



This Month's Program

SPRING MIGRATION AT YUBA

PASS is the theme of this month's presentation by **Jim Steele**. Jim is a birder, a biologist, an educator and a member of Sequoia Audubon Society. Several years ago he became Director of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University.

Under Jim's direction the once-moribund programs of this facility have been vitalized. The Field Campus has become a summer Mecca for geologists, mycologists and ornithologists. For the last three years it has been an important teaching and recording center for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. With its first-class camping accommodations, excellent food and central location it has also become the center of our field trips to this magnificent and unique area.

Come and get a preview of this field trip and learn more about one of the truly great birding areas of California. Meetings are at the San Mateo Garden Center, on the Alameda at Parkside, the second Thursday of every month (February 13). There is an informal get-together beginning at 7:30 PM with the meeting and program following at 8:00.

Next Month's Program

March brings us to our annual program from **Audubon Canyon Ranch** - our ranch as emphasized by Dan Murphy in his monthly column on Page Three. Each year the ACR folks bring us up to date on happenings on the ranch while they come up with a new and unusual program featuring the slides of their outstanding resident photographer/naturalists.

New Office Coordinator

Susan James is our new Office Coordinator. Susan is a resident of San Mateo and a member of SAS and several other conservation organizations. She is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara, where she majored in history and anthropology.

She was formerly an Executive Secretary at Hewlett Packard and has held supervisory positions at several other Silicon Valley companies. We feel very fortunate to have her and welcome her into the SAS family.

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From the President

MARY BRESLER

An exciting new event which we hope many will attend is the **SAS Chapter Planning Meeting** at the Pigeon Point Youth Hostel on February 7 and 8. This is not only for the Board but for all members interested in this opportunity to exchange ideas about SAS activities and directions for this spring and fall. Robin Smith and Anne Moser are putting this together for us. Why don't you call the office (345-3724) for any last minute details and join us there on our beautiful San Mateo Coast?

Our SAS field trips continue, including the popular Los Banos overnight trip, and more beginner's bird trips scheduled for our immediate vicinity. However, **all** birders, members and friends, are welcomed on **all** field trips. Our expert volunteer leaders are well-known for their ability to make the birding enjoyable and meaningful for all those attending.

We extend our sincere thanks to Compiler Dan Keller and all who participated in the Crystal Springs and Año Nuevo Christmas Counts. The documentation for submission to *American Birds* is in preparation and the next edition of the *NEEDLES* will carry the results of the counts.

There are three major environmental and conservation areas of concern as 1992 begins:

President Bush's proposal to narrow the definition of **America's wetlands** would completely open western regions to development and greatly cut protection for most other regions. The plan has been criticized not only by conservation organizations but by the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Corps of Engineers, Democrat and Republican legislators and the governors of many states - including California.

Earlier last year SAS's Board had sent a resolution of concern to the National Audubon Society with regard to wetlands and the strong priorities NAS should give this issue. NAS President Peter Berle has responded. "Let me assure you that we are committed to stopping the Bush Administration's effort to weaken wetlands protection and if possible achieve stronger protection in the upcoming re-authorization of the Clean Water Act."

"Our staff members in Washington have been working closely with Art Feinstein (Bay Area Audubon Council Leader and Conservation Chairman of Golden Gate Audubon) and other wetlands activists to design a pro-wetlands bill. We expect that bill to be introduced right after Congress reconvenes in January, and we will be working very

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Sequoia Audubon Society



CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

LOS BANOS AND THE GRASSLANDS REFUGES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

PANOCHÉ VALLEY

One of our highlight field trips of the year covering two diverse areas and exposing us to a variety of rare and unusual birds. 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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING (BAAC)

Every two months the representatives of the nine Bay Area Audubon Societies meet to discuss items of mutual interest. Speakers and representatives from National Audubon. All-day session. Brown bag lunch suggested. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.** This month's meeting will begin at 9:30 AM at the CTA Building, 4751 Central Way, Cordelia, CA..

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

SAS BOARD MEETING

7:30 PM at the SAS office. Call the office (345-3724) for details or to let us know you will be attending. **All members are welcome.**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

SAS WINTER CONVOCATION

A combination planning session and discussion group on the present and future mission of Sequoia Audubon. **Open to all interested members.** At the Pigeon Point Hostel. Participants will stay overnight at the hostel and begin our meetings at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. Agenda is open and informal. General and specialized discussion groups. No subject is sacrosanct. Call the office (345-3724) to make reservations. A \$15.00 fee is requested to cover the use of the facilities. A brown bag lunch is suggested as dining facilities in the area are limited.

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NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

DAN MURPHY

The new year brings us a new byline. Don Sanford, editor of the Golden Gate Audubon Society newsletter, *The Gull*, suggested the name change. Since Audubon Canyon Ranch is the sanctuary of our sponsoring Audubon Society chapters (Marin, Golden Gate, Sequoia and Madrone) it seems fitting that our monthly news reflect that fact. So, thanks Don. ACR is **our** sanctuary and I'm glad we can put it in print every month as our new byline.

BE PART OF ACR'S ACTIVE FAMILY. VOLUNTEER TO HOST AT THE RANCH OR JOIN A FIELD STUDY.

PREPARE FOR SPRING -- HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE RANCH. Okay, it's still winter, but if you pay attention, you will see the returning swallows and hummingbirds by the middle of the month. Walk near the coast and you're sure to find that first spring wildflower. Stop by your favorite marsh and find the first insect swarms. You can be sure the great blue herons will be checking out the heronry for this year's perfect nest site. And before you know it the Ranch will begin its 1992 public session.

So here is your chance to be part of the spring ritual at ACR's Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Plan to help others experience spring by hosting at the Ranch. We always need hosts on weekends and holidays. Of course you can host during the month when your chapter will provide hosts. Watch next month's **NEEDLES** for information on that. But if you prefer to host at a specific time please call Edris at 868-9244 so we can make arrangements to provide you with an opportunity to spend the day of your choice volunteering at the Ranch. This year's public season will begin on March 14 and end on July 19.

HARBOR SEAL DISTURBANCE STUDY. Volunteer observers are needed to assist with a seal disturbance study being conducted in the Tomales Bay/Tom's Point area. A commitment of one day per week (about 3 to 4 hours per observation) during the April and May harbor seal pupping season is desirable. Observation times vary according to low tides. Please contact either Mary Ellen King (707-537-1546) or John Kelly (663-8203) to volunteer.

HERON/EGRET PROJECT. Once again John Kelly is organizing this north bay ardeid study. Now in its third year, the heronry survey covers Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Contra Costa Counties. Volunteers should plan to participate in a training session and to visit an assigned colony several times, particularly in late spring. If you are interested, it is important to notify John early so he can cover all the known heronries in those counties. Training is also an important factor and must be carried out prior to field work. So call John at 663-8203 for more information or to volunteer. If you know of a heronry in your area please drop John a note describing it. Include the

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NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

exact location, the species of heron or egret, and the types of vegetation used for nesting.

STAFF CHANGES. The ACR Board of Directors voted to re-organize staff positions for the Ranch. Skip Schwartz, long time Ranch Manager assumes the role of Executive Director. Nancy Angelesco assumes the role of Administrative Manager and Cindy Massaro will become our new Administrative Assistant. We are very grateful to Nicki Spillane and the members of the Personnel Committee she heads for bringing about these much needed changes. They will help allow ACR to change the employee responsibilities to meet the changing demands on our organization during the coming decade.

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT. Our Board of Directors didn't stop with staff changes. After what seemed months of deliberation the decision was made to declare ACR a smoke-free environment. Our trails and back-country areas have always been smoke free, but now we feel it its appropriate to extend that protection to our buildings, reception areas and parking areas. Fire danger and litter problems were primary among the reasons for this change in policy. the Board also felt a smoke free policy would add to the health and enjoyment of our visitors, the vast majority of whom do not smoke.

BOUVERIE PRESERVE GUIDED NATURE WALK: Saturday, February 15, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. You may still have time to join a free guided nature walk through our lovely preserve at Glen Ellen. Enjoy a brisk winter day among our oaks and conifers. Listen for birds, watch an early insect hatch and feel the coolness of a migrating newt. But first you must call (707) 938-4554 for reservations.



CALENDAR

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

THE RAPTORS OF ALTAMONT PASS

This area east of Livermore is best known for its windmill farms - except to birders. For birders, Altamont Pass is noted as the winter home of a great number and variety of hawks and eagles. Every winter the resident red-tails, prairie falcons and golden eagles are joined by their cousins fleeing the snows and cold of the north. Peregrines, bald eagles, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks are only some of the visitors to these rolling grasslands and rocky outcrops. This trip normally extends into the afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. We'll begin our caravan of the area at 9:00 AM. To get there take I-580 past Livermore to Vasco Road. Take the Vasco Road exit south. We'll meet near the gas station on the right a short distance down Vasco Road.

LEADERS: NICK COIRO 349-1834
and LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

REDWOOD SHORES

These points of land between Foster City and Bair Island have recently come under heavy development but the remaining areas still harbor many shorebirds and dabbling ducks. The sloughs and oxidation ponds may be the last San Mateo County refuge of the clapper rail. Tri-colored blackbirds, diving ducks and larger shorebirds can also be found there. To get there take Hwy.101 to the Redwood Shores Parkway. Follow the Parkway through Redwood Shores to its end at the radio transmitter building. (Look for the tall antennas.) We will meet in front of the building at 9:00 A.M. Although there will be very little walking, some of the areas may be muddy so boots are recommended. Trip should break up at noon.

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

SAS GENERAL MEETING

THE SPRING MIGRATION IN YUBA PASS. Jim Steele, SAS member, birder, biologist, teacher and director of the San Francisco Sierra Nevada Field Campus will present an illustrated talk on one of the truly great natural areas of California. Jim will also brief us on his plans for the coming summer session at the field campus. A great appetizer for our June field trip. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together begins at 7:30 P.M., Meeting and program at 8:00.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 TO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

13TH ANNUAL BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE

The Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference coincides with the presence of wintering waterfowl and eagles so that conference participants can enjoy these magnificent birds. Conference to be held at the Oregon Institute of Technology. Speakers, work shops, art exhibit, photo contest and field trips. Call Ralph Opp at (503) 883-5732 (days) or Charlotte Opp (503) 882-8488 (evenings) to make reservations or for details.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

BEGINNER'S TRIP TO PESCADERO MARSH

The fourth in our series of special trips for the beginning birder. Once again a one or two hour trip will be followed by a short sit-down discussion on what we saw. We should see many of the birds we saw in the first three beginner's trip and it will be our first real experience with some of the passerines - the perching birds. Once again, the discussion topics are up to the participants. To get there take the Coast Highway (Hwy. 1) south. Meet at 9:00 AM in the first parking lot south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek. Its easy to miss this lot so if you end up in the main parking lot opposite the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Road, you have gone too far. Turn back to find the parking lot you missed.

LEADER: FRANCIS TOLDI

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Sequoia Audubon Society





CALENDAR

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 PRINCETON HARBOR

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. Oldsquaws, glaucous gulls and the rock sandpiper are regular winter visitors and the area almost always has one or two surprises. 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 AM. 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 PESCADERO MARSH

Pescadero Marsh is one of the finest eco-systems in the county and one of the most accessible. At all seasons it affords food and shelter to a large variety of birds from loons to sparrows. To get there take the Coast Highway (Hwy. 1) south. Meet at 9:00 AM in the first parking lot south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek. Its easy to miss this lot so if you end up in the main parking lot opposite the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Road, you have gone too far. Turn back to find the parking lot you missed. Trip should break up by noon.

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 SAS BOARD MEETING

7:30 PM at the SAS office. Call the office (345-3724) for details or to let us know you will be attending. **All members are welcome.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 BIKING AND BIRDING THE BAYSHORE

Our leaders discovered some time ago that one of the most efficient and least disturbing ways to bird was on bicycle. The Foster City Bayshore lends itself particularly to this method. Trip is BYO2B (Bring Your Own Bike and Binoculars) and is limited to 8 participants. Call the office or one of the leaders to reserve your spot. Trip should break up by noon.

LEADERS: NICK COIRO 349-1834
and LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH. Our annual meeting wherein the ACR folks give us a chance to see and hear what they are up to. See next month's NEEDLES for additional details. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together at 7:30 P.M. Meeting and program begin at 8:00.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

THE ECOLOGY OF PESCADERO MARSH

Marsh Docents and SAS members John and Nina Padway truly love "their" marsh and will share its complexities and secrets with us. This is a multi-faceted nature walk which will deal with all aspects of the marsh's ecosystem. (Birders need not worry that their hobby will be overlooked.) Boots are recommended but walking is easy and on level grades. To get there take the Coast Highway (Hwy. 1) south. Meet at 9:00 AM in the first parking lot south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek. Its easy to miss this lot so if you end up in the main parking lot opposite Pescadero Road, you have gone too far. Turn back to find the parking lot you missed. Trip should break up by noon.

LEADERS: JOHN AND NINA PADWAY

"ACT FOR WILDLIFE IN '92: ENDANGERED SPECIES NEED YOU" - THE AUDUBON CONVENTION

This year's convention will be held in Washington, DC from June 13 through June 19.

This convention will give special emphasis to the workings of our federal government and upcoming legislation that affects our wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Sessions will focus on the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, other national wildlife issues and "how-to" sessions on effective lobbying.

Nearby chapters have organized field trips, art shows and entertainment for conventioneer's leisure time.

For more details contact the Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Avenue #5, Boulder, CO 80303.

STATE FIGHTS SMELT LISTING

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 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 smelts from being drawn south. Such measures could be extremely expensive.

'92 BIRDATHON

The 1992 Birdathon season actually began in October when National Audubon held its Birdathon Bootcamp in Minnesota.

Volunteer participants learned how to plan a Birdathon, how to ask for (and receive) money from corporate sponsors and local businesses, swapped stories and discussed what works and what doesn't when it comes to Birdathoning.

Participation is the key to the Birdathon. Once again Sequoia will sponsor an official team, but is encouraging its members to form their own teams, and obtain their own sponsors.

The Birdathon need not be an all-day marathon effort. You do not need to commit yourself to a 24 hour, multi-county tour of birding hot-spots. There are lots of variations. Some have counted the number of birds that visited their feeder during a two-hour period. Others have counted gulls following fishing boats, loons passing a particular coastal point or species seen from a single location. For the truly sedentary, how about the number of species seen on The Discovery Channel (or any other channel of your choice) in a 24 hour period?

A few chapters have hundreds of birdathoners, many have dozens of teams. Our best year we had a dozen individuals in four teams. Let's do better this year. Call the office to register your Birdathon team (even if it's a team of one.)

We also need a Birdathon Chairperson - someone to pull all the details together and follow up on the fund-raising efforts.

Here's your chance to get involved. Call the office (345-3724) or President Mary Bresler (994-3587) to volunteer.

RECORD-BREAKING CLEAN-UP

1991's 7th Annual California Coastal Clean-Up was a record-breaker in several ways. Over 30,000 volunteers (a record) removed 334,000 pounds (another record) of debris from our beaches and bays.

Sequoia Audubon participated by cleaning up a long-neglected section of shoreline along Redwood Shores and has received a certificate from the Coastal Commission commending them for their effort.

NW FEDERATION ANNOUNCES 1992 STRATEGIC ISSUES

The National Wildlife Federation has announced its strategic issues for 1992:

1. Saving Our Ancient Forests.
2. Halting the Destruction of Our National Forests.
3. Safeguarding Our National Parks.
4. Rescuing Our Nation's Wildlife Refuges.
5. Preserving Western Wilderness.
6. Renewing/Strengthening the Endangered Species Act.

Write The Wilderness Society, 900 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-2596 for further details.

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**



THE BOOKWORM

ANNE MOSER

Bend, Oregon is one of our favorite camping areas. *The Birder's Guide to Oregon*, Evanich, (Portland Audubon Society, 1990) added to my enjoyment this past summer.

This book divides Oregon into 17 birding regions and specific sites are described within each region. The maps and directions are clear. The descriptions of what might be found ...and where... are well detailed. The print is large enough for easy reading. There is a bird-finding guide and checklist of Oregon birds.

It unfortunately lacks an index of species and places. The heavy cardboard cover has a back flap that tucks under the front cover. I found this made the book awkward to use. The large wire spiral binding also made it difficult to use in the field.

But aside from these objections, I found it great and recommend it to all birders visiting the state.

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This summer we also drove north to Seattle, giving me the opportunity to use *A Guide to Bird-Finding in Washington* by Wahl and Paulsen (1991 edition, revised). The species notes were useful in pinpointing where a bird might be found and there are good maps of the state and its regions, with specific places numbered and described in the text. There is a good index as to both species and places.

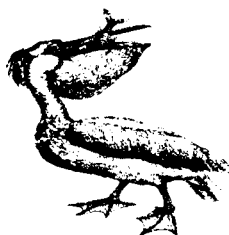
The print is smaller than I like and the book has a plastic ring binding which I don't think will stand up to heavy use. I only used the guide for two locations, and while it was useful I didn't find it as exciting as other similar guides I own.

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I found *The Travelling Birder* by Clive Goodwin, (1991-1992 edition, Doubleday) at the San Mateo County Library (DD#598 G1991). It describes twenty birding vacations - 16 in North America and 4 overseas.

This book really makes me want to start packing! Using a conversational tone throughout, the author describes the location, terrain and expected birds. He also gives some hotel and campground information and other places of interest in each area.

It's a marvelous tool for background planning and bedtime dreaming and a great gift idea. Definitely on my wish list!



Northern Goshawk...Huh?

CLIFF RICHER

On our spring trip to the Mono Lake Basin, our group got good looks at a Northern Goshawk. Most of the group had never seen this species before and the field guides came out like six-guns at the OK Corral.

There was no doubt in the leader's mind (or eye) that the bird was a goshawk, but you couldn't decide this from the field guides. Here are a few excerpts:

Advanced Birding by Kenn Kaufman: "The tail is relatively short...The head barely projects" Kaufman spends 12 pages on the accipiters. All except half a page is devoted to telling the difference between sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk.

Birds of North America, (The Golden Guide), by Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer: "Broad white eye-stripe. Note also the white fluffy undertail coverts. Tail is...longer than in Cooper's."



Birds of North America, (National Geographic Guide) "...fluffy undertail coverts... proportionally shorter tail...than Cooper's hawk."

Hawks, Clark and Wheeler: "Undertail coverts are white and fluffy."

Hawks in Flight, Dunne, Sibley and Sutton: "you should **not** look for...fluffy white undertail coverts on a Goshawk...(or) ...bold white eyestripe...The goshawk's head is large..."

Western Birds by Roger Tory Peterson: "Broad white stripe over the eye."

Three guides agree that the **average** goshawk is larger than the **average** red-tailed hawk. Only *Advanced Birding* adequately points up the great size disparity between the male and female goshawk. A small male goshawk could be 8-9" smaller than a female red-tail. (All female raptors are larger than the males of the same species, but the difference is most pronounced in the accipiters.)

So, with all this contradictory information, how did the leader know it was a goshawk? The chest and belly were gray, the underwings were "checkerboarded", the undertail coverts were white (not fluffy, or gleaming white...but white) and the tail was barred and the bars were "wavy". Not all goshawks have this exact pattern...but only the goshawk **can** have it.

(By the way, the illustration is **not** a goshawk. The "clip-art" title is simply **no** have my guess. What's yours? ...Ed.)



From the President

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hard for cosponsors... I am counting on you and other concerned chapter leaders to help us raise the citizen's voices loud and clear as the battle develops in 1992."

In November, after Governor Wilson vetoed the timber bill, diligent SAS members and friends collected signatures for the **Forest and Water Protection Initiative**. In mid-December, Dan Taylor, our NAS Western Region Representative, notified us that when the deadline for filing approached, the initiative's steering committee decided not to file it since "as a result of good-faith bargaining between conservation groups, Governor Wilson, legislative leaders and timber industry leaders, a compromise has been reached." Despite this "Grand Accord", as it is being called, both SAS and National Audubon counseled the steering committee to file the signatures so that the initiative process *would be available if the legislative reform fails to pass*.

Audubon, the Planning and Conservation League, California Trout, the California Native Plant Society, The Wilderness Society and the Natural Resources Defense Council are in support of the Grand Accord while the Friends of the River, Sierra Club - California and several Northwest watershed and forest-based conservation groups feel that it fails to go far enough in protecting our forests.

The Grand Accord delivers meaningful forest reform. In part:

- Ancient forest and watershed logging would be subject to quantifiable sustained yield requirements.
- Clearcutting would be reduced to a maximum of 30 acres.
- Clearcutting within watersheds would be limited.
- The make-up of the Board of Forestry would be changed to include five public seats, *two environmental seats* and two industry seats.
- Regional Water Boards and the California Department of Fish and Game would be given new responsibilities to monitor and regulate timber harvesting. Funding for these activities would come from a 1.3% surtax on timber harvested.

Policy positions of both pro and con groups are available at the SAS office.

3. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed **listing the Delta smelt as a threatened species** and designating critical habitat for the species. Since the population is restricted to Suisun Bay and the Delta, critical habitat will include all submerged land below ordinary high water and the entire water column in Suisun Bay and Montezuma

Slough, as well as portions of the Sacramento River, the Delta, the San Joaquin River and contiguous waters.

SAS has prepared and submitted written comments supporting this proposal and urging that the Delta smelt be listed as endangered, not just threatened. This is the position taken by the American Fisheries Society and supported by SAS. For more information contact the Conservation Committee through our office.

We give sincere thanks to all of our members who took the time to fill in and mail last fall's Membership Poll. While participation was a bit less than 1% of our membership the following trends were detected:

1. There is strong support for specific environmental involvement and activism.
2. There is a preference for financial support rather than personal participation.
3. There is a need for more specific communication between the organization and the membership so that members feel they are getting something for the money they contribute.

The Audubon Convention in Washington, DC on June 13-19 has been announced. The theme is "Act for Wildlife in '92, the Endangered Species Need You." The well-chosen convention site in this important election year brings the public debate about our threatened wildlife to the nation's capital. Scheduled are lively and informative discussions, exciting field trips, practical workshops, group lobbying and a Congressional reception. You should be receiving registration brochures in the mail this month. We have some extras at the office. Please phone if you would like to attend this important event and we can be of help.

ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES OF THE BAY AREA

WETLANDS

California Freshwater Shrimp
Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander
San Francisco Garter Snake California Clapper Rail
Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

COASTAL AND OCEANIC

California Brown Pelican
Sperm Whale Gray Whale
Blue Whale Humpback Whale

RIVERS

Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Delta Shrimp

OTHERS

Bald Eagle Peregrine Falcon
San Joaquin Kit Fox

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 or 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 the Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in Sequoia Needles and personally on behalf of Sequoia Audubon Society.

From Mr. & Mrs. Gil Workman in memory of Bob Chambers.

From Pat Moon, a gift of two filing cabinets and assorted office furnishings and supplies.

From Anne Moser.

From Kathy Soulard.

From Barbara Tibari.

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