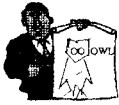


needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 40, No. 6
March, 1992



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Cathleen Cannon, the Education Specialist from **Audubon Canyon Ranch** will show slides and discuss the programs at the **Bouverie Preserve**, as well as bringing us up to date on the other activities at ACR. Cathleen is a biologist and a credentialed high school teacher. Originally from Chicago this is her fourth year with the Audubon Canyon Ranch Preserves. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social get-together begins at 7:30 with the meeting and the program at 8:00. The public is invited.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

The April 9th program will feature the **MARINE MAMMAL CENTER** and its work at its Marin Headlands headquarters in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Slides of seals and sea lions in the wild as well as of the rescue, rehabilitation and release work of the Marine Mammal Center will illustrate the program.

AUDUBON LOBBYIST HIRED

John, McCaull, former General Counsel of Californians Against Waste, has been hired as Audubon's first Legislative Affairs Director. John is a graduate of the U.C. Davis law school and has worked as a lobbyist for the Planning and Conservation League as well as for Californians against Waste. As a conservationist, he is most interested in habitat protection.

This new position in the regional office has been largely funded by pledges from individual chapters (including Sequoia Audubon) and is supported by the regional and national Audubon headquarters, which provide office space, clerical support and employee benefit plans.

John will work on California issues and will represent our views directly to the lawmakers while keeping us informed of potentially harmful legislation.

Art Feinstein of Golden Gate Audubon deserves credit for initiating the drive to put this new activist in place.

Sequoia Audubon Society



SUCCESS STORY THE PEREGRINE COMEBACK

CLIFF RICHER

As the Endangered Species Act comes under increasing fire from pro-development and pro-logging interests, it is appropriate that we review one of its success stories.

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Joseph Hickey of the University of Wisconsin noted that peregrine populations had dropped precipitously - particularly in the Northeast and Midwest. He assembled a convocation of falconers and researchers in Madison to attack the problem.

A loose confederation of recovery groups rose from this assembly. All over North America organizations like the Predatory Bird Research Group at the University of Santa Cruz, The Peregrine Fund in Boise, Idaho and The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota came into being. Each of these groups followed its own course - but all had one end; the restoration of the peregrine falcon.

The peregrine - its name means wanderer - occurs on every continent except Antarctica. It is **the** falcon of medieval falconry and is regarded world-wide as the ultimate hunter of the air. It is the fastest of all living things.

The rescuers had an awesome task ahead of them. The peregrine falcon had been extirpated as a breeding species in vast areas of the United States. All of its eastern nesting sites were deserted. Researchers in the Great Lakes area - once home to hundreds of pairs - were unable to find any active nests. By 1970 the National Park Service had to concede there were no peregrines left in the Yellowstone eco-system.

The reasons for the peregrine's decline were quickly found. It's eggshells were too thin, either breaking under prematurely or allowing too much oxygen to penetrate to the developing embryo. DDT and its by-products, DDE and dieldrin, were found to be the causative agent. DDT was banned, but the long-lasting effects that made it so valuable as an insecticide also made it an environmental threat for many years to come.

This problem suggested its own solution. Thin-shelled eggs were removed from active peregrine nests and incubated in the laboratory. The chicks were then hand-fed and released into the wild when full-grown. Some of the first birds raised in this manner refused to be set free. They had become imprinted on their keepers and dependent upon them for food. Keepers then became "invisible", feeding the birds by means of hand-puppets made to resemble adult peregrines and avoided all unnecessary contact with the young birds. The young birds were weaned to the wild by using the "hacking" technique developed over the ages by falconers to teach their birds to hunt.

(Continued on Page Six)



CALENDAR

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. We'll meet on the bike path at the corner of Beach Park and Foster City Boulevards. Rain cancels the trip. 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. This year's presentation will feature Cathleen Cannon, ACR's Education Specialist and will emphasize the work at the Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma County. See Page One for further 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



FROM OUR RANCH

DAN MURPHY

PUBLIC SEASON BEGINS MARCH 14: The public season begins at the Ranch on Saturday, March 14. By then we should know if great blue herons will nest this year. As of the beginning of February they had not yet arrived in our heronry although a number of pairs have started nests above Smiley's Bar in Bolinas. Let's face it, the story of nature is a story of change. You'll have to come out to see this year's story for yourself. One way or another, the great egrets should e in by the Ranch's opening. The other real attraction in the early season is wildflowers. Take a walk on any of our trails during March or April to see a wonderful display of coastal wildflowers. By May almost all of them will be gone.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Join us as a weekend host during our public season at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. This is a great way to get to know a little about the Ranch and to assist us in our effort to introduce the public to ACR. All you have to do is greet visitors, direct them to the overlook or answer a few questions. You will probably get enough time off to hike a trail and enjoy a bit of the Ranch yourself. Volunteers should expect to arrive at the Ranch around 9:45 ad stay until 4:30. You can sign up by calling either the SAS office (345-3724), Rick Baird, your ACR Hosting Coordinator, (574-1067) or ACR itself (868-9244).

CHAPTER HOSTING SCHEDULE: All hosting dates are weekends and holidays between the Ranch's opening on March 14 and its closing date on July 19.

Marin Audubon Society -- all March weekends beginning on the 14th, and July 4, 5 and 11.

Sequoia Audubon Society -- all April weekends and July 12 and 18.

Madrone Audubon Society -- all May weekends, except for Memorial Day.

Golden Gate Audubon Society -- all June weekends, Memorial Day (May 25) and July 19.

THANK YOU B of A: For the third consecutive year the Bank of America has granted \$14,000 to provide transportation for school children who visit ACR. As you know, hundreds of urban children visit ACR as part of our school program. Many of these children are from schools whose transportation budgets have been slashed by budget shortfalls. It is through the continuing generosity of the Bank of America Foundation that many visiting school children have participated in our education program and will continue to do so for the coming year. On behalf of the Ranch and the school children who benefit from our programs, thanks very much to the Bank of America Foundation.

(Continued on Page Three)



WATER UPDATES

When Congress resumes this month, the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act will be one of the first items to be considered. Born in the '60's and passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act was aimed mainly at reducing the flow of industrial and municipal waste into our rivers and lakes and achieving "fishable, swimmable" waters.

Great strides have been made since then but much remains to be done. Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) maintains the act "said all the right things, but lacked enforcement teeth". He has introduced legislation to put meaningful and severe penalties into the act. There is also convincing evidence that "non-point sources" (such as agricultural runoff, or poor flood drain systems) now contribute more to water pollution than readily identifiable sources such as refineries and sewage systems.

Wetlands - those natural pollutant filters - are under heavy fire from both parties. In Congress, Rep. Hayes (D-LA) and Sen. Breaux (D-LA) have introduced bills that would take all but the soggiest wetlands out of federal protection. These bills have strong bi-partisan support from development minded legislators. **Senator Seymour can be instrumental in stopping the Breaux bill (S. 1463).** Its important that we all let him know how we feel as there is strong sentiment now to "get the economy moving again" by removing environmental restrictions on development. **Write to him at the US Senate, Washington, DC 20510** and tell him that you oppose S. 1463, the Breaux bill, as well as any other efforts to allow the destruction of wetlands.

Toxic sediments are another issue to be addressed. One of the principal problems with the dredging of San Francisco Bay is the high level of toxic materials contained in some of the dredge spoils. Selenium, pesticides and herbicides from the central valley; heavy metals from Silicon Valley; industrial chemicals from shipyards and refineries; organics from sugar refineries and sewage systems; and the myriad pollutants arising from the sheer concentration of people around the single interdependent watershed that empties into the bay,

Friday, March 20, The Global Cities Project is conducting what is being billed as a major water conference in San Francisco's Nikko Hotel. The sponsors and contributors to the conference represent a full spectrum of water interests - environmental and agricultural groups, municipal and industrial users, state foresters, lobbyists, chambers of commerce, university groups and state and county boards. If you're interested in attending, call 775- 0791 or write to the Global Cities Project, 2962 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94123.

As we go to press the Bureau of Reclamation has announced that it will retain enough water behind Shasta Dam to allow for cold water flows during salmon spawning season. This means there will be no water available for the West Side Water District and its federally subsidized cotton farms. Frankly, we'll believe it when we see it. BuRec has a long history of ignoring all rules and regulations (including its own) that might inconvenience the "water buffaloes" of the Central Valley.



CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Two)

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

SAS GENERAL MEETING

THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

Learn about the rescue and rehabilitation work done by this volunteer group. Supported entirely by private contributions, they have become world famous for their pioneering techniques in treating seals and sea lions who have been victims of both man-made and natural disasters. 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..

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 11-12

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

LEADER: DAN KELLER 365-2032

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 14

1992 WESTERN REGIONAL AUDUBON CONFERENCE PRESERVATION OF BIO-DIVERSITY

Outstanding speakers, workshops and field trips always mark this conference and this year is no exception. Early reservations are advised. If you haven't received a registration form in the mail, please contact the Audubon Western Regional Office at (916) 481-5332.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP.

An auto caravan through an isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on despite the destruction of their habitats in the Central and Livermore Valleys. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, wild turkey, Costa's and calliope hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will never be more than an hour away from either Livermore or Interstate 5 so that you can break away and return to civilization at any time. This is an all-day trip, ending

(Continued on Page Seven)

NEW MEMBERS

Here is a partial list of those members who have joined (or rejoined) since last year.
If your name doesn't appear here, just be patient and we'll catch up to you later this year!

Glenwood, Iowa

Jean Durick

Huson, Montana

Ms. Mary L. Clyde

Atherton

Burton Family Suzanne Rehms Dr. Robert D. Hass Judith V. Dudley Ben Pless

Belmont

Mr. Mark Navratil B. S. Walden Ms. Arlene F Dobson Ms. P. Little Mr. Mrs. George A. Starr M. Eipper Ballowe
Ms. Judy G. Weathers Mrs. Veronica Lococo Mikel Estrin Jay J. J. O'Brien Arthur W. Abeita Ms. Halcyon V. Rogers
Mr. Charles K. Green Virginia Holland Ms. Marcia Bochow Ms. Pam Beran Anna Trachtenberg Anthony Kenaston Ms. Barbara Copley
Judy L. Patty Rick Schatek Susan West Ms. Linda C. Klimen David H. Harrison Mr. Manfred Weiskopf Susan Nowels

Brisbane

Ruth Hunter Mrs. Diana Lake Jerry D. Kendall

Burlingame

Sylvia Johnson Mrs. Joy L. Krause L. Lipinski Mrs. P. Ivester Margot M. Fiore Edmund F. Peters Charles/Jennifer Thompson
Janet / Dale Hahn Mr. Pete Popin Mrs. Alan S. Ellenger Felicia Aron Ron Kurtz Carla Trowbridge Todd Lue
Febe Delander / M. Lovelace Richard Muller Edward G. Jones Jr Bonnie Wright Abb Friedenberg Mrs. Linda F. Robertson
Marijane V. Montoya Mr. Ken Irons Mr. John Mayers Patrice Chester Sue Stern Harvey E. Finch Mark L. Bouquet

Colma

Rick Dalporto Mr.-Mrs. Golembiewski

Daly City

Robert Gene Rose Michael Barreau Mark-Sophia Hansen Mary Denise Galvin Mr. Xuan T. Mai
Miss Vicki A. Mibach Diana Stephens Leroy French Ms. Carol L. Johnson Joelle/Yuna G. Worthy
Jane Geruhty U. Sobhana Ginger L. Herrera James Ballard Wallace J. Fesinmeyer

East Palo Alto

Rochelle Mason

El Granada

Mr. Tim J. Braun Robert H. Rhoades Iris B. Rogers

Foster City

Ms Laurie J. Mclean Lynn Chinsky V. A. Trudel Miller Mr Ronald J. Anderson Linda Carpenter Mr. Joe Raymaker
Robert Crabb Ms. Carol Hill Linnell Binn Sonia A. Melko Norma Jean Brede Mrs. Sally T. Roth Mr. Ross Demaree
B. C. Crawford C. Crimaldi Elizabeth Dial John K. Kell Ms. Mary L. Clyde

Half Moon Bay

Ray Heaton Wendy / Bruce Pine Mr. Thomas H. Clifford L. Dillon Kathy Sears Jean A. Williams Ms. Mary K. Hillyard Kate Beigle
Stephen Walsh Ms. Marcia Kimball Kristen Spencer Sherry Kritzer Rick N. Moulton Anna B. Buckleman Doris Kolinsky Robert Hull

Hillsborough

Mrs. D. P. Barrett Peggy Lemosvandoorn Mrs. H. Krabbenschmidt Mark H. Strobin Sydney E. Beal

La Honda

John M. Bachezlor Mr. John D. Elliott Rick / Linda Howard Smith Mr. Bryan C. Osborne Barbara Dresse

Los Altos

Toni / Al Van Horn

(Continued on Page Five)

NEW MEMBERS

Here is a partial list of those members who have joined (or rejoined) since last year.
If your name doesn't appear here, just be patient and we'll catch up to you later this year!

Menlo Park

Nat Bowditch Mrs. Pierce Jones Mr. Eric Rideout Margaret Oliva Katie Chilton Marta Mc Whorter Douglas Sherman
Ms. Jeanie N. Treichel Yvonne Sattler Mrs. Dorothee C. Dary Ms. Charis L. Denison Mary B. Werry Mr. Larry Hammer
Miss A. Jensen L. Sanford Elke Jones Elaine Rivau Barbara Whitman Mildred Cho Mr./Mrs. Ivan L. Mc Ginnes Charlotte Mayer
Lisa Hibray Ms Virginia L. Yates Ms. Sharon Lipner Roberta Abreu Ms. Anne Layman Dr./Mrs. J. Andersen David Unietis
Ms Virginia L. Whitman Mr. Brian Warr Damagra Lejnicks Mary Cooperrider Mr. John Geibel Mr./Mrs. Geoffrey Brown
Miss Laura Comyns W. A. Hurst B R Kellet Creswell C. Cole Iii W. A. Hurst Addison Wesley Publ. Co. Miss Dorothy M. Hall
Frances Martin Beth Echols Richard S. Taipale Kathy Bourland Mrs. Paul B Jensen Kristie Nelson Mary Schneider
Mr. Frederick Wells Mari Calhoun Mr. Johnny De Sollar Penny Stroud/Rick Pam Shaffer Kreger

Millbrae

Bruce Finocchio Bee Mc Ewan Juliana Veracka Ken K. Fang Mrs. E. Donati Earl C. Call
Amelia Gregoire Yati Sahae/Randy Fink Lisa Pierantoni Ms. Lois C. Way Harvey M. Young

Montara

Ms. Marcia Klionsky R. D. Robertson Dr. Rene F. Dahl Mrs. J. Muth Mrs. Joan A. Fernandez Mrs./ M. Haynes Hayne

Moss Beach

Ms. Lisa Waag

M. Estes

Pacifica

John Bryant Ms. Edith Bantowsky Sue Barrel Robin Crawford Mary Seebach A. Gamlin Mrs. Marilyn J. Crayton
Mary Bresnahan H. J. Vangiersbergen Jonathan Widdicombe Pat Newell Mr. Timothy Cowan Nancy Stevenson Ms. G. L. Ireland
James Patrick R. Rockwell Ann Faulkner C. Neff Linda Lowney David R. Wasche Mr. Krister N. Eriksson
Mr. Charles Daniels Jean Gildersleeve Todd D. Mayo Elsie Rames Maria Teresa Jiminez

Palo Alto

Mrs. E. Hobson

Pescadero

Janet B. Murphy

Portola Valley

Fred Wiseman Marian P. Suliteanu Mr. James Brommer Earl G. L. Cilley Marica Keimer

Redwood City

Janie K. Nelson Mr. Rayryker Kathleen Weatherby Terry R. Bolash R. F. Kensil James D. Campbell Reinette L. Garces
J. Mandeville / Ed Medlin Mr. David Miles Mr. / M. H. Marshall Marshall Miss Sandra L. Clark Kathleen Sargent
Mrs. Constant F. Davis Ms. Pamela Swain Ben Warner Marybeth Beard Ann L. Johnson Kathy Kolatski V. Heaton Bruce Bikle
Hal Roach Harriet W. Nye Kerstin K. Wallerstedt Dr. Thomas C. Stevenson E James B. Allen Mr. Daniel C. Hannah
Mr. Wayne Ott Dolores Dolly Delong Suan Austen Meek Anna M Bagniewska Annette Weiss Ellen Schillig Siamak Navid
Margie Kaine Eva Spitz Blum/Shigle Mill Wayne Bonde Stan Jones/C. Umberger Jones James F. Whalen Rachael Goldstein
Mr. Gary A Nicholas Ms. Helen Meyer Susan Trench Kathryn G. Weisberg Scott Beavers John Imbernon Mr. J. Geary Arceneaux
Mrs. Robert M. Billen Jenni Bonino Mr. Robert J. Guenley Theodore H. Fieguth B. Bessey/K. Gilmartin Marianne Schonfisch
Janet Colombet Henry Mayer Ms. Marcia G. Carter Teri Graf Mr. Kenneth L. Melmon Mr. Roy M. Lerman

San Bruno

C. Evans J. Johnston Mr./Mrs. S. W. Galstan Mr. David Moore William H Bailey Scott A. Buschman
Eileen Jennis Marie Calderilla Judith M. Kersey Bonbara Silvestin Kathy Brooks Mr. Richard C. Peterson
Mr. Thomas G. Kilfoil/Co. Inc Pierre Baumann William H. Bailey Jennifer Schoenstein Ms. Joanne Oliva Tijerino

San Carlos

Mike Heiser R. L. Noble Mr. Larry Campbell John J Becher Lance O. Lollini James Killemon Ms. Patricia D. Smith
Susan Gross Donna L. Larson Ann Langendorf Douglas Vogt Ms. Sylvia Gonzalez Mr. J Barrows Jamie S. Bruha
Mr. L. C. Tolles Sandy Donaldson Kris Malouf Mrs. Robert R. Kraus Twyla Kabatchnick
Dianna Blair Thomas Wold Mr. Joseph Bergeron T. Koontz

(To be Continued)



SUCCESS STORY

THE PEREGRINE COMEBACK

CLIFF RICHER

(Continued from Page One)

There were other problems. In some areas the birds were easy prey to great horned owls. Peregrines remained true to their name, rarely staying in the area where they were hacked. The birds fell prey to the same natural disasters that befell their wild brethren - but in somewhat larger proportions.

Nevertheless, the researchers, falconers and volunteers persisted. From 1976 to 1987, the New Hampshire Audubon Society (an independent organization, not part of National Audubon) released 100 falcons and meticulously documented all known and many potential aeries. In 1991 there were six breeding pairs in the state. More than 500 peregrines were released in Yellowstone Park. Today there are 30 breeding pairs. The Midwest Consortium has released 563 falcons and now boasts 22 nesting pairs in the region. Fifty chicks were hacked in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba. Today, a nesting pair on the Delta Winnipeg Hotel tower is monitored by closed-circuit television while another couple makes its home at the University of Manitoba.

Peregrines have adapted very well to city living. San Francisco has had a pair. Originally hacked on a downtown office tower in 1987 this pair was re-discovered in its new home on the Bay Bridge by workmen doing earthquake repairs. Day-dreaming office workers gazing out their windows have observed these birds terrorizing the city's pigeons and gulls along the waterfront. Since 1987, Springfield, Mass. has hosted a Toronto-hacked female and her mate. Baltimore's Scarlett has had several mates - Rhett apparently didn't give a damn and went his own way after one year. Montreal, Quebec, Boston, New York City, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis, Toledo, Calgary, Edmonton, Los Angeles and San Diego are only some of the cities boasting their own resident peregrines.

So successful has this effort been that the Predatory Bird Research Group is discontinuing its releases after this year in order to concentrate on less time-intensive aspects of its research. It also plans to continue its very successful captive incubation and breeding program to provide falcons for release by other groups.

Richard Fyfe, retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service, after more than 20 years of involvement with the peregrine recovery program, marvels, "I have never seen such cooperation as we had with the peregrine falcon program. To me, that is the real success story. So many different people worked together - falconers, naturalists, birders, researchers, Canadians, Americans, British, Swedes and Germans."

Despite the success, the recovery of the peregrine is still incomplete. In the East and Midwest numbers are still below their historic levels. DDT persists in the environment. It is still used in Central and South America and there are occasional allegations of its illegal use in the United States. Some areas of particular heavy use and some manufacturing sites are still contaminated.

Even though the peregrine and two other prominent species - the bald eagle and the brown pelican - have benefited from the Endangered Species Act, the act itself is endangered. Any relaxation of the act's provisions could send any one of these species or their less well known beneficiaries back on the road to extinction. Cooperation, vigilance and re-authorization of the act are necessary to preserve our wild heritage.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK MAY BE THREATENED

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has completed its preliminary review of a petition to list the Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) as threatened and has found the listing "may be warranted". Under the Endangered Species Act, a "may be warranted" finding requires the service to determine, within one year, if the species should be listed.

Anyone who has any long-term population data - published or unpublished - on this species is requested to send copies of it to Craig Fannes, US Fish & Wildlife Service, 203 W. 2d St., Grand Island, NE 68801. For further information call Craig at 308-381-5571. Data can also be faxed to him at 308-381-5512.

COMMON LOON MORTALITY

Migration is a time of extraordinary stress for birds and most fledglings do not survive their first experience. Starvation, exhaustion and predation take a much heavier toll on the young migrants than on their more experienced kin. Most of these deaths go unnoticed as the birds' tiny bodies are soon consumed by nature's cleaning crews. Common loons however are big, heavily muscled, solid-boned (most bird bones are hollow) birds and the dead or dying birds are often washed ashore.

From 1983 to 1988, Laurence Alexander examined the remains of 753 common loons washed up on the beaches of North-western Florida. He determined the causes of death to be starvation, anemia, parasites and loss of motor control. Mercury poisoning was found to be a major factor leading to death - particularly in older birds, where contamination had built up to higher levels. Contamination is assumed to have occurred on the breeding grounds since local resident fish-eating birds did not show significant levels of mercury.



CALENDAR

(Continued from Page Three)

at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last few years varying between 40 and 90 degrees. There are only two reliable restroom facilities and one service station (not always open) at the half-way point so be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 for about 23 miles to the North Livermore Ave. exit. Take a right at the exit and follow Livermore Avenue through the center of town where it becomes South Livermore Ave. Approximately a half mile beyond the center of town you will see the Nob Hill Shopping Center on the left. We will meet in the parking lot and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and then take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.
LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK

This wooded park provides a variety of habitat for migrating species of forest and grassland birds. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica and, turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to its end and follow the signs to the park.

LEADER: JUDY SPITLER

FUTURE CONDOR RELEASES MAY BE THREATENED.

National Audubon's Western Regional Staff attended the January 14 release of two captive-bred California condors back into the wild.

Even as they did so, they were faced with a threat to future releases. In 1985, National Audubon spearheaded the move to create the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Kern County. This refuge was created specifically for the purpose of providing a "clean" forage area where California condors could be protected from ingesting lead-contaminated or poisoned meat. Now, there are plans to create San Emidigo Ranch, a 174 square mile "new town", immediately adjacent to the refuge. NAS staffers have attended public hearings, provided written comment, met with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the developers, local chapters and other environmental organizations. To date, neither the developers or Kern County have acknowledged any potential impact of the project on the California condor. NAS is reluctantly facing the possibility of going to litigation to force the developers and the county to face the problem.

Sequoia Audubon Society



LOGGING TOWN SURVIVES

Dubois, Wyoming was a logging town. A third of its jobs and income came directly from logging and sawmill operations. In the mid-eighties, the Federal government reduced its harvest quotas and in 1988, Louisiana-Pacific closed its mill.

Community and business leaders predicted disaster but most adapted. The population actually grew as retirees were attracted to the town. A new environmental interpretive center is under construction and several new motels and restaurants are catering to the tourist trade.

Northwest towns can learn from Dubois. Even though they may not have bighorn sheep - Dubois' principal attraction - most of them have their own attractions. They should be looking to the future rather than trying to preserve the mistakes of the past.

N.A. MIGRATION COUNT

For the first time an effort is being made to take a systematic look at spring migration in North America. The first North American Migration Count is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 1992 and volunteer participants are being sought throughout the United States. All birds seen are to be counted, but the emphasis will be on the neo-tropical species.

The results will be compiled by county and computerized. Details on organization and methodology are still sketchy. For now, anyone wishing to volunteer for this count should contact Jim Stasz, NAMC Coordinator, PO Box 71, North Beach, MD 20714. We'll try to keep you posted on further developments.

STONE LAKES NWR INCLUDED IN BUSH BUDGET

After three years of work this new refuge in southwestern Sacramento County is about to become a reality! Funding for the refuge has been included in the President's budget. This is a major victory for Audubon. The refuge will protect about 20,000+ acres of wildlife habitat. Audubon's 550 acre Upper Beach Lake Wildlife Restoration Project is within the refuge boundaries, as is the 2500 acre North Stone Lakes project, the site of a cooperative habitat restoration program with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.

Ultimately the Stone Lakes NWR may extend to 50,000 acres but further expansion is presently stalled by a loose confederation of grape growers and developers. This first step however represents a major victory over these forces which have used a combination of scare tactics and legislative pressure to prevent creation of the refuge.

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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.

RANDY BUSH

JAMES W. COYNE

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