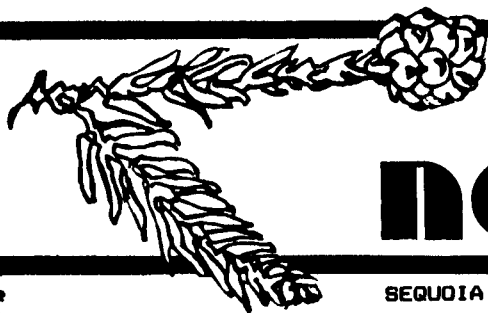




sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
March, 1990

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 38, #6

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Our March program will be presented by Bill Bousman, coordinator of the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas. The breeding bird atlas is a program to examine all of the breeding birds of neighboring Santa Clara County. Over the period 1987-1992, Bill and numerous volunteers go out every spring and summer to record all of the breeding birds in the county. The county is divided up into five kilometer square blocks, from urban areas to farmlands to parklands, and the presence or absence of breeding birds of different species is noted. Bill will give us some of the results of the first two years of the program, including unusual and interesting breeding birds and their habitats. He will illustrate his talk with bird slides by Peter LaTourrette, a professional wildlife photographer who lives locally and who is a participant in the bird survey.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

April is Audubon month, and this year's theme is Wetlands. Jules Evans, a naturalist for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, will give the April program on some of our local wetlands and their inhabitants. In particular, he will discuss and show slides of two of the more intriguing and reclusive wetland skulkers, the black rail and the clapper rail.

NOMINEES SOUGHT

The education committee is seeking nominations for its Environmental Education Award. This award will be given to any individuals who have contributed to increased environmental awareness in our community. These individuals have used their educational skills to inform members of the public, of any age or group, on the interdependence of natural resources and the need for protecting native ecosystems and wild fauna and flora.

Membership in the Audubon Society or professional teaching experience is not a requirement for nomination or selection.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JANET DUERR

As a one-time resident of New Jersey, I am again amazed at the early appearance of spring in the Bay Area. As I write, it is only the first week of February, but already the magnolias are in bloom in town and the buds on the native willows are starting to swell. A female Anna's hummingbird has laid claim to my hummingbird feeder, and is probably incubating her first clutch of eggs, while robins and mockingbirds are just establishing their territories in my backyard.

All of this spring-time activity inspires me to go outside to walk and observe the birds and green hillsides. Although our summer birds are mostly still south in warmer climes, the behavior of the residents becomes varied and interesting now, especially on warm sunny mornings. It's a great time for both beginner and experienced birders to get out in the field.

My husband Steve and I go on as many of the Sequoia Audubon field trips as we can. When we go on Sequoia trips, we are always delighted to see both new friends and old, birds as well as people. I recently compiled a list of field trip attendees for the past two years, and was delighted to find that over 150 different Audubon members and over 50 nonmembers have joined at least one field trip. Most trips have from 5-25 participants, with experience ranging from first timers to old hands (figuratively speaking, that is).

One of my more enjoyable tasks as president is to encourage participation in Sequoia events by members and nonmembers alike. The board and I are going to try to increase interest in our field trips by increasing publicity in local newspapers and newsletters. You, our membership, can also help. If you have not been on a field trip -- try it, you'll like it. We're happy to have you come along even if you don't know your mockingbirds from your robins. If your weekends seem to be bogged down with lots of chores, try taking off a couple of hours one morning to get outdoors and enjoy yourself. You may return to your work revitalized (or, like me, you may turn into a birding addict). Please let your nonmember friends know about our trips and meetings; these events are always open to the public. For most trips, you can just show up at the designated meeting spot described in the newsletter, although a few trips (such as overnights) require advance notification.

Remember, spring only comes once a year and now is the time. Get out and enjoy this beautiful area and our unique wildlife this spring. You won't be sorry!

It's incredible how much intelligence is used to prove nonsense.

Friedrich Hebbel

CALENDAR

MARCH 1990

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

MARCH 1 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence.
THURSDAY ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME but should call the office ahead of time to confirm the meeting site and to be sure there is room.

MARCH 3 BIRDING SAIL - The Second Joint Ocean Alliance/
SATURDAY Audubon Society Birding Sail will be held on Saturday, March 3, 1990. Guests will be assigned to boats with experienced Ocean Alliance skippers. Boats will leave at approximately 9 AM from various locations around the Bay (Marin, East Bay, South Bay), and return at approximately 6 p.m. that evening. A raft-up and potluck lunch will be held at Treasure Island, and awards will be given to the boat spotting the greatest number of bird species. (Last year's winner spotted 47 different species!)

Cost of the sail is \$15 for Ocean Alliance members and \$20 for nonmembers. Persons selected as birding docents will not be charged.

If you would like to attend as a guest or if you would like to be a docent and share your knowledge of birds, please contact the Ocean Alliance at: Fort Mason Center, building E, San Francisco, CA 94123, or call (415)441-5970. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is suggested that attendees wear warm (layered) clothing, bring appropriate white-soled or foul weather duck shoes, binoculars, snacks, and a dish for the potluck lunch.

MARCH 6 PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP - The only sheltered
TUESDAY 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. At this time, we should still be able to find these and perhaps even get a few early visitors. 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.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

MARCH 8 SAS GENERAL MEETING. THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY
THURSDAY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS by Bill Bousman, coordinator of the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas. Since 1987, numerous volunteers have gone out every spring and summer to record all of the breeding birds in the county. Bill will give us some of the results of the first two years of the program. He will illustrate his talk with bird slides by Peter LaTourette. 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.

(Continued on Page Three)

To err is human. To blame it on someone else is politics.
Hubert H. Humphrey

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

DAN MURPHY

ACR OPENS MARCH 17! It's that time again. ACR opens its trails to the public on March 17. If you haven't to the Ranch during the early season you've missed something special. It's true you won't see any egret chicks, but you might see the first herons hatch. As for the egrets, they should be just setting up shop. Watch their dramatic courtship displays as they form pair bonds and stake out nest sites. Plan to explore one of the longer trails.

Get to the Ranch early so you won't miss the morning moisture on the lush green grasses and shrubs and the coolness of the morning mist. The Stinson Beach Road (Hwy. 1) may still be closed. If you're coming from the south, plan on coming over Mt. Tam.

You may want to spend a little time on the canyon floor, but you really should beat the crowd to the overlook. It's relaxing there, so you can forget the city, work and worries before hitting the trail. Spend a few moments watching the turkey vultures soaring overhead. Maybe the first of the season's swallows will join them. Hopefully, the golden eagle won't be with them.

When you're ready wander upward through the oaks and redwoods to the top of Pitcher Canyon. The wildflowers should peak early this year, so bring a field guide. When you get to the cliff stop to enjoy the water striders as they dart over the pool above the cascade. Take the time to listen to the flowing water and the breeze in the trees. Follow your nose to a bay tree. You will surely see a big, yellow banana slug right on the trail. If you pick it up you'll be surprised how cool it is. You may also get some insight into why nothing seems to eat these morsels while you're trying to get the slime off your hands. It's not so bad, try it with small children, they think it's great. As you continue on the trail around to the south and west discover the damp coolness of our oldest growth of trees. If you're lucky you may see a spotted owl before your walk takes you into the coastal scrub and grassland which bring you back to the canyon floor.

OOPS! Last month's announcement in this column indicated ACR's next docent training class would begin during spring. Make that fall! Cia Donahue kindly contributed the real story which follows:

PLAN AHEAD FOR DOCENT TRAINING: Docent training classes for Audubon Canyon Ranch will be held from September of 1990 to March of 1991. These extensive environmental education classes will enable you to share your love of nature with thousands of Bay Area school

(Continued on Page Three)

LYME DISEASE

With tick season approaching rapidly its about time for another word of advice about Lyme disease, spread by *Ixodes dammini*, the deer tick.

The deer tick is considerably smaller than the dog tick or the cattle tick. It is about the size of a flea or smaller. When engorged it may be no larger than a pin head. Despite its name it uses a number of hosts. It finds deer, many rodents and *homo sapiens* to be suitable for its purposes.

On the bright side, Lyme disease is still rare in California and only a small minority of our deer ticks are likely to carry it. Deer ticks are not going to descend on you from the trees as do some of their bigger cousins. Tall grass and brushy areas are their habitats and you have to come in direct contact with them to initiate the transfer from vegetation to yourself. They can usually be removed by a hot shower if they haven't attached themselves yet. Stout shoes and trousers tucked into socks are the only preventive measure normally needed. It takes 18 to 24 hours for the Lyme disease spirochaete, scientifically known as *Borrelia burgdorferi*, to emigrate from tick to victim. Most people who are infected develop no adverse effects.

Most important of the "bright side" features is the "signature" of the disease, a red ring around the bite. If this develops, with or without flu-like symptoms, consult a doctor without delay. Early treatment with tetracycline has been 100% curative and may prevent years of suffering or even an early death.

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE BUYS VISITOR CENTER

Using memorial contributions made after the death of David Gaines, the Mono Lake Committee achieved another of Dave's goals when they purchased the building they have been using for ten years as a visitor center and bookstore.

They now plan on spending \$150,000 to remodel it into a true visitor's center. Special contributions which will not detract from their primary goal of saving the lake; donations of time, material and skills; and special grants are being sought to complete this effort.

Anyone who wishes to help perpetuate this living memorial to David Gaines should call Sally Gaines at 619-647-6496 or send their suggestions and contributions to the Mono Lake Committee, PO Box 289, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

BIRDATHON '90

Plans for the 1990 Birdathon are well underway with teams led by Janet Duerr and Steve Schafer, Cliff Richer and an official SAS team now being formed. Nick Coiro remains undecided as to whether he will lead his own team or join one of the others. If you're interested in joining a team, forming one of your own, or doing the birdathon by yourself; then contact Steve Schafer (689-0788) or one of the others named above.

The Birdathon is National Audubon's biggest participatory fund-raiser with birders from all over the United States going out in the month of April to secure pledges and then to see as many species as possible in a 24 hour period. The Seattle Audubon Society usually has an honorary leader - the governor of Washington, if possible - and several hundred participants.

Half of the funds raised stay in the local chapter to help them in their activities and half goes to National Audubon. For the last several years, all of this region's pledges have been earmarked for the Mono Lake Defense Fund. We expect this to continue for the next several years. Even though recent legislation has apparently "saved" the lake, there are numerous battles still to be fought and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is a formidable and untiring opponent.

FISHING FOR THE FUTURE

National Audubon is expanding its environmental policy analysis program to include fisheries. Marine conservation is decades behind on-land conservation policies and Audubon is recommending that fish be treated as wild animals instead of commodities. To this end they are making the following preliminary recommendations:

1. Fishery management plans must be developed for all recreationally and commercially important fish.
2. Fishery management must be transferred from the Commerce Dept. to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Interior Dept.
3. Fish populations must be managed according to their biological capability not in response to political and economic pressures.

INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

The 20th annual Institute of Desert Ecology will be sponsored by the Tucson Audubon Society on April 19-22 at Catalina State Park north of Tucson. The Institute is an exciting 4 days of field studies in Sonoran Desert ecology, under the tutelage of six of Arizona's foremost natural history experts. Sessions focus on relationships between plants, wildlife and desert environment. Participants camp in a shaded bosque next to undisturbed washes, canyons, hillsides and rich riparian areas. Ample tasty meals are catered on-site. All camp services except sleeping gear are provided. The cost is \$245. University credit is available for an additional fee. For more information contact the director, Mary Ann Chapman, at 300 E. University, Suite 120, Tucson, AZ 85705, or call her at (602) 887-9449.

WILD GOOSE CHASE CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to these Wild Goose Chase Contributors who have honored their pledges. Their contributions will enable Sequoia Audubon Society to carry on its educational, conservation and support programs for another year.

Nick Coiro Dorothy Harrington P. Izmerian
Janet Duerr and Steve Schafer Roy and Fran Nelson

Only eight of our pledges remain to be honored. All of them are previous contributors and we expect to report 100% returns in next month's *NEEDLES*.

CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES CAMPAIGN



Use LINE 45! Help Conserve Wildlife and Habitat at Tax Time.

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

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/\$38 () Student/\$18 () Sustaining/\$50
() Senior Citizen-Indvdl/\$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

We can use our Tax Returns to help Endangered Species.



It's 100%
deductible!

FORM
540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more:

43	Alzheimer's Disease	• 43
44	Senior Citizens	• 44
45	ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 45 <i>15</i>
46	Child Abuse	• 46
47	Olympics	• 47
48	Vietnam Veterans	• 48

Fill in
any
amount
you want!

USE LINE 45! California has more than 260 native animal and plant species that are fighting for survival. We urge you to help them win that fight with a tax-deductible contribution on LINE 45 of your State Tax Return. Please help if you can. Even a little contribution helps a lot!

Pictured here: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (one of 260 native California species at risk!)

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Vice-Pres.: Colleen Horner 366-4282
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Steve Schafer 689-0788
June '91 Nick Coiro 349-1834
June '92 Rick Johnson 571-8533
Linda Kypta 591-9053

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Finance/Budget: Rick Baird 574-1067
Hospitality: Linda Kypta 591-9053
Membership:
NEEDLES Editor: Cliff Richer 355-4058
Program: Janet Duerr 689-0788
Publicity:
Rare Bird Alert 528-0288
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SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
720 El Camino Real, #403
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