



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
October, 1990

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 39, #2

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

October's program on the Patagonia region of the Andes will be presented by Evan Winslow Smith. Evan, formerly a ranger at Yosemite, is now a professional photographer, with interests in wildlife, nature, and adventure travel photography. He will share some images and impressions from his travels in relatively unexplored regions of the Andes of South America.

Evan Smith's program will concentrate on two regions of the Andes, the Toros del Paine National Park in Chile and the Estancia Cristina in Argentina. The Estancia Cristina is a former sheep ranch near the Upsala Glacier along the crest of the Fitzroy Mountains of the Patagonia Andes. This remote area contains a unique fauna and flora to be explored by the adventurous traveler. Evan will speak on some of the cultural aspects of the region, but the emphasis will be on the natural beauty and wildlife, including birds, of the Andes. Please join us for a evening of exploration of the natural beauty of this region of South America.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Sharron Walker, a local environmental educator, teacher, and nature photographer, will give a presentation on the Audubon Camp in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. This slide program will reflect the rich natural history and spectacular scenery experienced by participants in Audubon's field ecology programs in this remote glaciated valley.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As this issue of the *NEEDLES* goes to press and the 101st Congress heads into its final weeks our country is in a far darker mood than when the year began. While Congress was in recess the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait added a huge new scene to the world's landscape. And, it could be a scene that may not soon be over. Related environmental issues of concern include the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and offshore oil and gas drilling on public lands - notably Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Also in Alaska, the Tongass, the nation's largest National Forest and one of the world's last temperate rain forests remains under stress. Both the House and the Senate have passed bills restricting logging in the Tongass but the bills have yet to go to the Conference Committee. Unless we keep the pressure on no action will be taken.

Our Audubon Western Regional Office has taken a leadership role in support of the Ancient Forest Protection Act (HR4492) and the California Fish and Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (HR4700). Dan Taylor will bring news of this legislation and other matters when he reports at the BAAC meeting, Saturday, October 6 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline Interpretive Center. Have coffee with us at 9:30 AM before the meeting begins at 10. Then following Dan at 10:45, Corey Brown, the General Counsel of the Planning & Conservation League (PCL) will make extensive comments on the propositions that PCL supports in the November election. The morning ends with a brief review of educational programs by Beth Huning, Director of the Richardson Bay Audubon Center. Lunchtime gives everyone a chance to mingle with other

chapter leaders. (A brown bag is suggested as there are no nearby lunch spots. Beverages will be provided.) The afternoon will consist of reports and comments from all the chapters and will finish with a walk along the shoreline led by one of the staff of the Interpretive Center.

I know you will be glad to see the Field Trip Committee's schedule of trips for the coming year. (You'll find it on page 3.) The Committee is to be commended for their insightful choices. Members and non-members are always welcome to share the pleasures and excitement of birdwatching!

In late September I will be making a 10 day visit to British Columbia, including Vancouver, Victoria, the Canadian Rockies, Banff and Lake Louise where I hope to enjoy many different birds and abundant wildlife. I am looking forward to sharing photos and experiences with you upon my return.

Over the Labor Day weekend I drove down along Hwy. 1 in our San Mateo County making side stops to "wetlands" (now mostly gone)...particularly Princeton Harbor...and on to Pescadero Marsh. I could not help thinking of many earlier trips I made to these places with former Board member Elgin Juri, monitoring the beaches for washed up birds and just birding. And, seeing the losses there reminded me of the loss to SAS from his death two years ago. Elgin was not only a support in the administration of the organization, not only a dedicated and enthusiastic participant in the gamut of activities, but a true friend to the Society and to all who worked with him. Elgin, we miss you!

---MARY BRESLER

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

SAS BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM. Place to be announced.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - Please contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) for details.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE

INTERPRETIVE CENTER (SAS Hosting)

Coffee at 9:30 AM. Meeting begins at 10:00. Beth Huening, Richardson Bay NAS Education Center; Dan Taylor, NAS Regional VP; Corey Brown, Planning and Conservation League General Counsel; Delegates from 9 local Audubon chapters. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. Contact Mary Bresler if you wish to assist in the hosting.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

COASTAL VAGRANT CRAWL

The fifth in a series of special "high-intensity" field trips searching for vagrants along the San Mateo Coast. Limited to 5 participants. See the article on this page for more details. Call the leader for reservations.
LEADER: Dan Keller (334-3431)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP.

This will be a new trip for Sequoia, to an East Bay location recently "discovered" by the leader. Redwood Regional Park is located in east Oakland, just over the first ridge of hills. The habitat ranges from redwoods (of course) to riparian thickets to open grassland. There should be quite a variety of bird life to be found. To reach the park: From the Peninsula, take the Bay Bridge to I-580 east, then Hwy. 24 east (towards Walnut Creek), then Hwy. 13 south. From Hwy. 13, take the Redwood Road exit and turn left onto Redwood Road. Follow this for about 3-1/2 miles to the clearly marked park entrance on your left. There is an entrance fee of \$3.00 per vehicle. We will meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot all the way at the end of the park road.
LEADER: Steve Schafer (689-0788)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

SAS GENERAL MEETING.

PATAGONIA presented by EVAN SMITH

Evan will present his impressions from travels in some of the less known regions of the Andes. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See Page One for further details.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

MONTEREY COUNTY (NORTHWEST) FIELD TRIP.

This trip will cover some of Monterey County's best fall birding hotspots. We will be hunting for vagrants and other interesting birds at such places as Zmudowski State Beach, the Moss Landing and Salinas River Wildlife Areas, the Salinas Sewage Ponds and, of course, picturesque Moon Glow Dairy. The exact itinerary will be flexible in case an exceptionally rare bird turns up at one or more of these locations. We will meet at 8:30 AM at the intersection of Highway 1 and Jetty Road in Moss Landing. Bring warm clothing and pack a lunch if you are interested

---Continued on Page Three---

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

HERONRY REPORT: Though we usually give a heronry report each October, the egrets are still in the colony as this column goes to press. This year's late season may be due to the drought, or perhaps less likely, to the golden eagle which adopted the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve as his own during the early season. The last egrets are expected to leave the Ranch during the first week or two of September. You should be able to read all about the season here next month.

FALL SEMINARS FOR EVERYONE: Saturday, October 13 will feature **NATIVE AMERICAN LIFESTYLES** at the Bouverie Preserve (\$20). Explore the Bouverie Preserve with Foley Benson and John Petersen as they interpret the role of Native Americans in the Sonoma environment.

A couple of weeks later, October 27 and 28, our annual celebration of Halloween will take place at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. John Kipping and Ray Peterson will present the most mysterious of our programs. **BATS, TOADS & AUTUMN TRICKS** is sure to give you a new perspective on life at the lagoon. (\$75 for a family of four).

FREE LUNCH!! Just give us a little help at the Ranch and we'll give you a **FREE LUNCH!** If it rains you might even be lucky enough to dig in the mud. Let Edris know right now that you want to help at the Ranch on Saturday, November 10, otherwise there will be no **FREE LUNCH!**

The very next day, Sunday, November 11, Ray Peterson will be your instructor as you learn about one of coastal California's most fascinating migrants, **MONARCHS**. For those of us who spend the fall weekend at the coast looking for migrating hawks, shorebirds and warblers, this may come as a surprise; **MONARCHS** aren't birds! You'll have to join Ray to find out just what they are (\$20).

To reserve your place at our Bolinas Lagoon Preserve seminars please call 868-9244. or for Bouverie Audubon Preserve seminars call (707) 938-4554.

BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE GUIDED

NATURE WALKS: Our very special way introducing our friends to the Bouverie Audubon Preserve is through nature walks led by BAP docents. October 20 and November 17, both Saturdays, are your next opportunities to visit the Preserve. These free walks last from 9:30 to 1:30. Reservations are required and must be made by the Wednesday preceding the trip (707) 938-4554.

RED-COCKADED WP HIT HARD BY HUGO

First impressions that Hurricane Hugo would severely impact the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker seem to have been confirmed. The Francis Marion National Forest was home to the only known expanding population of the species (about 1900 birds) and was at the center of the hurricane's path. An unknown number of the birds were killed and 87% of the active nesting and roosting cavities were destroyed. Further, the aftermath of the hurricane's devastation left the forest ripe for destruction by insects and by fire.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE - 1990/91

October

6	Sat	Vagrant Crawl #5	Dan Keller
7	Sun	Redwood Park	Steve Schafer
14	Sun	Monterey County	Steve Schafer
23	Tue	Hayward Shoreline	Nick Coiro

November

3	Sat	Natural Bridges State Beach	Steve Schafer
10	Sat	San Bruno Mountain	Al Seubert
11	Sun	Princeton Harbor	Dan Keller
14	Wed	Redwood Shores	Nick Coiro
17	Sat	Palo Alto/Beginning Birders	Nick Coiro/Steve Schafer

December

12	Wed	Foster City	Nick Coiro
15	Sat	Christmas Count Warm-up	Dan Keller
16	Sun	Christmas Count Warm-up	Dan Keller
22	Sat	Crystal Springs CBC	Dan Keller, Compiler
29	Sat	Ano Nuevo CBC	Dan Keller, Compiler

January

12	Sat	Foster City	Nick Coiro
16	Wed	Princeton Harbor	Nick Coiro
19	Sat	Los Banos/The Grassland Refuges	Cliff Richer
20	Sun	Little Panoche Rd/Panoche Valley	Cliff Richer
26	Sat	Pescadero Marsh	Dave Augustine

February

9	Sat	Altamont Pass	Nick Coiro/Linda Kypta
13	Wed	Coyote Point	Nick Coiro
23	Sat	San Bruno Bayfront	Dennis Beale

March

3	Sun	Pine Lake Park/Stern Grove	Coiro/Linda Kypta
13	Wed	Mountain View Forebay	Nick Coiro

April

6	Sat	Ocean Alliance Birding Sail	Various Leaders by Boat
14	Sun	Mines Road - Del Puerto Valley	Cliff Richer
16	Tue	Edgewood Park	Nick Coiro
20	Sat	Pinnacles National Monument	Dan Keller
21	Sun	Pinnacles National Monument	Dan Keller
28	Sun	Jasper Ridge Natural Preserve	Louise Fletcher

May

4	Sat	San Bruno Mountain	Al Seubert
11	Sat	Filoli	Jean Allen
25	Sat	Modoc County Refuges and Hideaways	Cliff Richer
26	Sun	Modoc County Refuges and Hideaways	Cliff Richer
27	Mon	Modoc County Refuges and Hideaways	Cliff Richer

June

1	Sat	Gazos Creek	Peter Metropulos
---	-----	-------------	------------------

SAS FIELD TRIPS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS WELL AS TO MEMBERS. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME ON ALL FIELD TRIPS.

CALENDAR

---Continued from Page Two---

in birding in the afternoon. Contact the leader for more information.

LEADER: Steve Schafer (689-0788)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

SECOND ANNUAL SCOPE AND BINOCULAR SHOW
Sponsored by the SF Bay Bird Observatory and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. At Fort Mason in San Francisco from 10 AM to 4 PM. Representatives from major optics firms; lectures and workshops on gull, shore bird and hawk identification and on proper care of optical equipment. \$3.00 Admission. Call (408) 946-6548 or 331-0730 for more details.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

HAYWARD SHORELINE FIELD TRIP.

This East Bay trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the interpretive center just across the San Mateo Bridge. To get there take Hwy. 92 across the bridge to the first exit. After exiting, take a left and look for the signs to the interpretive center.

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

RESTORE OUR BAY CONFERENCE: 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Stage II Theatre, 1535 East Street, Walnut Creek
Open participation in a discussion on the protection and restoration of the Bay-Delta Estuary. Congressman George Miller, the Save San Francisco Bay Association and the Lindsay Museum are sponsors. A preview of the film "Secrets of the Bay" will precede the discussion. Free. Donations accepted. Call 935-1983 for reservations.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

SAS BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM. Place to be announced.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - Please contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) for details.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

NATURAL BRIDGES STATE BEACH - SANTA CRUZ

Full details not available at press time. See next month's *NEEDLES* for further information.

LEADER: Steve Schafer (689-0788)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

SAS GENERAL MEETING.

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST presented by SHARRON WALKER, last year's SAS Campership winner. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See next month's *NEEDLES* for complete details.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP. As on previous trips to San Bruno Mountain, the topic will be birds in the morning, and plants and other wildlife in the afternoon. So bring your lunch if you would like to take in both portions of the 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

---Continued on Page Seven---

EDUCATION COMM. PUBLICITY ACTION

The Education Committee is preparing a mailing to send to individual teachers, administrators and school districts publicizing the SAS Advanced Education Scholarship Programs, its Environmental Educator Award and the Audubon Adventures Program.

They are also preparing a representative slide and lecture program for the school districts to use as an environmental education asset.

Walter Smithey and Nick Coiro are spearheading the projects.

WATER CHAMPION

George Miller, the Democratic Congressman from Martinez, continues to enhance his reputation as a champion of equitable water rights. This is notable in a state where congressmen and senators of both parties, whether liberals or conservatives, are notoriously obsequious where large water users are concerned.

During this term, he has sponsored a bill (HR4498) to regularize the water releases from the Glen Canyon Dam in the Colorado River (present water release procedures are creating massive damage in the Grand Canyon's riparian habitat) and a bill that would guarantee water flows to federal and state wildlife refuges in the Central Valley (HR 3613).

WISCONSIN AUDUBON SUES FOREST SVC.

The Wisconsin Audubon Council has sued the US Forest Service in a potential test case for forest management. On April 2 the council filed suit in federal district court, challenging the Nicolet National Forest's long-term management plan. Like many others the plan overemphasizes timber production to the detriment of environmental and recreational values.

"We are trying to force the Forest Service to look at the National Forests as fully functioning,

interrelated ecosystems rather than as a set of tree farms," said Sharon Gaskill, Audubon's coordinator, "Instead the Forest Service remains a timber-driven agency."

The Wisconsin Audubon Council is joined in its suit by the Sierra Club and the Wisconsin Forest Conservation Task Force.

SFBBO DUCK CLASS

Paul Noble of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will be conducting classes in duck identification in November.

Fees are \$25 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Call the observatory at 408-946-6548 for more information.

A NUMBER TO KNOW

202-547-9017 is the number of the National Audubon Society Legislative Hotline. Call it and you'll get a short, frequently up-dated recorded message on what's HOT in congress next week.

FROM THE REAL PAPERS

In declaring its sovereignty over the Moscow government, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet made a strong declaration of environmental independence.

"The Ukrainian SSR has the right to ban construction and to halt the operation of any businesses, institutions, organizations and other objects that constitute a threat to ecological safety. The Ukrainian SSR cares about the ecological safety of its citizens, about the genetic stock of its people and about its young generation."

Chernobyl is in the Ukraine.

#

West German Environment Minister Klaus Topfer is still in shock over the condition of East Germany's four Soviet-designed nuclear reactors. Three have already been closed and the fourth remains open only because it is the only source of power in the region it serves. Four more plants

with a similar design are currently under construction. "They'll never open," declared Topfer.

He described East Germany's chemical plants as "industrial museums" with "nearly unimaginable" working conditions. "The average life expectancy of people in the area where the industry is centered is 5 to 8 years shorter than for the rest of East Germany," according to Topfer.

East Germany's autos are notorious polluters and can never be brought up to West Germany's standards. Even though they are being junked almost as fast as western used cars become available, they can't be recycled. Their plastic bodies can't be burned without releasing toxic fumes and there aren't enough landfills to bury them all.

#

McDonald's has set up a task force with the Environmental Defense Fund to try to reduce or recycle its plastic and paper rubbish.

#

William Reilly, the head of the EPA has met with his Canadian counterpart, Robert de Cotret. The Ottawa meetings were a preliminary to a formal round of negotiations on acid rain. Meantime both houses of Congress have passed different versions of legislation to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions.

#

A rare sub-species of marsh rabbit found only in the Florida Keys has been added to the federal endangered species list. This sub-species is sometimes called the Playboy Bunny because it was named after *Playboy* magazine founder, Hugh Hefner. Its English name is the Lower Keys marsh rabbit, but its scientific name is *Sylvagius palustris hefneri*.

#

By using recycled waste water to irrigate parks, golf courses and farms California could save 700,000 acre-feet of water each year - more than is used by the city of Los Angeles - according to a report given to the state Water Resources Control Board by the State Water Conservation Coalition.

PAPER OR PLASTIC, OR...?

Plastic grocery bags take up less space in landfills, but don't degrade once they're buried. They require less energy to manufacture and use less of our natural resources, but that resource is non-renewable petroleum. Mobil Oil has pledged to recycle all plastic bags returned to its supermarket pickup containers...but we don't have any assurance yet that this pledge is being honored.

Paper grocery bags will degrade, but occupy more space in landfills and will take more than 20 years to break down once they are buried. The manufacturing process requires more energy but paper is (ideally) made from fast-growing, renewable second growth trees. They are readily recyclable once they are delivered to the paper mills... but the shipping costs are usually greater than their value at the mill, and recycling centers often end up sending them to landfills.

Both manufacturing processes produce air pollutants and toxic waste products.

Most supermarkets offer you a third alternative in the form of heavy duty cloth or canvas shopping bags. These are easier on the environment but are bulky, especially if you're doing a week's shopping at one time.

Sequoia Audubon now provides a further improvement...the old-fashioned string mesh bag. These are strong and sturdy, yet will fit into a purse, a pocket or a glove compartment, and will expand to hold an unbelievable amount. And they cost less than the canvas bags offered at the supermarkets. So if you want to be kind to the environment pick up at least one (and preferably several) of these string bags at the next meeting or at our office. Only \$4.50 each.

CALLING ALL CHAPTERS!

The Mt. Diablo Chapter needs
your help for its
OPEN SPACE Initiative
going on the ballot in
Contra Costa County

OCTOBER EVENT:

Spellbinding play about

John Muir

in celebration of

Yosemite's 100th year.

@ Lafayette, Walnut Creek

Pleasant Hill & Danville

October 16 thru 19 \

Donation: \$22

(Get your seats early
for this one!)

For details contact:

Cathy Ciarlo

653-6127

Mark Evanoff

-543-4292



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--Ehrlich, 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**

SUCCESSFUL ANTELOPE RELEASE

Thirty-seven pronghorn antelope were recently released onto their ancestral range in the Carrizo Plain. A combination of hunting and competition with domestic sheep and cattle extirpated them from the plain earlier this century.

The open range of the Carrizo Plain has now been replaced by a nature preserve under the joint aegis of the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy. Most of the corrals, fences, line shacks and other human obstacles have been removed in an attempt to restore as much of the original habitat as possible.

This year's release brings the total number of released antelope to nearly 300. The BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game have declined to comment on the success of the reintroduction, saying "it's too early to tell".

THE CHASE IS ON! THE 6TH ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE

The Annual Wild Goose Chase is on again!

The Wild Goose Chase is Sequoia's number one fundraiser for the year. We're still working on this year's rules, but a team of SAS's most enthusiastic birders, or several teams, will cover as many birding hot-spots as possible trying to identify as many species as possible.

We are asking you to support the effort with a pledge of just a few pennies for each species they identify.

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confidence in the team's goal of 150+ species by "pre-paying" your pledge for 150 (or 100) species.

Make all checks payable to Sequoia Audubon Society
and mail to: 720 El Camino Real #403
Belmont, CA 94002

ALL HONORED PLEDGES ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	ST _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____	
☐	YES, I will support SAS's Wild Goose Chase with a pledge in the amount of \$ _____ per species.
☐	YES, I will support SAS's Wild Goose by pre-paying my pledge in the amount of \$ _____

AUDUBON ADVENTURES IN THE CLASSROOM

Audubon Adventures is a youth program of the National Audubon Society aimed at elementary school children in grades three to six. The program includes a bimonthly publication, a teacher's guide with activity ideas and background information, and student membership cards and decals. This year's subjects include weeds, deciduous trees, marine mammals, snakes, songbirds, pond life, oceans, and recycling. The enrollment fee is \$30 per classroom (up to 32 students). Last year, 12 San Mateo County classrooms were enrolled; over 300,000 children in 11,100 classrooms were enrolled nationwide. Sequoia Audubon Society asks you to consider sponsoring a classroom for the current school year. If you would like to participate, send a check for \$30, made out to Sequoia Audubon Society, to the SAS office, along with a note indicating that the money is for the Audubon Adventures program. If you wish, you may specify that your sponsorship is for a particular school or teacher. Also, if you are an elementary school teacher and would like your class to be sponsored, contact the SAS office to enter your request.

MARIN AS RAISING FUNDS FOR NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE

Two small islands off the bayfront of San Rafael in Marin County may be the site of our next National Wildlife Refuge. East and West Marin Islands and 325 acres of adjacent tideland will be acquired and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service if enough private funds are raised. The Marin County Open Space District, the State Lands Commission and the federal government have already committed public funds, but \$1.9 million is still needed.

Golden Gate Audubon has pledged \$25,000 from its sanctuary fund and the Coastal Conservancy has obtained the option to purchase the property. Marin Audubon has committed to raising \$100,000 from Audubon members throughout the Bay area.

Tiny 3 acre West Marin Island is a major heronry for nearly 2000 snowy egrets, black-crowned night herons and great egrets as well as an occasional great blue heron. Ducks, geese, gulls and shorebirds have also nested on the island. Ten acre East Marin Island has been maintained as a private residence by the Crowley family. (Crowley tugboats are a familiar sight on the Bay.) Once it has become a refuge no occupancy will be permitted during the nesting season and it is anticipated that the heronry will expand to include this island as well.

Cliff Richer, who traditionally has obtained some of his Sequoia Audubon Society Wild Goose Chase pledges from Marin County, will commit any 1990 Marin County pledges to this cause.

If you can help send your donation to the Marin Audubon Society PO Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942. Make checks out to Marin Audubon Society and mark MARIN ISLANDS on the envelope. All contributions are tax-deductible.

GREAT BAY NWR

In the 1950's while I was a student at the University of New Hampshire, I often found part-time work with the construction teams building the Pease Air Force Base at Newington, N.H.

In those days of widespread use of DDT and my environmental consciousness was dimmed by a combination of educational pressures and raging hormones. Yet I couldn't help but notice the formations of waterfowl and wheeling clouds of shorebirds flying over and around the sprawling construction project. It was then that I first began to realize that marshes had a use beyond being a repository for fill.

Scores of acres of wetlands had been covered for the runways and taxi strips, but hundreds remained at the fringes of the base. In those days Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne and Clark Gable vied for the privilege of making that year's movie extolling the merits of the Strategic Air Command and there were no demonstrations to save the wetlands. Eventually, the base was closed to civilians. Most of us assumed the remaining wetlands would be filled and only the duck hunters mourned the demise of the bay marshes.

Now 35 years later, it seems the Air Force has been a good steward. The bulk of the wetlands were preserved and even enhanced while housing developments and industrial parks overrode private marsh lands to the east and west of the base. Today, the shoreline, tidal marsh and open fields of Pease Air Force Base make up the largest undeveloped area along New Hampshire's crowded seacoast.

Pease Air Force Base will soon be closed. Private developers have already submitted competing plans for its conversion to everything from a new Boston-area satellite airport to a Zen meditation center (in N.H.?). The US Fish and Wildlife Service wants to take over and manage 1200 acres of critical habitat as the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The problem is that under the provisions of the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1988 the Air Force must receive fair market value for these lands and the USF&WS budget can't match that of the private developers.

A wide coalition of New England environmental and outdoor groups is mounting a campaign to have the President set aside the "fair market value" provision and transfer the lands to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They believe that a flood of letters from across the nation can influence the White House. Kennebunkport, the presidential vacation retreat is a only a short drive up the coast from Great Bay, and Chief of Staff Sununu's home is less than an hour's drive away. Both men know how little natural habitat is left in this area.

The supporters of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge are asking us to write to President George Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20500 with copies to Secretary Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Room 3E 880, Washington, DC 20301 and George C. Jones, Pease AFB Development Commission, 300 Gosling Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801. The copies *are* important. Write today. You **can** make a difference!

---Cliff Richer

CALENDAR

---Continued from Page Three---

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP

A more open and somewhat less rigorous version of the vagrant crawls. This trip begins at the parking lot of the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve, goes on to Princeton Harbor and then explores the woods, weeds and waters of Pilarcitos Creek looking for vagrants and fall migrants. Meet at the parking lot of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve at 9:00 AM.

LEADER: Dan Keller (334-3431)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 REDWOOD SHORES FIELD TRIP

Redwood Shores is rapidly disappearing under the developers' hammers and shovels but it can still be teeming with birdlife in the former salt evaporators, the lagoons and oxidation ponds. To get there take Hwy.101 to either the Marine World Parkway or Redwood Shores Parkway exits. Follow either of those two roads to the end and then follow Shell Parkway until it intersects with Radio Road, leading out into the open areas. Meet at the intersection of Shell and Radio at 9:00 A.M.

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 BEGINNERS FIELD TRIP-PALO ALTO BAYLANDS.

The Baylands is one of the few remaining and best preserved of the once numerous bay salt marshes and is the home of the endangered black rail and California clapper rail. It is also the winter home of many species of waterfowl, prime feeding grounds for five species of heron and a stopover for migrating birds. Many rare birds have been reported from this area during the fall and winter months and our previous trips have found a number of them. Even though this trip is intended for beginners with special attention paid to birding optics and identification basics, birders of all skill levels are welcome. We will meet at the farther end of the duck pond at 9:00 AM. To get there take Hwy 101 south to the Embarcadero exit. Follow the Embarcadero east to its end and take a left. The duck pond is a short way up on the left opposite the Yacht Club buildings.

LEADERS: Nick Coiro (349-1834)
& Steve Schafer (689-0788)

WETLANDS REHAB PROGRAM LOST

In 1987 the Farmers Home Administration, a federal farm mortgage program, agreed that they would place any foreclosed wetlands in a protected status allowing the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore or rehabilitate the wetlands and making all resales conditional on preservation of these resources.

Earlier this year however, Secretary of Agriculture Yeutter cancelled the plan even though it was supported by the president's Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Management and Budget. The villain behind the scenes was said to be the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.). Whitten, who has been called "the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture" by both detractors and admirers has often maintained that every farmable acre should be in production.

A NEW LOOK

Your *NEEDLES* has a new look. For the last several years, the newsletter was prepared on the Editor's personal computer and printer. The last few months the printer has grown weaker and weaker, so the SAS board decided to replace it, taking advantage of some of the rebates currently available.

We hope that by being able to prepare the *NEEDLES* in its final size we can pay off the cost of the printer in about 3-4 years. In the meantime, bear with us as we learn how to use our new toy. We hope you enjoy our new look.

For the last two months the *NEEDLES* has been printed on RECYCLED PAPER. Even though

this costs quite a bit more, and we feel the qualifications for re-cycled paper are too lax*, the board felt it was necessary to make this environmental statement.

*Recycled paper doesn't have to contain recycled paper. It has to be 30% "second use" materials. These may be mill scraps and sawdust instead of recycled paper.

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 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 San Mateo, Ca. (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/\$35 () Family/\$38 () Student/\$20 () Sustaining/\$50
() Senior Citizen-Individual/\$21 () Senior Citizen-Family/\$23
() Supporting/\$100 () 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

OFFICERS:

President: Mary Bresler 994-3587
Past Pres.: Janet Duerr 689-0788
Vice-Pres.: Rick Johnson 571-8533
Secretary: Ed Mc Elhany 343-3219
Treasurer: Fred Mc Elhany 593-8382

DIRECTORS:

Elected for Term Ending:

June '91 Nick Coiro 349-1834
Cliff Richer 355-4058
June '92 Linda Kypta 591-9053
David Moon 344-6978
June '93 Rick Baird 574-1067
Bob Wilkinson 347-8367

STANDING COMMITTEES:

ACR Host: Rick Baird 574-1067
Audit: Nick Coiro 349-1834
Bird Sightings:
Christmas Count: Dan Keller 364-3431
Conservation: Rick Johnson 571-8533
Education: Janet Duerr 591-2501
Mid-week Field Trips: Nick Coiro 349-1834
Wknd Field Trips: Steve Schafer 689-0788
Finance/Budget: Rick Baird 574-1067
Hospitality: Linda Kypta 591-9053
Membership:
NEEDLES Editor: Cliff Richer 355-4058
Program: Janet Duerr 689-0788
Publicity: David Moon 344-6978
Rare Bird Alert (Weekly) 528-0288
(Daily Updates) 524-5592

STAFF: Sunny Greene

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE

593-7368

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY [NON-PROFIT ORG.]
720 El Camino Real, #403
Belmont, Ca. 94002
US POSTAGE PAID
San Mateo, Ca.
Permit No. 293

TIME VALUED MATERIAL! PLEASE DON'T DELAY!