



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
December, 1990/January, 1991

Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County
Vol.39,#4

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Doug Cheeseman will present the December potluck program on the natural history of Madagascar, a large island off the coast of Africa. Doug is biology professor at De Anza College, an active member of Santa Clara Audubon, and a leader for Cheeseman's Ecological Safaris. His tours and programs have long been favorites of Bay Area Audubon members.

Doug's program will examine the birds and mammals of this isolated island ecosystem. Madagascar has been declared a United Nations "Critical Habitat," and Doug's program will highlight some of the reasons for this designation. Doug will show slides of some of the 103 endemic bird species seen by his group. He will discuss some interesting behaviors of a group of dominant mammals on the island, the lemurs. (The group saw 14 of the 24 species of lemurs on their Madagascar trip.) He will also touch on the local flora, and some interesting behavior of the island's chameleons. Finally, he will include some photos and discussion of the people and culture of the island. Please join us for a full evening of entertainment including the potluck dinner and Doug's diverse program.

POTLUCK TIME!

This month also brings us the December Potluck Dinner so dust off your favorite recipes. Bring your own utensils and plates and a bag in which to take them home. Those whose last names begin with *M through Z* should bring a *CASSEROLE* or other main dish, *A through F*, a *SALAD* and *G through L* should provide the *DESSERTS* (We're usually short on hot dishes so any of you A-L's can choose that as an option.) Bring enough to serve *FIVE* times the number in your party.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The November issue of the *NEEDLES* went to press before we learned of the untimely death, from a heart attack, of our SAS Board Member David Moon. David joined the Board last June and his enthusiasm in serving as Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee and his involvement at Conservation Committee meetings was infectious and exemplary to all of us. His sudden death is a severe loss to all who were closely associated with him. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go to his beloved wife, Pat, who has asked that any bequests in his memory be made to SAS.

Audubon is a co-sponsor with the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Education in introducing an exciting new environmental program for schools. Briefly, in the new **California Endangered Species Education Program**, the students will:

- * identify endangered species of plants and animals in nearby habitats:
- * adopt a local endangered species:
- * research the threats to its habitat with assistance from local resource groups:
- * design a plan to educate the community about the threats to the endangered species habitat:
- * prepare a plan to save the habitat with community assistance.

Begin to plan for the **National Audubon Convention**, to be held in Estes Park, Colorado, July 21-23, 1991. The theme is to be "Audubon and the Americas", focusing on the relationship between people and

wetlands, forests and wildlife in the Western Hemisphere. Ted Turner, founder of Turner Broadcasting Systems has been invited to attend. Audubon chapters in North, Central and South America will participate in the program and bring exhibits. Colorado chapters will arrange tours and field trips. the registration brochure and other program details will be distributed in January.

Dan Taylor, our Western Regional Representative, has sent out a special letter to remind us that Mono Lake, a national treasure where millions of birds feed during their breeding and migratory seasons is still battling to prevent diversion of its waters by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Through the combined efforts of the NAS and the Mono Lake Committee, the fight is nearing victory. But more needs to be done to keep Mono Lake alive. Contributions to the National Audubon Society Keep Mono Lake Alive Fund are necessary to continue the legal battle. Your donation will help preserve this unique California landmark.

It was a pleasure, such as I have not had in a long time, to go on the Elkhorn Slough field trip led by Steve Schafer and Janet Duerr. with the approaching holidays there will be similar opportunities for members to enjoy the pleasure of being with friends and sharing new birding experiences. One of the most exciting and rewarding of these experiences will be the 92nd Annual Christmas Bird Count. Call our SAS office (533-7368) or Dan Keller (365-2032) and join us on: **THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS BIRD COUNT** on December 22, 1990 and the **AÑO NUEVO BIRD COUNT** on December 29.

---Mary Bresler

CALENDAR

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

MADAGASCAR - A CRITICAL HABITAT: by Doug Cheeseman. See Page One for details on both the Program and the Potluck. The Potluck begins at 6:30 PM with the General Meeting and Program immediately thereafter. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

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. Call the leader for the meeting places and times.

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)

JANUARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

SAS GENERAL MEETING.

BIRD BANDING AT COYOTE CREEK with Mike Rigney, Executive Director of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station. See Page Eight for details. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 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)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP

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

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

PESCADERO MARSH FIELD TRIP

State Parks Ranger Dave Augustine truly loves "his" marsh and will share its complexities and secrets with us. This is a multi-faceted field trip which will deal with all aspects of the marsh's ecosystem, but of course, Pescadero Marsh is one of the premier birding spots in the county so birders need not worry that their hobby will be overlooked. The weather may be cool or warm, depending upon fog and wind conditions, so be prepared accordingly. Boots are recommended but any walking will be relatively easy and on level grades. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the parking lot opposite Pescadero Road on Hwy. 1.

LEADER: Dave Augustine (879-0575)

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

THE LOS BAÑOS WILDLIFE AREA AND THE GRASSLAND REFUGES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

PANOCHÉ VALLEY

One of our highlight field trips of the year covering two diverse areas and exposing us to a variety of rare and unusual birds. On Saturday we will explore the four refuges north of Los Baños where we will look for white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes, a large variety of waterfowl and shore birds, raptors and owls. We plan on meeting in the parking lot of the Los Baños Wildlife Area on Henry Miller Road north of the town of Los Baños at 9:00 A.M. On Sunday we will go twenty miles south of Los Baños to where Little Panoche Road winds its way through the Diablo Range into Panoche Valley. Wintering flocks of mountain plovers, vesper sparrows, mountain bluebirds and long billed curlews as well as perched raptors vie with the resident roadrunners, phainopeplas and chukars for the birders' attention. Sunday we will meet at the parking lot above Little Panoche Detention Reservoir at 8:30 AM. The trips will go on rain or shine. Motel reservations are

(Continued on Page Three)

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

recommended at this time of year. The Motel 6 at Santa Nella is convenient to the refuges and to I-5 and we have found the Bonanza Motel in downtown Los Baños to be clean, economical and friendly in the past.
LEADER: Cliff Richer (355-4058)

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
ALTAMONT PASS
The hillsides of the Altamont Pass area afford consistent thermals for raptors and its grassy meadows are ideal hunting territory. Falcons, buteos and eagles are all common winter residents where mixed flocks of mountain and Western bluebirds work the fields for insects.
LEADERS: Nick Coiro and Linda Kypta

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
COYOTE POINT FIELD TRIP
A special week-day field trip to explore the birds and environmental assets of this very special area. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the *second* parking lot beyond the park entrance.
LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14
SAS GENERAL MEETING.
A varied program to be presented by Keith Hansen, artist and biologist from Point Reyes Bird Observatory. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
SAN BRUNO BAYFRONT FIELD TRIP
On this trip, we will be scanning the tidal flats for shorebirds, the bay beyond for waterfowl, and the skies for gulls and terns. The leader knows all the best spots from which to view the birds, and he will show us where they are. We will meet at the SamTrans terminal located along North Access Road at the north end of SFO. Take South Airport Blvd. or I-380 to North Access Road and travel east until you reach the terminal parking lot. Our tentative meeting time is 9:00 AM. **This time may be subject to change according to the tides. Please check your February Needles for the exact time.**
LEADER: Dennis Bcall

CHUTZPAH!

Chutzpah is an almost untranslatable Yiddish word that is usually defined by using an example. The most commonly used example of chutzpah is that of the boy who kills his parents and throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan.

Exxon now threatens to redefine the term. It has filed claims against the US Coast Guard claiming that the Coast Guard is "wholly or partially responsible" for the Exxon Valdez oil spill. One of its claims is that the Coast Guard was negligent in granting licenses to the crew and officers of the Exxon Valdez!

N.P.S. MUZZLES YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association, many of whose members and officers had been critical of the direction of the park's administration, was advised by the National Park Service that it was in violation of its charter. Under the NPS's interpretation, any independent comment on the Park - whether favorable or not - is forbidden.

Ridiculous? Short-sighted? Yes, but it's a familiar story to the former officers and directors of the Año Nuevo and Pescadero Interpretive Associations. Increasingly, park managers - at all levels - have come to the conclusion that cooperating associations should be seen and not heard. Docile docents, benign booksellers and faithful fund-raisers are the park managers' goals. Above all the park manager must avoid any semblance of criticism or dissent - no matter how bland. Most frightening to some of us is an increasingly prevalent attitude that they - the professional managers - are the real owners of the parks and the public users are merely nuisances with which they have to contend.

At first it appeared that the Yosemite Association would quietly fall into line. Its directors didn't even inform their members of the "muzzling" for more than four months.

But Yosemite is not Año Nuevo or Pescadero. A new non-profit corporation called the Yosemite Restoration Trust has come into being. Unlike the Yosemite Association the trust has no connection or standing with the Park Service. What it does have is an impressive board of directors and some well-heeled and politically connected sponsors. George Frampton, President of the Wilderness Society; Robert Binnewies, former Superintendent of Yosemite; former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara; former Parks Service Regional Director Howard Chapman and Richard Goldman, founder of the Goldman Environmental Awards are all officers of the new corporation.

The Trust intends to become involved in the upcoming negotiation of the concessionaire's contract at Yosemite. The Curry Corporation has held the franchise for many years. Besides returning less than 1% of its \$85 million in park revenues, Curry has been accused of advocating more commercialization of the Valley floor and is regarded as being the prime stumbling block in implementing plans to reduce congestion and pollution in the Valley.

"The Curry Company knows how to run a good resort," said William Alsop, one of the directors of the Trust, "Yosemite is not supposed to be a resort."

One of the more bizarre developments in the Yosemite story arises out of the potential purchase of MCA, Curry's parent company, by a Japanese firm. News of this prompted the head of the Park Service to call the President of MCA and "suggest" that MCA not wait for contract negotiations but sell its National Park concessions to the Restoration Trust immediately. While we deplore the implied ethnocentricity of this call, we applaud the additional muscle it brings to the effort to restore Yosemite to the people.

Even if the Trust is unsuccessful in changing the role of the concession company at Yosemite, its creation should be regarded as a major step in returning the control of our parks to those who love them and have paid for them.

--- Cliff Richer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ATHERTON

D. D. Arscott, Jack A. Doods, Joe P. Shy

BELMONT

Anthony & Cynthia Armijo, Helen Armstrong, Warner C. Baker,
Bill Blum, Ms. Donna Case, Donn/Nancy Forbes, Mr. Samuel Fujita
Mr. James Gonzales, Mrs. Virginia M Iuppa, Richard I. Kuehn
Sandy Mills, Miss L. Oberlin, Romaine Sternad, Dale Webb
H L Weinstein, Ms Thea Winter

BRISBANE

David Schooley

BURLINGAME

David Abeyta, Michael Buletti, Margaret Chase, Mr.-Mrs. F Colligan,
Mr. Tom Collins, The Garden Study Club of The Peninsula,
Claudia Hanson, R Jones, Charles Luce, Ms. Kelly, J. MacAulay,
Scott Ratty, Phyllis F Rickson, Melene Vorperian, Christine Walen,
Sheri White, Patrick G Yount

COLMA

Dawn James

DALY CITY

Mercedes Benitez, Eina & Larsen A Bik, Charles Goan, C Hunter
Victoria B Langford, Eina A Larsen Bik, B J Lindberg, Martin Partlan, L
Sell, Paul X Spring

EL GRANADA

Matthew Clark

FOSTER CITY

Mr. Paul Corey, Leslie R Ferguson, Therese Gendron, Rosemary Hayes
N C Hinton, Bob Jenkins, Gina Kokinda, G Currie, R Ornellas,
John Roesler, Jim Vickers, Stan Workman

HALF MOON BAY

Mr. & Mrs Walter Bunnell, Mrs. Marilyn Deines, James A Goodwin,
R Judd Hanna, William B Hillman, Judith L Lacy, Rhonda Rodriguez,
Peggy Wade

HILLSBOROUGH

Mrs. Francis A Martin, Nicholas M Mueller, Ms. Patti Poindexter

LA HONDA

L Bennett, Jennifer Endonio, A E Mahone, Joan Melling

LAKE ALMANOR (!)

K Wallerstedt

MENLO PARK

Roberta Abreu, D Bolding, Robert D Collyer, Diana Cookingham,
Mr. & Mrs. P Deutschman, Mrs. Sarah W Divine, Vincent Dorn,
Ms. Molly E Engelbrecht, Mr. Elwood Ennis, Mr. Ralph Foreman,
Ms. Ruth Fricker, Estela V Garcia, Ms. Jean E Gary, Ms. Julie A Harris,
Meredith Hoffman, Pam Horacek, Carol Ivie, Nancy M Jordan, T Kilduff,
Marguerite Kramer, J Kriss, David F Larson, B M Leonard, Terry Mallen,
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Meissner, Gwen Michell, H Miloradovitch,
Lorraine Nelson, D Nicholas, Mr. Robert V Oakford,
Mr. Timothy C Phillips, Rita F Redberg, Cecilia J Roberts,
Ms. Cindy Russell, Wende Schwake, Mr. Kevin Sheehan, Jean Slocum,
Mrs. Constance Stewart, Phillis J Sturges, Jean Sullivan,
Sondo Thadaney, Ann Tregoning, Peter Trinkaus, Mr. James Vertin,
Ms. Barbara Wasowski

MILLBRAE

Genevieve C Chan, Mrs. Anna Drozynski, Karen Fishwer, Alison Lancy,
Joseph Macho, Elizabeth Marshall, Larry Shavel

MOSS BEACH

Kathleen Boyd, Tom Orsi

PACIFICA

Steve Adams, Patricia T Adams, Mr. David Alley, M Clark, R Cone,
Paul R Curry, Robin J Fraser, Carole Freidman, B Hoover, L Kremer,
Ms. Elizabeth E Lewis, Robin Longerbeam, Glen M Robbe, Adelia Stout,
Brenda Walker, Ann West

PALO ALTO

Ms. Regis Cochrum

PESCADERO

Rob Johnson

PORTOLA VALLEY

Valerie Baldwin, Ms. Linda Doherty, Mr. Byron T Golder,
Ms. Sarah Koestner, K D Oswald, M Ripley, Allen C Robinson,
Betsy Roselle, Dr. & Mrs. Jay W Smith, I. R Spalding, Dr. Robert E Ward

REDWOOD CITY

Paul Adams, Don Borsick, Jack C Cook, Sarah R Crawford,
Ms. Mary A Frazio, J Galle, Mr. Louis Ganem, Mr. Thomas D Harris,
Sherrie Herran, Ms. Coffman Hotchkiss, E Kienitz, Joey Kirk,
Koji Komorita, Paula Krainz, Robert La Berge, PHD, Lawrence H Lazarus,
Bonnie Maxwell, Marlene M McLachlan, Mrs. Francis S Olaine,
Robert B Parker, Jack/Phyllis Patterson, M James D Perry,
Bonnie D Ploeger, Ms. Kathleen M Rianda, Charles G Schmidt,
Diane Tolhurst, Mr. B A Tuffendsam, Kay Tyler, Wim Van Schooten,
Judith Wittig

SAN BRUNO

Mr. Warak Chaovapong, Hwoward L Delong, Mrs. D M Garrison, Sr,
J Hawkinson, Anne Hayden, M Jones, Miss Dorothy Loftis,
Ms. Melodie C Lukas, Mr. Mark M Monkman, Steve Pan,
Dennis/Karen Sammut, Mr. Bruno Terenzi

SAN CARLOS

Sara Beckman, Mr. Raymond Browning, Mr. Raphael Cardet,
Gary P Curtaz, Clara L Diaz, R W Drake, Laura Farren Mrs. Susan Kavet,
Larry Kent, Sally D Kinsell, Ms. Virginia Klock, Mrs. Rea A McCreadie,
Bernard Winterberg

SAN MATEO

Darryl Addison, Leona S Bartell, Arijit Bose, Roger Broussal, Gene Burge,
Ms. Rose M Cleese, Frances Conibear, Mrs. Mattie E Dearagon,
Ms. Shirley Dykman, Phyllis Garratt, Lisa S Gauger, James Gibson,
Jeffrey J Goshorn, Mrs. Josephine Green, Yoshie Haggerty,
Mr./Mrs. James Harvey, Susan J Hecox, James G Hill,
Miss Mary E Hoerner, Ms. Nina E Hull, Erich Klinker,
Clifford M Kramer, Julie S Lazarre, Mr. Joseph Louis, Sharon Lysek,
Shane Mohler, Jill Mondry, Gary M Murphy, Mr. Nader S Nadershahi,
Mr. Dolph Newhouser, Jan Perry, Ms Maureen E Pfeffer,
Mr. Dalazell Potter III, F Quadros, Dorothy Richardson, Scott Rohrer,
Mrs. Rudolf Rus, Mr. John H Saylor, Ann Scanlen-Rohrer,
Dorothy W Smith, Ms. Doris Squeri, Ms Grace Wissner, R Young

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

Kiyotaka Asahina, M Castro, Mr. Robert H Chappell, Patricia Cuthbertson,
Corinne Foster, Marsha Gibbs, Thomas Heebink, Paul Malaspina,
Vernon Miller, Mr. George Moore, Mr Manfred Pertzborn, James R Stave,
Bob Woodworth

TRABUCO CANYON (?)

Christopher Lowery

WOODSIDE

Ms. Susan Arbuckle, T Lindsey Blayney, Susan Down,
Ms Barbara Gorman, Mr.-Mrs Charles Huggins, B Opler, Dr A W Reilly,
K M Sorensen, M B Stillman

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK

Sunday, October 7

The morning started out surprisingly chilly, but the bright sun and the birds quickly warmed leader Steve Schafer and twelve others on Sequoia's first trip to this East Bay locale. Unbeknownst to the organizers, a 'Redwood Fair' had been scheduled for the very same day, so the birders had lots of company. In spite of the bustling activity, about fifty species of birds were seen. The Redwood Fair did have its benefits--there was plenty of good food for lunch.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Sunday, October 14

Seven hardy birders joined Steve Schafer on a cool, foggy morning in northern Monterey County. The reported Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Moon Glow Dairy didn't show, but a Burrowing Owl put on an admirable performance in its place. We watched an American Bittern take a long, leisurely flight over Moss Landing Wildlife Area as we ate lunch, and yellowlegs of both persuasions were to be found along the upper reaches of Elkhorn Slough. All in all, 97 species (not including seals and sea otters) were seen.

HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE

Tuesday, October 23

Three birders joined Linda Kypta, substituting for scheduled leader Nick Coiro, on a romp through the wetlands at the east end of that long, skinny bridge. A Eurasian Wigeon put in a cameo appearance, as if to underscore the fact that the waterfowl have returned. Not to be outdone, a Peregrine Falcon also made its presence known. Fifty-two species of birds were seen altogether.

ITEMS FOR SALE OR RENT

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching	\$ 6.00
Birder's Handbook - Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye	17.60
Birding at the Bottom of the Bay - SCVAS	12.50
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
Video Guide to Birds of North America (Set of 5)

\$2.00 /week
5.00 ea./wk.

Sequoia Audubon Society

GET WELL, EVELYN

Evelyn Coiro recently suffered a serious fall, breaking her right arm and left wrist. With both arms immobilized by casts, the normally active Evelyn is virtually helpless.

So, if Nick is scheduled to lead a field trip and you get a substitute leader, you'll know the reason why.

Get well cards can be sent to the Sequoia office. We'll make sure Evelyn gets them.

The address is:

Evelyn Coiro
c/o Sequoia Audubon Society
720 El Camino Real, #403
Belmont, CA 94002

BABOB AVAILABLE

Birding At the Bottom of the Bay, Santa Clara Valley Audubon's bird finding guide, is now available from our office. The price is \$10.00 at the office or general meetings or \$12.50 by mail.

RENTAL VIDEOS

Arrangements are being made to have our videos available by mail. If you're interested in viewing *Techniques of Birding* by Arnold Small or one of the Audubon Society's five *Video Guides to the Birds of North America*, then please call the office (593-7368) for details.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Yes, folks, it's that time of year again. We are planning our annual Christmas bird counts and we are counting on you to get out and help us count the birds in our areas. Mark your calendars:

Crystal Springs Bird Count December 22, 1990

Ano Nuevo Bird Count..... December 29, 1990

Dan Keller will be compiling our count again this year. In order to see the most birds we need lots of help. Even if you are a beginning birder or just like to get out in the open air we can use your help on a team to keep records in the field and to count birds. Christmas counts mean dawn-to-dusk birding, plus owling for some. 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 seen. The Christmas count is important--it gives us data on trends in the populations in our area and can alert us to changes. The count results are reported in American Birds and also with Cornell Laboratory.

If you are unable to participate in the field, could you help out at home counting backyard birds, or at the Garden Center preparing the hot meal for the hungry counters on December 22nd and/or 29th?

Please tear out or copy this form and send it in to the Audubon office so that we can assign the areas.

=====

Crystal Springs C. B. C. / Ano Nuevo C.B.C Registration Form

I will participate in the:

Crystal Springs C. B. C. _____ (yes/no) Counting area preference is:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Ano Nuevo C. B. C. _____ (yes/no) Count area preferences:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

I will:

Count any area assigned: Yes _____ No _____

Monitor and report my feeder on: 12/22 _____ 12/29 _____

Help behind the scenes on: 12/22 _____ 12/29 _____

Be at the compilation on: 12/22 _____ 12/29 _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please let us have your reply by **December 6, 1990**. To avoid errors please remit your \$5.00 with this form. (The \$5.00 fee is for American Birds to report our count and to list each participant's name.)

Questions--call: Dan Keller (Compiler) 365-2032

Mail form to:

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

CHRISTMAS COUNT AREAS

Crystal Springs Count, December 22, 1990

- Area 1: Princeton Harbor
- Area 2: Half Moon Bay
- Area 3: Higgins-Purisma Road
- Area 4: Pilarcitos Creek
- Area 5: El Granada
- Area 6: San Pedro Valley
- Area 7: Pilarcitos Lake
- Area 8: San Andreas Lake (Skyline/I-880 Corridor)
- Area 9: Crystal Springs Reservoir
- Area 10: South Crystal Springs Reservoir
- Area 11: Filoli
- Area 12: Skyline Blvd. (South of Hwy 92)
- Area 13: Huddart Park
- Area 14: Belmont, San Carlos
- Area 15: San Mateo, Hillsborough
- Area 16: Burlingame, Hillsborough
- Area 17: Millbrae
- Area 18: Bay Shoreline (Airport to Foster City)
- Area 19: Foster City

Ano Nuevo Count December 29th, 1990

- Area 1: La Honda-Sam McDonald Park
- Area 2: Pescadero Marsh
- Area 3: Pomponio
- Area 4: Loma Mar-Memorial Park
- Area 5: Portola State Park
- Area 6: Big Basin State Park
- Area 7: Butano State Park
- Area 8: Cloverdale Road
- Area 9: Bean Hollow
- Area 10: Pigeon Point
- Area 11: Gazos Creek
- Area 12: Ano Nuevo Point
- Area 13: Whitehouse

note change from previous newsletter
correct fee is \$5.00--we'll get xtra \$1 from \$4 payers at count. PLEASE REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

MONO LAKE UPDATE

In mid-August Mono Lake stood at 6376 feet above sea level. This is still 1.5 feet below the court-mandated level and continues to drop despite court orders that require the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to continue the flow of water down Rush and Lee Vining Creeks.

Despite some cheating and outright defiance of the court orders by the DWP, the drought is the main reason for the lake's dropping water level.

In October, Judge Terrence Finney ordered the DWP to begin fresh water flows down Parker and Walker Creeks which had been dry since 1941. While insufficient to reverse the lowering of the lake, the new flows will help slow the rate of loss until seasonal rains and snow return to the area.

The DWP continues to fight *all* Mono Lake conservation measures. They have appealed the Mono Basin National Forest Area Comprehensive Management Plan and its Environmental Impact Statement, contending that the Forest Service's selection of a lake level range was a violation of DWP's rights. It is likely that their appeal will go to the Chief of Forest Service in Washington and that the DWP will lobby intensively to overturn the plan.

The DWP is also under fire for their treatment of the Owens River as a "channel of convenience" rather than as a natural resource. Critics contend that DPW's releases of water based solely on Los Angeles' water use requirements have caused collapsed stream banks and an incised stream channel.

Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley recently appointed Mary Nichols to the DWP's Board of Directors. It is hoped that she will provide the crucial swing vote in favor of a more favorable environmental climate in the DWP.

Meanwhile the State Water Board, which was ordered by the courts in 1988 to review the Mono Lake situation, appears to be stalling in the hopes that someone else will decide the problem for them. They recently announced that they expect to come to a decision about the division of Mono Lake water sometime in 1992.

California gulls nesting on Negit Island remain mostly protected from coyote deprivation by a small channel and an electric fence although a few coyotes managed to get to the island in July. On Pancake Island however, the gulls abandoned 651 nests when coyotes waded across a narrow and shallow channel.

EPA DELAYS ANSWER

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided that it will not respond to a demand from several environmental groups that it intervene in the dispute over allocation of Bay-Delta waters. The EPA stated it would wait for the long-delayed state Delta salinity control plan before making any decisions.

The demand was served on behalf of a number of Bay Area complainants, including Sequoia Audubon. In the absence of a timely response the complainants may take their demand to the courts in the next step.

W'LIFE REHAB CLASSES

The Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek is conducting two classes in wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife Care and Rehabilitation will be conducted on Saturday, December 1, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Fee is \$25 plus Museum membership. Bring a bag lunch.

Treatment of Oiled Birds will teach successful treatment techniques developed at the Lindsay Museum. Prerequisite is the above course. It will be conducted on Wednesday, January 23 from 7-9 PM. Fee is \$10.

THEY'RE HERE!

The first known migratory swarm of Africanized "killer" bees has crossed the border into the United States.

The swarm was trapped at Hidalgo in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and eradicated by biologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Previous invasions of these bees have been confined to swarms that were inadvertent stowaways on ships or trucks from South or Central America. Last year's California incursion came from Mexico in a truckload of oil drilling casings.

Prior attempts to stop their northward migration have met with total failure and there is little reason to believe that the US-Mexican border will be much of an obstacle to these aggressive intruders.

In all likelihood, we can expect the "killer" bees to join the ranks of the starling, the Japanese beetle, the fire ant and the eucalyptus as an undesirable alien.

BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

Some new books of interest to California birders are out or are in the works in time for Christmas. These are ideal for birders who need one more book about their favorite hobby.

Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific by Rich Stallcup is every birder's guide to pelagic birding. It's 208 pages include sections on finding pelagic boat trips, seeing pelagic birds from shore and identifying common, rare and accidental species. Amply illustrated with black and white photos and drawings, it is a publication of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Where Birders Go in Southern California by Henry Childs is a revision of an earlier edition of the book. It has capsule descriptions of scores of birding areas, 13 area maps and lots of helpful hints in its 190 spiral-bound pages.

An Introduction to Southern Californi Birds is a photographic overview of the region's birdlife. 252 photographs and a non-technical text.

A Birder's Guide to Southern California by Harold Holt is a rewrite of the popular Jim Lane guide. Holt and the American Birding Association have taken over the revision of the existing guides and the publication of new books in the series. Just off the presses, the book may not be generally available for one or two months. The new and completely rewritten Southern California guide has 248 pages and 60 maps.

Some of these books can be found in local bookstores and at the Nature Company, but the best sources are mail order from the Los Angeles Audubon Society Bookstore, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (213-876-0202) and ABA Sales, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599 (800-634-7736).

JANUARY'S PROGRAM

Mike Rigney of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station will present our January program on the bird study and bird banding activities of the CCRS. Coyote Creek is located in Santa Clara county and is one of the few remaining riparian (streamside) areas without major flood control. The Coyote Creek banding station operates seven days a week, typically setting up 30-40 nets a day. The bird banders catch and release about 7-8,000 birds a year. Information collected by the volunteers at CCRS has provided important information on breeding and migrating birds in our area. CCRS banding data is also providing information on the importance of riparian areas, and the changes in the patterns of bird

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

7XCH

distribution as changes in flood control policies are increasing the riparian acreage along the creek. Mike's program will include slides and information on our common breeding, resident and migratory birds, as well as pictures of some of the rarities seen at Coyote Creek.

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Keith Hansen, a biologist with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and a well known bird and nature artist, will present the February meeting. Keith will share some of his slides and knowledge of the breeding birds and mammals of the Farallon Islands. See the February newsletter for more details.

=====

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 343-3219

DIRECTORS:

Elected for Term Ending

June '91 Nick Coiro 349-1834
Cliff Richer 355-4058
June '92 Linda Kvota 591-9053
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 365-2032
Conservation: Rick Johnson 571-8533
Education: Janet Duerr 689-0788
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: Peter Cross

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!