



needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 40, No. 4
December, 1991 January, 1992



This Month's Program

Chris Benesh, a new member of SAS - but a long-time member of Audubon - is a professional tour guide with Field Guides. He grew up studying natural history in California, where he learned respect and appreciation for the natural environment. Chris has birded extensively throughout the western United States. His daily field work and focus on community ecology have left him with a strong sense of the interrelationships of all animals within a community and a desire to share the natural world with others. Chris will bring us his sense of humor and experiences in **BIRDING FROM POINT SUR TO VENTURA.**

December is also Potluck Month - an opportunity to share some of your favorite dishes with your friends. The Potluck begins at 6:30 PM with the program following immediately thereafter.



Potluck Time

This month also brings us to our annual December Dinner so dust off your favorite show-off recipes.

Please remember to bring your own utensils and plates and a paper bag in which to take them home. Those people whose last names begin with the letters **A through F** should bring a **SALAD**, those whose names begin with the letters **G through M**, a **DESSERT** and **N through Z** should provide the **CASSEROLES** or other hot dishes. Bring enough to serve **FIVE** times the number in your party.

The meeting will be 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.



Next Month's Program

Good friend, frequent presenter, naturalist, birder, photographer, tour leader and world traveler, Ted Chandik will be giving our January program on **THE BIRDS OF NEPAL.**

The program will feature views of the spectacular Himalayan landscape as well as the birdlife of this area halfway around the globe.

The meeting is at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer begins at 7:30 with the meeting and program at 8:00 PM.

**REMEMBER, THERE WILL BE NO NEEDLES NEXT MONTH.
KEEP THIS COPY FOR REFERENCE**



From the President



Season's Greetings

to all of our members and friends!



The Audubon Christmas Counts

The annual Christmas Counts are the most important birding events of the year.

Some of us look at it as a competitive event. Each year both of our counts rank among the top dozen in terms of numbers of species.

Others like to see their names in print when the Christmas Count issue of *American Birds* finally arrives.

Still others look upon it as a social occasion - a chance to meet members you haven't seen for a while, or birders from other areas, or to make new friends.

Most important of all is its use as a scientific data base for serious ornithologists and environmentalists. The data from the magazine is painstakingly entered into a computer at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where it can be accessed by biologists and birders from around the world. This data is invaluable in determining trends in the environment or in avian ecology.

No matter what your reasons are for participating, we need your help. We need experienced birders but we need beginners too. Everyone can contribute, no matter what their level of expertise or their physical condition. You can hold a clipboard, you can help count large flocks or you can be the expert that others look to. There are areas that require hard trekking and others virtually no walking at all. Veteran or first time counter, beginner or expert birder, high-schooler or retiree; we need you! Tear the entry form off and send it in to the office - today - before you forget.



CENTERFOLD ISSUE
Audubon Canyon Ranch!
Bird Seed Sale! Christmas Count!
All on our four page pullout

Wetlands in Danger!
See The Page 6 Article by Rick Baird.



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

FOSTER CITY FIELD TRIP

Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater from lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon. LEADER: NICK COIRO (349-1834)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

FOSTER CITY FIELD TRIP

A midweek repetition of the December 7 trip. Details are the same as outlined above.

LEADER: NICK COIRO (349-1834)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

SAS GENERAL MEETING AND WINTER POTLUCK DINNER.

BIRDING FROM POINT SUR TO VENTURA with Chris Benesh, birder, zoologist and professional tour leader. Explore the "unknown coast" of San Luis Obispo County and the better known areas of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties with Chris and share some of your favorite dishes with other members. At the San Mateo Garden Center, Parkside at the Alameda. Potluck at 6:30 PM with the meeting and program following immediately thereafter.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 AND/OR SUNDAY, DEC. 15, CHRISTMAS COUNT WARMUPS.

A chance to practice your counting, identification and Christmas Count disciplines. Christmas Count Compiler Dan Keller will lead these trips to help you hone your skills to that fine cutting edge leading up to the Christmas Count. Call the leader to make arrangements.

LEADER: DAN KELLER (365-2032)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT.

The Annual Audubon Christmas Count centered approximately on the Hwy. 92 causeway across the Crystal Springs Reservoirs. See the centerfold for entry forms.

COMPILER: DAN KELLER (365-2032)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

THE AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT.

The Annual Audubon Christmas Count centered near the entrance to Butano State Park. See the centerfold for entry forms.

COMPILER: DAN KELLER (365-2032)

See Page Three for the January Calendar



News From the Ranch

DAN MURPHY

ANNUAL APPEAL: This month you will find ACR's annual appeal letter enclosed in the **NEEDLES**. This is our effort to reduce costs and reduce the amount of paper we use. During the past our annual appeal letter was mailed to all members of our supporting Audubon Chapters, as well as to our friends and supporters who visit the Ranch each year. I do sincerely hope you read this month's insert and then lend your support to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

ACR: A HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, A CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE.

It has been a long time since the relationship between the supporting Audubon Chapters and ACR has been discussed in our newsletters. Perhaps this is a good time to let you know just what that relationship is and how it came to be. This is not a complete history of ACR, but one which focuses primarily on the relationship between ACR and our supporting Audubon Society Chapters.

Very simply, MARIN, GOLDEN GATE, SEQUOIA AND MADRONE AUDUBON SOCIETIES took it upon themselves to create Audubon Canyon Ranch as nature preserves in Marin and Sonoma Counties, to develop an environmental education program for both children and adults, and to establish the research programs which focus on our sanctuaries and our local environment.

It all began in 1961 when Marin Audubon President Marty Griffin and Stan Pitcher became aware of the immediate need to save the heronry at Bolinas Lagoon. They developed the plan to purchase the property, then approached the Golden Gate Audubon Society to join the project. Undaunted by the purchase price of \$337,000 they undertook the monumental task of fund raising. Within a year the leaders of those Audubon Chapters formed Audubon Canyon Ranch as an independent non-profit corporation. It took only until 1966 for ACR and its supporters to obtain ownership of the Ranch.

In 1968 ACR was faced with a need to purchase property around Bolinas Lagoon and the surrounding watershed. Sequoia Audubon Society rallied to the cause and joined forces with the other supporting chapters to provide even greater depth to our pool of friends, leaders and benefactors. During the ensuing years we developed our education program with the help of the Junior League of San Francisco. Many of its members formed the core of the ACR Docent Council.

1971 marked the year Clifford Conly became a major benefactor to ACR by donating his property on Tomales Bay, thus creating the Cypress Grove Preserve. Our other benefactors, many of whom were Audubon Chapter members, generously contributed to enable us to purchase much of our other holdings on Tomales Bay and ultimately was critical in the preservation of that vital link in the Pacific flyway.

In 1978, thanks to the generosity of David Bouverie, the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Glen Ellen was added as a third major sanctuary to the ACR system. Once again there was a need for additional friends, leaders and benefactors and it was the Madrone Audubon Society which provided the core of ACR's support in Sonoma.

In many respects ACR has not really changed through the course of its history. We have always depended on the support and leadership provided by members of our sponsoring Audubon Chapters. It was through their generosity that ACR began in 1961 and it is through

(Continued on Page Three)



News from the Ranch

(Continued from Page Two)

your generosity that we continue our work in habitat preservation, environmental education and research.

Audubon Chapter members volunteer at all our preserves, they serve on our Board of Directors and on our Advisory Board, and it is through their financial support that we can continue to provide the services which are a model for other such organizations.

Take advantage of your Audubon Society membership, and as part of that take advantage of your chapters support for Audubon Canyon Ranch. Visit one or more of our sanctuaries during the coming year, take one of our many seminars, volunteer as a weekend host or a Ranch Guide, and contribute your financial support. ACR remains fiscally independent from local Audubon chapters and from the National Audubon Society. It is supported by grants from foundations and donations from friends like you. Audubon Canyon Ranch is your sanctuary, enjoy its beauty, support it however you can, and help enable us to meet the challenge of environmental education and preservation in the future.

Dealing with Wildlife Pests

From time to time, the office or the officers get calls asking how to deal with deer eating the shrubbery or vegetable garden, with wood-peckers banging on the house, with raccoons in the garbage, etc.

We've learned that the Humane Society has a publication dealing with these and numerous other problems. The 112 page booklet, entitled *A Pocket Guide to the Humane Control of Wildlife in Cities and Towns*, is available for \$4.00 and may be ordered from The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.



State Fights Listing of Delta Smelt



State Resources Secretary Donald Wheeler is challenging data used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its announced intention to list the Delta shrimp as endangered.

Wheeler maintained he was only questioning some of the literature but critics accused him of interjecting politics into what should be a strictly scientific decision.

The smelt's population has declined by 90 per cent over the last 20 years. Although the causes are not fully understood, most authorities attribute the decline to the giant pumps which supply the state and federal water projects. The diversion of such a quantity of fresh water is known to increase the overall intrusion of saline water into the Delta and millions of fingerlings and adult smelt are drawn into the pumps themselves. Fish who survive the journey through the pumping stations cannot survive in the concrete-lined aqueducts.

The state fears that listing the smelt could result in a severe reduction in water diversions - even closure of the water delivery system. Even if diversions were allowed to the same extent as today, protective measures would have to be taken to keep the smelt from being drawn south. Such measures could be extremely expensive.

(See Related Story on Page Four)



CALENDAR

JANUARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

SAS GENERAL MEETING. BIRDS OF NEPAL with Ted Chandik, naturalist, birder, photographer, tour leader and world traveler. Ted, a frequent and always welcome presenter, will acquaint us with the little known birdlife of this remote area. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social mixer at 7:30 PM, Meeting begins at 8:00 PM with the program following immediately thereafter.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

FIELD TRIP TO SAN PEDRO COUNTY PARK

This jewel of the County Park System, in the southeastern corner of Pacifica, has an amazing variety of habitat surrounding the headquarters area. Although there are miles of walking trails, we will confine our activities to the nearby wooded, riparian and grassland areas. We will meet in the parking lot of the headquarters area at 9:00 AM. To get there, take Hwy. 1 to Pacifica. At the southernmost set of traffic lights, take Linda Mar east. Follow Linda Mar to its end, where it intersects with Oddstad Blvd.. The entrance to the park will then be visible on the right across Oddstad. Trip should break up at noon.

LEADER: JUDY SPITLER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

WOODBIDGE ROAD, THORNTON

While this area is famous for its wintering flocks of sandhill cranes, it is near grassland and riparian areas where waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors abound. There is also the possibility of visiting nearby sewage ponds famous for rare wintering gulls or shorebirds. We'll meet on Peltier Rd.. (J12) East of I-5 between its intersection with I-5 and Thornton Rd. at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch and liquids. Call the office (345-3724) or Cliff Richer (355-4058), for further details.

LEADER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP

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

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

THE REDWOOD SHORES FIELD TRIP IS CANCELLED.

(See Page Four for the February Calendar)



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

(Continued from Page Three)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

LOS BANOS AND THE GRASSLANDS REFUGES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PANOCH 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. The four refuges north of Los Banos are noted for white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes, a large variety of waterfowl and shore birds, raptors and owls. Twenty miles south of Los Banos, Little Panoche Road winds its way through the Diablo Range into Panoche Valley where wintering flocks of mountain plovers, vesper sparrows, mountain bluebirds, long billed curlews, and perched raptors vie with the resident roadrunners, phainopeplas and chukars for the birders' attention. Saturday we plan on meeting in the parking lot of the Los Banos Wildlife Area on Henry Miller Road north of the town of Los Banos at 9:00 A.M. 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. We have found the Bonanza Motel to be clean, economical and friendly in the past.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

THE RAPTORS OF ALTAMONT PASS

See next month's **NEEDLES** for details.

LEADERS: NICK COIRO and LINDA KYPTA



US EPA ORDERS CALIFORNIA TO CLEAN UP BAY WATER



Responding to a suit from Sequoia Audubon and a coalition of other environmental groups the Environmental Protection Agency has overruled the California Water Resources Board and ordered it to come up with an a plan to protect the water quality in the Bay and Delta - **without regard to other water demands** (e.g. the State Water Project).

If the state is unable to come up with an acceptable plan the EPA has the authority to impose Federal Standards on the Bay, the Delta and the San Joaquin River.

Regardless of which way the matter is resolved, this should mean an end to the encroaching salination of the Delta, increased flows of fresh water into the Bay and an end to, or severe reduction in, the use of the San Joaquin River as a disposal for selenium-laden agricultural wastewater.

(See Page Three for a related article)

Sequoia Audubon Society

Nesting Peregrines in S.F. Bay

The Bay Bridge Peregrines - a pair of peregrine falcons who have nested on the Bay Bridge - became famous after the Loma Prieta quake when bridge workmen enhanced the nest site at the same time that they repaired the bridge.



Less known is a pair that chose a nest site on the Marin Headlands in 1990. The Headlands female, like the male peregrine on the Bay Bridge, bore a blue plastic leg band indicating she was hatched at the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group Project. The male had a standard gray aluminum band, indicating it was banded from the wild. The chosen nest site was in view of an old artillery bunker where watchers from the San Francisco Zoo, Golden Gate Audubon, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory set up an observation post.

Three young were hatched, but none survived to fledge. One chick - obviously in distress - was removed from the nest and taken to Santa Cruz for treatment. Overnight one of the healthy chicks disappeared. Three days later the last chick vanished. The last survivor succumbed to apparent respiratory failure after a week of intensive care.

No one knows what happened to the two chicks that vanished in the night although two possibilities seem likely. The nest ledge was narrow and it would have been easy for one of the chicks to fall over the edge and into the waters of the Golden Gate below. The area also boasts a number of pairs of nesting great horned owls, well known for nest predation and one of the few known predators of peregrines.

After the birds abandoned the nest site volunteers inspected it and enhanced it by deepening the cavity behind the ledge, hoping that the birds will return in future years.

(Thanks to the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory for most of the information contained in this story.)

They're Here!



This summer marked the first confirmed attack of the Killer Bees. A man mowing his lawn in Brownsville, Texas was attacked by a small swarm of bees and stung 10 times before getting away.

Killer bees came into existence in 1957 when Brazilian scientists introduced a strain of African honey bees into domestic hives. Defying the ordinary rules of genetics, the hybrids retained the worst features of both breeds, bred true and have refused to become more docile - even though the original genetic strain has become incredibly dilute through interbreeding with native bees.

Some scientists are optimistic, however. They note that the killer bees have encountered "our" honeybees only in the Yucatan. Our domestic honeybee strain is originally from Europe and is credited with having helped "tame" the native North American species. Studies of hybridized Yucatan bees have shown they have remained essentially European in character.

If they're wrong it's likely that we're destined to add another alien intruder to the list of well intended but disastrous introductions - starlings, kudzu, fire ants, Japanese beetles, red foxes and developers.

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AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

November 19, 1991

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Marin
Golden Gate
Sequoia
Madrone

BOLINAS LAGOON
PRESERVE

BOUVERIE AUDUBON
PRESERVE

CYPRESS GROVE
PRESERVE

Dear Friends:

Audubon Canyon Ranch is doing good work, and as a member of a sponsoring Audubon Society Chapter, we need your support.

I support ACR because the Ranch makes a positive difference in a troubled world.

- * I see it in the smile and gratitude of weekend visitors experiencing the natural beauty of the preserves and wildlife.
- * I see it in the eyes of the excited schoolchildren - opened to the wonder of nature during their free educational field trips to ACR preserves.
- * I see it in ACR's 2,000 acres of beautiful countryside preserved through steadfast devotion to the conservation ethic. ACR continues to protect wetlands, forests, grasslands, and streams despite ever-increasing development pressure all around us.
- * I see it in the beauty of a marsh restored, and hear it in the song of a Yellowthroat monitored through ACR programs of research and resource management.
- * I see it in the work of over 200 active volunteers from all walks of life, who not only make our programs possible, but who also nurture in themselves a love and greater understanding of nature.

For 30 years, Audubon Canyon Ranch has made quiet, effective contributions to the community. Your financial support is needed and truly appreciated.

Please, take a moment now to help ACR continue to make a difference. Send your tax-deductible contribution to:
Audubon Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 577, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 or call (415) 868-9244.

Very Truly Yours,

Gary L. Holloway
President



Many Ants Walking on the Long Log

And Other Stories

Laurette Lau

The Education Program at Audubon Canyon Ranch offers eye and heart-opening experiences in the natural world to school children from all over the Bay Area. Some 5,000 students visit ACR's Bouverie and Bolinas Lagoon Preserves each year! Laurette Lau is one of the San Francisco teachers who has welcomed ACR Docents into her classroom and brought her students - in this case a 3rd grade Chinese-bilingual class - on field trips to Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Laurette is now on the ACR Advisory Board.

The bus comes to a halt, and as the children take their turns disembarking, their eyes widen with anticipation. After all, this is the closest thing they've actually seen to "a jungle!"

"Wow!"

"This is a big place!"

"Look at all those trees!"

"Never mind the trees, look at that mountain!"

"Look! There's a deer!"

"Quiet! You're going to scare the deer away!"

"A butterfly!"

"Hey, look at that lizard, suntanning!"

"Are those chickens, real chickens?"

"Look at the ocean!"

"That's not an ocean, it's the lagoon, remember?"

Audubon Canyon Ranch impresses each child in a very special personal way. It speaks ever so silently and truthfully -- for nature speaks to us in a language that is seen, heard and felt. It's a poignant, wordless communication that speaks to the heart. And the children, well, they can't help but respond in English, Cantonese, Spanish, with a smile, a contented sigh, a yelp, or even silence.

When the group is finally gathered together again, we are greeted by the Docents, and off we go.

Excerpts from Children's Letters

"When we went hiking, I liked it because I have never gone on a mountain. I was happy."

"One of the most special moments was learning what the Docents told me over there."

"I saw seeds on trees, the trees were reproducing."

"I loved catching insects in the pond. I've never done that before."

"I saw a small brown squirrel trying to get lots of fat on his little body from the nuts he harvested."

"We saw bones of animals that have decomposed, the energy is going back into the soil."

"When I stood beside the big and tall trees, I was feeling very small and short."

"There were many ants walking on the long log. I said to myself, 'I was happy that they have a home.'"

"I remember when I walked up the hill and we found a buckeye seed. We opened it and I got to touch it. I said, 'It feels like an egg shell'. I was excited and I was curious."

"I liked watching the pumpkin spider. I said to myself, 'I hope he doesn't die.' It was making its web. Then he ate his prey."

"One of the most special moments at Audubon Canyon Ranch was when I ate an ovary (apple) for lunch and we heard a story about coyote and sister mice."

Happiness = Open Heart

Thanks to the dedication of the Docents, the children have a unique experience of participating in this glorious drama of life.

So many times have my children said to me, "I feel happier than ever being here." Happiness, literally translated from the Chinese, means "open heart." Yes, ACR, not only do you open our minds and senses, you open our hearts, too!

YES! I WANT TO HELP ACR AND ITS EDUCATIONAL WORK.

Here is my check. [] Please charge my account. Here is my Visa [] MasterCard [] Number :

NAME _____

Form must be signed if you are using your credit card.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

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

Crystal Springs Bird Count December 21, 1991

Ano Nuevo Bird Count December 28, 1991

Dan Keller will be compiling our count again this year. In order to see the most birds we need lots of help. Even if you are a beginning birder or just like to get out in the open air we can use your help on a team to keep records in the field and to count birds. Christmas counts mean dawn-to-dusk birding, plus owling for some. Even if you can only devote a few hours at a feeder or in a local park, we need your help. We need people who will walk city residential areas, school grounds, golf courses, parks and cemeteries within both count circles and report the population of each species seen. The Christmas count is important--it gives us data on trends in the populations in our area and can alert us to changes. The count results are reported in American Birds and also with Cornell Laboratory.

If you are unable to participate in the field, could you help out at home counting backyard birds, or at the Garden Center preparing the hot meal for the hungry counters on December 21st and/or 28th?

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

=====

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

I will participate in the:

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

First Choice: (Area number) _____

Second Choice: (Area number) _____

Third Choice: (Area number) _____

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

First Choice: (Area number) _____

Second Choice: (Area number) _____

Third Choice: (Area number) _____

I will:

Count any area assigned: Yes _____ No _____

Monitor and report my feeder on: 12/21 _____ 12/28 _____

Help behind the scenes on: 12/21 _____ 12/28 _____

Be at the compilation on: 12/21 _____ 12/28 _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____

Please let us have your reply by **December 6**. Please remit your **\$5.00** fee with this form. (The \$5.00 fee is for American Birds to report our count and to list each participant's name. If you entering for two or more, please include \$5.00 for each individual.)

COUNT AREAS

**Crystal Springs Count,
December 21, 1991**

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

**Ano Nuevo Count
December 28th, 1991**

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

Mail form to:

**Sequoia Audubon—Christmas Counts
30 West 39th Avenue, #202
San Mateo, CA 94403-4562**

AUDUBON PREMIUM MIX	20 lb. bag @ \$9.50	x _____ bags = \$ _____
White Proso Millet, Red Millet, & Sunflower seeds	50 lb. bag @ \$17.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lb. bag @ \$15.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____
	50 lb. bag @ \$25.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____
NIGER THISTLE SEED	5 lb. bag @ \$11.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____
	25 lb. bag @ \$45.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____
WHITE PROSO MILLET	25 lb. bag @ \$8.50	x _____ bags = \$ _____
	50 lb. bag @ \$13.00	x _____ bags = \$ _____

Sales tax is already included in these prices

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Orders will be confirmed by mail. **CIRCLE PICKUP SITE DESIRED, BELOW.**

Closing date: **JANUARY 9th, '92.**

Pickup dates are 1/16, 1/17, or 1/18, '92. **SAS office phone: 345-3724.**

total _____

Check # _____

Mail your check and order to:

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SEED SALE

30 West 39th Ave. #202

San Mateo, CA 94403

PICKUP LOCATIONS	
Burlingame	Menlo Park
Half Moon Bay	(San Mateo--SAS Office)
San Bruno--Skyline College area	San Carlos--Wild Bird Center

Sequoia Audubon **WINTER SEED SALE**

QUALITY FEED FOR THE COLDEST MONTHS

AUDUBON PREMIUM MIX: Red and white millet with sunflower added for extra energy content and to attract more songbirds—all-around mix.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER: Nearly every seed-eating species (chickadees, finches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, white-crowned and song sparrows. . .) goes for Sunflower over any other type of seed.* Smaller than regular Sunflower, thinner shell, high fat content.

NIGER THISTLE: Very rich in oil, high favorite of goldfinches, purple finches, juncos, pine siskins, and other small-beaked varieties. Only miniscule amounts of this product ever wasted. Does not attract large birds and squirrels. Should be fed via a thistle-seed feeder.

WHITE PROSO MILLET: By far the 'Small- seed' favorite of most species,* top overall feed-value per dollar. Mix in sunflower if desired to combine the two most-preferred common seeds in one feeder.

- pre-paid / pickup basis
- premium quality from respected supplier
- 6 pickup locations for January '92
- some prices lower --will boost orders, yes?

* Cornell Ornithology Laboratory and USDA preference studies.

BIRD SEED PREFERENCES

	Black -striped Sunflower	Oil (Black) Sunflower	Hulled Sunflower	Niger (Thistle)	White Proso Millet	Red Proso Millet	Milo	Cracked Corn	Peanut Kernels
JAYS	6	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	10
CHICKADEES	4	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
EVENING GROSBEAK	7	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLACKBIRDS	10	5	9	0	1	1	1	5	4
GOLDFINCHES	1	4	10	6	0	0	0	0	0
HOUSE FINCH	4	9	10	4	2	0	0	0	1
PURPLE FINCH	3	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
TITMOUSE	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
W.C. AND G.C. SPARROWS	7	6	9	1	8	6	2	5	10
MOURNING DOVE	4	9	4	2	10	9	4	3	1
COWBIRD	1	1	1	0	10	7	1	1	0
HOUSE SPARROW	2	2	2	0	10	4	1	2	2

Bird tastes in seed are known to vary from area to area. The above data has an "East Coast" bias. Letters to various birding publications would suggest that Southwestern and Western birds are more appreciative of milo and millet mixes than are indicated in the above chart, which was extracted from a chart published by the National Wildlife Federation.

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**

90% of Nation's Wetlands to Lose Protection?!?

RICK BAIRD

The Bush Administration has conceived a plan which will remove federal protection from an estimated 85-90% of our existing wetlands.

THAT'S CORRECT. 85-90% OF EXISTING WETLANDS WILL LOSE FEDERAL PROTECTION!!!!

And, IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!!! The Bush Administration has actually set in motion plans to implement the start of this program within the next 2-3 months.

IMPOSSIBLE? No, unfortunately, it is absolutely true.

Here's how it's all happening. And oh, you might want to know that Bush is calling this program "PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLANDS"

First, the Bush Administration changes the existing definition of wetlands. (You've heard about the 1991 Wetlands Delineation Manual)

THIS STEP BY ITSELF ELIMINATES FEDERAL PROTECTION ON 50-75% OF EXISTING WETLANDS.

For the sake of this discussion though, we are only going to use a loss of 55% of existing wetlands.

Second, in a White House press release, the Bush Administration announced proposed changes to the regulations which the various federal Agencies use to interpret the laws passed by Congress.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THESE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS MAY NOT EVEN HAVE TO GO THRU A PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD BEFORE BUSH MAKES THEM EFFECTIVE. We understand some federal agencies have already received written plans on how and when these proposed changes might be implemented and this could start as early as January 1992.

These proposed changes in regulations include:

A CATEGORIZATION OF WETLANDS left after the re-definition into something like A, B, and C classes.

No one will really know how the existing wetlands left after re-definition would fit into the above A, B, and C classes until after Bush's technical panel makes that decision 18 months from now.

We might also want to question whether this process might become as **politicized** as the writing of 1991 Wetlands Delineation Manual became, where **politics, not science**, became the basis for most of the changes proposed.

For the sake of argument, let's assume that the existing wetlands are categorized as 50% being high-value A Class Wetlands, 25% being medium value B Class Wetlands, and 25% being low-value C Class Wetlands.

The reason for this categorization of wetlands is to make it easier to then "STREAMLINE THE PERMIT PROCESS". Sounds good, doesn't it? Well, let's see what this really means.

The Bush Administration proposal goes on to say they will allow "General Permits" for "low value wetlands", i.e., our Class C wetlands.

For our Class B wetlands they propose allowing development if the developer offsets "wetland losses through compensatory mitigation".

For Class A wetlands or the "high-value" wetlands, they will maintain the same sequencing process currently being used.

You must understand, THE ABOVE IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT THAN OUR CURRENT RULES WHICH IN EFFECT SAY THAT **WETLANDS ARE NOT TO BE DEVELOPED UNLESS THERE IS AN OVERRIDING AND COMPELLING REASON TO DO SO.**

An excellent case can be made that the above changes will result in the loss of federal protection from all existing wetlands categorized as either Class B or C wetlands. The proposed rules indicate they can be developed if mitigated for. This is certainly no protection for those wetlands AS ONCE GONE, THEY NEVER COME BACK. Go read the White House Press Release dated August 9, 1991 if there is any question in your mind about the above.

THIS MEANS ANOTHER 22.5% OF OUR EXISTING WETLANDS WILL LOSE FEDERAL PROTECTION due to the Bush proposal. Let's add that to the 55% of existing wetlands which lost protection because of the definition change in the proposed 1991 Delineation Manual, and that NOW BRINGS US UP TO 77.5% OF CURRENT WETLANDS HAVING LOST FEDERAL PROTECTION. Start ing to get scary, isn't is?

Well, let's see what else Bush is doing to "protect" America's wetlands.

Bush's "PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLANDS" program also contains a proposal which reads "states with less than a 1% historic rate of wetlands development will be able to satisfy permit requirements though minimization" (whatever that is).

There is no secret this is simply a marvelous method the Bush Administration has developed to ALLOW OIL DEVELOPMENT in Alaska and a few other states WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE PERMIT PROCESS.

The net effect of this proposed regulatory change is to eliminate federal protection of wetlands (over the next 10 years) of areas which approximate 7.5% of our existing wetlands and almost all in Alaska to oil development we suspect.

Subtract this 7.5% from the 22.5% of existing wetlands we have left after the losses itemized above from redefining what a wetland is, and the categorization/streamlining process and that now leaves us with 15% of existing wetlands being protected by our Federal government.

Another of the Bush proposals to "streamline the process" is to "deem permits approved within six months if an agency does not extend the deadline for good cause as determined by the Corps of Engineers".

(Continued on Page Seven)

90% of Wetlands Losing Protection?!?

(Continued from Page Six)

The fact of the matter is that it is almost impossible to complete any review of a proposed major development on wetlands within six months.

The past history of the Corps of Engineers performance with cease and desist orders doesn't give anyone, except developers, warm and fuzzy feelings about how they (COE), would handle this one. I'm willing to bet this will cost us protection on another 5 - 10% of permit applications. But let's just say that this regulatory change might cost us federal protection of another 3% of our wetlands.

WELL, NOW WE ARE DOWN TO HAVING BUSH'S PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLAND PROGRAM ACTUALLY PROTECT ONLY 12% OF EXISTING WETLANDS.

The really insidious part of this program is that a large part of it could get implemented **WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT OR REVIEW**. This is because we are not discussing legislation. We are talking about having changes made in regulations issued by federal agencies, (such as the EPA) which are responsible for implementing the laws passed by Congress.

THUS THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION COULD VERY WELL SUCCEED WITH THIS ATTACK ON WETLANDS THROUGH THE REGULATORY ARENA WHERE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL PREVIOUSLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE AREA.

What can you do to help?

First, write to Bush and tell him you think his "PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLANDS" program is a sham. It doesn't protect wetlands, rather it eliminates federal protection from almost 90% of our existing wetlands and ask, urge, plead with him to drop this program for one which really does what he is saying, that is protecting wetlands.

Second, write to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state Governor, and state legislators. Alert them to the terrible loss of wetlands protection in Bush's proposal. Ask them to do everything they can to kill this program including the writing of legislation specifically outlawing the types of regulatory changes Bush is currently proposing.

Third, publicize what the drastic affects of the Bush program are. People simply don't understand **THAT RATHER THAN PROTECTING WETLANDS, BUSH IS ALLOWING THE LOSS OF FEDERAL PROTECTION for 85-90% OF OUR EXISTING WETLANDS.**

Letters to the Editor are helpful. Make contact with your local newspapers and try to educate them as to the dire consequences of the Bush "PROTECTING AMERICA'S WETLANDS" program so they might make their readers aware also. If you know any way to get this message on the TV news, help us out.

THE ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BRINGING A HALT TO THIS INSIDIOUS PLAN IS TO BRING ENOUGH PUBLIC PRESSURE TO BEAR ON BUSH SO THAT HE WILL FINALLY BACK AWAY FROM IT. We need your help right now to protect our wetlands resources for future generations. Please pitch in and give us a hand!

Chapter Budget: 1991-1992

NICK COIRO

A recent President's message indicated that the 1991-1992 budget expenditures for that period will substantially exceed projected revenue.

The Budget Committee estimated total revenues of \$30,325. This is essentially in line with recent years and primarily includes membership dues (the portion returned to us by the National Audubon Society), investment income and various fund raising projects.

Projected expenditures of \$40,665 represented a substantial increase. Increased operating costs accounted for a large portion of this increase - employee wages and associated costs; publication and mailing of the **NEEDLES**; insurance; other routine expenses.

In addition, the success of our Audubon Adventures Class sponsorship added more than \$1500 to our budget: the start-up of the San Mateo Breeding Bird Atlas added \$600; and we continued our practice of contributing to other, more specialized, environmental organizations.

Our direct participation in environmental activism also added its price. We have committed \$1000 towards the salary and expenses of a Sacramento lobbyist to represent the interests of all the California Audubon chapters. Two thousand dollars was contributed towards a so-far unsuccessful suit to stop logging on the Butano Creek watershed. Another \$2000 went for our participation in the Bay-Delta Water Quality Suit. (See Page Four for more details. - Ed.) Just the threat of this last action would appear to have spurred the EPA into action and it may not be necessary for us to actually spend this money.

Another \$1500 expenditure was the purchase of a new computer necessary to take advantage of recent software developments, so as to improve the appearance of the **NEEDLES**.

Last month's newsletter contained a questionnaire relating to this and other matters. A few responses have been received. However, more responses are needed if the Board of Directors is to be responsive to your wishes. It is not too late to complete and return the questionnaire.

As you can see, the financial situation is not good, but it is far from being in a crisis stage. But, we need increased member participation and some new fund-raising ideas if we are to forestall that crisis.

Complete and detailed copies of the budget - and any of our financial statements - are available to any of our members. Just call the office and we'll be glad to send any of these to you.

New Office Coordinator Needed

After only three weeks on the job Barbara Tiberi was presented with an unexpected opportunity and regretfully submitted her resignation. Barbara will continue to work as a volunteer. In the meantime, Peter Cross has re-assumed the job of office coordinator until we can find a permanent replacement.

If you are interested in working part-time 12 hours a week, have routine clerical skills, some computer literacy and would like to be directly involved in Audubon, then let us know. Call President Mary Bresler (994-3587) or the office (345-3724). Members or other environmentally conscious citizens will be given preference,

Sequoia Audubon Society

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Sequoia Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general or on behalf of, or in memory of relatives or friends. Such gifts may be designated for education, for conservation or for any other specific purpose. All others will be used for the advancement of the objectives of Sequoia Audubon Society at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All gifts are tax-deductible. Please send your gift in the form of a check to Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in the *Needles* and personally on behalf of Sequoia Audubon Society.

Shirley Eichorn

Walter Roosli

Doreen Naser (with matching grant from Fireman's Fund)

Sue Natoli in recognition of Lewis H. Campbell, D.V.M.

SEQUOIA NEEDLES IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT JANUARY, JULY AND AUGUST. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED IN SEQUOIA NEEDLES. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL IS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH. THESE MAY BE ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ORIGINAL ARTWORK OR CARTOONS, OR UNCOPYRIGHTED MATERIAL FROM OTHER SOURCES. ITEMS DEALING WITH CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

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If you CHANGE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, send the label from a recent Audubon Magazine wrapper with your new name or address to: NATIONAL AUDUBON, MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER, PO BOX 2066, Boulder, Co. 80322. Then, please notify the Sequoia Audubon office (345-3724) of the change. Be sure to give the name and address where Audubon Magazine is to be delivered. This avoids duplicate listings and incorrect expiration dates. Please send RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS directly to National Audubon in the envelope accompanying your renewal notice. LATE RENEWALS should be sent through Sequoia to avoid a lapse in magazine or newsletter issues.

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For term ending June '93:	Rick Baird	574-1067
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For term ending June '94:	Nick Coiro	349-1834
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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter C16-7XCH

____ YES, enroll me as a member in the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY PREFERRED

☐ Individual - \$35 ☐ Family - \$38 ☐ Student - \$20

☐ Senior Citizen/Individual - \$21 ☐ Senior Citizen/Family - \$23

☐ MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED. ☐ PLEASE BILL ME

Please make membership checks payable to the National Audubon Society and mail them to:

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