



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
April, 1991

Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County
Vol.39, #7

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT UNDERWAY

April's program will be presented by Joe Galkowski, a local amateur naturalist and professionally published wildlife photographer. The program will explore California wildlife, with an emphasis on birds that live in or pass through the San Francisco Bay Area.

Meetings are held at the San Mateo Garden Center on the second Thursday of each month. The Garden Center is just off the Alameda de las Pulgas on Parkside Way. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. with a social mixer; the general meeting and program begin at 8:00. The public is invited.

MCELHANY RESIGNS AS SAS SECRETARY

During the Board Meeting of February 7, Ed McElhany startled the other directors by announcing his resignation as Secretary of the chapter.

Ed announced that he and Amy had recently purchased a motor home and intended to tour the United States before "retiring to a nursing home".

Ed and Amy are currently enjoying the desert sun at Anzo-Borrego in the first stop of their trans-continental trek.

The best wishes of SAS go with them, along with our fond memories of Ed's no-nonsense approach to recording the minutes, his always perceptive comments to issues under debate and his wry and incisive sense of humor. Ed and Amy have long been active in Sequoia Audubon and at Audubon Canyon Ranch where they will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered.

Happy trails, Ed and Amy!

The San Mateo Breeding Bird Atlas project is now underway. The project is being conducted in conjunction with the San Francisco Breeding Bird project.

An initial meeting of prospective participants and other interested parties was held at Rick Johnson's house in Foster City on March 11 to kick off the two projects. Birders from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties attended.

Project aims and methodology were covered and some initial territorial assignments were made during the course of the two and one-half hour session.

Sponsored jointly by the Sequoia Audubon Society and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, the projects are expected to take four years for San Mateo County and two years for San Francisco.

Goals of the projects are to determine the distribution of all nesting bird species; develop an ecological data base of breeding birds; determine the status of endangered or rare birds; document unique and sensitive habitats; provide a conservation tool for use by environmentalists, land-use planners, legislators and biologists; provide a baseline against which future changes can be measured; and educate the public about birds as a natural resource.

Volunteers are needed to assist in gathering the data and putting it into its final form. If you want to participate or need more information on participating, contact one of the Atlas Steering Committee members:

Rick Johnson (Foster City), 571-8533
Dan Keller (Redwood City), 365-2032
David Suddjian (Santa Cruz), (408) 479-9603
Mary Bressler (Daly City), 994-3587
Paul Noble (Los Altos), 949-1743
Steve Bailey (San Francisco), 750-7177

Janet Duerr and Steve Schafer also served on the committee and lent considerable assistance because of their previous involvement in the Sonoma County Atlas. Unfortunately their upcoming move to Oklahoma precludes future participation.

Anyone who wishes to put in extra work on the projects is welcome to join the committee and help bring this project to a successful conclusion.

BRYANT IS NEW SECRETARY

John Frank Bryant of Pacifica volunteered for and was accepted as Sequoia Audubon Society's new Secretary. John is a relatively new member who believes in getting involved.

John attended his first Board meeting on March 7 as recording secretary. He astounded the other Board members by producing and mailing out the minutes in record time. Excellent start, John!

THE SAS CALENDAR

APRIL

APRIL IS BIRDATHON MONTH!

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

OCEAN ALLIANCE BIRDING SAIL

Although hard times have fallen upon the Ocean Alliance, the birding sail is definitely on. This year there will be no fee. No other details were available as of press time. Call the Audubon Office (593-7368) to check for further information.
VARIOUS LEADERS BY BOAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL (BAAC) MEETING

Leadership Training Workshop by John Borneman and Steve Young. John Borneman of the NAS's Western Regional Office and Steve Young from NAS's Vermont/Maine office will investigate chapter issues from A (Activist) to V (Volunteer) in this all-day training session for all active and wannabe active members. 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road in Tiburon.
Hosted by Madrone Audubon Society

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

SAS GENERAL MEETING

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE AND BIRDS OF THE BAY AREA presented by Joe Galkowski, naturalist and wildlife photographer. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

MINES ROAD - DEL PUERTO VALLEY

An auto caravan through isolated valleys where some birds linger on despite the destruction of their habitats in the Central and Livermore Valleys. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, wild turkey, Costa's hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will never be more than 45 minutes away from either Livermore or Interstate 5 so that you can break away and return to civilization at any time. This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last 10 years varying between 40 and 90 degrees on this trip. There are only two reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime and at mid-afternoon; and the only service station at the half-way point is not always operable, so be prepared. To get there, take I-580 to the North Livermore Ave. exit. Take a right at the exit and follow Livermore Avenue through the center of town where it becomes South Livermore Ave. Approximately a half mile beyond the center of town you will see the Nob Hill Shopping Center on the left. We will meet in the parking lot and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and then take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.
LEADER: Cliff Richer (355-4058)

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE RANCH YET?

Now is the time to visit Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Bolinas Lagoon Preserve is open to the public. The trails should be at their prime, birds are on territory and singing, the wildflowers are at their peak, and with just the right amount of rain, the hills are green. Don't forget to check the marsh for newts and stop in for a few moments at the bird blind. Oh, and don't forget the heronry. Spend as long as you want watching the breeding behavior of our great egrets. As of this writing, the great blue herons had not yet established nests, although there have been many observations of herons in the canyon.

Of course our Ranch Guides will be at the overlook and the marsh to help you discover some wonders of the Ranch, answer your questions and perhaps to stimulate your interest in the world of nature.

SPRING SEMINARS

Enjoy the educational resources available to you at all three of ACR's major preserves this spring. You can explore our Bouverie Preserve, Cypress Grove and other Tomales Bay properties and our Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. On May 4, John Kelly and Jon Petersen will introduce you to the ecology of bird song at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve (\$20). On May 18 you will have to be in two places at once unless you can choose between the 7th Annual Downhill Hike with Ray Peterson at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve (\$20) or the Natural History of Tomales Bay with John Kelly (\$20). Ray Peterson will head our annual butterfly counts on June 29 in Marin County and on June 30 in Sonoma County (\$5). Included in the count is the June 26 "Getting-to-Know-the-Critters-Night".

Of very special interest to educators is our July 15-19 workshop, "Natural History for Teachers". Our very special ACR naturalists will lead this workshop which will focus on instructional information and teaching techniques for elementary school teachers. The \$175 fee includes 3 semester units. Do register early for this popular workshop.

You can register for any workshop weekdays between 9 AM and 5 PM by calling 868-9244.

It may not be too late to sign up for one of our free guided nature walks at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Saturdays April 13 & 27, and May 11 & 25 will be the last dates to enjoy BAP this season. You must register for trips no later than the Wednesday prior to the date of the trip. However, most trips are filled well in advance. To register, please call us at (707) 938-4554.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for a weekend day as one of our volunteer hosts. Just call Edris at 868-9244. It's probably best to have 2 or 3 dates in mind. If we have an opening on a date you want to volunteer, she will make the arrangements.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The ACR Board of Directors unanimously supports the protection and acquisition of the Marin Islands. These little
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NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

north bay islands are among our area's most important heronries; and the nearby mudflats and tidelands are significant feeding areas. Since the entire area is for sale, we join with our sponsoring Audubon chapters, other conservation organizations and several public agencies in supporting its purchase and eventual designation as the Marin Island National Wildlife Refuge. Please join us in helping raise \$500,000 in private donations for this very worthy cause. Check with your Audubon chapter or contribute directly through Tom Martens, Trust for Public Land/West Marin Islands, 116 New Montgomery, 3d Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

---Dan Murphy

GREENING OF THE REDS

One of the most startling developments coming out of the collapse of the Soviet sphere of influence is the emergence of a strong environmental spirit. Indeed the green movement - under a variety of names - has come out as one of the strongest and most coherent political forces.

Two major factors have contributed to this phenomenon. First, the prior central governments failed to recognize environmentalism as having political potential and so failed to squelch it to the same extent that they repressed other, more obvious, political movements.

Second has been the environmental degradation the central planners imposed on almost all of the Communist world. So massive are the infarctions that nearly every citizen is aware of how his or her life has been adversely impacted.

Chernobyl in the Ukraine is the most notorious example of Soviet planning gone mad, but it is only one example. The Aral Sea is dead, its waters diverted for and polluted by ill-conceived and disastrous agricultural projects. The Don, Dnieper and Volga Rivers are open sewers. The Urals and the Caucasus mines are the most dangerous in the world - not just for miners, but for the general populace downstream from their tailings. In Prague, Czechoslovakia, winter strollers can taste the coal smoke and feel the burning of the acid rain on their skin. In East Germany, unsafe nuclear plants are closed and replaced by the only alternative - dirty, coal-burning power plants - some of them more than 50 years old. Estonia's main river is sterilized by a cyanide spill from a Soviet-run fertilizer plant. The Siberian and Rumanian countrysides are blackened by oil spills from leaking oil pipelines. In the west Siberian lowlands, the marshes and wetlands of the Ob are tarry sumps leaching crude oil through the tundra nesting habitat of millions of birds. Throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union smoke-stack scrubbers are virtually non-existent, sewage treatment plants are restricted to large cities, and toxic wastes are disposed of in ordinary land fills or inefficient incinerators.

So, an ignored underground movement, propelled by the citizenry's growing awareness of the condition of their environment, has the potential to become the strongest single political force in much of Eastern Europe. Will the East European Greens capitalize on this infant force or will they become radicalized and ridden with internal dissension like the West German Greens? It is no coincidence that the West German Greens lost all 32 of their seats in the new German parliament even while the East German Greens managed to obtain 8 seats.

---Cliff Richer

THE SAS CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

APRIL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 20-21 PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Monument is located in the Gabilan Range, which forms the northeastern boundary of the Salinas Valley. With wooded canyons and peaks reaching near 4000 feet, there exist a variety of habitats in relatively close proximity. We will spend Saturday in and around the campground area, where the habitat is riparian and songbirds abound. Sunday will take us to higher elevations, and to the Pinnacles themselves. If there is interest, we may go owling Saturday evening. Please contact the leader as early as possible to make arrangements for camping and to obtain further details.

LEADER: Dan Keller (364-3431)

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

JASPER RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE FIELD TRIP

Join Jasper Ridge's docents for a half day of birding in Stanford University's unique biological preserve. The Ridge has survived the drought and the Big Freeze and Sears Lake is a lake once again. Birds seen on previous Sequoia Audubon field trips include wood ducks, western tanagers, blue-gray gnatcatchers and five species of flycatchers. We will meet at the Jasper Ridge Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill gate) at 8:00 AM. **Be prompt as the gate will be open only from 7:45 to 8:05.** From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west about two miles to a gate on the left side of the road. We will go rain or shine. A gate fee of \$4 per person is required. Sorry, but no children under 14. The group is limited so please call the office (593-7368) for reservations. If you need additional information, call the leader.

LEADER: Louise Fletcher (591-6804)

MAY

THURSDAY, MAY 2

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

SATURDAY, MAY 4

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

San Bruno Mountain stands in isolation, looking a bit out of place alongside the skyscrapers of San Francisco. Yet it is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden in pockets of woodland and in sheltered canyons. We will be exploring its unique flora and fauna during this half-day trip. We will meet at the San Bruno Mountain Park ranger station at 9:00 AM. To reach the ranger station: From northbound U.S. 101, take the Bayshore Blvd./Brisbane exit, and go north on Bayshore Blvd. about 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

THURSDAY, MAY 9

SAS GENERAL MEETING - Program to be announced. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

THE BIRDS OF FILOLI

Watch next month's *NEEDLES* for details on this reservations only fieldtrip.

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RETURN OF THE CANAL: PART ?

This year's horror story - probably to extend into at least '92 - is the resurrection of the Thing From the Delta, also known as the Peripheral Canal. Like Dracula, Freddie and Frankenstein's monster, it seems this creature just won't go away.

Briefly resurrected as Duke's Ditch it was re-interred by a combination of drought and adverse publicity.

Now it threatens to rise again from its slimy grave. Rinsed off, cleaned up, given a costume with a big red "S" on its chest, and renamed the "Isolated Transfer Facility" we can expect to hear about it again and again over the next two years.

The Association of California Water Agencies (CWA) has raised \$350,000 to promote ITF. Now they're intending to promote the monster as the answer to flood control, water quality, drought and possible seismic disturbances to the Delta water systems, carefully omitting their priorities of watering Southern California golf courses and San Joaquin Valley cotton crops.

All of these are legitimate concerns. However let's address them by cleaning up the run-off to the San Joaquin River, not by adding to it. Let's convert some of the marginal and poorly protected Delta farmlands to wildlife refuges, flooding them slowly during peak flow periods to avoid levee collapse and possible salt-water backwash. Let's strengthen other levees to avoid the same problems. Let's convert the selenium-laden soils of the San Joaquin Valley to dry land farming and grazing. Let's keep the fresh-water flows high through the Delta. Let's update our water-treatment facilities. Let's stop 1% of the population from using 85% of the water.

And if all else fails, let's all of us get ready to gather with flaming torches in the town square set to march out and slay the ITF monster. Be ready to vote NO!

PARK CONCESSION FEES

Interior Secretary Lujan is reportedly upset at the low fees paid by concessionaires at federal attractions. Except for the Fish and Wildlife Service, none of the agencies under Interior's control received fees of more than 3% - and USFWS fees averaged only 3.16%.

According to the General Accounting Office fees for all federal concessionaires averaged only 2.15%.

Some samples from low to high at the most popular attractions:

Yosemite - Curry Company - less than 1%
Grand Canyon - AMFAC - 2.46%
D.C. Landmarks - Tourmobile - 4.06%
Statue of Liberty - Circle Line - 10.06%

Curry Company, of course, has sold its Yosemite operations to the National Park Foundation although it will continue to operate the concessions for one more year under a new transition agreement.

Lujan, who has so far been surprised at the miniscule royalties the U.S. gets from mineral concessions and the low fees from concessionaires, has apparently not yet discovered grazing fees or timber sales on BLM lands. However, we can report that he has found the way to the men's room.

KERN RIVER RESEARCH CENTER

The Kern River Research Center has been established next to the Nature Conservancy's Kern River Preserve on the south fork of the river in Weldon, near Lake Isabella.

Steve Laymon, who has conducted classes and programs for SAS, heads up the staff. Steve is well known for his research on the yellow-billed cuckoo, both on the Preserve and along the Sacramento River; and for his work on spotted owls in the Sierra.

The Center is currently conducting research in the extensive cottonwood-willow riparian forest along the Kern. Projects include the ecology and distribution of the yellow-billed cuckoo in Arizona and California, the relationship of the brown-headed cowbird to the willow flycatcher and the monitoring of wildlife species on riparian restoration areas.

They are currently looking for volunteers, members and donors. Senior and student memberships are \$20; family memberships, \$50; all other memberships are \$35 per year.

To join send your check to:
Kern River Research Center
PO Box 990
Weldon, CA 93283

or call (619) 378-3345 for more information.

ELKHORN SLOUGH PRESERVE EXPANDED

In January, the California Nature Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy acquired the Bloehm Ranch adjacent to Elkhorn Slough. Acquisition of the ranch almost doubles the size of the Preserve to 731 acres.

The Coastal Conservancy provided \$2,000,000 of the \$2.4 million purchase price and the Nature Conservancy has committed an additional \$1,000,000 for restoration and management over the next few years.

Elkhorn Slough is one of the largest coastal wetlands in California. Despite pesticide runoff and erosion from upland farms it is also one of the healthiest wetlands in the state. It has been designated a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

WHAT'S A BULL-BAT?

Richard Banks of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has compiled a listing of old and local names for our birds and the USFWS has published it as a booklet.

"Obsolete English Names of North American Birds and Their Modern Equivalents", which sounds like it could be a Sherlock Holmes monograph, is available free as Resource Publication 174, (a more properly bureaucratic title).

By the way, the common nighthawk is still called a bull-bat in northern Maine and some parts of the South. But you'll have to order the pamphlet to find out about the brotherly-love greenlet. Write to:

Publications Unit
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Matomic Building
Washington, DC 20240

and don't forget that catchy title, Resource Publication 174.

BIRDATHON'91!BIRDATHON'91!

Barry Sauppe will lead a team of Sequoia Audubon Society birders on this year's BIRDATHON fundraiser. As has become traditional, the team will start early in the morning, well before dawn and assumedly end sometime around dusk. In between they will try to identify as many different species as possible.

You can help out by pledging a nominal amount (from 5 cents on up) for each species identified by the team.

This year as with last year, National Audubon is donating its half of the proceeds to the Richardson Bay Education Center and the Mono Lake Defense Fund. Your contribution will help preserve these resources.

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confidence in the leader's estimate of more than 150 different birds by "pre-paying" your pledge for 150 species.

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

YES, I will support Sequoia Audubon Society, Mono Lake and Richardson Bay with a pledge of _____ per species.

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 100 different birds being identified.,

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

TELEPHONE_____

The BIRDATHON is - after the Christmas Count - the largest participation event sponsored by the National Audubon Society. I wish to join in. I will sign up pledges and conduct my Birdathon on _____

All honored pledges are tax-deductible.

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) \$5.00 ea. tape per wk.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

ITS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

The *NEEDLES* is your newsletter.

After having been your editor for nine years I do occasionally feel complacent. Sometimes I can look back with pride: we were warning our members about Kesterson and selenium well before it hit the "real papers"; we pointed out before the drought that the real California water wars were not North vs. South but "Big Agriculture" against the rest of us.

This issue is one for dissatisfaction. With the exception of the regular column from Audubon Canyon Ranch I have to claim authorship of every article in this issue. Over the last two years our regular contributors have fallen away one by one; most have moved (or are moving) out of the area, some haven't been able to find the time and some have "burned out".

I'm not complaining about the extra work. I write easily (if not always well) but I type badly. So it's actually less work for me to do something from scratch than to type and edit someone else's writing. And the author never complains when the editor omits a favorite cliché, or when the editor accidentally erases a line or two, or cuts and pads an article to make it fit into the available space.

However, I am opinionated and I have my own pet peeves and sacred cows. There's nothing wrong with that when you're the author, but there is a certain lack of objectivity when you're both author and editor. And your newsletter suffers.

In short, this is a plea for you closet writers to come out and contribute to your *NEEDLES*. We need someone to report regularly on the activities of the Conservation Committee, the Education Committee and the fledgling Breeding Bird Atlas. We can use regular columns or occasional articles on animals, birds, birding, bird-feeding, camping, field trips, insects, natural areas, travels, wildlife - the list is endless. We would love to have some original artwork. We may even be able to use an occasional poem even though I admit to being the equivalent of tone-deaf where poetry is concerned. (I can't remember a single line of poetry written in the 20th century and I think that blank verse describes it perfectly).

So let's hear from you. If you think you can write, do it! If you think you have something to say, but think you write it awkwardly then let the editor add the adjectives and punctuation. Serious or humorous, sarcastic or sentimental, opinionated or open-minded, certain or doubting, assertive or questioning; whatever your mood or style, do it!

Give me a call (355-4058). Your newsletter needs you!
---Cliff Richer

OLD GROWTH

Virtually all of the nation's old-growth forests are found in Alaska, Northern California, Oregon and Washington. Estimates of the amount of old-growth remaining in the three states south of Alaska vary from 5% (Sierra Club) to 15% (Forest Industries Council). Under natural conditions approximately 40% of all forests are old-growth since such forests are periodically regenerated by fire and other natural disasters.

FIGHTING SONGBIRD DECLINE

Mustering forces against the continuing decline of migratory songbirds, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation held a workshop in Atlanta from December 10-14, 1990.

The attendees were an alphabet soup of International, Federal and State agencies - USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service), it's Canadian and Mexican counterparts, USFS (US Forest Service), BLM (Bureau of Land Management), NPS (National Park Service), AID (US Agency for International Development), EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), IAFWA (International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) - as well as private groups such as NAS (National Audubon Society) and PRBO (Point Reyes Bird Observatory).

More than 60 species of neotropical migrants are showing significant declines in the eastern United States. Popular theory is that tropical deforestation is the cause. Surprisingly, however the most serious decline is in short distance grasslands migrants in the West, showing that there is no single simple cause.

A preliminary action plan came out of the workshop and is being circulated in Congress in an effort to secure financing in the 91-92 federal budget. Copies of the report can be obtained by writing to:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,
Attention Peter Stangle,
18th and C Streets NW,
Washington, DC 20240

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED

This year's Nominating Committee consists of Linda Kypka (Chairwoman), Dan Keller and Steve Schafer.

Preliminary indications from the committee are that all incumbents have indicated a desire to continue in their present offices and will be renominated.

President	Mary Bresler
Vice-president	Rick Johnson
Secretary	John Frank Bryant
Treasurer	Fred McElhany

Directors - Three year terms
Nick Coiro Louise Fletcher

Director - Two year term
Cliff Richer

SAS OK'S FUNDS FOR SACRAMENTO LOBBYIST

The National Audubon Society recently endorsed a proposal from Golden Gate Audubon's Art Feinstein for the funding of a legislative position for the Regional Office in Sacramento.

This activist would be involved only in issues of concern to National Audubon and its California chapters. In order to fund this position, each chapter is being asked to pledge the equivalent of thirty five cents per member.

In its March 7 meeting the Board of Directors of Sequoia Audubon Society responded by pledging the sum of \$1000, equivalent to nearly sixty cents per member.

ATLANTIC PUFFINS RETURN TO SEAL ISLAND

National Audubon's Atlantic Puffin project first began in 1973. The hope was to re-introduce the Atlantic Puffin to its historic breeding sites off the Maine coast. Puffins had not nested since the early 1900's when eggers extirpated the species on the islands.

Up to 1990, the results had been disappointing. Only a very few of the 912 transplants had returned. Volunteer workers hand-raised the majority of these birds in artificial burrows on Seal Island. Other birds were physically moved from their Canadian nest islands.

In 1988 another experiment was tried. Atlantic puffin chicks from Newfoundland - considerably further away - were introduced onto Seal Island. In 1990, 47 of these returned to the island - by far the highest return rate yet - and one year early! Even more are expected to return this year.

Puffins take 4-5 years to mature, so it will be 1992 before actual nesting begins, but Audubon biologists believe they may have at last reclaimed this once important island for the birds.

BIRDER INFORMATION PACKET

Anne Moser is putting together birder information packets for out-of-town birders who visit our area or call the office for information. Peter Cross is assisting her.

The packet will include maps, a summary of "prime" birding areas, a list of books and articles on birding in the local area and other pertinent information.

She also wants to include a list of local birders who would be willing to act as guides or birding hosts. If you would be available to meet interesting people from other areas and show them some of our birding areas, please call Anne at 324-1718 or Peter at the Audubon office (593-7368) to volunteer.

GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER ON ENDANGERED LIST

The golden-cheeked warbler has been added to the endangered species list. Habitat destruction and cowbird parasiticism have been the primary causes for its rapid decline from a high of 7500 nesting pairs in the mid-70's.

Current estimates are that there are between 1000 and 2500 breeding pairs left in the Edwards Plateau of central Texas. Protecting the remaining habitat from development may depend on the resolution of the Savings and Loan disaster. Many of the lands in this area were in the hands of failed S&L institutions and are now in custody of the Federal Government. If some way can be found to transfer this land to the US Fish and Wildlife Service or to state or private conservation groups then a base territory can be formed from which to mount an all-out preservation campaign.

THE SAS CALENDAR (Continued from Page Three)

MAY

**SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, MAY 25, 26, 27
TIOGA PASS AND THE MONO LAKE BASIN.**

This trip will cover some of the best birding areas of the Sierra passes, Mono Lake, the Mono Basin plateau, its canyons and its marshes. Rosy finches, great gray owls and pinon jays were seen last year and we expect to try again for the resident sage grouse, broad-tailed hummingbirds and Virginia's warblers. Almost any species can be found as a vagrant. Advance notification is required for motel and transport arrangements, since the opening of Tioga Pass can be a delaying factor affecting the itinerary. We must have firm reservations by May 7. Call the leader for details, for reservations or for an itinerary and checklist.

LEADER: Cliff Richer (355-4058)

(The above trip replaces the originally scheduled Modoc County trip. Additional scouting trips will be required before we can add Central and Eastern Modoc County to our field trip schedule.)

SAS FIELD TRIPS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BEGINNERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

The departure of our Field Trip Chairman for the plains of Oklahoma (see below) leaves an opening for an enthusiastic volunteer. Call President Mary Bresler (994-3587) or the office (593-7368) to volunteer or for more information. We also need an Education Chair, Program Chair and Membership Chair for the coming Audubon year. Let's get active!

JANET DUERR/STEVE SCHAFFER MOVING TO OKLAHOMA

Janet Duerr, our Past President, Program and Education Chairwoman and all-around sparkplug will be leaving in May to take up a new position as a research associate at the University of Oklahoma. Husband Steve Schaffer, Field Trip Chairman and former Board member, will be following about a month later after winding up his current work project.

The energy, knowledge and birding skill of this unique pair of young Ph.D.'s will be sorely missed.

Steve and Janet, may the wild geese fly, the hawks soar and the warblers sing for you wherever you may be. And may they all be rarities!

SAUPPE CLASSES CONTINUE

Barry Sauppe is continuing his Saturday and Sunday morning classes. The emphasis is on learning field marks of the birds and on using them to identify birds anywhere in the world. The "Sauppe System", when properly used will enable you to identify birds you have never seen before.

The all-morning field trips will concentrate on learning local birds but will learn how to transfer this knowledge to other locales. Trips along the coast may emphasize those hard-to-see and harder-to-identify off-shore species.

For serious birders at any stage of development - beginners, novices, intermediate or advanced. Fee is \$15 per class. You can sign up for one class or a full season. Call Barry (726-1081) to make reservations or for more information.

BIRDATHON '90

Sometime during the month of April these teams - and others yet to be formed - will be out birding for the benefit of Sequoia Audubon, the NAS Richardson Bay Education Center and the Mono Lake Defense Fund.

The teams, to date, are:

Rick Baird, Nick Coiro, Rick Johnson and Maria Straatmaan;

Janet Duerr & Steve Schafer;
Cliff Richer, Bob Ulvang and Al Wofchuk;
Dan Keller, Linda Kypta and Barry Sauppe.

Birdathon volunteers manned a telephone bank on Monday, March 25 and again on Tuesday, March 26 calling on members to help these worthy causes.

If you weren't called use the pledge form on Page Five to show your support.

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	Louise Fletcher	591-6804
	Cliff Richer	355-4058
June '92	Linda Kypta	591-9053
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