



This Month's Program

Arctic Bird Life

Beth Huening of National Audubon's Richardson Bay Education Center and Sanctuary will present May's program featuring slides of the migratory and permanent breeding birds of the Arctic.

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 PM with the meeting and the program at 8:00.

The public is invited and welcome to all our meetings and field trips.

June General Election Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee of Rick Johnson, Anne Moser and Maria Straatmann have announced the slate of officers for the June general election. In addition to the usual positions to be filled, two additional Board positions have to be filled as Louise Fletcher and Nick Coiro will be resigning in June so that they may enjoy their respective retirements.

For President Anne Moser
For Vice-president Maria Straatmann
For Secretary Francis Toldi

For the Board of Directors

For the term ending in June '94
(Replacing Nick Coiro and Louise Fletcher)
Janet Murphy Cliff Richer

For the term ending in June '95
Dan Keller Robin Smith

The Treasurer's position, traditionally the hardest to fill, still remains open as of press time. Any member who might be interested in serving in this position should contact Rick Johnson, (571-8533) or the SAS office (345-3724).

Selection by the Nominating Committee does not close the nominations. Nominations may be made with the permission of the Nominee from the floor of the General Meeting by any member in good standing.



SAS to Sponsor 14th District Candidates' Night

Sequoia Audubon Society, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Committee for Green Foothills, the Peninsula Conservation Center and the League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring a pre-primary candidates' night on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 PM at the Menlo Park City Council chambers.

The fourteenth is a "new" district. Tom Campbell, whose "old" district is most equivalent to the 14th is running for Senator so none of the many candidates have an established Congressional track record. Each will be asked to express their views on the environment (briefly), after which they will give their answer to written questions from the floor.

The public is invited. Admission is free on a first-come, first served basis.

June Potluck and Election of Officers



June brings us to our Spring Potluck. 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.



The first item of business will be the election of new officers for the coming year. The new officers will be inducted immediately thereafter.



"MONTY" MONTGOMERY

It is our sad duty to report that Monty Montgomery, a life member, died of natural causes Thursday morning, March 26 at the age of 92.

Monty was president of Sequoia Audubon in 1962, 1966 and 1967. He was an outstanding field trip leader and a highly skilled photographer. He presented many of the meeting programs using his movies and slides.

Many of our senior members cherish warm memories of Monty and Lillian's sympathetic and authoritative leadership over many years.

---Jean Allen



The S.A.S. Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 3

JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Join Jasper Ridge's docents for a half day of birding in Stanford University's unique biological preserve. Birds seen on previous Sequoia Audubon field trips include western tanagers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, five species of flycatchers and wood ducks. (43 of them were seen on this year's Christmas Count.) We will meet at the Jasper Ridge Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill Gate) at 8:00 AM. **Be prompt as the gate will be open only from 7:45 to 8:05 AM.** From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west about two miles to a gate on the left side of the road. We will go rain or shine. A gate fee of \$4 per person is required. Sorry, no children under the age of 14. The size of the group is limited, so please call the office (345-3724) to reserve your space on this reservations-only field trip. If you need additional information, call the leader.

LEADER: LOUISE FLETCHER 591-6804

THURSDAY, MAY 7

SAS BOARD MEETING

7:30 PM at the SAS office. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. Please call ahead to be sure there will be enough room.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 17

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

A week-long share-the-expenses trip through Southeastern Arizona's major birding spots - Ramsey Canyon, Madera Canyon, Patagonia - seeking those Mexican immigrants at their northernmost invasion. This is a reservations only trip. Call the leader for full details and to make your reservation.

LEADER: DAN KELLER 365-2032

THURSDAY, MAY 14

SAS GENERAL MEETING

ARCTIC BIRD LIFE

Presented by Beth Huening of the Richardson Bay Education Center and Sanctuary. See Page One for 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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

SAS BOARD MEETING

7:30 PM at the SAS office. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. Please call ahead to be sure there will be enough room.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

GAZOS CREEK AND BUTANO STATE PARK.

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

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NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

DAN MURPHY

DOCENT TRAINING AT BOLINAS LAGOON:

There are many ways to volunteer at Audubon Canyon Ranch, but perhaps the most rewarding is to become an ACR docent. Our next docent training class will be held at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve between September 9 and March 3. Orientation and interview days are planned for May 27 and August 26. Tuition is \$75. Partial scholarships are available. If you are interested in sharing the joy of the Ranch or if you want a little more information please call us at 868-9244.

SPRING CALENDAR NOTES: Check last month's **NEEDLES** for full details about our remaining spring seminars. All seminars require advance reservations. Please call Edris at 868-9244.

8th Annual Downhill Hike, at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on May 16, with Ray Peterson (\$10)

The Ecology of Herons and Egrets, at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on June 20, with John Kelly and Philip Loring Greene (\$35)

Butterfly Counts are scheduled in Marin County on June 27; in Sonoma County on June 28

Get to Know the Critters Night on June 24, with Ray Peterson (\$5)

Natural History for Teachers at Bolinas, Cypress Grove and Bouverie Sanctuaries during the week of July 20-24 with John Kelly, John Petersen, Ray Peterson (\$175). If you teach elementary science and need 3 semester units, don't miss it!

BOUVERIE GUIDED NATURE WALKS: Docent-led walks continue at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Sonoma. Wildflowers should be in decline, but singing birds will still add to your visit. And don't forget that no matter when you visit the Bouverie Preserve, our docents will guide you on our paths and add immeasurably to your visit. Dates are Saturdays, May 9 and 23. Walks begin at 9:30 AM and end around 1:30 PM. Reservations for these free walks are required, so call early. (707-938-4554).

RANCH NOTES: Nine pairs of great blue herons finally set up nests. By the end of March, 58 great egret nests were established and several more have probably been established by now. Three pairs of snowy egrets showed up on the first weekend in April. All were in breeding plumage, but no nests or nesting activity were noted. Following last year's first-time nesting of the snowys, we can expect they will have established nests by the time you read this. Wildflowers were spectacular during March and early April, drawing comments from many of the

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News From Our Ranch

(Continued from Page Two)

Ranch's visitors. Unfortunately, they should be beyond their peak by now, but if you want to see the final bloom, check the upper parts of Pitcher Canyon.

..And who's going to be enjoying our natural wonders?

Well, you will if you make it out to Bolinas Lagoon before mid-July. Then there are the school children. Ninety- one classes are scheduled to visit the Ranch this spring and 39 of those would be unable to make the visit without the support of our friends at Bank of America who have most generously provided us with a \$14,000 transportation grant.

We're still looking for weekend hosts. Yes, we know Sequoia's turn was last month, but you can come and host any time. Just call Edris at 868-9244 to help greet our many visitors.

The Solar Brigade

The Solar Brigade hopes to save the planet 170 million tons per year of carbon dioxide by pressuring electric utilities to convert to 10% solar energy by the year 2000. To participate just send a monthly message to PG&E when you pay your bill. Write it across the bill, or on a separate piece of paper but the best way is to send a signed note to the President of the utility. Just write, **"We want 10% solar in ten years!"** This single stroke will help provide a long-term future for wildlife and humans.

National Audubon will follow up on your actions. Just register your name and the name of your utility company with the National and armed with these lists, we will be in a strong position to negotiate with the utilities about switching to solar.

Public pressure works! It launched recycling programs and got environmentally friendly products on to the supermarket shelves. We want it to work again in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels that contribute to acid rain and global warming.

The Solar Brigade is creating a national referendum for the safest and cleanest energy available to us - solar. The cost of solar has dropped 75% in the last ten years and the voices of a million consumers on behalf of solar can make a huge impact.

The key to this campaign is to get as many of you as possible to register and to keep sending the message to PG&E, **"WE WANT 10% SOLAR IN 10 YEARS!"**

Solar Power + People Power = The Solar Brigade

Register now! Call 212-759-6345 or write Solar Brigade, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

Sequoia Audubon Society



The S.A.S. Calendar

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tion of Hwy. 1 and Gazos Creek Road, just south of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse at 9:00 A.M. The trip should break up at lunchtime.

LEADER: To be announced

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

SAS GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

JUNE POTLUCK SUPPER

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Potluck at 6:00 PM, election of officers and program immediately following.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY

This trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on any of our other field trips. The trip features easy trail walking through lovely mountain and Sierra Valley habitats. On Saturday we will meet at 9 AM at Wild Plum Campground just out of Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak, summer warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll meet at the Summit Campground at 8 AM. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to see the birds of the Eastern Slope and Modoc Plateau. Arrangements have been made for us to use the facilities of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State U. Camping in platform tents with mattresses and cots, hot showers and three meals a day are available for \$25 a day. Just bring your own bedding and towels. Motels are also available in Sierra City. Reservations are required for this trip and for the accommodations at the Field Campus. Call the leader for details and to make reservations.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

Bob Wilkinson To Become Conservation Chair

Bob Wilkinson, one of the most active members of the Conservation Committee, has agreed to replace Rick Johnson as Chairman of the Committee when Rick steps down later this spring. Bob is currently our Wetlands Coordinator and has been most recently involved in putting together the 14th Congressional District Candidate's Night.

Rick Johnson will continue to serve on the Conservation Committee and will continue to head up the San Mateo County Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

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Legislative Hotline 916-444-5374

John McCaull, the Legislative Affairs Director for California's Audubon Chapters, has established a legislative hotline. To get the recorded message, call 916-444-5374.

This also doubles as a fax number, so if you want to send a fax, call the same number. When you get the message just punch *0 to connect to the fax machine. (Sorry, this won't work unless your fax machine is equipped with a touch tone phone.)

If you want to talk to a real, live human being, call the office number, 916-444-5557. John wants to hear from you so don't be afraid to register your feelings on any legislative matters.

Important 1992 Legislation

John has so far identified the following high priority issues and is reviewing some 20 other bills.

Assembly Bill 72 The California Heritage Bonds Act of 1992 has passed the Assembly and has the Governor's support. As yet it has not been reported out of committee in the Senate. The objectives are to get this approved in the Senate and onto the November ballot. We'll also try to get the legislature to pinpoint specific acquisition projects.

Senate Bill 959 The Safe Drinking Water, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1992 has passed the Senate and is currently in committee in the Assembly. This bill levies a surcharge on urban water suppliers of more than 500 acre feet per year. This surcharge is to be used to fund the Safe Drinking Water Program. It is opposed by the California Chamber of Commerce, The Association of California Water Agencies, the California Municipal Utilities Association and many water districts. It is supported by most environmental groups and fishermen's organizations.

Assembly Bill 2090 Water Transfers. This bill streamlines the transfer of surface and groundwater rights on both a short-term and permanent basis. It needs some "tightening up" to be sure it doesn't have an effect on the public trust doctrine established in the Mono Lake case and that no negative environmental impacts will result from such transfers. It is currently supported by the Planning and Conservation League and the Environmental Defense Fund. The bill has passed the Assembly but has yet to be assigned to a Senate Committee.

Assembly Bill 2450 Endangered and Threatened Species. This bill would amend the California Endangered Species Act to require that any petition for listing a species must be accompanied by a detailed management and recovery plan. This is seen as having the effect of making it difficult or nearly impossible to get a species listed and we will oppose it. There has been no legislative action on it to date.

The Planning and Conservation League Lobbyists for the Environment

TRISH MULVEY & LYNN SADLER

At the age of 27, the Planning and Conservation League is the oldest environmental lobbying group in the state. The California Legislature credited this non-profit alliance of more than 100 organizations and 9000 individual members with being "instrumental in the passage of every major piece of environmental legislation in California." As a part of the Bay Area Audubon Council, the Sequoia Audubon Society has been a sponsoring organization for nearly ten years.

PCL enjoys special credibility because of its strictly non-partisan approach. Members of both major political parties serve on its Board of Directors and contribute considerable technical and political expertise. PCL's reputation for thoughtful, well-researched analysis has earned the respect of a number of organizations and this has been reflected by a number of state and national awards for effective environmental lobbying.

PCL has played a key role in the passage of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State Wild and Scenic Management Act, the Coastal Protection Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act and the Lake Tahoe Compact. PCL also helped establish the BCDC, the Energy Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, the Tahoe Conservancy and the new Riparian Conservancy.

PCL has also been active in the initiative process. It has been responsible in whole or in part for:

- Prop. 70: A \$776 million bond act for wildlife, coastal and park lands. (CAL-PAW);
- Prop. 99: The cigarette tax which includes \$30 million for parks and wildlife;
- Prop. 117: The Mountain Lion Protection Act;
- Prop 116: The Passenger Rail Bond Act that will provides \$2 billion for rail transit throughout California.

The partnership between Audubon and PCL has recently been strengthened and enhanced. John McCaull, Audubon's new California Legislative Affairs Director, has his "working" office provided by PCL, a move benefitting both PCL and Audubon.

About 10% of PCL's total budget comes from Audubon and the more than 100 other membership organizations. The rest of the money comes from individual donations and memberships. The SAS Board of Directors encourages its members to consider giving their personal support to PCL. For an annual membership fee of \$33, you will receive its informative and well-regarded newsletter, *California Today* and have the satisfaction of knowing that your interests are well represented in Sacramento. Checks should be made payable to PCL, and mailed to 926 J St., Suite 912, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Bird Seed Available At The Sas Office

Although the Spring Bird Seed Sale is over, we are now keeping a small supply of the most popular bird seed mixes at the office. So, if you're running short or are being besieged by a flock of band-tail pigeons, then give us a call at 345-3724. Prices and selections vary according to availability.

Sas Member Wins Photo Contest

Katherine Rambo of Foster City, and a Sequoia member, was the first prize winner in the color print category in Coyote Point Museum's 13th Annual Photography Contest. The winning entry was entitled "Snowy Egret -- Flight."

ITEMS FOR SALE OR RENT

BIRDER'S HANDBOOK - Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye
BIRDING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY - SCVAS
BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - Jean Richmond
ENJOYING HUMMINGBIRDS MORE - Various
MONO LAKE GUIDEBOOK - David Gaines
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE
SPECIES IN DANGER IN OUR BACKYARD-Jamison
PACIFIC COAST CHECKLISTS -Pads of 25
SAN MATEO COUNTY CHECKLISTS
ECO-SAFE STRING BAGS
"I'd Rather Be Birding" BUMPER STICKER
SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY PATCH
VIDEOS FOR RENT:

- **TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING** - Arnold Small
- **VIDEO GUIDE TO BIRDS OF N.A.** - 5 Tapes

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California Gnatcatcher Struggling To Survive

California gnatcatchers and their habitat may not seem to be headline material. First there's the gnatcatcher - an unassuming, small, black and gray songbird. Then there's the habitat -- waist-high, nondescript brush. Yet, the California gnatcatcher and its coastal sage scrub have been making the headlines of Southern California papers on an almost daily basis since last December.

When Manomet Bird Observatory Senior Biologist Jonathan Atwood showed that the California gnatcatcher is a separate and distinct species from the black-tailed gnatcatcher, he also found that it had declined to 2000 pairs in Southern California.

The decline in the numbers of California gnatcatchers is the result of destruction of its habitat -- the dead-looking, seemingly expendable, coastal sage scrub. But coastal sage offers a mosaic of subtle colors, fragrant scents and a myriad of natural sounds when one gets past its scrubby facade. Each spring, coastal sage scrub blossoms with a host of delicate annual flowers. This diverse plant community provides a home for a variety of birds and mammals besides the California gnatcatcher. About 40 species of plants and animals call sage scrub home.

Unfortunately, there are less than 75 square miles of *unfragmented* coastal sage scrub left on Earth. Protecting the gnatcatcher will go a long way towards insuring its survival and the survival of the entire natural community of which it is a part. Last December, Dr. Atwood's scientific studies prompted Manomet Bird Observatory and the Natural Resources Defense Council to formally petition to have the California gnatcatcher added to both state and federal endangered species lists.

Most of us would assume that support would be unanimous for saving this non-migrant songbird and its fragmented habitat from extinction. After all, today's environmental buzz-word is *biodiversity*. But people seem to have a hard time warming up to coastal sage scrub. Dr. Atwood finds this frustrating. "Coastal sage scrub looks like dead weeds, so protecting the habitat is a hard sell even to the conservation community. And four inch long gnatcatchers hardly have the sex-appeal of a whooping crane or California condor. It's time for conservationists to wake up and realize that protection of biodiversity will require, in many cases, a commitment to preserving the drab and unappealing corners of the world."

The plight of the California gnatcatcher and its coastal sage scrub home reaches to the heart of the biodiversity issue and raises the question whether a species has the right to exist for its own sake. The outcome of the petition to list it as an endangered species will determine whether coastal sage scrub is the stuff that developments are made of or the stuff that dreams that are made of -- the dream that humans can co-exist with all species and their habitats..

Condensed from the *MBO Quarterly*, the journal of the Manomet Bird Observatory, Summer 199

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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 1st North American Migration Count is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 1992 and participants are being sought throughout the U.S. All birds seen are to be counted, with emphasis on neo-tropical species.

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.

Kirtland's Warbler On The Upswing

The endangered Kirtland's warbler has made its first substantial increase in numbers in two decades. The state of its population is determined by annual surveys of singing territorial male warblers. Last summer the number of singing males was 347, the highest number since 1961's 500.

Credit for the upswing is generally attributed to the 1980 Mack Lake fire which destroyed 25,000 acres of mature forest. About 60% of last year's singing males were found in the re-generated jack pines of the Mack Fire burn zone. Another 25% were found in the jack pine plantations specifically created for warbler habitat by the state of Michigan and the federal government with the help of private funds.

Help! The Wish List

The SAS office is in desperate need of a copy machine. If you're upgrading your office copier, please consider donating your old machine to Sequoia Audubon Society. In many cases it will be worth more as a deduction against your income tax than as a trade-in or resale.

Less urgent but becoming more so in today's era of electronic communications is a fax machine. If you're moving up to a plain paper fax, we could use your old machine.

Another New Species?

Robert Zink and his Louisiana State University researchers have been looking at Savannah sparrows. There are at least 18 sub-species and some of these were treated as separate species in the past. They have concluded that at least one sub-species deserves re-classification. The large-billed Savannah sparrow of Baja California, and a winter resident of southern California, is the candidate.

Zink's research, published in the November 1991 *Auk*, is based on DNA analysis and will be given consideration by the AOU - the final authority on North American bird taxonomy.

Sequoia Audubon Society

Identifying Empids

CLIFF RICHER

Now everyone knows what empids are. They're those little flycatchers that look like birds that kids draw when they have only one crayon left. (The last ones are always brown, gray or olive.)

The experts pretend that empids are hard to tell apart. All of this started more than 50 years ago with Roger Tory Peterson when he said that you could not "safely separate them except by voice." Ever since then birders have looked both ways and fastened their seat belts before attempting to identify empidonax flycatchers. Identifying an empid has often been followed by sightings of Big Foot (Elvis in Bakersfield), waverings in the Berkeley seismograph or personal appearances by Dan Quayle.

For a while the experts tried to make it really hard to identify these little bug-eaters by telling us that you should pay attention to wings and tail and note whether they were "flicked, dipped, pumped or wagged." Since none of the experts ever told you what they meant by each of these terms and each gave you a specific sequence of dips, flicks, wags and pumps for each empid - none of them agreeing with any one of the others - they managed to make it absolutely impossible to identify any of these birds. While you were trying to decide if it was really "flick, flick, pump and dip" or "flick, flick, wag and pump" you would fail to notice that it was a bluebird.

Finally, even the experts decided enough was enough. A secret meeting was called in Lyme, Connecticut. Rumor has it that Victor Emmanuel made all the arrangements and that Recording Secretary Don Roberson pledged to eat all his notes afterwards.

It is said the meeting was deadlocked until Jon Dunn agreed to give up two flicks in return for an "h" for his first name. The avalanche was on. Soon all the flicks and wags were gone and one by one the pumps and dips were falling. Only Kenn Kaufman held out, refusing to give up his second n and his last dip.

The final compromise was engineered by the pizza delivery boy who voted for the dips - thinking they were talking about tips. A majority agreed the gray flycatcher could retain its distinctive tail dip - but they would be free to call it a wag or a pump.

Now hard-core birders are free to identify them by the recommended ways - color of the lower mandible and faint eye-rings and wing-bars. None of these marks is visible in the field, of course. In a photo studio, with a tranquilized bird under floodlights, it may just be possible to distinguish them.

Even better, we ordinary birders can return to the traditional way - lying. First of all, you should stall and make sure no one gets a good look at the bird. Then you can safely call it anything within reason. If, by some chance, the bird should make a re-appearance and obviously not be the species you've identified, don't panic. Simply insist that it cannot be the same bird. Of course, in order to avoid ridicule, you should have some

knowledge of what bird should be found in that particular geographic area. If you haven't done even this much homework, then resort to calling it a Traill's, plumbeous or fulvous flycatcher. Then when you get puzzled looks, just say "I guess I must have missed the last name change."

On the other hand you can always say, "Damned if I know."

Coopers Hawk Prospering

In 1974 the Cooper's Hawk was considered endangered in the state of Wisconsin and was a candidate for federal listing. Like the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle, the Cooper's was being affected by DDT. Unhealthy eggs with paper-thin shells resulted and the birds' ability to reproduce was in serious question.

Since the ban on DDT and enforcement of laws against the taking of predatory birds, the Cooper's hawk has prospered. Now, Robert N. Rosenfield an ornithologist from the University of Wisconsin notes that there are "thousands" in Wisconsin alone.



Nest-Watchers Wanted

Peregrine falcons overwinter and nest around the Bay Area on buildings and bridges. There is a group that monitors these nests and records the birds' behavior and activities in cooperation with the Peregrine Reintroduction Program. Volunteer nest-watchers are needed for this project. All training is provided. Contact the area coordinator, Dave Gregoire, 37 La Vista Way, San Rafael, CA 94901 (456-4174) or Bill Van Meter, 415 Perkins St., Oakland, CA 94610 (510-452-3302) for further information or details.

Discovering Extinct Birds

Storrs Olson and Helen James, a husband and wife research team from the Smithsonian, have discovered, documented and named 32 species of extinct Hawaiian birds. They believe that they have unearthed enough additional evidence to identify as many as 20 other species. Besides the expected honeycreepers they identified hawks, owls, eagles and nine flightless species. Dating of the bones indicates that the birds were alive when the first Polynesian settlers came to the islands but had died out before the time of the first European explorers.

Their findings support the theory that pigs, brought to the islands by the original Hawaiians for food, as well as rats, mice, and insect pest stowaways, had extirpated many species before western and oriental settlers brought the mongoose and exotic birds and their parasites.

Based on fragmentary evidence from other islands in the Pacific Ocean, James and Olson believe that the total number of extinct bird species in Oceania could run to several hundred.

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.

Susan Bernhard Dorothy Herrington Benjamin B. Law Fred McElhany Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

In Honor of the Memory of Monty Montgomery -- The President, Officers and Board of Sequoia Audubon

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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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Chapter C16-7XCH

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