



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
November, 1990

Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County
Vol. 39, #3

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Sharron Walker will give a presentation on the Audubon Camp in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming at our November general meeting. Sharron is a local environmental educator, grade school teacher, and nature photographer. As last year's recipient of a Sequoia scholarship, she attended the field ecology program at the Audubon Camp of the West. Sharron has assembled a lovely slide program about the Camp and some of the natural history explored by the camp participants. This slide program will reflect the rich fauna and flora of the region, as well as the spectacular scenery experienced by participants in Audubon's program in this remote glacial valley of the Rocky Mountains.

In addition to Sharron's program, Dan Keller will get the Christmas Bird Count going early with a brief presentation on the joys and hazards of counting birds in the field. Come and test your skills as a bird identifier and counter in preparation for the Christmas count season.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

For our December potluck meeting we are lucky to have a program by one of our most popular speakers, tour leader and teacher Doug Cheeseman. Doug will share some of his photographs and impressions of Madagascar, an island off Africa with a varied and unique ecology. Come and feast your mind and body!

BABOB REISSUE

Santa Clara Valley Audubon has just announced the publication of the long-awaited second edition of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, their site guide to birding spots in the South Bay. Look for more details next month on where and how to get a copy.

THE PROPOSITIONS

Because of the confusion surrounding the numerous issues facing us on the forthcoming ballot, the Board of Sequoia Audubon voted for the first time in many years to state their endorsement or opposition to certain

initiatives.

Our endorsement or support is not a substitute for your informed opinion. We urge you to read each proposition carefully and make your own decision.

PROPOSITION 128: "BIG GREEN": This initiative would change existing law by:

1. Phasing out over 5 years, the use of pesticides which may cause cancer or reproductive harm. Some pesticides might be phased out over 8 years if there would be "severe economic hardship".
2. Requiring reduction of greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide emissions would have to be reduced 20% by the year 2000.
3. Developing a program to phase out Chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) by 1997.
4. Requiring tree planting on all new residential and commercial projects.
5. Authorizing \$300 million in bonds to buy privately owned old growth redwoods and fund reforestation and urban forestry programs.
6. Prohibiting new oil and gas leases in coastal waters.
7. Requiring the state, coastal communities and oil companies to develop oil spill prevention and clean-up plans. The clean-ups would be financed by a 25 cents per barrel tax on oil delivered through state waters.
8. Instituting tougher requirements on waste dischargers, storm water management plans and public sewage plants.
9. Creating the office of Environmental Advocate, to be elected in 1992.
10. Would allocate \$40 million for research projects and \$750,000 for the office of Environmental Advocate.

The annual cost of Proposition 128 is estimated to be between \$107 million and \$112 million.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY ENDORSES PROPOSITION 128.

PROPOSITION 130: "FORESTS FOREVER": This proposition would:

1. Authorize a \$742 million bond issue, with at least \$710 million being allocated for the purchase of ancient forests and no more than \$32 million being designated for the compensation or re-training of timber industry employees who would be affected by the initiative.
2. Prohibit all clear-cutting, allowing no more than 60% of any site to be logged.
3. Prohibit any owner of more than 5000 forest acres from cutting more timber than could be replenished in a 10 year period.
4. Discourage export of forest products.
5. Change the membership of the Board of Forestry, allowing no more than two of its members to be from the forest industry, and calling for four of its members to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor (or the Environmental Advocate), instead of all nine by the Governor.

Estimates as to the annual cost of Proposition 130 vary widely.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY ENDORSES PROPOSITION 130.

PROPOSITION 132: MARINE RESOURCES: This initiative would create a Southern California marine sanctuary and restrict or ban gill and trammel netting within the sanctuary. Because the purpose of the bill was unclear and because it is opposed by some other environmental groups, SEQUOIA'S BOARD TOOK NO POSITION ON PROPOSITION 132 and urges all of our members to review this proposition carefully.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

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
Sorry, trip has been cancelled!

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.

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

LEADER: Al Seubert

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 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve at 9:00 AM.

LEADER: Dan Keller (365-2032)

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 bird life 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

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

ANNUAL APPEAL - It happens every year at this time. ACR mails out its annual appeal letter. It is the only solicitation we make during the course of the year. Please be generous in supporting your sanctuary and its efforts to preserve critical habitat, provide environmental education to school children and to the general public, and to carry out research at our sanctuaries. Mail your tax deductible check to Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4900 Hwy. One, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

CHANGES AT THE RANCH - This year finds us greeting new officers and board members. At our October board meeting Gary Holloway was elected President; John Dillon, First Vice President; Paul Ruby, Second Vice President; Steve Thai, Treasurer; and Bob Hahn, Secretary. Our other officers include Katie Beacock, Kit Lee, Jeanne Price, George Peyton, Nicki Spillane, Flora MacIse and Grant Fletcher. Our very sincere thanks go to outgoing officers Jack Harper, Mary Ann Sadler, Nancy Barbour, Debbie Ablin, Shirley Bogardus and Susie Coleman. All will remain active board members.

We want to thank Helen Pratt and Ginny Fletcher for their work on the board and in various ACR projects. Both are leaving the board to take seats on the Advisory Board. We are very glad that both Helen and Ginny will remain active members of the ACR community. Helen will continue her valuable research on our heronry and other heronries in Marin County. Ginny continues as one of the Bouverie Audubon Preserve's outstanding docents.

Docent training programs are underway at both Bouverie and Bolinas Preserves. Thirty-four new docents are in training at the former and twenty-five at the latter. These are the people who will continue our education programs during the next several years. We wish success to and welcome each of our newly active friends in their role with the ACR family.

ESTATE AND TAX PLANNING SEMINARS

November 3 at the California Academy of Sciences

November 17 at the Marin Art and Garden Center

December 1 at Bouverie Audubon Preserve

Each seminar from 10 AM to Noon

Open to the public. FREE. No reservations required.

These seminars are designed to explain such subjects as estate planning, durable power of attorney for health care, duties of a trustee and charitable remainder trusts. Jack Harper, Phil Murphy, Caroline Farren and Robert J. Kwasneski, all professionals in this complicated field, will make presentations. Past seminars have been very well received. If you can call 868-9244 to let us know you're coming, it will help us plan for refreshments and seminar materials.

FREE LUNCH - November 10 - We've mentioned it before, but just in case you forgot, you can get a free lunch from ACR. Just help us with our year end chores at the Ranch and we'll provide the lunch. Please call Edris at 868-9244 to let us know you'll be joining us.

MONARCHS - November 11 - Join Ray Peterson for a look at these amazing migrant butterflies. There's no free lunch this time. Monarchs are inedible. Fee \$20.

WINTER BIRDS OF TOMALES BAY - November 17 - John Kelly will introduce you to the ecology and identification of wintering birds at Tomales Bay. This should prove to be an excellent day of birding. \$20.

(Continued on Page Three)

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

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)

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP.

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

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. See next month's *NEEDLES* for further details.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 & 16

CHRISTMAS COUNT WARM-UP

On the weekend before our first Christmas Bird Count for this year, Dan Keller will lead 'warm-up' trips so that counters can hone their censusing skills. The subject matter will be diverse, and will cover topics such as: How To Count Large Flocks of Sparrows, Starlings, Blackbirds, Scaup, etc.; How To Cover a Big Count Area in Only One Day; and How To Find Likely Vagrant Traps. The meeting places and times had not been set at press time; see next month's *NEEDLES* for details.

LEADER: Dan Keller (365-2032)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT

COMPILER: Dan Keller (365-2032)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT

COMPILER: Dan Keller (365-2032)

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.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

COASTAL PRAIRIE RESTORATION DAY - December 8 - John Kelly will direct your efforts to restore some of the Cypress Grove upland with native bunch grasses. Here's a great chance to bring about tangible environmental change. FREE.

GUIDED NATURE WALKS - November 17, December 15 and January 19 - Discover the marvelous Bouverie Audubon Preserve on one of our half-day walks. Led by Bouverie docents, these walks begin at 9:30 AM and end around 1:30 PM. Please register on later than the Wednesday prior to the walk by calling (707) 938-4554.

HERONRY REPORT - Great blue herons, great and snowy egrets nested in the Pitcher Canyon colony this year. The beginning of the season was delayed, perhaps because of the presence of a golden eagle, perhaps because of the drought, or more likely, a combination of both. Nine pairs of great blue herons raised 16 young. Great egrets had a stressful but successful year. Ninety-one pairs built nests of which 86% were successful, rearing about 140 young. Four, possibly five, pairs of snowy egrets attempted nesting. Two successful nests produced 7 young. Five or six more pairs of great blue herons also nested behind Smiley's Bar in Bolinas.

Besides impacts from the golden eagle and the drought, nesting birds and young were impacted by heavy rains in May. Crows are suspected of having taken young from the nest during the absence of adults. Examination of pellets from great horned owls indicated they had little impact on the herons and egrets - hard luck for the local voles and mice.

Once again we are grateful to Helen Pratt for her work in monitoring the heronry, compiling data and developing this year's heronry report. Thanks too to Tom Queer and Lois Vansandt for their assistance in this very important project. Of course there were others too: ACR employees and volunteers who watched the heronry and reported valuable information which went into the final report: and for that too we are thankful.

PCL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

The Planning and Conservation League, an environmental lobbying group in Sacramento, received two national awards earlier this year.

The Friends of the United Nations Environmental Program presented PCL with its Environmental Achievement Award. The award is presented to 100 individuals and organizations each year throughout America. Gerald Meral, Executive Director of PCL, received the award in Washington on behalf of the League.

Meral also received the Renew America National Searching for Success award from President Bush in a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. Ever the lobbyist, Meral took the opportunity to press the President regarding oil drilling and transportation development along the California coast.

Both awards were given for the League's actions in sponsoring and carrying out the successful initiative programs for habitat acquisition and wildlife protection.

THE PROPOSITIONS

(Continued from Page One)

PROPOSITION 135: "BIG BROWN": This proposition is sponsored by chemical and agricultural interests as a means of combating the effects of Proposition restates many provisions of existing law and would make the following changes

1. Double the number of samples tested for pesticide residues - including imported produce.
2. Require the consideration of inert, as well as active, ingredients in pesticides.
3. Appropriate \$25 million to conduct research in pesticide alternatives.
4. Double the number of sterile med-flies used to control infestations.
5. Prohibit carrying food products and hazardous materials in the same tank trucks.
6. Would require the Secretary of Environmental Affairs to serve as Environmental Advocate.

The annual cost is estimated to be approximately \$30 million.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OPPOSES PROP. 135.

PROPOSITION 136: REQUIREMENTS FOR INCREASING STATE AND LOCAL TAXES: 136 would amend the state constitution to set new voting requirements for state and local tax proposals.

1. General tax increases by any local government would require the approval of a majority of the voters.
2. Any new or increased state taxes would require approval of two-thirds of the Legislature.
3. Any special taxes - those earmarked for special purposes - enacted by initiative would require two-thirds approval of the voters.
4. Special taxes on property should be based on the value of the property, not on a per-unit basis.
5. Enactment of this proposition would invalidate all or part of Propositions 129, 133 and 134.

Although this is not an environmental initiative, a majority of the Board felt passage of this proposition would make it almost impossible to pass any future initiatives setting aside tax money for environmental purposes.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OPPOSES PROP. 136.

PROPOSITION 138: "BIG STUMP": This is a counter-initiative to Prop.130 sponsored by both labor and business interests involved in the timber industry. It would:

1. Authorize a \$300 million bond issue to provide loans and grants to private timberland owners to increase timber production and grants for tree planting and forest restoration projects.
2. Prohibit clear-cutting in old-growth forests and reduce clear-cutting by more than 50% over the next 5 years in other areas. (The definition of clear-cutting under this proposition is extremely favorable to the timber industry and leaves many loopholes).
3. Require state approval of timber management plans on private holdings in excess of 5000 acres and would make these plans valid for an unlimited time period and make it possible for them to be extended to all of the owner's property.
4. Require state studies of timberland, wildlife and global warming.

5. Restrict for 10 years the state's right to acquire privately owned timberlands.

6. Urge Congress to ban the export of new logs.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY OPPOSES PROP. 138.

PROPOSITION 141: MAKING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUBJECT TO PROPOSITION 65:

Proposition 65, which made it illegal to discharge toxics and required the posting of warning signs, exempted government agencies from its provisions. Proposition 141 would:

1. Make government agencies subject to the same rules as private industry.
2. Specifically exempt the addition of chemicals to drinking water for health purposes and the exposure to chemicals used in the course of a public emergency, such as firefighting.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY ENDORSES PROP.141

PROPOSITION 149: PARK AND RECREATION BONDS: This initiative would provide \$437 million in bonds to acquire land and develop facilities for public recreation and for preservation of historic, natural and cultural resources. In addition to land acquisition it includes allocations for jogging trails, zoos, wildfire protection and other purposes.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY ENDORSES PROP.149

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Point Reyes - Sunday, September 16

Cliff Richer continued his long run of glorious, sunny, warm weather in connection with this field trip. Unfortunately, as most experienced Point Reyes birders know, this is lousy birding weather for the Point. Nevertheless the 15 participants enjoyed the weather and despite the overall scarcity of birds the trip list totalled a surprising 58 species. Top birds of the day were pairs of cooperative barn owls and great horned owls; and a merlin who swooped in at the fish docks, preened and posed and spread his tail out repeatedly, showing all of his field marks to the birders.

Coastal Vagrant Crawls - Saturday, September 15 & 22

On these two days, Dan Keller led small groups in search of rare migrants hiding in the thickets along the San Mateo coast. On both days, Dan found many of the migrants expected normally at this time of year, including western tanagers and flycatchers and various western warblers. Participants on September 22 were in for an extra special treat. When the trip rendezvoused near Moss Beach, they were greeted with the news that Ron Thorne, one of our expert local birders, had just found a **golden-winged warbler!** The participants in this crawl got to see this extremely rare (seen in northern California only a few times previously) and very attractive bird here in our area. To top it off, they also found a less rare, but also attractive, vagrant **American redstart** and a vagrant **vesper sparrow**. Hopefully, this new series of field trips will be continued by Dan next Fall, so that more people will have an opportunity to see some really good birds very close to home.

GIARDIA ON INCREASE

The California Department of Health Services has reported nearly 5000 cases of giardiasis for 1989. In 1980 there were fewer than 2000 cases. While partly due to better diagnosis and reporting, the bulk of the increase is attributed to heavier outdoor usage.

Giardia lamblia, the culprit in giardiasis, is a single celled intestinal parasite that spreads through contaminated water supplies and unsanitary food handling - both common to camping vacations.

Giardia is only active within a warm body --- almost any warm body. Rodents, raccoons, bears, deer - even birds - can serve as a host. Outside the body, the parasite encysts itself and can survive below-freezing temperatures for months. It is ideally adapted for survival in cold mountain streams. Once it has intruded into a watershed it stays there

It is an extremely efficient parasite. 90% of its victims are entirely unaware of its presence. But for the unlucky 10% it can be a truly miserable experience. Cramps, nausea, diarrhea and heartburn can persist for months without proper treatment. And you don't have to be sick to spread the disease. The feces of any infected human contains

enough cysts to infect 10 *million* gallons of water.

Domestic water supplies are constantly tested and - when necessary - treated to destroy the cysts, but in the back-country you're on your own. You can heat the water. Temperatures over 175° will kill the parasites although most authorities advise you to bring the water to a complete boil anyway. That way you don't have to guess at the temperature and you will destroy any other potentially troublesome micro-organisms. You can buy chlorine or other halogen tablets to drop into your canteen. However the proper dosage varies according to the temperature and acidity of the water and the package directions are not always reliable. While quick and easy and usually effective, there are few people who relish the taste of diluted bleach. Best of all, perhaps is filtration. Commercial filters are invariably effective, easier to use than boiling, preserve the original taste (or lack of it) and are not much more expensive or awkward than the alternatives. With either boiling or filtration however you have to be sure you don't put the purified water back into a contaminated container.

Drinking from a sparkling mountain stream can be emotionally satisfying, but like many other emotional highs it can lead to future physical woes.

ITEMS FOR SALE OR RENT

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching	\$ 6.00
Birder's Handbook - Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye	17.60
Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond	12.00
Eco-Safe String Bags	5.00
"I'd Rather Be Birding" Bumper Sticker	2.00
Mono Lake Guidebook	7.50
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds	17.25
Pacific Coast Checklists - Pads of 25	3.50
San Mateo County Checklists	.75
Sequoia Audubon Society Patch	3.75

Mail order prices include sales tax, handling and shipping. Send checks to Sequoia Audubon Society, 720 El Camino Real, #403, Belmont, CA 94002. Allow 14-18 days for delivery. Most items are available at a reduced cost at general meetings and at the office.

VIDEOS FOR RENT

Bird identification videos can be rented from the SAS office or at the General Meeting

Techniques of Birding - Arnold Small	\$2.00 /week
Video Guide to Birds of North America (Set of 5)	5.00 ea./wk.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS BIRD COUNT
DECEMBER 22, 1990

AÑO NUEVO BIRD COUNT
DECEMBER 29, 1990

Once again, Dan Keller will compile both counts and with last year's experience behind him will be shooting for new records, so we need even more help than usual. In order to do our best we need a lot of people. We need all the eyes and ears we can get to find birds, keep records in the field, and count birds. Christmas Counts mean dawn-to-dusk birding, plus owling for some. But even if you can only devote a few hours at a feeder or in a local park, we need your help. We need people who will walk city residential areas, school grounds, golf courses, parks and cemeteries within both count circles and report the population of each species they find. We need to perform good counts to evaluate the birds in our 15-mile diameter circles and compare results with other years.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS C.B.C. AÑO NUEVO C.B.C.

PLEASE TEAR OUT OR COPY THIS FORM AND
SEND IT IN TO THE AUDUBON OFFICE SO THAT
WE CAN ASSIGN THE AREAS.

Sequoia Audubon Christmas Counts,
720 El Camino Real, Suite 403,
Belmont, CA 94002

I will participate in the...

CRYSTAL SPRINGS CBC on 12/22/90 _____.

AÑO NUEVO CBC on 12/29/90 _____.

++++++

For Crystal Springs, I would like counting this area:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

++++++

For Año Nuevo, I would like counting this area:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

++++++

I will count any area assigned. Yes _____ No _____

++++++

I will monitor and report my feeder on 12/22 _____ 12/29 _____

++++++

I will be at the compilation on 12/22 _____ 12/29 _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone Number _____

PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR REPLY BY DECEMBER 7

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Christmas Bird Count is one of the most enduring and popular of Audubon activities - or for that matter of *all* outdoor volunteer activities in America. Last year more than 50,000 people participated in the count. And the CBC is for *everyone* from industrial strength birders to novices.

What accounts for the CBC's success? Well, for starters, it's just plain fun - an event of unparalleled camaraderie. For many, it's a first chance to learn the joys and skills of birdwatching. For others, it's high power competitive birding at its best.

Moreover, taking part in the Christmas Bird Count contributes to a vital scientific endeavor. Each year the data from more than 1500 counts is published in *American Birds*. The resulting data base is tapped over and over again by scientists and researchers worldwide to uncover important avian trends. There is simply no better source for this information.

This is the 92nd annual Audubon Christmas Count. SAS is participating with its usual two counts, 12/22 for Crystal Springs and 12/29 for Año Nuevo.

DON'T DELAY! SIGN UP NOW!

Just send your check for \$4.00 for one count or \$8.00 for both, along with the name of the count and your telephone number. Call the office (533-7368), or Dan Keller (365-2032) or - better yet - fill in and mail the form on this page to register for either count.

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.

This year, 25 classes have been signed up to date! And we want more!

Sequoia Audubon Society asks you to consider sponsoring one of these classrooms. 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.

If you are an elementary school teacher and would like your class to be sponsored, contact the SAS office to enter your request.

CHEVRON AWARDS FOR AUDUBON ACTIVISTS

Since 1954 Chevron Oil Company has honored outstanding professionals and volunteers who made significant contributions to natural resource conservation. This year three of the ten "citizen conservationist" awards honored Audubon leaders.

JAN GARTON of the Flint Hills (Kansas) Audubon Society - for her inspired leadership in saving the 20,000 acre Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area.

MIKE HOUCK of the Portland (Oregon) Audubon Society - for protecting and enhancing wildlife in the city of Portland.

DORIS WESTFALL of the Vermilion County (Illinois) Audubon Society - for protecting and restoring prairies and natural areas for more than 30 years.

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 in November a team of SAS's most enthusiastic birders 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 \$_____



Help make a difference!

Joining the Audubon Activist Network has never been easier--or more urgent! By signing the Activist Pledge—a commitment to write two letters and make two phone calls during the year for Audubon issues—you can be part of a growing corps of Audubon activists who want to make their voices heard. By making the Pledge, you will receive the newly designed and monthly *Audubon Activist*, as well as *Action Alert* bulletins on key votes in Congress. Simply fill out the form below and send to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.

YES, I'd like to be an Audubon Activist. I'll receive a complimentary subscription to the *Audubon Activist* news journal, plus *Action Alert* bulletins when my letter or phone call is needed, plus the chance to be part of a telephone network, and access to the Actionline phone number with taped updates on late-breaking environmental news. *For my part, I pledge to take action by writing at least two letters and making at least two phone calls for Audubon each year.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Chapter: _____

Signature: _____



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Saying she could no longer put up with "the intolerable smoke", the Queen of England moved from Nottingham to Tutbury Castle. The queen was Eleanor of Aquitaine. The year, around 1150 - give or take a few years.

# L. RICHARD MEWALDT

1917-1990

We were saddened to learn of the death in August of Dr. Richard Mewaldt, a retired professor of zoology at San Jose State University. Dr. Mewaldt was one of the founders of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. He was a past president of the Western Bird Banding Association and the Cooper Ornithologist's Union, a past secretary of the American Ornithological Union and was active in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Dick Mewaldt learned about bird-banding at the age of 10 and passed on his knowledge to several generations of bird-banders. He wrote or co-authored more than 250 published pieces on birds and bird-banding. Ironically, his death came from a loss of vital lung capacity apparently caused by an immune response triggered by his close contact with birds.

Along with the mechanics of his hobby and his science, he taught a love and respect for nature that will be his memorial for the years to come.

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