL -- SPONSORED BY THE AUDUBON AND
SUNDAY OCEANIC SOCIETIES. Leaving from various marinas in the San Francisco Bay area at 9 AM & returning by 6 PM. Bring your own snack food and a pot luck dish for lunch. Wear warm (layered) clothing and bring appropriate white-soled or foul weather duck shoes and binoculars. Cost of the sail - for members of the Oceanic Society - \$15; non-members -\$20 (includes a one-day membership in the Society). Persons selected as docents will not be charged. To reserve your space as a guest or as a birding docent (one per boat) call the Oceanic Society office at 441-5970 or Ann Splittgerber at 823-1363.

APRIL 13 GENERAL MEETING. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, ITS
THURSDAY HISTORY AND ITS WILDLIFE PROGRAMS will be the main subject of our program. Of special interest will be a series of slides showing the growth of young birds at the heronry and others showing the less well-known wildlife of the Preserves. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

APRIL 16 MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP. An auto caravan through an
SUNDAY isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on despite the destruction of their habitats in the Central and Livermore Valleys. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, purple martin, wild turkey, Costa's and calliope hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

DAN MURPHY

VISIT THE RANCH: Audubon Canyon Ranch is open to the public now. Pack your picnic lunch and visit us. The Ranch is located about 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on Highway One. Plan to bird on Bolinas Lagoon before migration takes the rest of our ducks north for the summer. Have lunch in the Ranch yard, walk our half mile loop trail to the overlook and watch the great blue herons will be in the nests and perhaps our first egret chicks will hatch before the end of the month.

Ranch biologists will prepare programs on three weekends in May and June. Ray Peterson will be with us on the weekend of May 6-7, John Petersen on June 3-4 and John Kelly will be present on June 17-18. Each will enrich your visit with his own special program and interpretation of ACR and the heronry.

ACR FIELD SEMINAR SCHEDULE

APRIL 1, SATURDAY: "MOON SPRING" Join Phyllis Ellman and John Petersen for a sensory hike to Mayacamas Mountains. (Bouvierie Audubon Preserve - \$20)
APRIL 9-15, SUNDAY through SATURDAY: "LARRY WEST PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP" Back by popular demand, Larry West, nationally acclaimed nature photographer, will teach this week-long seminar on all aspects of nature photography. (Volunteer Canyon, \$475 includes cost of seminar, lodging and meals)
APRIL 15, SATURDAY: "A NATURAL HISTORY OF TOMALES BAY" John Kelly will lead this car caravan from the top to Tomales Bay to the bottom as he focuses on the complex ecological system of this vital coastal resource. (Cypress Grove Preserve, \$20)
MAY 20-21, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: "IN FOCUS; 35MM PHOTOGRAPHY" This 2 day photography workshop will be taught by Ray Peterson. (Volunteer Canyon, \$40 includes lodging)
JUNE 21, WEDNESDAY: "GET TO KNOW THE CRITTERS NIGHT" Beef up your butterfly identification skills for our annual butterfly counts the following weekend. (Volunteer Canyon, \$3)
JUNE 24, SATURDAY: MARIN BUTTERFLY COUNT (Volunteer Canyon, Free)
JUNE 25, SUNDAY: SONOMA BUTTERFLY COUNT. (Volunteer Canyon, Free)
 The annual butterfly counts are sponsored by the Xerces Society.

Call the Ranch for reservations or details, on weekdays 9-5 at 868-9244.

BOUVIERIE GUIDED NATURE WALKS: Reservations are required and can be made by calling (707) 938-4554. Walks are on Saturdays from 9:30 to 1:30 on April 8 and 22 and on May 6 and 20. Take this opportunity to enjoy the Bouvierie Preserve with a member of the Docer Council. Wildflowers should be abundant and the birding should be great. (Free)

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

NATURAL HISTORY JEWELS OF MALAYSIA: Bouverie biologist John Petersen will lead a natural field trip to Malaysia between June 17 and July 8, 1989. John's background in ornithology, botany, field biology, tropical ecology and previous travels in Malaysia make him uniquely qualified to head this tour. The tropical rainforests in northern Borneo are the world's oldest and are home to 8500 species of plants, 450 of birds, 200 of mammals and 250 species of reptiles. The trip is limited to 16 participants. For further information contact Barbara Hopper at Geostar Travel, 6050 Commerce Blvd., Rohnert Park, CA 94928 [1 (800) 624-6623 or 1 (707) 584-9553].

BOUVERIE OAK REFORESTATION: Staff, docents, volunteers & visiting children began an oak reforestation program at Bouverie Audubon Preserve in December 1988. Among the species restored to the Bouverie property were blue oak, coast live oak and valley oak, 121 trees in all. This is part of a plan sponsored and encouraged by our own David Bouverie to restore the oak woodland habitat to its former grandeur on our property, and hopefully, through encouragement and example, elsewhere. David's plan is a simple one - individual land owners should take action and responsibility for reforesting lost oak woodlands on their own property.

TOMALES BAY AQUACULTURE: ACR has been invited by the California Department of Fish and Game to participate in monitoring new aquaculture leases at Tomales Bay. Components of the monitoring program will include studying the impacts of aquaculture on eelgrass habitats, a 5 year study to determine its effects on sedimentation and a 5 year shorebird census on impacted mudflats. Most extraordinary is a provision requiring the establishment of an escrow account by each leaseholder to provide for cleanup and structure removal in case the lease is abandoned. John Kelly, one of ACR's biologists, deserves the thanks of the entire environmental community for his leadership in helping develop this protection plan while encouraging a compatible public use. Great work, John!

RIVER OTTERS AT CYPRESS GROVE: While walking through Livermore Marsh at the Cypress Grove Preserve, John Kelly observed two river otters. The sighting was confirmed later by Ginny Fletcher. Why were they there? Where did they come from? Did they come in with the herring runs? Beats me.

DOCENTS: We welcome the newest graduating classes of docents to the ranks of the ACR family. These enthusiastic volunteers bring new energy and perspective to our education efforts at ACR and at Bouverie Audubon Preserve.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

April 1989						
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						

(MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP - CONTINUED)

never be more than 45 minutes away from either Livermore or Interstate 5 so that you can break away and return to civilization at any time. This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last four years varying between 40 and 90 degrees on this trip at this time of year; there are only two reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime and at mid-afternoon; and one service station (often closed) at the half-way point so be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 for about 23 miles to the North Livermore Ave. exit. Take a right at the exit and follow Livermore Avenue through the center of town where it becomes South Livermore Ave. Approximately a half mile beyond the center of town you will see the Nob Hill Shopping Center on the left. We will meet in the parking lot and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and then take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

APRIL 18 PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP - The only sheltered harbor between Santa Cruz and San Francisco, Princeton Harbor is winter home to a good variety of bay ducks, loons, cormorants and other divers as well as gulls and shorebirds. Not only does the harbor usually have one or two surprises, but the nearby willows, cypresses and grasslands have proven to be first-rate warbler traps. Clay-colored sparrows, palm and prairie warblers are only a few of the species that have wintered here the last few years. To get there take Hwy. 92 to Hwy. 1 and follow Hwy. 1 north to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the lights. Take your first left and proceed straight ahead into the upper parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 A.M. This will be a walking trip along the beach and rocks with some areas of broken footing, so boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. The trip should break up at noon. THIS IS A RE-SCHEDULING OF LAST MONTH'S TRIP WHICH HAD TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO HIGH WINDS.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

APRIL 30 JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE AND SEARSVILLE LAKE. The field trip to this unique biological preserve will highlight nesting birds and the wild flowers unique to serpentine soils. Possible sightings include wood ducks, blue-gray gnatcatchers, ash-throated flycatchers and black-headed grosbeaks. We will meet at the Stanford University Jasper Ridge Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill Gate) at 8:00 A.M. Meet promptly as the gate will be open only from 7:45 to 8:15 A.M. From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west about 2 miles to a gate on the left side of the road. We will go rain or shine. A user fee of \$3 per person (checks preferred) is required. The size of the group is limited so please call the office (593-7368) early for this reservations only field trip. For additional information, call the leader.

LEADER LOUISE FLETCHER 591-6804

(See Page Four for the May Calendar)

CALENDAR

May 1989						
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				

MAY 3 FILOLI BACKWOODS FIELD TRIP. This trip will focus **WEDNESDAY** on the birds and wildflowers of Filoli. From southbound Canada Road, take the first right turn (westbound) beyond the Pulgas Water Temple. Meet at the Gate House at 8:30 am. The field trip should end by noon. There will be an entrance fee of \$1.00 per person.

LEADERS FRANK AND JEAN ALLEN 344-9339

MAY 4 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.

MAY 6 SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP. San Bruno Mountain **SATURDAY** stands in isolation, looking a bit out of place alongside the skyscrapers of San Francisco. Yet it is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden in pockets of woodland and in sheltered canyons. We will be exploring its unique flora and fauna during this half-day trip. We will meet at the San Bruno Mountain Park ranger station at 9:00 AM. To reach the ranger station: From northbound U.S. 101, take the Bayshore Blvd./Brisbane exit, and go north on Bayshore Blvd. about 1 miles to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn left on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and follow the road about two miles to the station.

LEADER AL SEUBERT

MAY 20 SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK FIELD TRIP. This **SATURDAY** wooded park provides a variety of habitat for migrating and nesting species of forest and grassland birds. Our leader knows the park well and nearly every year he has found one or more vagrant species in the park or its neighborhood. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park and should break up at noon. 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

AUDUBON SPECIALS NOW AVAILABLE ON HOME VIDEO

Vestron Video is releasing the Audubon Television Specials into the home video market. The programs on the California condor, the black-footed ferrets, panthers and cheetahs, wetlands, the Galapagos Islands and the Florida Everglades are now available. Eventually all of the Audubon Specials will be released.

AUDUBON MONTH

April is Audubon Month. For 1989 the National Audubon theme is Rivers and Wildlife. Nationally, protection of the Platte River has been adopted as one of Audubon's major projects.

In connection with the April 7-9 California-Nevada Audubon meeting, Audubon activists will deliver Rivers and Wildlife educational materials to the appropriate state officials.

CANDIDATES WANTED

The Nominating Committee welcomes the suggestions of any of our members and encourages those who wish to volunteer for consideration as officers or directors.

Traditionally one of the most difficult positions to fill is that of Treasurer. During the last few years we have been lucky to have Nick Coiro and Colleen Horner filling this important job. Although both have expressed willingness to assist the new Treasurer, neither will be able to serve this coming year. Any prospective candidates are invited to come forward. To volunteer or to suggest candidates, call Nominating Committee Chairman Rick Baird at 574-1067 after 6 P.M.

WILD ANIMALS -- BEST LEFT WILD

Hand raising an individual wild bird or mammal is cruel! You teach the animal to socialize with humans (imprinting). They do not learn fear of humans, dogs or cats or who their predators are. They do not know how to recognize their natural food or where to find it. It is also illegal to hand raise native birds or mammals without a permit.

When you release a hand-raised animal that has been imprinted, you are handing it a death certificate. The animal will seek out human companions who will not understand the situation. People who have a crow land on them or a squirrel or raccoon run up their leg are apt to jump to the conclusion that these animals are sick. People often harm them in trying to keep them away. If a mammal attempts to climb on someone or bites them in reaction, rabies is usually feared. This means the animal must be killed to test for the rabies virus. If the animal or bird is considered a pest, they can be killed by the authorities. If natural foods are not recognized the animal will starve. The chance of death by exposure greatly increases when fur or feathers are not in close to perfect condition.

If you find a baby mammal or bird please leave it alone. Mom is probably close by. If they are under direct threat, baby birds can be placed back into the nest or in a nearby bush where the parents will continue their care. If you uncover a rabbit's nest, re-cover it and leave it alone. The adults only come at night to feed the babies. If you fell a tree with baby squirrels, leave the area for a few hours. The parents will move the babies to a back-up nest.

If - after a period of observation - you truly feel the animal is an orphan then contact the Peninsula Humane Center or other qualified wildlife rehabilitation facility for advice before undertaking your own rescue efforts.

-- Portland (Oregon) Audubon Society

BUSH ADMINISTRATION TEST

So far the Bush Administration has given mixed signs about its future posture on the environment. An early test may come about as the result of an internal dispute between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The EPA is trying to force BuRec to conduct studies and produce Environmental Impact Statements on the effects of renewing its 40 year water supply contracts with Central Valley growers. The BuRec has cited legal precedence on water rights and proceeded to renew the Friant contract, with minor concessions to fishing and environmental concerns, but no EIS.

The EPA has appealed the action to the President's Council on Environmental Quality for a decision. The nature of that decision will go a long way towards defining this administration's true environmental interest.

Regardless of how the decision goes expect suits from one or more of the final users - farmers, fishermen or conservationists.

COST PLUS JOINS IVORY BOYCOTT

In March, Steven Boone, President of the 38 store Cost Plus chain announced that the company was discontinuing the purchase of any more ivory products, although it would sell what it had on hand. Cost Plus is the largest seller of ivory to join the boycott to date, joining Nordstrom's and a number of smaller retailers.

"We sold only ivory from approved sources," said Boone, "but as long as we continue to create a market for ivory, irresponsible wholesalers and retailers will continue to buy from poachers."

According to the World Wildlife Fund about 90% of all ivory sold in the world comes from illegal sources. The soaring demand and cost (about \$70 a pound) of ivory has led to increased poaching and a reduction of more than 50% in the number of African elephants.

Letters from customers made Boone aware of the situation and a poll of Cost Plus employees clinched the decision to stop selling ivory.

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



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS

THE MARBLED MURRELET

(Continued from Page One)

During the study we found no murrelets between Pescadero Creek in San Mateo county and Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Humboldt county even though we had rangers and biologists at appropriate locations in these and in Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties. This discontinuity in distribution of some 300 miles isolates the southern population in the Santa Cruz Mountains during the breeding season. Because of this there is cause for concern for this population (estimated at 500-700 birds) and its relationship to habitat loss, disease or a possible oil spill in the vicinity of Año Nuevo Bay. This causes wildlife managers to be very interested in this small seabird with its unusual habits. The bird flies up to 30 miles inland from the open ocean every night. It has strange breeding habits and strange calls, all of which contribute to the mystique of the coastal rainforests.

Even though we had many people out observing and collecting data we were still not able to locate a nest as hoped. Due to the need to understand more about the bird so management decisions can be made in the future, the wildlife management agencies would like to collect more data. During the spring of 1989 the plan is to carry on this study and attempt to determine the needs of this species. Emphasis will be put on three aspects; to find nests, to determine breeding behavior, and to survey old growth habitats for the bird. In the Año Nuevo/Big Basin area we plan to capture birds in Año Nuevo Bay, radio-tag them and follow them into Big Basin. In the Prairie Creek area, the plan calls for netting the birds in drainages as they fly up creeks and then radio-tag them.

You can help us in our work. If you happen to come across a downy young bird or an adult murrelet in an INLAND forested area, we would be very interested in learning about your observation or in seeing the bird if it is found as an injured or killed individual. We are NOT interested in seabirds found along the beach, but any observations of marbled murrelets flying to inland sites are of interest to us.

To report any sightings or recoveries contact Gary Strachan, Año Nuevo State Reserve, Pescadero, CA 94060 (879-0595).

SO. WHAT'S NEW?

To the Editors of *The Auk*:

The "powers that be," I understand are preparing a "Check List" and revising the scientific and popular names of our birds.

There is no doubt that scientific names are entirely in the hands of scientists, but it seems to be overlooked that popular names are just as completely in the hands of the people.

A bird's name, to be popular, must be distinctive, and in accordance with the genius of our language.

Only in cases of egregious error is a common name to be superseded; and in doing this it must be remembered that no name can be popular unless true to the principles of the English tongue. It must be short, distinctive and, if possible, descriptive.

--- Ernest E. T. Seton, Toronto, Canada, March 21, 1885

(Everyone knows the influence that this famed naturalist had on the A.O.U. as evidenced by bird names such as buff-collared nightjar, common moorhen, Siberian tit, etc. --Ed.)

WANTED: ACR HOSTS

This May, members of Sequoia Audubon Society have the opportunity to become involved with one of the special natural areas of our region, Audubon Canyon Ranch. Audubon Canyon Ranch is open to the public on weekends during the heron and egret breeding season. SAS provides volunteers to assist the naturalists at the Ranch by welcoming visitors and directing them to Ranch activities. No training is required to be a volunteer, but a love for the outdoors and a desire to interact with other outdoor and nature enthusiasts is necessary. During May, the herons and egrets at the heronry are at the height of their breeding activity. Both Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets should have young in their nests, and the parents should be busily feeding the hungry youngsters. May is a wonderful time to visit the Ranch and being a volunteer host is a wonderful way to do it. Please call Janet Duerr (689-0788), or John Silliman (585-3232), the ACR host coordinators, for more information.

PAYING OUR WAY

CLIFF RICHER

For years, we birders have used the State's Wildlife Areas and the National Wildlife Refuges without charge, often forgetting that these were bought and paid for through hunting and fishing license fees and through taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. Indeed we may even have encountered an occasional individual who was shocked to learn that hunters were the driving force behind the refuge system.

Some of us supported the system by buying state and federal duck stamps without buying the licenses. Most of us simply used the resource. Sometimes we used it with a small twinge of conscience for we saw the signs of increasing demands and tightening purse strings as the numbers of "non-consumptive" users grew and the sales of hunting licenses shrank.

Effective April 1, nine of the most popular state wildlife areas have begun charging a two-dollar per person fee and the state is offering a ten dollar annual pass, good for any of the state areas during the year.

The state is still experimenting with the means to make this ten dollar pass available to the public. National Audubon has endorsed the concept and some chapters have agreed to become agents for the state in selling the passes. The Sequoia Board of Directors also lends its unanimous endorsement to the concept and is investigating the possibility of participating as an agent in the sales of the wildlife passes.

THE LAND THAT IS THE BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE

DAVID BOUVERIE

We do not know how many centuries went by, with waist-high native grasses everywhere, cougars and bears lording it over the smaller mammals, a profusion of oak trees and springs of bubbling water. We do know that the Pomo and Wappo Indians cherished this bit of land and used the caves behind the waterfall for religious and puberty rituals. There are tunnels at the back of the caves which are now silted up, but Indian leaders have come to see me two or three times in the last 40 years warning me not to allow anyone to dig in these caves or, they said, "Ill would befall you".

In 1823 the first Christian cross was raised in Sonoma by the first small group of Spaniards. Even as part of an early land grant and after California entered the union in 1846, the land of our preserve did not change much for half a century thereafter. Then came a succession of owners who started to despoil this blessed ground, digging great holes to sell the shale, cutting acres of trees and leaving huge piles of unburnable rubbish. When I came, the pasture was horribly overgrazed and very few wildflowers had a chance to grow. You can still see some acres of ugly, spindly second-growth where varied self-renewing woodland once stood.

At the entrance, where the land meets Route 12, was the Warfield station, the end of the line for two railroads from Santa Rosa and San Rafael. People piled out and frequented the many saloons which were operating then on Dunbar Road. The Bokker brothers then owned the preserve. They owned a restaurant and boasted a "two-bit ravioli dinner with wine on the table". They are alleged to have also operated a weekend house of ill-repute, roughly where my house is now. Their building burned to the ground in the late 1920's.

Before the turn of the century, the big house to the north of us was owned by the Stuarts and Ellen Stuart called her house Glen Ellen. When a handful of people built houses west of her place and named the village Glen Ellen, she angrily changed the name of her house to Glen Oaks. At the turn of the century, she gave formal balls and receptions in her house and Mrs. Juilliard McDonald of Santa Rosa told me, in 1940, that she came down on the train to attend them.

I bought the front property in 1938 and the back land in 1947. I bought the canyon and waterfall from the surviving brother of prospector Walter Meddock. Meddock bought the land in the days when accurate surveys were seldom made in difficult terrain and the deed had a proviso that if a future survey proved the waterfall was north of his boundary, then his boundary was 10' above the waterfall. The Meddocks lived off the land, dynamiting the pools to get steelhead from the creek and even eating skunks and selling the skins.

Our copy of Jack London's book, *The Valley of the Moon*, is inscribed to me by London's niece and nephew and verifies that all the rocks for Wolf House came from our land, as did his large natural tombstone, which was hauled across the valley on a farm cart pulled by mules.

I fell in love with the USA when I came to New York from London in 1933 to try and sell designs for pre-fabricated homes. As I had a thriving

architectural practice in England it took me a few years to cut my ties and immigrate, but in 1938 I found the Sonoma Valley and knew it was part of my destiny to save and nurture this land, an easy thing to do now that I have 80 wonderful docents and an excellent professional staff and the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch to help me. The Bouverie family, headed by the Earls of Radnor, have owned and protected vast land holdings since 1530 and still do, so stewardship of land is in my blood.

So far as I know, we have had no neighbors who have shown evidence of interest in conservation with one exception. In 1985 Otto and Ann Teller committed 1000 acres to the Sonoma Land Trust. This land, on our south and east border, will be protected from development or abuse. This is enormously helpful for our programs and objectives.

For several years, starting in 1946, my wife gave me a trail for my birthday. Right after April 20 each year, a bulldozer and the necessary manpower would come in. When I came, there were no trails at all. It took me nearly a month, carrying a sack of rag strips, to mark out the waterfall trail. The chaparral trail was the last wide trail, built in 1975. When I saw the heavy red clay up there, I had the workmen make a little water hold which we call Cougar Pond. It is appreciated by the many inhabitants of that slope because the clay retains water there better than anywhere else on our land.

There are two dams on the creek, the old stone dam on the neighbor's property just as you enter the canyon, and the concrete dam which was built by me in the 1950's to provide gravity-flow irrigation for 20 acres on Route 12. The concrete platform was the base for a redwood water tank. I had an electric pump which raised the water from the creek into the tank. This was piped to the house until the 1950's when I drilled a 400 foot well.

When I came, there was a barely livable house made of rubble with weeds and a dirt road that came through the Triangle Garage. There was a mountain of abandoned cars and junk by the front door. Now there are nine cottages, a recreation building and Gilman Hall. The smallest dwelling is "Emily's Cottage" which I built for my step-daughter when she was eight years old, in 1947. Her nanny taught her to cook, sew and plant a garden there. It has been a haven for a troubled survivor of the Vietnam war, a Buddhist nun, a beautiful French girl who studied landscaping and my old Swiss foreman among others.

In the 1950's I improved the pasture by removing surface rocks. For these rocks, I designed the bell tower and bought the finest bell in all of California from the estate of William Randolph Hearst. It's 4 feet in diameter and weighs 2 tons.

And now, in my old age, I continue to do everything in my power to see that this place is cherished and used for fine purposes and shared with the millions of other living things which inhabit this land.

To those who might read this in 2089 AD I say, "Cherish this land, OR ANY OTHER PIECE OF BEAUTIFUL, UNSPOILT LAND, but do not overcrowd it, for if you do, so many living things will die out or retreat into the hills. And when you see the sweet spring flowers, enjoy them all the more by remembering that, if you give them a chance, they will bloom and die and live again in a recurring parable of life and death and immortality."

BILL JOHNSON

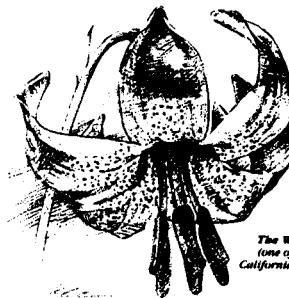
As we went to press, we heard with great shock and great sorrow of the death of Bill Johnson. The Johnson family has been a Sequoia Audubon tradition. His widow, Myrtle, has been an officer and director; and his son, Rick, is our Conservation Chairman and a member of the Board. For years Bill was a dynamic force in Sequoia Audubon, last serving as chairman of the Pescadero Marsh Committee in 1985-1986.

Even after he gave up this position due to his increasingly ill health, Bill was sought after for advice and counsel on a number of legislative, educational and environmental issues.

Many of us will remember him for the combination tide walks and pancake breakfasts which he and Myrtle led and hosted for a number of years. Others for his tireless crusading for a number of noble causes. Still more will remember him just for being Bill Johnson.

Our hearts go out to Myrtle, Rick and the other members of the Johnson family at our mutual loss.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA



The Western Lily
(one of 252 native
California species at risk)

You can help them survive
by filling in LINE 45
on your State Tax Return.

California has more than 250 animal and plant species that face the threat of extinction. We urge you to help them survive with a tax-deductible contribution on LINE 45 of your State Tax Return. Please help if you can. The loss of just one living species hurts us all...

OFFICERS:			DIRECTORS:			STANDING COMMITTEES:			Wknd Field Trips:		
President:	Cliff Richer	355-4058	Elected for Term Ending:			ACR Hostess:	Janet Duerr	689-0788	Steve Schafer	689-0788	
Past Pres.:	Linda Kypta	591-9053	June '89	Rick Johnson	571-8533	Bird Sightings:	Peter Metropulos	592-2417	Nick Coiro	349-1834	
Vice-Pres.:	Gail Smithson	367-6575		Janet Duerr	689-0788	a Christmas Count:	Cliff Richer	355-4058	Janet Duerr	689-0788	
Secretary:	Ed Mc Elhany	343-3219	June '90	Dave Augustine	879-0575	Conservation:	Rick Johnson	571-8533	Linda Kypta	591-9053	
Treasurer:	Colleen Horner	366-4282		Rick Baird	574-1067	Audit:	Nick Coiro	349-1834	Gail Smithson	367-6575	
			June '91	Steve Schafer	689-0788	Finance/Budget:	Rick Baird	574-1067	Cliff Richer	355-4058	
				Nick Coiro	349-1834	Membership:					
STAFF:	Sunny Greene					Education:	Walter Smithy	591-2501	SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE	593-7368	
									Rare Bird Alert	528-0288	

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.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEEDLES SEPARATELY IS \$7.00 PER YEAR.

If you CHANGE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, send the label from a recent Audubon Magazine wrapper with your new name or address to: NATIONAL AUDUBON, MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER, PO BOX 2046, 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!!