



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
May, 1991

Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County

Vol.39, #8

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Science, a well-known ornithologist and birder with a skill for sharing his knowledge with the general public will present our May program.

The program will concentrate on Dr. Baptista's recent work to protect rare birds in Mexico, where he is involved in a new center for the preservation and breeding of endangered species.

Current efforts concentrate on the Socorro dove, which is extinct in the wild; the Socorro mockingbird, with only a few individuals left on Socorro Island; and a species of elf owl which has not been seen for several years.

He will also discuss the behavior, origin and biology of these birds and other rare birds of Mexico.

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 PM with a social mixer; the general meeting and program begins at 8:00. The public is invited.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Craig Benkman, an ecologist and ornithologist, and a member of Sequoia Audubon, will present the June Potluck Program on the Ecology of North American Coniferous Forests and concentrate on two of their major avian inhabitants - the white-winged and red crossbills. (Just how many species of red crossbills are there anyway?) Anyone who is interested in our northern forests as well as birds will enjoy his program.

WE'VE MOVED!

Our new address is 30 West 39th Avenue, Suite #202, San Mateo, CA 94403. Our new phone number is 345-3724. see inside for details.
Sequoia Audubon Society

ACTION ALERT! Audubon Canyon Ranch needs your help! The 52 acre Dunn property surrounding the Cypress Grove Preserve on Tomales Bay has been put onto the market. Commercially, this parcel is extremely attractive to developers, who would put up expensive houses on two acre lots. This would be disastrous for the Preserve.

There is no way that ACR can afford to buy the property and there is not enough time to raise the necessary funds. However the property is a number one priority on the National Park Service acquisition list. What is needed is an appropriation by Congress from the Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

This is where you can help. On page seven you'll find an example of a letter and a list of your Representatives and their addresses and phone numbers. Please take time to call or write to them and let them know that this property should be added to the Golden Gate Recreation Area.

Time is of the essence. Please act **NOW!**

THE BIRDSEED SALE. It is a pleasure to report the success of our recent SAS Spring Birdseed Sale: a net profit of \$596 was reported by our Treasurer, Fred McElhany, at our last Board meeting.

Many thanks to all of our members and friends who assisted us in this worthy event and special thanks to our fine customers for their patronage.

It would take too much space to list everyone who helped, but major contributions were made by Office Coordinator **Peter Cross**, Chairperson **Louise Fletcher** and **Linda Kypta**: by **Sally Benson** who took all the coastside orders to her home and arranged for pickups: by **Joyce Walker's family** - her father and brother and **Andy Brown** - who carried seed bags: by **Jeff Cross** and **Pat Williamson** who squeezed two pallets of seed weighing 3,770 pounds into our office. And finally, a special thanks to **Lynn Jepson** at Volkman Seed Company who counseled and encouraged the venture. With this enthusiastic support we are planning the next sale for September.

THE 1991 CALIFORNIA AUDUBON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be held May 17-19 at the Red Lion Hotel in Modesto. The theme is "Challenges Facing the California Environment", with emphasis on wildlife habitat protection in a growing state. Rick Baird and I will represent SAS.

BAAC: Last month I attended the Bay Area Audubon Council's Chapter Effectiveness Workshop at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in Tiburon. It was an exciting experience and we will be adopting some of the ideas that were discussed.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Following a directive from the National Audubon Society, the Conservation Committee has broadened its scope of active participation in San Mateo County environmental issues and is giving equal effort to issues of concern to other regions and states. Bob Wilkinson is directing a phone-alert subcommittee that will channel communications on

(Continued on Page Seven)

THE SAS CALENDAR

MAY

THURSDAY, MAY 2

SAS BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM. Place to be announced. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - Please contact the Sequoia Office (345-3724) 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 - Dr. Luis Baptista will present a program concentrating on the **RARE AND ENDANGERED BIRDS OF MEXICO** and on the efforts to preserve those species. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting at 8:00.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

THE BIRDS OF FILOLI - We regret that this trip has had to be cancelled.

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.)

JUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

GAZOS CREEK AND BUTANO STATE PARK.

The riparian corridor of Gazos Creek is one of the finest year-round birding areas of San Mateo County. From its mouth, where resting gulls and terns roost, to its origins in the redwoods, the creek is a summer home to a large number of passerine species and a representative population of hawks and owls. For even more diversity, we will also bird Butano State Park and the grasslands between the two areas. We will meet at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Gazos Creek Road,

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

WRITE NOW! The property adjoining Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Preserve to the south is for sale. Needless to say, its eventual development poses a threat to Tomales Bay and to our sanctuary. This parcel, known as the Dunn Property, is first on the list for acquisition by the Golde Gate National Recreation Area. Its purchase will help preserve the Tomales Bay Estuary as a critical environmental community on the central California coast. We urge you to write letters to your Congressional Representatives and to Senators Seymour and Cranston. Let them know that you support the purchase of the Dunn Property for inclusion in the GGNRA. It is not likely this beautiful property will remain available for another year, so please write now to help assure appropriations are made for this vital addition to the GGNRA. (See Page Seven for a sample letter and the names and addresses of your representatives. ---The Editor)

GROVE OF HONOR DEDICATION: On Saturday, March 9, a group of about 125 of our most generous donors gathered in Pitcher Canyon to dedicate the Grove of Honor. Designed by Art Carpenter, the grove is composed of three, clear red cedar slabs, each featuring the names of those benefactors and friends whose generosity has enabled ACR to become the very special sanctuary it is. We wish also to thank Clerin "Zumie" Zumwalt, Suzie Coleman and the Recognition Committee for their efforts in establishing the Grove of Honor and in making its dedication another marvelous ACR event.

"WE'VE GOT BIRDS!", said Nancy Angelesco when I called to see if there was any "News From the Ranch". Seven pairs of great blue herons finally got busy and established nests during the last week of March. It's about time! By the end of the week the first eight pairs of great egrets had arrived and claimed prime nesting sites. More were arriving daily. At least these guys are about on schedule. Those sneaky snowies returned too. This is their third consecutive year, but it seems they are regulars now. Still, I can never seem to find them no matter how hard I look. You'll have to check it out to see if your luck and skills are better than mine.

You have until July 14 to enjoy the Ranch this year, so don't miss it. Although the Stinson Beach route (Hwy. 1) remains out, the Mt. Tam route is open. Or just take the extra 20 minutes and take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to Olema, then drive south about 12 miles to the Ranch.

WHOOPS! I almost forgot to tell you Ken Browning has returned for his second year as Weekend Coordinator. Ken's a great guy who has the touch to make our weekends go smoothly. Welcome back, Ken.

SPRING SEMINARS. May 18 marks our "Seventh Annual Downhill Hike" at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and "The Natural History of Tomales Bay" at the Cypress Grove Preserve. Both are \$20. Our butterfly counts in Marin (June 29) and Sonoma (June 30) counties include a "Getting to Know the Critters Night" on June 26, all for a bargain five bucks. A bargain at the price is our latest edition of "Natural History for Teachers", July 15-19, at all of our major preserves. It includes five days of intensive education and three semester units, all for only \$175. Register for any of these programs by calling 868-9244.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS. Our free spring school programs started March 13 and will run through June 4.

ACR WILDFLOWER SEMINAR REPORT

Last month I attended the two day Spring Wildflower Seminar presented by the Audubon Canyon Ranch. It was eye opening, enjoyable and an educational experience. Day one was held at ACR's Volunteer Canyon in the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and day two was held at ACR's Bouverie Preserve twelve miles north of Sonoma.

The seminar was not simply learning the common names of local wildflowers. There are simply too many species for that approach; plus, that only touches the surface of the wonders of wildflowers. But don't worry, I resolved that this article would not turn into a list of those families and species we identified. The seminar taught us the structure of flowers and how to use that knowledge with the field guide to determine the flower family. This turns out to be much more interesting and is applicable to any strange bloom we might encounter (if we have our field guide and hand lens). The guide we used, which is highly recommended, is *A Field Guide of Pacific States Wildflowers*. We also learned some things about flower evolution and function.

Our instructor for the first day was Ray Peterson, the resident biologist at ACR. Although he is an entomologist he became interested in wildflowers while studying insects that were found on wildflower blossoms. He is one of those rare people who is so full of enthusiasm and energy that it makes learning a real pleasure. We received as much personal attention as we desired as the class size was only eight people.

The seminar was held in Hubbard Center in Volunteer Canyon. It has a commons hall with wood burning stove and large kitchen attached to an old Victorian house. In the house is a research laboratory and a comprehensive nature library. There is a rustic bunkhouse that sleeps two groups of fourteen with modern bathrooms and showers. The facility is located in a beautiful, small valley with a bubbling stream. In the morning Ray schooled us in the basics of flower family identification and revealed the intimate details of the flower through the use of low power microscopes and our 10x field lenses. In the afternoon many examples of the wildflowers of the cooler, coastal habitats were examined and admired. After a delicious pot-luck dinner we were treated to an amazing display of close-up photography through Ray's slides to review the day's lessons and prepare for the morrow.

We spent the night in the bunkhouse and after breakfast took a scenic drive through Marin and Sonoma Counties to ACR's Bouverie Preserve. There, meadows were full to overflowing with wildflowers in peak bloom. Even the tiniest wildflowers held great wonders when examined under our field lenses. ACR's John Petersen led the group Sunday. He provided a wealth of information on the wildflowers and on other inhabitants of the preserve (yes, we enjoyed the hawks, bluebirds and warblers, too). The day could not have been more beautiful and we were happy and exhausted when the group broke up mid-afternoon for our journey back to our mundane environs.

Even back home my life was a little less ordinary. A quick trip to the backyard showed that what I thought before were just pesky weeds were now revealed under my hand lens to be lovely, colorful wildflowers. Of course, this spell is not really expected to last. -- William K. Groll

CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

just south of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse at 9:00 A.M. The trip should break up at lunchtime. Our leader knows the creek intimately and is one of the best birders anywhere. LEADER: Peter Metropulos (592-2417)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

SAS BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM. Place to be announced. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME - Please contact the Sequoia Office (345-3724) for details.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

SAS GENERAL MEETING - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND POTLUCK featuring a program on **THE ECOLOGY OF OUR NORTHERN CONIFEROUS FORESTS** presented by Craig Benkman. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside with the Potluck beginning at 6:30 PM, and the General Meeting immediately thereafter.

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

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR '91-'92

Chairwoman Linda Kypta announced the slate of nominees for our 1991-1992 Officers and Directors.

President-Mary Bresler
Vice-pres.-Rick Johnson
Secretary-John Bryant
Treasurer-Fred McElhany

Directors - Three year terms
Nick Coiro
Louise Fletcher

Director - Two year term
Cliff Richer

The members of the nominating committee are Linda Kypta, Dan Keller and Steve Schafer.

Nominations are **not** closed. Nominations may still be made through the Nominating Committee, or with the permission of the Nominee, from the floor of the General Meeting by any member in good standing.

WE'VE MOVED!

After a two year search for a new office - one that would fill our requirements and be affordable - we've moved.

Our new address is 30 West 39th Avenue, Suite #202, San Mateo, CA 94403-4561. Our new phone number is 345-3724.

Thanks to Linda Kypta, Nick Coiro and all of the others who conducted the long and frustrating search for suitable new quarters.

Come visit us. Our office hours are 9 AM to 12 Noon, Monday through Friday.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The education committee would like to thank all of this year's participants in the Audubon Adventures program. Special thanks go to the generous sponsors of one or more Audubon Adventures class:

Rick Baird
Valerie Baldwin
Larsen M. Caulkins
Clarie and Tamra Hollenback
Cliff Richer
Cheryl Seehorn
Mr. Soulard
Allan Wofchuck

We would also like to thank all of the teachers who used Audubon Adventures to educate their students in environmental and ecological issues:

Allen School, San Bruno
Dave Stone
Belle Air School, San Bruno
Holly Borchelt
Maggie Chase
Sophia Chester
Carolyn Gray
Linda Hilling
Jane Klinge
Jill McCracken
Cathy Murphy
Angela Radosevich
Central Elementary School, Belmont
Rosemary Lorenzi
Carin Pardini
Julie Schubkagel
Nancy Soric
El Granada Elementary School, Half Moon Bay
Jennifer Austin
F. D. Roosevelt School, Daly City
Virginia Duggan
Mark Weiser
Foster City Elementary School, Foster City
Hillary Bissell

Henry Ford School, Redwood City
Debbie Salomon
Horrall School, San Mateo
Judi Bauerlein
Paula Ong
Lomita Park School, San Bruno
Carole Farrel
Los Cerritos School, South San Francisco
Tom Bettencourt
Ernie Hansen
Steve Tregenza
Mary Uthe
Bob West
Stan White
Hanne Young
Orion School, Redwood City
George Metropoulos
Ormondale Elementary School, Portola Valley
Eloise Frederick
Pacific Heights Elementary School, San Bruno
Sandy Mills
Parkside School, San Mateo
Mary McKalson
Robert Louis Stevenson School, San Francisco
Penny Wong
Selby Lane School, Atherton
Staci Kalman
Kate Monroe
Diana Paradise
Skyline Elementary School, Daly City
Sharon Lowry
Sunshine Gardens School, South San Francisco
Suzanne La Grone
Linda Richter
White Oaks School, San Carlos
Shirley Bernadotti
Mary Chlasti
Neale Cresham
Family, South San Francisco
Gail Malespina

---Janet Duerr

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The education committee is pleased to announce the winner of our annual scholarship competition.

Mr. Glen Berwick, a teacher at Rollingwood Elementary School in San Bruno, is this year's recipient. Mr. Berwick will be attending National Audubon Society's Field Ecology Workshop in the beautiful Wind River Range in Wyoming for one week this summer. Mr. Berwick is eminently qualified for this scholarship, with interests in science, the environment, ecology, and Native American culture. We on the committee wish him an instructive and fun experience in Wyoming, and are looking forward to his bringing back added enthusiasm and information for teaching local children about our Earth.

---Janet Duerr

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"If confronted by an alligator, just slap its nose with your right hand and back away." ---Anonymous advice, presumably from someone nicknamed "Lefty".

Don't bother sending contributions to the Clean Air Working Group. It's a registered Washington lobbying group working against Clean Air legislation.
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PCL HONORS HART

State Senator Gary Hart (D-Santa Barbara) was named Legislator of the Year by the Planning and Conservation League, the environmental lobbying group.

Hart has a 100% favorable voting rating from the League of Conservation Voters. In 1990 he carried the Drive+ bill. This bill would have established tax credits for low emission cars and surcharges for fuel hogs.

Hart also sponsored a bill to establish a probation system for corporate environmental violators.

Both bills were vetoed by former Governor Deukmajian and failed to become law. Hart has re-introduced both bills and expects to be more successful with Governor Wilson.

ISENBERG ON WATER

Assemblyman Philip Isenberg (D-Sacramento) is the author of last year's bill providing the framework to save Mono Lake and is an acknowledged expert on water use. He is a member of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Here are a few of his thoughts on water policy in California.

"Farmers in the southeast desert (who use three times as much water as the Bay Area) didn't need to conserve one drop of water this year. When the federal water project head suggested Imperial Valley farmers voluntarily conserve 7%, he was told no.

The environment suffered through the drought while state and federal water projects (which supply 30% of California's water) delivered as much water as possible in each of the drought's first four years.

The most important fact of water use - agriculture uses more than 80% - is now known by every editorial writer and opinion maker, which will do more than anything to revolutionize water policy.

If it doesn't rain, there's no water to deliver. New dams may help - especially those built south of the Delta to store water - but dams can't make it rain.

Some of our Southern California friends argue the Peripheral Canal would help in a drought. It's clear, however, that the canal would allow water managers to ignore the health of the Delta and San Francisco Bay during the next drought. And they would.

We must pay attention to the environment, which got lost in the drought commotion. If we lose the fish, ducks and geese, we'll be worse off for it.

We'll survive this drought. But if we're going to get through the next one, we need changes in how we manage, allocate and distribute water. If we do, we'll have better control over our limited supply and the environment will be better off too."
---Phil Isenberg

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEYS - A GROWTH INDUSTRY

Our mind-picture of environmental attorneys is probably of an under-paid, bearded young idealist; or perhaps a guilt-driven trial attorney working *pro bono* for a noble cause.

Unfortunately, today's environmental attorney is likely to be relatively young, very ambitious, very well paid and working for a major law firm or a Fortune 500 company to justify or hide environmental degradation.

While legal firms are laying off specialists in corporate law, they are actively pirating away environmental-law experts from their rivals.

The Bay Area is the focal point for much of this growth. Environmental sensitivity is high in the area. Regional offices of the Corps of Engineers and the EPA are in San Francisco as are the national and regional headquarters of a number of environmental organizations - notably the Sierra Club and The California Nature Conservancy.

The gathering of this high priced legal talent in such numbers does not bode well for the future of judicial activism in the Bay Area. Most disturbing is the trend towards land-use counseling. Too often this is a euphemism that translates into destroying habitat before its values are discovered.

The best answer to this threat is citizen participation. Stay alert to changes in our natural environment. Don't be afraid to ask questions and to report violations.

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, 30 W. 39th Ave., #202 San Mateo, CA 94403. 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/wk.
Video Guide to Birds of North America (Set of 5)	\$5.00/ea tape/ea wk.



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

FIRST AMERICAN BIRD PAINTER

Mark Catesby who was born around 1680, (the baptismal records were lost in a fire), first came to the New World in 1712 to visit his sister in Williamsburg, Virginia.

He returned to England in 1719 where he wrote and lectured about his adventures in what he called the "Carolinas". In 1722 he returned to the colonies, spending time in the English islands of the Caribbean, Florida and what we know today as the Carolinas.

By 1726 he was back in England working on his monumental *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. The first volume was published in 1731 with the second following twelve years later. They were what we would call "coffee-table" books today. Each was 14x20 inches and illustrated with more than 200 color prints. Although they were intended to cover all forms of wildlife, they were most comprehensive in their treatment of birds. 113 species were illustrated and named. Many of the species still are known - in whole or in part - by the names he gave them.

Some of the illustrations were from memory or poorly preserved specimens - his "crested jay" was gray, brown and dingy white, but its shape clearly identifies it as the colorful blue jay. But, scientifically he was years ahead of his time. He espoused the revolutionary doctrine of migration while most of his contemporaries believed birds burrowed beneath the ground or hid in caves to avoid the cold. He recognized that the colorful and widespread orange and black bird was not an oriole and renamed it the Baltimore bird. (Europe has orioles. The New World orioles are blackbirds.) Unfortunately for scientific accuracy the popular name was too well-ingrained to yield to Catesby's correction.

He was much admired by Thomas Jefferson and other colonial naturalists but was all but forgotten in the days following the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. In those days of patriotic fervor many English writings and products were scorned.

It would be another half-century before Wilson and Audubon re-discovered America's birds.

WILD GOOSE CHASE CONTRIBUTORS

Our apologies to a few of last fall's Wild Goose Chase contributors we hadn't mentioned yet, and our thanks to them.

Ann Jeffries
Al Seubert

John and Nena Padley
Allan Wofchuck

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH HOSTING

Yes, we did host at ACR in March. No, we're not done with our obligation for this year. SAS is committed to hosting at the Ranch on July 4, 6, 7, 13 and 14. We need at least three hosts for each day.

Hosting is easy, it's fun and you may get a chance to see the young egrets learning to fly. Why not call Rick Baird (574-1067) or the Sequoia office (345-3724) to sign up.

ECO-THREATS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

The Danes have a unique environmental problem. Because of its limited land area, Danes have few cemeteries and those are filled beyond capacity. Cremation is the normal way for disposal of human remains. Unfortunately this adds 500 pounds of mercury per year to Denmark's air pollution - from tooth fillings.

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The state Fish and Game Commission voted 3-1 to deny listing the delta smelt as endangered. The smelt is now down to about 10% of its 1980 population. State Water Resources Director David Kennedy argued that since many smelt were sucked into the State Water Project's pumps, listing the tiny fish as endangered could lead to shutting down the California Aqueduct and prosecution of its operators. (*Sounds good to me! -- Ed.*)

#

The Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto predicts that the state's population will grow at twice the national rate over the next ten years. They estimate the population will grow to 35 million by the year 2000. About 80% of the growth will come from foreign immigration and is expected to be concentrated in counties like Solano and San Benito just outside the major metropolitan areas, and in the San Joaquin Valley.

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The Exxon Valdez dumped 11.5 million gallons of oil in Prince William Sound. Backyard mechanics dump more than 35 times that amount each year into storm drains, sewers and on the ground.

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Teak, one of the world's most prized hardwoods, is in danger of being eradicated. The great teak forests of India were eliminated in the 19th century to provide decks for British sailing ships. By 1985, most of Thailand's teak had been converted into furniture. By 1988 the forests had been so devastated that Thailand became subject to severe seasonal flooding and logging was prohibited. Now the Burmese teak forests - about 80% of the world's total - are disappearing. A single tree can be sold for as much as \$20,000 and the Burmese rulers are in need of foreign exchange to buy military arms. Under the present rate of cutting, some experts are predicting the Burmese teak forest will be gone in five years.

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The Environmental Protection Agency warned 21 paper mills nationwide about discharging dioxin-tainted waste water. Three California mills made the list. Two are operated by the Simpson Paper Company in Anderson (Shasta County) and in Fairhaven (Humboldt County). The third is the Louisiana Pacific Company's plant in Samoa (Humboldt County). Health warnings with regard to eating fish caught near the Anderson plant were also issued.

#

Brazil's campaign to reduce development of the Amazon Basin has, so far, been more show than fact. The *garimpeiros* - gold prospectors - still defend their claims with gunfire. Native Indians, government biologists and private citizens have all come under their guns. The rivers continue to be polluted by mine runoff. Mining supplies are sold openly in the towns of the basin. 150 jungle airfields used by the miners remain in operation despite the governments vow to dynamite them. The government has destroyed 14. Brazil's Bureau of Indian Affairs (FUNAI), faced with budget cuts, has fired most of its pilots and field workers while leaving the central bureaucracy intact.

CONSERVATION CORNER

The Conservation Committee has been in touch with State Parks (DPR) concerning the protection of the Snowy Plover nesting sites at Half Moon Bay. We are preparing an information sheet on the plover and its requirements. Because of prior experience with DPR at Pescadero Marsh, the Board declined to involve Sequoia Audubon directly in the proposed docent program. This declination is not intended to discourage individual members who may want to investigate this participatory opportunity.

There is a pending proposal for the use of sewage sludge as a soil additive on agricultural fields at Pigeon Point. While this has proven beneficial to farms elsewhere while being environmentally neutral, we will be monitoring the impact statements closely - particularly with regard to heavy metal or toxic contents of the sludge.

National Audubon has alerted us to a potential assault on the Clean Air Act. The Committee is initiating a letter to key officials on this matter. An assault on the Endangered Species Act is also underway spearheaded by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon. At the least these people want to change the act so that a sub-species could not be listed (i.e. northern spotted owl, California clapper rail, dusky seaside sparrow, etc.) nor could a species be listed unless it were endangered nationwide (i.e. spotted owl, clapper rail, seaside sparrow). The "no net loss" pledge on wetlands is also under fire from well-connected sources both inside and outside the federal administration. Here again there are efforts to rework the definition of a wetland.

Rick Baird will be meeting with the Sierra Club attorney with respect to the Butano Creek Logging Suit. We are participating in the suit because of the potential impact of siltation on Pescadero Marsh.

As participants in the pending legal action on Delta Water Quality Control, we were asked to honor our pledge for funds to pursue the effort to involve the EPA in this issue. The Board of Directors of SAS voted unanimously to commit \$2000 to this cause.

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

In other actions the Sequoia Board of Directors took the following actions:

It was resolved that the Sequoia Audubon Society publicly express its deep appreciation to **Janet Duerr** and **Steve Schafer** for their extensive and excellent service to the organization and its goals.

Authorized a partial reimbursement of \$50. per person for authorized attendees at the California Audubon Leadership Conference in Modesto on May 17 and 18.

The Board agreed to recognize businesses that were operating in an environmentally friendly manner by mentioning them in the *NEEDLES*. No criteria were set for this recognition. Each case will be examined individually.

The purchase of a new computer for the office was authorized. Our seven year old Compaq portable is inadequate to take advantage of the present generation of software and to maintain our records.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page One)

legislation with high Audubon priorities to the proper state representatives and Congressmen. Included among the current high priority legislation is HR 842, the Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1991. Introduced by Representative Jim Jontz (D-Indiana), the act sets up a system of ancient forest preserves in the National Forests of the Pacific Northwest and creates corridors connecting the unique ecosystems.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act, S 484, which would "provide equitable treatment for fish and wildlife with other purposes" is another high priority item. This legislation would provide water for California state and federal refuges.

The future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska - now 10 years old - will be debated in Congress this term. This legislation is largely concerned with oil drilling and exploration in this area.

Each year Audubon mobilizes for Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations in the Western Region. The Dunn property described on Page One and in the sample letter below is obviously a high priority. The Conservation Committee is preparing information on other priorities and what we can do to assist.

SAMPLE LETTER

To: Senator Alan Cranston	Senator John Seymour
1390 Market Street, #918	2150 Towne Centre Place
San Francisco, CA 94102	Anaheim, CA 92806
Tel. # 556-8440	Tel. # (714) 385-1700

Representative Tom Campbell	Representative Tom Lantos
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Dear Senator (or Representative) _____:

A particular desirable piece of property on environmentally sensitive Tomales Bay has come onto the real estate market.

This parcel, locally known as the Dunn property, adjoins a private preserve of the Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Audubon Canyon Ranch is an invaluable environmental and educational asset to the entire San Francisco Bay area and the Dunn property has been vital to maintaining the ecological balance of their preserve.

The Dunn property is also the number one acquisition priority of the US Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Please help us keep this property intact and keep its values for the public. Please support an appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purpose of purchasing this property for the GGNRA.

Very truly yours,
(Your signature)

To have any impact, letters must be hand-signed. Hand-written letters are the most valuable, since these are obviously the product of personal involvement.

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In Memory Of

CAROL BJORKLUND CARLSON

from

Harriet E. Saigh

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