



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
February, 1991

Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County
Vol.39, #5

This Month's Program

Keith Hansen, artist and naturalist, will present February's program on the Farallon Islands. Keith has worked for a number of years with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and has participated in their studies of the wildlife of these Islands. He is also a well known artist and illustrator, and the slides used in his program will reflect his artistic talents.

The Farallon Islands, located off the coast just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, are rich in marine and coastal wildlife. Keith's program will begin with a description of the Islands geology and geography. He will discuss the natural history of the island, starting with the plants on the land and in the surrounding tidepools and waters. His program will go on to discuss the rich fauna of the islands. This fauna includes bats, salamanders, and a diversity of marine mammals, from seals to whales. Keith will also share with us some information and slides of the interesting birds found on the islands, from the colonial nesting seabirds to up-close-and-personal views of mist netted migrant songbirds. Please join us for a trip out to these nearby islands; we guarantee no sea sickness.

Next Month's Program

March's program will visit another California treasure, Mono Lake. Steve Schmidt, a local architect and environmentalist, will present a slide show on the beauties and problems of the lake. Many of the slides are by David Gaines, and reflect his personal and emotional affinity with the lake. Come and share images of this natural wonder that so many people have fought so hard to save.

Birds, Seeds and Videotapes

This edition of the *NEEDLES* is largely taken up with lists. You'll find a list of the birds seen during November's Wild Goose Chase, another list from the two December Christmas Counts and a list of the Wild Goose Chase contributors.

The Christmas Count lists are still unofficial with some species yet to be confirmed. However, it does seem certain that this will be the first time ever that the species count for the Año Nuevo Count will exceed that of the Crystal Springs Count.

Dan Keller deserves considerable credit for conducting the two counts and we expect to have some comments from him after he's had a chance to digest the results. Unfortunately the demands of the two deadlines - that of the *NEEDLES* and that of *American Birds* - are such that we'll have to wait for next month.

We won't try to steal his thunder, but the 100-year record-breaking cold weather on the Crystal Springs Christmas Count and the ultra-clear ocean visibility during the Año Nuevo Count were key factors in holding down the first count and boosting the second.

With a smaller than usual turnout, Dan did an excellent job of dividing the territories and assigning the most able birders to the most productive territories.

Heidi Conrad also did a superb job in providing food for the famished counters at both compilations.

You'll find a complete-to-deadline (but still unofficial) listing of the species and numbers seen on the two counts.

The Wild Goose Chase listing of the

species seen, and where they were first seen, is on Page Seven. The epic saga of our record-setting day's birding is on Page Six.

The contributors to date can be found on Page Three. Normally, we don't give out any information on amounts donated, but I think we should give a special thanks to Tom and Marion Vander Bosch who increased their original pledge by a factor of 10!

The Spring Bird Seed Sale is on! We suffered a planning deficiency this fall during the changeover of board members and missed holding the fall sale. But, we're back! If you have bird feeders around your house, or know someone who does, this is your chance to stock up on high quality bird seed at a reasonable price and support the chapter as well. The following mixes are available:

Premium Mix is custom-blended and was formulated by the National Audubon Society Center in Tiburon. This high protein mix contains red millet, white proso millet, and black oil sunflower seeds, with no inexpensive "fillers." Specially blended to attract songbirds, this seed is not available in supermarket or feed stores - only through the local Audubon Societies.

Western Wild Bird Mix is a classic blend of red millet, white proso millet, sudan grass screenings, and red milo and is priced to compete with super-market seed, but without waste "filler."

To mix with other seed, or use alone: *Black Oil Sunflower Seed*, high in oil content and nutritive value, this seed appeals to many species. *Thistle Seed* is a small seed, rich in oil, that appeals to smaller birds.

(Continued on Page Three)

CALENDAR

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 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.

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 lower parking lot of the museum near the picnic benches. **This is a change from the previously announced meeting place**

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SAS GENERAL MEETING.

A varied program to be presented by Keith Hansen, artist, birder 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. Meeting time is 9:00 AM.

LEADER: Dennis Beall

(Continued on Page Three)

News from the Ranch

RANCH RESEARCH: The first year of our North Bay Counties Heron/Egret Project located about 40 colonies in Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano Counties. We discovered unreported colonies, recorded habitat information, monitored nesting success and noted predator and human disturbances.

We hope to add depth to our knowledge of north bay heronries, monitor impacts to these important wading birds and act to protect critical habitats. Next year the project will expand into Contra Costa County. To join other birders in this important research project, call John Kelly at 663-8203.

VOLUNTEER FOR ACR'S '91 PUBLIC SEASON: The Bolinas Lagoon Preserve's (BLP) public season will begin on March 16 and continue until July 14. That is more than a month away but now is the time to plan your weekend as an ACR host. Each of the sponsoring Audubon chapters will be responsible for providing hosts. However, many of our friends find themselves unable to give of their time when their chapters are providing hosts. If you are unable to host when asked to, or if nobody asks you, you can still volunteer to help us. Just call the Ranch at 868-9244. Nancy Angelesco will be happy to place you on our schedule.

WINTER NOTES: Edreis Cole reported that the edges of Bolinas Lagoon and the marshes at both ends froze. Killdeer were forced to higher ground in the Ranch yard and parking lot. Many Townsend's warblers were reported to have died as a result of the freeze. The trough-shaped water fountain by the ranch house froze. The pipes burst and the staff was treated to a spectacular ice sculpture. The fountain should be fixed by spring. At BAP pipes and hummingbird feeders froze in the all time low temperature of 12°. A plot of native bunchgrasses planted the day before seems to have survived the freeze as did the oaks planted by local school children two years ago. Ranch biologist John Petersen found himself caught between the need to water newly planted drought-stricken vegetation and the fear that the water would freeze and kill the plants. BAP's plants stayed dry, cold and alive.

BOUVERIE GUIDED NATURE WALK: Join a docent for a late-winter walk at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Experience five plant communities, walk along the creek, catch the first wildflower for 1991 or watch and listen to the many birds of the Bouverie Preserve. Our next walk will take place on February 16. This should be just right for seeing red-bellied newts. The March walks on the 9th and 23d should be good for Bouverie's famous wildflowers. They will begin at 9:30 AM and end around 1:30 PM. These walks are free but reservations are required no later than the Wednesday preceding the walk. Call (707) 938-4554 to reserve your spot.

NEW DOCENTS: Congratulations to the members of our two graduating docent classes. BAP will have 33 new docents to work with visiting school children and the general public. The BLP class of 26 will work only with school children.

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS: We wish to thank ACR Docent Ellie Ritter for her generous gift of a charitable remainder trust. Thanks as well to the Frank Campini Foundation for a very generous gift from the Elsie Dillon Trust. Both gifts will benefit the ACR Endowment and will go far toward continuing the work of ACR. If you missed our recent seminars regarding planned giving, but wish to receive information about ways you can help ACR, please call the office at 868-9244.

LOUISE FLETCHER NAMED TO BOARD

Louise Fletcher was unanimously approved as the newest SAS Board Member. Louise is a long-time member who has been active in many areas. She will fill the vacancy created by the untimely death of David Moon.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, Louise has volunteered to assume responsibilities for publicity.

Louise will serve until the June General Meeting at which time the membership will elect a Director to serve the remainder of the unexpired three year term.

WILD GOOSE CHASE DONORS

Stephen Aldrich	Y. Lillian Kitano
Frank and Jean Allen	Irja L. Koski
Josephine Blue	Stanley & Carol Larsen
Mary Bresler	Hal and Barbara Lucas
Wallace and Patricia Carlson	Jo Macartney
Virginia Clifford	Janet and Malcolm McWhorter
William de Wit	Roy and Fran Nelson
Richard Devoe	Pete and Donna Petersen
Harrison and Eleanor Dobson	Claire Phipps
Ms. Genevieve Doyle	Sandy Playa and Carl Burger
Lynn Eichorn	Pat & John Prime
George and Ruth Frecker	Cliff Richer
Fred Grafton	Isobel Sanford
Helen V. Grubb	Werner & Elvira Schumann
Dale F. Hands	Alphonse Seubert
Walter M. Hauter	Robert L. Shaw
Elsa Hooper	Robin W. Smith
Bill and Betty Horn	Dr. George & Virginia Stewart
Ann Johanson	Marion and Tom Vanden Bosch
Mark and Pat Jones	Allan Wofchuck
Debbie Kimball	Jim Woodd

Birds, Seeds and Videotapes

(Continued from Page One)

This is a prepaid sale. Your order, including a check payable to Sequoia Audubon Society must be received by March 15. SAS will have the ordered bird seed available for pick-up in our office in Belmont, between 9:00 and 12:00 Monday through Friday after April 1. (Dates are subject to change. Call the office [593-7368] for verification or to make special arrangements for pickup.)

Videotapes can now be obtained from our office through the mails. Beside the "how-to" *Techniques of Birding* we also have the five cassette *Video Guide* by the National Audubon Society. This gives you still and moving pictures, a description and the songs of the birds depicted.

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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. To get there take I-580 East through Livermore. Take the Vasco Road exit just beyond Livermore and turn right. We will meet near the first gas station on the right. The gas station is very close to the exit, so don't overlook it. Meeting time is 9:00 AM.

LEADERS: Nick Coiro and Linda Kypta

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

PRINCETON HARBOR

Our leader birds and scouts this area frequently so the exact itinerary will depend on "what's hot". The itinerary will vary according to what Dan or his birding informants have found recently. To get there take Hwy 92 to Hwy 1 and follow Hwy north to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the lights. Take your first left and proceed ahead until you can take another left into the upper parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 AM.

LEADER: Dan Keller (365-2032)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

PINE LAKE PARK AND STERN GROVE

This little park in San Francisco was "discovered" by local birders seeking last year's rare brown-crowned flycatcher. To get there take 19th Avenue (Hwy. 1) north through San Francisco. From 19th Ave. you have to take a left turn onto Sloat. Unfortunately you can't take a left turn there so you have to go past it, find the first place you can take a U-turn and come back to Sloat. From Sloat take a right on Vale and go downhill into Pine Lake Park to the parking lot. We'll meet there at 9:00 AM.

LEADERS: Nick Coiro and Linda Kypta

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

SAS BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM. Place to be announced.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - Please contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

MOUNTAIN VIEW FOREBAY AND SHORELINE PARK.

Full details in next month's *NEEDLES*. Meet at 9:00 AM at the foot of San Antonio Rd. near the entrance to Mountain View Shoreline Park. Trip breaks up at noon.

LEADER: Nick Coiro (349-1834)

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

SAS GENERAL MEETING.

Mono Lake with Steve Schmidt. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

MENDOTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Full details in next month's *NEEDLES*.

LEADER: David Shuford

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

WUNDERLICHT PARK

Full details in next month's *NEEDLES*. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 A.M.

LEADER: Dan Keller

1990 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN
LOON, RED-THROATED	75	112	KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	14	21	GULL, THAYER'S	25	17	WREN, MARSH	8	9
LOON, PACIFIC	54	239	EAGLE, BALD	1		GULL, WESTERN	912	2744	KINGLET, GOLDEN-CROWNED	34	9
LOON, COMMON	40	61	HARRIER, NORTHERN	26	30	GULL, GLAUCOUS WINGED	744	538	KINGLET, RUBY CROWNED	280	84
GREBE, PIE-BILLED	83	30	HAWK, SHARP SHINNED	7	19	Gull, GWxWestern	100		GNATCATCHER, BLUE-GRAY	1	
GREBE, HORNED	55	30	HAWK, COOPER'S	4	5	GULL, GLAUCOUS		2	BLUEBIRD, WESTERN	5	6
GREBE, EARED	15	3	HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED	15	15	KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED	2	9	THRUSH, HERMIT	291	146
GREBE, WESTERN	232	121	HAWK, RED-TAILED	73	62	Gull, species	3556	1010	ROBIN, AMERICAN	573	238
GREBE, CLARK'S	26	10	HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED	1		TERN, FORSTER'S	86	7	THRUSH, VARIED	221	33
FULMAR, NORTHERN		1168	EAGLE, GOLDEN		1	MURRE, COMMON	4462	3224	WRENTIT	121	99
SHEARWATER, SOOTY		3	KESTREL, AMERICAN	49	40	GUILLEMOT, PIGEON	1	1	MOCKINGBIRD, NORTHERN	33	4
SHEARWATER, SHORT-TAILED		1	MERLIN	3	4	MURRELET, MARBLED	8	20	THRASHER, CALIFORNIA	6	1
SHEARWATER, BLACK-VENTED		5	FALCON, PEREGRINE	5	4	MURRELET, ANCIENT	16	167	PIPIT, WATER	196	197
Shearwater, species		7	QUAIL, CALIFORNIA	392	606	AUKLET, CASSIN'S	4	4	WAXWING, CEDAR	98	60
PELICAN, BROWN	186	2098	RAIL, VIRGINIA	4	12	AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	53	43	SHRIKE, LOGGERHEAD	3	5
CORMORANT, DOUBLE-CRESTED	552	81	SORA	4	9	DOVE, ROCK	655	115	STARLING, EUROPEAN	2488	1148
CORMORANT, BRANDT'S	112	252	MOORHEN, COMMON		3	PIGEON, BAND-TAILED	38	173	VIREO, HUTTON'S	20	6
CORMORANT, PELAGIC	66	142	COOT, AMERICAN	1864	768	DOVE, MOURNING	1200	557	WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED	9	4
HERON, GREAT BLUE	25	8	PIOYER, BLACK BELLIED	607	90	BARN OWL, COMMON	4	5	WARBLER, NASHVILLE	2	
EGRET, GREAT	45	6	KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	14	21	SCREECH-OWL, WESTERN	2	6	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPEE	511	973
EGRET, SNOWY	70	17	PIOYER, SNOWY	17	9	OWL, GREAT HORNED	11	25	Audubon's:	146	43
EGRET, CATTLE		1	PIOYER, SEMI-PALMATED	104		PYGYMY OWL, NORTHERN	3	10	Myrtle:	29	65
HERON, BLACK BACKED		1	KILLDEER	932	553	OWL, SHORT-EARED	1	1	WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S	58	7
NIGHT-HERON, BLACK-CROWNED	22	16	OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK	1	35	OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET	3	9	WARBLER, PRAIRIE	1	
SWAN, TUNDRA	1		STILT, BLACK-NECKED	45	3	SWIFT, WHITE-THROATED		20	YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON	7	35
BRANT		9	AVOCET, AMERICAN	1075		HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	143	14	WARBLER, BLACK & WHITE	1	1
GOOSE, CANADA	229	6	YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	24	11	KINGFISHER, BELTED	7	13	GROSBEAK, BLACK-HEADED		1
DUCK, WOOD		18	WILLET	1766	94	WOODPECKER, ACORN	26	111	TOWHEE, RUFOUS-SIDED	111	16
TEAL, GREEN-WINGED	145	284	TATTILER, WANDERING	1	5	SAPSUCKER, RED-BREASTED	10	6	TOWHEE, BROWN	314	103
MALLARD	1350	77	SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	11	3	WOODPECKER, NUTTALL'S	5	4	SPARROW, LARK	1	
PINTAIL, NORTHERN	422	141	WHIMBREL	36	19	WOODPECKER, DOWNY	19	12	SPARROW, CLAY-COLORED	2	
TEAL, CINNAMON	5	5	CURLEW, LONG-BILLED	53	1	WOODPECKER, HAIRY	14	8	SPARROW, SAVANNAH	415	274
SHOVELER, NORTHERN	165	81	GODWIT, MARBLED	1346	66	FLICKER, NORTHERN	113	92	SPARROW, FOX	278	274
GADWALL	83	92	TURNSTONE, RUDDY	2	1	Flicker, yellow-shafted	1		SPARROW, SONG	302	276
WIGEON, EURASIAN	2	1	TURNSTONE, BLACK	92	92	WOODPECKER, PILEATED		1	SPARROW, LINCOLN'S	49	103
WIGEON, AMERICAN	540	132	SURFBIRD	13	64	PHOEBE, BLACK	51	49	SPARROW, SWAMP	2	2
CANVASBACK	1274	33	KNOT, RED	124	2	PHOEBE, SAY'S	14	11	SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED	15	7
DUCK, RING-NECKED	53	160	SANDERLING	212	474	LARK, HORNED	7		SPARROW, GOLDEN-CROWNED	1895	2062
SCAUP, GREATER	6197	6	SANDPIPER, WESTERN	6721	3	SWALLOW, TREE	2	2	SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED	1556	1767
SCAUP, LESSER	701	1	SANDPIPER, LEAST	995	40	SWALLOW, VIOLET GREEN		2	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	815	815
Scaup, species	2416		SANDPIPER, ROCK	1		JAY, STELLER'S	161	201	Sparrow, species	32	
DUCK, HARLEQUIN		2	DUNLIN	2566	12	JAY, SCRUB	403	169	BLACKBIRD, RED-WINGED	1255	2771
OLDSQUAW	1		DOWITCHER, SHORT-BILLED	1427		CROW, AMERICAN	4	4	BLACKBIRD, TRI-COLORED	38	418
SCOTER, BLACK	1	5	DOWITCHER, LONG-BILLED	328	12	RAVEN, COMMON	49	70	MEADOWLARK, WESTERN	393	380
SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED	59	13	Dowitcher, species	280	2	CHICKADEE, CHESTNUT-BACKED	321	487	BLACKBIRD, BREWER'S	2692	1348
SCOTER, SURF	1472	250	SNIPE, COMMON	62	17	TITMOUSE, PLAIN	16	2	COWBIRD, BROWN-HEADED	40	20
GOLDENEYE, COMMON	1021	18	PIIALA ROPE, RED		21	BUSHITT	718	351	Blackbird, species		1073
GOLDENEYE, BARROW'S		18	JAEGER, POMARINE	2	8	NUTHATCH, RED-BREASTED	8	7	FINCH, PURPLE	134	166
BUFFLEHEAD	669	99	JAEGER, PARASITIC		1	NUTHATCH, WHITE-BREASTED	8		FINCH, HOUSE	1274	292
MERGANSER, HOODED	22	12	GULL, BONAPARTE'S	8	6	NUTHATCH, PYGMY	42	81	CROSSBILL, RED	29	31
MERGANSER, COMMON		1	GULL, HEERMANN'S	4	10	CREEPER, BROWN	11	19	SISKIN, PINE	117	879
MERGANSER, RED-BREASTED	53	17	GULL, MEW	714	634	WREN, ROCK	1		GOLDFINCH, LESSER	63	13
DUCK, RUDDY	1254	266	GULL, RING-BILLED	1251	74	WREN, BEWICK'S	71	37	GOLDFINCH, AMERICAN	100	81
VULTURE, TURKEY	29	42	GULL, CALIFORNIA	4069	555	WREN, HOUSE	2	1	GROSBEAK, EVENING	5	6
			GULL, HERRING	224	352	WREN, WINTER	11	31	SPARROW, HOUSE	333	125

	Crystal Springs	Ano Nuevo
Total Species:	187	186
Total Birds:	78767	37911

PARTICIPANTS

BOTH COUNTS

Rick Baird	Mary Bressler	Al DeMartini	Patrick A. Dickinson	Edwin Duerr	Janet Duerr
Pat Hauch	Grant Hoyt	Karen Hoyt	Rick Johnson	Dan Keller	Don Keller
Richard Kovak	Peter Metropoulos	Barry Sauppe	Steve Schafer	Robin W. Smith	Maria Straatmann

CRYSTAL SPRINGS COUNT

Dennis Barr	Charles Benedict	Nick Coiro	Gary Deghi	Shari Deghi	Allan M Eisner
Louise Fletcher	Walter Floyd	Shirley Highera	Dave Keller	Richard Kovak	Linda Kypta
Carol Miller	Genevieve Miller	Anne Moser	Donna L. Petersen	Pete Petersen	Claire Rittenhouse
Scott Rohrer	Grace Sain	Carol Scott	Ann Scanlan Rohrer	Cheryl Seehorn	Robert Seehorn
Judy Spitzer	Rich Stallcup	Francis Toldi		Gil West	Al Wofchuk

ANO NUEVO COUNT

Gail Kenny	Mike Mammouser	Janet Murphy	Paul Reilly	Gary Strachan	Frank Sullivan
Ron Thorn	Margo Tweed			Bob Ulvang	John Waller

Birdseed Sale Order Form

Item	Size Bag	Price <u>Incl.</u> Sales Tax		Number Bags Wanted	Total per Item
Premium Mix	20 lb.	\$10.00	x	_____	= _____
	50 lb.	\$19.00	x	_____	= _____
Western Wild Bird Mix	20 lb.	\$ 8.50	x	_____	= _____
	50 lb.	\$19.50	x	_____	= _____
Black Oil Sun- flower Seed	25 lb.	\$16.50	x	_____	= _____
	50 lb.	\$28.50	x	_____	= _____
Thistle Seed	5 lb.	\$11.50	x	_____	= _____
	25 lb.	\$53.00	x	_____	= _____
Overall Total					\$ _____

Name: _____

Street/Apt. Address: _____

City and Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

enclosing check #: _____ Order pickup options will be confirmed by mail.

mail form and check to: SEED SALE, Sequoia Audubon Society,
720 El Camino Real No. 403, BELMONT, CA 94002

Plan to store seed OUTSIDE [lower relative humidity] in a tight but not completely sealed container (e.g., garbage can with snug lid), in a cool and shaded/dark location. Seed very likely available for pickup SATURDAY MARCH 30 as well as April 1 and later.

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	\$0.75
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. Mail rental is available. Call the office for prices.

Techniques of Birding - Arnold Small	\$2.00 per week
Video Guide to Birds of North America (Set of 5)	\$55.00 ea. tape per wk.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

THE 1990 WILD GOOSE CHASE

Starting time was 5:00 AM, on November 21, the day before Thanksgiving, but here it was at 5:05 and I was at a pay phone at Princeton Harbor.

"Hey, Barry, I'm lost." After two tries I had decided that I really didn't remember how to get to Barry Sauppe's house. Barry gave me the directions and I was soon on my way again. This time the only distraction was chasing a barn owl up the road. (A good sign!) By 5:10 I had joined Barry, Dan Keller and Linda Kypta on Barry's back porch, listening for owls. Only the saw-whet cooperated, responding quickly to Barry's calls. (A bad sign?)

On the way to Pescadero Marsh, another barn owl flashed across the road. "Not as nice as *my* owl," I thought smugly to myself, "but at least it's a species we can count, now."

At Pescadero Marsh the Virginia Rails and Soras responded with only a little coaxing from Barry. Coots, mallards and gadwalls identified themselves with various squawks and quacks.

The owls at Butano were less friendly with only a distant great horned owl giving out a lonely hoot. At Gazos Creek, a pygmy-owl was finally persuaded to whistle a greeting just before the dawn chorus started.

The dawn chorus lived up to expectations with thrushes, wrens, Stellar's jays, kinglets, towhees, sparrows and even woodpeckers sounding off. Further down the creek, now in full light, more passerines - highlighted by a show-off red-bellied sapsucker - a red-tailed hawk and a fly-over harrier added to the list. A light drizzle dampened the foliage but not our enthusiasm. Although it was to come and go through the morning, the drizzle was never a problem to the birders.

A dash north of Pigeon Point found both phoebes, three species of blackbirds, two plovers and Western meadowlarks - but no hoped-for golden-plovers. Now we doubled back to Pigeon Point for "squint time", peering out to sea through our scopes.

Pigeon Point exceeded our highest expectations. The light and visibility were nearly perfect. Beside the expected brown pelicans, three species of cormorants, loons, and scoters we got a full complement of gulls. The alcids - murrelets, rhino and Cassin's auklets, and marbled and ancient murrelets - paraded past the Point with an occasional bird stopping by for breakfast. Tiny white dots became red phalaropes. Tiny dark crosses became black-vented and sooty shearwaters; and we got all of the expected shorebirds except the wandering tattler.

It was 10:00 AM and we had just over 100 species when we turned back to the Gazos Creek-mouth for godwits, willits and sanderlings. Even though we missed the expected snowy plovers Dan's spotting of a vagrant swamp sparrow caused the rest of us to go through a frantic search of the thickets northwest of the parking lot.

A return to Gazos Creek gave us a few more riparian and woodland species. (Dan was able to add evening grosbeak to his county list.)

Back-tracking to Lake Lucerne, we got the expected egrets and great blue heron, common yellowthroat and a surprising flock of hooded mergansers.

A stop north of Bean Hollow Beach looking for the rock sandpiper gave us our first shutout of the day, but persevering north to Pescadero Marsh we got the expected marsh ducks and black-shouldered kites and once again were rewarded with a bonus - an American bittern.

On the drive back to Half Moon Bay we picked up several red-shouldered hawks among the kestrels and red-tails perched by the roadside before visiting a yard in Half Moon Bay where we debated over whether the briefly-seen flitter had been an orange-crowned or a female yellow warbler. (Both had been seen at this location earlier.) Agreement was finally reached on orange-crowned and we went on to Princeton Harbor, garnering a brown-headed cowbird on the way.

At first we were unable to find the oldsquaw so Dan went off to see if it were resting on its usual rock. No luck, but while we were waiting for his return, the bird surfaced between us!

After returning to Barry's house, failing to get the white-throated sparrow but finding the California thrasher at his feeder, we headed inland, having gathered 136 species along the coast. A quick stop near the intersection of 92 and Skyline Drive failed to produce bluebirds and our next two stops, though no shutouts, were disappointing. We missed white-breasted nuthatches at Wunderlicht Park and came away with only four species there and at Crystal Springs Reservoir despite a long side trip.

Things picked up at Foster City. A Forster's tern, an easy Barrow's goldeneye, a staked-out spotted sandpiper, a nailed-down peregrine and almost all the possible shorebirds boosted our total.

A side trip to the Third Street Marsh in San Mateo gave us semi-palmated plover and a visit to Redwood Shores turned up six "easy" species we had missed and - after a diligent search - Dan came up with the hoped-for horned larks.

We had 161 species when we left San Mateo county and fought the rush-hour traffic south to Mountainview. We failed to turn up a blue-winged teal, but we did get the expected four species; pheasant, moorhen, white pelican and green-backed heron. The green-backed heron was the record-breaker - number 165, breaking our previous Wild Goose Chase record!

Not satisfied with resting on our laurels and with darkness descending rapidly, we got back into the rush-hour traffic and headed north to Palo Alto. Quick stops at the flood control basin and the duck pond failed to yield any redheads - or any other bonuses - and in desperation we headed for the baylands. At the baylands we headed out onto the boardwalk at a near run and came to a screeching halt when Dan spotted a clapper rail feeding right next to the interpretive center. Although it was impossible to see any colors in the fading light, the silhouette was unmistakable. Our 166th species!

Buoyed by this unexpected success, we decided to make one last try in San Mateo County. At the foot of Whipple Avenue, we set out in the dark to search for a rumored burrowing owl or perhaps a short-eared owl. Despite seeing a few non-alien unidentified flying objects, we were unable to get that "just one more bird" that every birder longs for.

We decided to call it a day at 6:25 PM. A good outing, lots of good birds, good company and a chance to look forward the next day to enjoying Thanksgiving in a different way with a different kind of bird.

---Cliff Richer

WILD GOOSE CHASE LIST

Species	Where Seen	Species	Where Seen	Species	Where Seen	Species	Where Seen
BARN-OWL, COMMON	El Granada	PELICAN, BROWN	Pigeon Point	SANDERLING	Gazos Creek Mouth	GOLDFINCH, LESSER	Half Moon Bay
OWL, SAW-WHET	El Granada	LOON, RED-THROATED	Pigeon Point	SPARROW, SWAMP	Gazos Creek Mouth	BUSHTIT	Half Moon Bay
COOT, AMERICAN	Pescadero Marsh	LOON, PACIFIC	Pigeon Point	GOLDFINCH, AMERICAN	Gazos Creek Mouth	WARBLER, ORNG-CRWND	Half Moon Bay
SORA	Pescadero Marsh	MERGANSE, RED-BREASTED	Pigeon Point	FINCH, HOUSE	Gazos Creek Mouth	COWBIRD, BROWN-HEADED	Princeton Harbor
RAIL, VIRGINIA	Pescadero Marsh	CORMORANT, PELAGIC	Pigeon Point	SPARROW, LINCOLN'S	Gazos Creek Mouth	GREBE, EARED	Princeton Harbor
MALLARD	Pescadero Marsh	MURRE, COMMON	Pigeon Point	WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S	Gazos Creek Mouth	GREBE, CLARK'S	Princeton Harbor
GADWALL	Pescadero Marsh	SHEARWATER, BLACK-VENTED	Pigeon Point	VIREO, HUTTON'S	Gazos Creek	GOLDENEYE, COMMON	Princeton Harbor
OWL, GREAT HORNED	Butano State Park	TURNSTONE, BLACK	Pigeon Point	WOODPECKER, DOWNY	Gazos Creek	OLDSQUAW	Princeton Harbor
PYGMY-OWL, NORTHERN	Gazos Creek	AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	Pigeon Point	SAPSUCKER, RED-BREASTED	Gazos Creek	HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	El Granada
THRUSH, HERMIT	Gazos Creek	GULL, MEW	Pigeon Point	WOODPECKER, HAIRY	Gazos Creek	THRASHER, CALIFORNIA	El Granada
THRUSH, VARIED	Gazos Creek	FULMAR, NORTHERN	Pigeon Point	CHICKADEE, CHESTNUT-BKD	Gazos Creek	TITMOUSE, PLAIN	Wunderlicht Park
ROBIN, AMERICAN	Gazos Creek	KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED	Pigeon Point	RAVEN, COMMON	Gazos Creek	PIGEON, BAND-TAILED	Wunderlicht Park
TOWHEE, CALIFORNIA	Gazos Creek	SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED	Pigeon Point	NUTHATCH, RED-BREASTED	Gazos Creek	DUCK, RING-NECKED	Crystal Springs Res.
SPARROW, FOX	Gazos Creek	GULL, WESTERN	Pigeon Point	SISKIN, PINE	Gazos Creek	GOOSE, CANADA	Crystal Springs Res.
SPARROW, SONG	Gazos Creek	MURRELET, MARBLED	Pigeon Point	HAWK, RED-TAILED	Gazos Creek	TERN, FORSTER'S	Foster City
SPARROW, GLDN-CRWND	Gazos Creek	GULL, RING-BILLED	Pigeon Point	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	Gazos Creek	STILT, BLACK-NECKED	Foster City
SPARROW, WHT-CRWND	Gazos Creek	MURRELET, MARBLED	Pigeon Point	FINCH, PURPLE	Gazos Creek	SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	Foster City
WRENTIT	Gazos Creek	GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED	Pigeon Point	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED	Gazos Creek	GOLDENEYE, BARROW'S	Foster City
JAY, STELLER'S	Gazos Creek	CURLEW, LONG-BILLED	Pigeon Point	QUAIL, CALIFORNIA	Gazos Creek	TURNSTONE, RUDDY	Foster City
WREN, BEWICK'S	Gazos Creek	JAEGER, POMARINE	Pigeon Point	GROSBEAK, EVENING	Gazos Creek	DOWITCHER, S.B.	Foster City
WREN, WINTER	Gazos Creek	GULL, HEERMANN'S	Pigeon Point	JAY, SCRUB	Gazos Creek	SANDPIPER, LEAST	Foster City
KINGLET, RUBY-CRWND	Gazos Creek	GULL, CALIFORNIA	Pigeon Point	EGRET, GREAT	Lake Lucerne	SANDPIPER, WESTERN	Foster City
KINGLET, GLDN-CRWND	Gazos Creek	SHEARWATER, SOOTY	Pigeon Point	HERON, GREAT BLUE	Lake Lucerne	DUNLIN	Foster City
CREEPER, BROWN	Gazos Creek	SCOTER, BLACK	Pigeon Point	YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	Lake Lucerne	KNOT, RED	Foster City
NUTHATCH, PYGMY	Gazos Creek	SPARROW, HOUSE	Pigeon Point	YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON	Lake Lucerne	AVOCET, AMERICAN	Foster City
FLICKER, NORTHERN	Gazos Creek	PHALAROPE, RED	Pigeon Point	EGRET, SNOWY	Lake Lucerne	SCAUP, GREATER	Foster City
TOWHEE, RUFOUS-SIDED	Gazos Creek	WHIMBREL	Pigeon Point	MERGANSE, HOODED	Lake Lucerne	SCAUP, LESSER	Foster City
WOODPECKER, ACORN	Gazos Creek	LOON, COMMON	Pigeon Point	DOWITCHER, LONG-BILLED	Lake Lucerne	FALCON, PEREGRINE	Foster City
HARRIER, NORTHERN	Gazos Creek	AUKLET, CASSIN'S	Pigeon Point	NIGHT-HERON, B.C.	Pescadero Marsh	POLOVER, SEMI-PALMATED	San Mateo
SPARROW, SAVANNAH	Gazos Creek	GREBE, WESTERN	Pigeon Point	BUFFLEHEAD	Pescadero Marsh	LARK, HORNED	Redwood Shores
KESTREL, AMERICAN	Off Hwy One	GULL, HERRING	Pigeon Point	KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	Pescadero Marsh	PINTAIL, NORTHERN	Redwood Shores
POLOVER, BLACK-BELLIED	Pigeon Point	OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK	Pigeon Point	GREBE, PIE-BILLED	Pescadero Marsh	CANVASBACK	Redwood Shores
PHOEBE, BLACK	Pigeon Point	CORMORANT, D.C.	Pigeon Point	TEAL, CINNAMON	Pescadero Marsh	DOVE, MOURNING	Redwood Shores
DOVE, ROCK	Pigeon Point	GULL, THAYER'S	Pigeon Point	SHOVELER, NORTHERN	Pescadero Marsh	MOCKINGBIRD, NORTHERN	Redwood Shores
PHOEBE, SAY'S	Pigeon Point	GULL, BONAPARTE'S	Pigeon Point	WIGEON, AMERICAN	Pescadero Marsh	SHRIKE, LOGGERHEAD	Redwood Shores
BLACKBIRD, BREWER'S	Pigeon Point	GREBE, HORNED	Pigeon Point	BITTERN, AMERICAN	Pescadero Marsh	PIBIT, AMERICAN	Redwood Shores
BLACKBIRD, RED-WINGED	Pigeon Point	SCOTER, SURF	Pigeon Point	KINGFISHER, BELTED	Pescadero Marsh	PHEASANT, RING-NECKED	Mtview Forebay
BLACKBIRD, TRI-COLORED	Pigeon Point	CORMORANT, BRANDT'S	Pigeon Point	WREN, MARSH	Pescadero Marsh	MOORHEN, COMMON	Mtview Forebay
MEADOWLARK, WESTERN	Pigeon Point	SURFBIRD	Pigeon Point	DUCK, RUDDY	Pescadero Marsh	PELICAN, AMER. WHITE	Charleston Slough
KILLDEER	Pigeon Point	GODWIT, MARBLED	Pigeon Point	VULTURE, TURKEY	Off Hwy One	TEAL, GREEN-WINGED	Mtview Forebay
STARLING, EUROPEAN	Pigeon Point	WILLET	Gazos Creek Mouth	HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED	Off Hwy One	HERON, GRN-BKD	Mtview Forebay
				SNIFE, COMMON	Half Moon Bay	RAIL, CLAPPER	Palo Alto Baylands

TOTAL SPECIES 166

BIRDERS: Barry Sauppe Leader
Dan Keller
Linda Kypta
Cliff Richer

TIME: 5:10 AM to 6:25 PM

AREA El Granada to Pigeon Point
COVERED: to San Mateo to Mountainview

TELEPHONE TEAM: Rick Baird
Mary Bresler
Peter Cross
Cliff Richer
Allen Wolfchuck

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from

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