



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

May, 1990

Vol. 38, #8

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

May's program will be presented by Rod Norden, an ardent birder and member of Santa Clara Audubon Society. Rod is one of the naturalists for Debra Shearwater's seabird and sea mammal boat trips from Monterey. He has taken innumerable trips on Monterey Bay and is very familiar with both the pelagic birds (albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, gulls, and puffins) and the pelagic mammals (whales, dolphins, sea lions, and otters). Rod will present a slide program with some of his best images of the wildlife of the Bay. His program will chart an annual cycle of the appearance of birds in our California waters, with some highlight mammals included for good measure. Please join us for a year on Monterey Bay.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

June is potluck month, so please be sure to come! Our June program will be presented by Meryl Sundove, a naturalist at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Bolinas. She will give a slide program on those jeweled wonders, the hummingbirds. Please come and feast your eyes and palate at this potluck meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for the June elections has been named.

Linda Kypta will serve as chairwoman. Assisting her will be Robin Smith and Walter Smithy.

There are a larger number of openings than usual this year due to some moves out of the area and to the press of other commitments during the coming year and the Committee needs your help.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or as an officer or if you know of anyone who may be interested, you should contact them. Chairwoman Kypta may be contacted at 591-9053. Remember that it is only through involvement that you can make certain that Sequoia Audubon is our organization.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JANET DUERR

As another rainy season in the Bay Area comes to an end, it's time again to think about water. At this time of year, I am thankful for the rains that have turned our hillsides green and covered them with wildflowers. Walking outdoors during the spring, beauty and wildlife and water are so often in association. Birds and mammals congregate around small streams, or along the edge of the Bay. People, too, seem to congregate around the water, be it in a county park, on the Bay, or at the local swimming pool. Water is life, and this fact is nowhere more obvious than here in California, where large areas have such low rainfall.

Unfortunately, like many of our natural resources, fresh water is overdrawn in many areas of the West. This is true not only in years with below-normal rains, like this year, but also in years of abundant rainfall. If you read Audubon magazine or even any of the local newspapers, you can not help but be aware of some of the problems with water distribution and usage in the West. San Francisco Bay continues to have problems with low fresh water flows and salt water incursion in the Delta, disturbing native fisheries and other wildlife. Fresh water use by agricultural concerns in the Central Valley is heavily subsidized, and in many cases the farmers have no incentives for using water wisely and sparingly. Agriculture is very important for the economy, but as these highly subsidized agricultural water leases come up for review, the entire water usage picture for the state must be considered before the leases are automatically extended. Both the recent Audubon and Nature Conservancy magazines have articles about these issues. If you are interested in water conservation in California, please read these articles and please consider more active involvement in water conservation issues. Sequoia Audubon's conservation committee can use your assistance and there are numerous other groups concerned with local water projects. These include the San Francisco Estuary Project (a project of the EPA), the Save San Francisco Bay Association, the Sierra Club, the Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge, the South Bay Wetlands Coalition, the Mono Lake Committee, Ducks Unlimited, and others. Please contact Rick Johnson, the conservation committee chair, for more information on water conservation and water quality projects in our area.

On a more individual scale, there are things that you can do personally to reduce water consumption. Private individuals are major consumers of fresh water (and not just in Southern California). There are a number of possibilities for saving water inside and outside the house. Try not to run your dishwasher or washing machine until it is very full. Don't leave the water running even one second after you've finished using it. Fix that slow drip in the sink, toilet, or shower. A drip that seems only annoying can lose a reducers or reduced-flow shower heads? A reduced-flow

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CALENDAR

May 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		

MAY 2 THE MID-WEEK FIELD TRIP TO FILOLI HAS HAD TO BE WEDNESDAY RE-SCHEDULED ON A WEEKEND DUE TO THE INCREASED USE OF THE ESTATE FOR SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TOURS. SEE THE CALENDAR UNDER SATURDAY, MAY 12.

MAY 3 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.

MAY 5 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 mile to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn left on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and follow the road about two miles to the station.

LEADER

AL SEUBERT

MAY 6 BLACK DIAMOND MINES FIELD TRIP. This new field SUNDAY trip will venture to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Contra Costa County, north of Mount Diablo. We will look at both birds and wildflowers at this interesting and beautiful park. We will walk several of the loop trails (a total of 3+ miles) to visit different hillside habitats. Hoped-for specialties include sage and black-chinned sparrows and migrating songbirds and Mt. Diablo globe lily and Mt. Diablo manzanita. We may also arrange, with advance notice, to tour the underground mining museum in the park. To reach the park, take Pwy 680 north from Walnut Creek to Hwy 242 in Concord. Take Hwy 242 north to Hwy 4; go east on Hwy 4. Take the Somersville Road exit south to the park entrance. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the park office. We plan to return to the parking area for a picnic lunch and will probably continue to bird and 'wildflower' the area until the time of the mine tours. If you are interested in taking the organized mine tour, the tours last 1.5-2 hours and leave at 1:30 or 2:30 PM. YOU MUST MAKE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS FOR THE MINE TOURS! Please call Janet (689-0788) at least two weeks before the field trip to assure your reservation on a minitour. The mine tours cost \$3.00 for ages 12-61 and \$1.50 for ages 7-11 and 62+. You must be at least 7 years old to enter the mine. This is a good trip for beginners in birdwatching and plant identification alike.

LEADERS

ALMA TOROIAN-RAYMOND and JANET DUERR

MAY 10 GENERAL MEETING. A YEAR ON MONTEREY BAY. Rod THURSDAY Norden, a naturalist with Shearwater Journeys will outline a year on Monterey Bay, emphasizing both birds and mammals. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

MAY 12 FILOLI FIELD TRIP. For the past six years Sequoia SATURDAY Audubon has conducted a survey of the birds of this beautiful woodland area. We'll tally the birds and observe the wildflowers in the non-tour areas until 2:00 P.M. The trip will be limited to 15 participants

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NEWS FROM THE RANCH

DAN MURPHY

What's up at the Ranch? Well, every thing.

The Ranch remains open until July 15. Ranch Guides will be at the marsh and a few other spots to tell you the ongoing tale of the herons, the egrets and the eagle.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOU: Our calendar is full of exciting walks and seminars. Guided Nature Walks continue at Bouverie Audubon Preserve on May 12 and 26, but reservations are required through our Bouverie office (707) 938-4554. Get close to photography at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with Ray Peterson on May 19 & 20 (\$40). We'll be counting butterflies in Marin on June 30 and in Sonoma on July 1. Of course you can learn about butterfly identification with Ray Peterson at "Getting to Know the Critters Night" on June 21 (\$4). Woops! We slipped up on the date for Natural History for Teachers. It will be held on July 16 through 20, not the dates published in the Ranch Bulletin. If you're a teacher interested in developing your skills in natural history education this is the class for you (\$160 includes the fee for 3 semester units). Fill your calendar with one or more Ranch activities. Call Edris at 868-9244 for reservations.

1-2-3 AND EVEN MORE: We counted newts at Bouverie Preserve. The little things must be all over the place because a class of 18 eighth graders managed to account for over 500 on a 1200 meter stretch of Stuart Creek. Our regular newt census is in its fourth year. Rarely seen red-bellied newts account for over 90% of our residents. Rough-skinned and California newts account for the rest.

Shorebird & waterbird counts on Tomales Bay are a big part of our winter and spring endeavors. This year we're trying to determine if the new aquaculture leases have an impact on the bay's fauna.

In the first year of our 5 year shore-bird census we found the early winter count of 18,000 birds dropped to about 10,000 by late winter. The difference was due mostly to catching the dunlin at their winter peak early in the season. In addition to our common species we found small wintering populations of red knots and Pacific golden plovers.

Equally exciting was our winter water-bird census. Can you believe 24,000 total birds, including 10,000 surf scoters, 99 black scoters, 5100 bufflehead, 61 red-necked grebes, and a few oldsquaws, harlequin ducks, fork-tailed storm petrels and rhinoceros auklets? We did get 3 boats out for each census.

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NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

but there wasn't even a significant Pacific herring run this season. Just wait until the drought ends and the fish run.

You will no doubt be joining our annual butterfly count on June 30 and July 1. It will take place just about everywhere. Let's face it, you count birds at Christmas for the Audubon Society, now you can jump on the Xerces Society's bandwagon and count butterflies around the Fourth of July.

We're not finished yet. Join us in our new project to monitor great blue heron colonies in Marin and Sonoma counties. If you're interested call John Kelly at 663-8203.

On the other hand if you just come to the Ranch our busy counters will count you too.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR TREES? YES! March 31 marked the first annual Oak Day at Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Think of it as a birthday party for our new oak trees. It's an opportunity for the children who planted the oak trees to see how their efforts have matured during the past two years.

THISTLE CONTROL: The weevils we used to control thistles at Cypress Grove and at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve seem to have had too low an impact. That doesn't mean we're ready to give up. So, we're looking for other alternatives to reduce thistles and poison hemlock. By removing these pervasive species we hope to encourage the growth of native grasses and herbs.

THANKS...to John Petersen and John Kelly for the information which made this column possible.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES; By now you may have met our new Weekend Coordinator, Ken Browning. Ken is an experienced Ranch Guide and a professional photographer. Fairfax Donovan has taken the job as Bouverie Audubon Preserve Administrative Coordinator. She's a docent at the Bouverie Preserve.

CLEAN AIR ACTION

Letters and phone calls from activists are needed to help retain strong amendments to clean-air legislation and overcome weaker proposals. Write to your representative today; ask him or her to support improvements to HR 3030 that keep the acid rain cap in place, strengthen the air toxics provision and call for tighter automobile tailpipe emissions standards.

To find out the latest on clean air, call the Audubon Hotline at (202) 547-9017. It's updated every Friday with a new message on what's hot.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

so call the Allens to reserve your space. Wear boots for hiking about 2 miles and bring a knapsack lunch. We will meet at the first gate south of the Pulgas Water Temple on Canada Road at 8:30 A.M. All tours are now under the auspices of the Estate's interpretive organization and a \$4.00 donation is required for admission to the estate.

LEADERS

JEAN ALLEN

344-9339

MAY 19 SAN PEDRO COUNTY PARK. This county park along the SATURDAY along the coast is a regular stop for migrating birds and an occasional trap for rare vagrants. It provides a variety of wooded, riparian and grasslands habitat for many species. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. It begins at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica and turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to its end and then follow the signs to the park.

LEADER

SCOTT SMITHSON

MAY 26 TIOGA PASS AND THE MONO LAKE BASIN. This trip will SATURDAY cover some of the best birding areas of the Sierra THROUGH passes, Mono Lake, the Mono Basin plateau and its MAY 28 canyons, and perhaps even the motel's hummingbird feeders. Rosy finches, great gray owls, sage grouse, pinon jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds and Virginia's warblers are resident and almost any species can be found as a vagrant. Advance notification is required for motel and transport arrangements, since the opening of Tioga Pass can be a delaying factor affecting the itinerary. We must have firm reservations by May 7. Call the leader for details, for reservations or for an itinerary and checklist.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

355-4058

JUNE 2 FIELD TRIP TO GAZOS CREEK. The riparian corridor SATURDAY of Gazos Creek is one of the finest year-round birding areas of San Mateo County. From its mouth, where resting gulls and terns roost, to its origins in the redwoods the creek is the summer home of a large number of passerine species and a representative population of hawks and owls. For even more diversity, we will also bird Butano State Park and the grasslands between the two areas. We will meet at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Gazos Creek Road, just south of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse at 9:00 A.M. The trip should break up at lunchtime.

LEADER:

PETER METROPULOS

592-2417

JUNE 14 GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK. HUMMINGBIRDS are the THURSDAY subject of our program with Meryl Sundove, a naturalist at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon giving a slide program on these jeweled wonders. The meeting is at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside with the Potluck beginning at 6:30 PM, and the General Meeting immediately after.

JUNE 16 YUBA PASS - "THE CALL OF THE HIGH SIERRA" - This JUNE 17 trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on SATURDAY any of our other field trips. The trip features SUNDAY easy trail walking through lovely mountain and Sierra Valley habitats. On Saturday we will meet at 9 AM at Wild Plum Campground just out of Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak summer warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll meet at the Summit Campground at 8 AM. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to see the birds of the Eastern Slope and Modoc Plateau. Bring lunch and liquids for two days. Motels are available in Sierra City and reservations are advisable since there may be several other birding groups in the area at the same time.

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CALENDAR

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Some of the motels are:

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

Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman Campgrounds on Hwy. 49. Arrangements are also being made for us to use the facilities of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University. Camping in platform tents with mattresses and cots, hot showers and three meals a day are available for \$21 a day (1989 prices - 1990 rates not available at press time.). Contact Cliff Richer (355-4058) for more details on staying at the Campus.

In order to properly scout the area and determine the exact itinerary, the leader must know approximately how many participants to expect so please call to advise him and to get further information and directions.

LEADER GIL WEST 359-0820

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page One)

shower head can save 10-50 gallons for every 10 minute shower you take. Remember to consider water usage when you purchase new appliances. Another major way to reduce water consumption is by changing gardening habits. Lawns are large water consumers; in many areas up to 50% of the total water used at home is spent watering the lawn. Water only the minimum amount you need. When you must water your lawn, water during the morning or evening to prevent excess evaporation. If you are more ambitious, there are many alternate ground covers available which make low water demands and are attractive to people and birds. I particularly recommend Sunset magazine and Sunset gardening books for many water saving suggestions.

What we truly need are some simple, permanent life style changes which will decrease the burden we place on our natural environment. Let's conserve all of our resources as much as we can, whether it's a bad drought year or not. The natural resources that are not consumed by humans are by no means 'wasted'; these resources serve to support and replenish the natural beauties that make this region and this season a wonder to enjoy.

WILD BIRD TRADE FLOURISHING

Despite increasing public awareness of its impact on the birds in the wild, the trade in wild exotic species continues.

More than 3000 macaws a year enter this country illegally. For each one of these who eventually reaches the uncaring or unknowing keeper, at least one has died in capture and another in transportation. As a result Spix's macaw has been extirpated from the wild and most other Central and South American parrot species are listed as threatened or endangered.

For macaws the trade is especially cruel. In the wild macaws are extremely gregarious. They congregate, feed and travel in large noisy flocks. In captivity, they are usually confined to small single cages too small for flight and without companionship.

For more information on what you can do to help stop this trade contact TRAFFIC (USA), 1255 23d Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 or Fran Spivy-Weber, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20003.

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SAVING OUR WETLANDS, ACRE BY ACRE

FRANK M. DUNSTAN

President Bush may endorse the goal of "no net loss" of wetlands in the United States, but strong development interests are hard at work subverting that aim. The state of Alaska, the oil industry and pro-development White House staff delayed the implementation of an agreement that would have reinforced wetlands-saving provisions of the Clean Water Act and then pushed through a watered-down version. By exempting states with a high proportion of wetlands from normal regulations, the new agreement contradicts "no net loss".

And wetlands continue to be lost. Estimates go as high as 100,000 acres a year. The greatest proportion of this destruction occurs locally, in bits and pieces: an acre here, 10 acres there; a pothole drained on this farm and a marsh filled in that city. Large or small, a wetland lost is a blow to wildlife, water quality, and the quality of human life. And it contributes to a larger pattern of massive wetlands loss around the world.

Federal and state laws do not provide the protection that wetlands need. The real opportunity for change is at the local level. County commissions and city boards decide the fate of wetlands every day. It is in this local forum that activists must work to stop wetland attrition.

Developers and realtors sit on many planning commissions; farmers and bankers sit on agricultural boards. But where are the birdwatchers, duck hunters and fishermen? They have a vested interest in wetlands. Conservationists must become players in local governments and must work with landowners if we are to preserve wetlands.

Audubon's wetlands campaign will provide the tools to train and motivate citizens like you to actively protect wetlands. And the techniques we learn as our campaign unfolds will allow you to make an impact on broader land-use decisions in your community. Only strong action and commitment on the part of the public will make our national policy of "no net loss" a reality.

Frank M. Dunstan is NAS vice-president for Sanctuaries and directs Audubon's wetlands campaign.

STUPIDITY DEPT.

We make bags out of anything. People who are in favor of wildlife are not savvy. You take the alligator: it's so abundant it's crawling into homes... biting children and killing them.

Handbag maker Judith Lieber

Gosh, I always blamed the tooth fairy.
The Editor

AUDUBON CHAPTER IN COSTA RICA

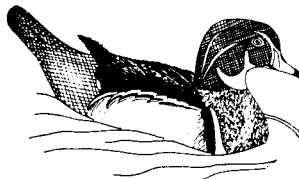
Costa Rica is a special country for Sequoia Audubon Members who have enjoyed its natural resources in person or at our meetings. With over 850 species, Costa Rica is also a critically important country for resident and migrant birds.

It is also the home of the newest National Audubon Society chapter: Asociacion Tsuli Tsuli de Costa Rica. Recognition for the new chapter was given at the first international NAS Board of Directors meeting recently held in San Jose. Tsuli Tsuli members who attended the Santa Clara county meeting expressed their goal of becoming the

strongest and largest grassroots conservation organization in the country. They also want to the opportunity for joint action with US chapters on projects of mutual interest and concern.

Trish and Jim Mulvey of Santa Clara Valley Audubon also attended the meeting, met the Tsuli Tsuli officers, and were impressed with their energy, their enthusiasm and their focus on the conservation issues facing all of us.

If you are interested in learning more about Tsuli Tsuli and how you can support their efforts, please send a self-addressed envelope to Trish Mulvey, 527 Rhodes Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303.



Aix sponsa
Wood Duck



Everes amyntula
Western Tailed Blue



ITEMS FOR SALE AND RENTAL



PUBLICATIONS:

Prices by Mail Order

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching	\$ 6.00
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds	17.25
Birder's Handbook--Ehlirch, Dobkin & Wheye	17.60
Birding Northern California--Jean Richmond	12.00
Mono Lake Guidebooks	7.50
Pacific Coast Checklists-in pads of 25	3.50
"I'd Rather Be Birding" bumper sticker	2.00
Sequoia Audubon Chapter Patch	3.75
San Mateo County Checklist	.75

Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society, 720 El Camino Real, #403, Belmont, CA 94002. Allow 14-18 days for delivery. Publications are also available at a reduced cost at the general meetings and at the office.

VIDEOS FOR RENTAL:

We have several bird identification videos that can be rented from the SAS office. They are also available at general meetings.

Techniques of Birding--Arnold Small	\$ 2.00/week
Video Guide to Birds of North America	5.00/week
(We now have the entire set available)	



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

NEWS FROM THE REAL PAPERS

Northern Nevada is being plagued with crickets - not the little hearthside kind - but the giant Mormon crickets that once threatened the embattled farmers along the Great Salt Lake. Normally they are desert canyon dwellers and the population is kept in balance by a combination of winter cold and rain. Now after four years of drought the population is out of control and the crickets are on the march, eating their way through sage, tarweed and grasses - including hay, alfalfa and grain crops.

* * * * *

Northern Nevada is also undergoing another plague - beavers. The toothy little rodents are not natural inhabitants of the area but were introduced 50 years ago for fur trappers. Now with the drought having dried up the smaller streams they are invading larger rivers, irrigation canals and other artificial waterways. There are more than 50 living in the city of Reno and they're cutting down ash, cedar and ornamental plantings instead of the fast-growing aspens, poplars and cottonwoods they usually use for food and dam-building. At the embattled Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge a Navy demolition team had to be called in to blow up a dam that had cut off the refuge's last remaining natural water supply.

* * * * *

Hawaii with about 1/100th of the nation's land mass accounts for more than 70% of the nation's extinctions and 25% of its rare and endangered species. Introduced species from both deliberate and accidental sources are one of the principal causes. The Polynesians who first settled the islands imported pigs and chickens for food. Rats and mice were stowaways on these same ocean-going canoes. The first European explorers and whalers brought the tougher and larger Norway rat. Sugar and pineapple growers introduced the mongoose and the cane toad, species which proved useless in controlling agricultural pests but instead prey on local wildlife. Much of the damage has come from well-meaning individuals who brought pets, cage birds and ornamental plants with their baggage of diseases and parasites.

Conservationists complain that until recently the federal and state governments have shown a lack of interest in its parks and refuges. "When people go to Hawaii they don't visit the parks and refuges," said Laura King of the Natural Resources Defense Fund, "so their budgets are really tiny." Lately, however, interest in conservation is taking hold, spawned by an infusion of foundation money, a sympathetic governor and the world-wide outcry over the destruction of tropical forests.

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Only a little more than half of the rehabilitated sea otters have survived their rescue after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Of 45 radio-tagged otters, 22 have either died or are missing and are presumed dead. Some scientists are speculating that rehabilitation may have been as stressful as the oil spill. Unfortunately, the biologists who were actually involved and are under legal restraint pending the settlement of the many legal actions against Exxon.

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After years of negotiating with the state Water Resources Control Board, four conservation organizations are taking another track. The National Audubon Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon, Citizens for a Better Environment and the Save San Francisco Bay Association are suing the Environmental Protection Agency. They demand that the EPA take over from the state in setting and enforcing clean water standards for the South Bay. Shortly thereafter the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board ordered the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara to restore 275 acres of salt marsh ruined by their sewage treatment plants discharge.

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Another long series of negotiations came to a happier end. The Central Valley Joint Venture became official with the signing of plan to purchase or protect 292,000 acres of remaining Central Valley wetlands and restore another 120,000 acres. The Joint Venture partners are the National Audubon Society, the California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, the Waterfowl Habitat Owners Alliance, the Trust for Public Lands, the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The agreement calls for both private and public funds to be spent for purchase and maintenance of both new and existing wetlands although no money has been committed as yet.

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Earth First, the self-styled eco-guerrillas, withdrew from Earth Day and proclaimed Mendocino and Humboldt Counties to be an "Earth Day-free zone". Maybe it's because Maxxam is sponsoring an Earth Day tree planting or perhaps because Nissan is advising its vehicle buyers to "drive off-road responsibly" while destroying the desert.

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Last year, Soviet Environment Minister Nikolai Vorontskov stated that the Soviet Union's biggest problem was the state of their environment. Since then they have identified 102 cities where the air pollution levels are 10 times the maximum permissible limits. This environmental degradation is aggravating the already serious health care situation with its chronic shortages of medicine and equipment. The Chernobyl disaster with its well-publicized long-term health and genetic problems, could be dwarfed by the air, water and soil pollution problems in cities like the metal-processing center of Novokuznetsk where the lung cancer rate is triple that of other Soviet cities.

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In the much "cleaner" U.S. environment the EPA reported that the nation's factories released 4.6 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in 1988. These included only legal releases reported by industry and do not include air degradation originating from illegal or wildcat operations. Nearly half of the pollution originated in six states - Louisiana (16%), Texas (13%), Ohio (5%), Florida (5%), Indiana (5%) and Tennessee (4%).

In proportion to their size hummingbirds have the largest heart of any living creature and the largest flight muscles of any birds.

GLADYS Z. JATEN

Gladys Z. Jaten, a long-time member of Sequoia Audubon, died recently. Born in Butte, Montana, she was a resident of San Mateo, where she taught in the school system for 40 years.

---Bonnie McClellan

ABA CONVENTION FULL!

The American Birding Association continues its remarkable comeback. Its bimonthly magazine, *Birding*, long noted for never making a deadline, has been publishing at an accelerated schedule under a succession of one-time or few-time editors and is almost up-to-date. Under its permanent editor, Paul Lehman of Santa Barbara, it has assumed a fresh, bright and slick look. (Just a few years ago Paul was briefly a member of Sequoia Audubon).

The magazine is supplemented with a monthly newsletter, "Winging It", which has assumed its own character while incorporating some of the features that used to be found in *Birding*.

ABA Sales, their mail order birder's service, has one of the widest selection of books, checklists, optics and birding miscellany in the business. Now they respond in days, not months and the people answering the phone even sound interested in helping you.

Most notable of all, the ABA Convention slated for mid-June in Colorado has been completely booked for a month. Not bad for an outfit that many of us thought was extinct a few years ago!

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I BIRDING HOTLINES I
I I
I HUMBOLDT COUNTY (707) 826-7031 I
I LOS ANGELES (213) 874-1318 I
I MONTEREY (408) 375-9122 I
I Daily Updates (408) 375-2577 I
I MORRO BAY (805) 528-7182 I
I SACRAMENTO (916) 481-0118 I
I SAN BERNADINO (714) 793-5599 I
I SAN DIEGO (619) 435-6761 I
I Daily Updates (619) 479-3400 I
I SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY/SOUTHERN SIERRA I
I (209) 782-1237 I
I SAN FRANCISCO I
I Weekly (415) 528-0288 I
I Daily Updates (415) 524-5592 I
I SANTA BARBARA (805) 964-8240 I
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MANITOBA TRIP

Earl Lebow of the Santa Cruz Bird Club still has places on a tour of Southern Manitoba and to Churchill from June 16 to 25. The leader will be Dan Weedon, a professional naturalist from Manitoba.

Airfare, ground transport, accommodations and most meals will be included in the trip cost of \$1945. Contact Earl Lebow at (408) 475-5328 for full details.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

PRINCETON HARBOR - Tuesday, March 6

Nick Coiro led 10 members and guests, including 4 people on their first birding trip, around Princeton Harbor near Half Moon Bay. The weather was nice and sunny and the birds were very active. Highlights included Pacific and Red-throated Loons, Eared, Horned, Western and Clark's Grebes, Brant, Black Oystercatcher, and Common Murre. The rarest bird seen was a beautiful duck, an Oldsquaw. In all, 44 species were seen.

MOUNTAIN VIEW - Sunday, March 11

Linda Kypta led a group of about 10 members and guests around the Mountain View shoreline. Several beginning birders participated in this field trip, viewing waterfowl, a Green-backed Heron, and a few shorebirds. The weather was cold and windy, so the trip ended around 10:30.

WOODSIDE HUMMINGBIRDS - Saturday, March 24

Thirty-three members and guests joined leader Dan Keller for this new and immediately popular trip in Woodside. The trip began on a private estate in Woodside and ended at Wunderlich Park. Interesting birds included Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Purple Finch, Violet-green Swallow, Nuttall's Woodpecker, and Sharp-shinned Hawk, as well as the advertised Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds. Spring is truly here!

PRBO NATURAL EXCURSIONS

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is offering a series of summer Natural Excursions of interest to birders. Unless otherwise specified, the leader is Rich Stallcup. Fees given are for non-members and include lodging (usually camping) and boat fares. Members of PRBO will save \$20-30 on each tour.

SHASTA COUNTY AND BLACK SWIFTS

June 30 and July 1 - \$135

Northern Shasta County hosts a blend of coastal, Sierra Cascade and Great Basin forms. Participants will spend the weekend exploring Burney Falls, Hatchet Mtn. Rd., McCumber Lake, Hat Creek and Ash Creek Wildlife Area.

FALL MIGRATION IN THE EASTERN SIERRA

August 11 and 12 - \$130 Leader -- Dave Shuford
Against the awesome backdrop of crystalline waters, 12,000 peaks, and volcanic domes, experience the fall migration of shorebirds including thousands of Wilson's phalaropes at Mono and Crowley Lakes, as well as migrant shorebirds in a variety of montane and Great Basin habitats.

FIELD SKETCHING

August 25 and 26 - \$130 Leader -- Sophie Webb
Come and try your hand at drawing birds and gain a lifetime skill. Participants spend two days learning a range of drawing skills essential for bird illustration. Weather permitting, the emphasis will be on field sketching. The leader is currently working on illustrations for the *Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America*.

CRUISE TO THE CORDELL BANK

August 25 - \$85

Join the waterbirds flocking to coastal pelagic habitats of Bodega Bay and the nearshore Pacific. This is an all-day boat trip to the great feeding ground at the Cordell Bank (25 miles west of Point Reyes) and look for shearwaters, jaegers, Sabine's gulls, auklets and marine mammals.

SHOREBIRDS AND SEABIRDS: MONTEREY WEEKEND

September 1 and 2 - \$135

Saturday along the shore of Monterey Bay is followed by a Sunday's boat trip where we expect to see shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, dolphins, sea otters, and whales.

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 Pescadero Marsh development or for any other specific purpose. All other gifts will be used for the advancement of the objectives of the 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 made out 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.

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