

## This Month's Program



### African Birds And Critters

Beth Dunbar of Hillsborough "discovered" Africa in 1979 and has returned over 30 times, drawn by the enormity of its wonders and wildlife. She has conducted safaris to a dozen or more countries and has taken more than 10,000 photos. Join us as she takes us to some of the finest wildlife areas in the world. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Socialization and refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting begins at 8:00.

## Next Month's Program

### *El Nino:*

### The Phenomenon And Its Result

Dr. James C. Kelley, Dean of the School of Science of San Francisco State University, will bring us the latest data on this natural phenomenon that has been blamed for everything from the California drought to the Somalian famines. Recurring periodically and beginning near Ecuador's uninhabited equatorial islands *El Nino* has global effect on our environment, our climate and our economy.

## Dorothy Herrington

We regret to report that long-time active member Dorothy Herrington - age 91 - died Monday, August 17, after a brief illness.

Miss Herrington's long career as a teacher of the English and French languages included a 35 year tenure at the College of San Mateo.

She had been active in Sequoia Audubon for many years, last attending the June general meeting and serving as a volunteer host at Audubon Canyon Ranch this past spring.



## From The President

### ANNE MOSER

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that a volunteer has come forth and we have a new treasurer. Welcome **Debbie Frantz!** And our thanks again to **Fred McElhany** for having continued through the summer.

However we still have three vacant chairs - Program, Publicity and Fundraising. Volunteering is at the heart of our organization and lets you contribute to your chapter. Volunteer efforts are really appreciated. To find out more about these and other volunteer opportunities call me at 324-1718. We've also developed a volunteer sheet which we'll make available at the meetings. Please sign up. Everybody makes a difference.

Sequoia has lost a valued friend, **Dorothy Herrington**, who died August 17. A long-time San Mateo resident and teacher, Dorothy came to many of our meetings. I particularly remember her pleasure at our mention of her 91st birthday in June. *(And I remember her celebrating her 90th birthday by climbing to the observation deck at Audubon Canyon Ranch! ---The Editor).* All of us will miss her.

If you are interested in our very lean 1992-93 budget, we have copies at the office. We've also obtained copies of "The Census of Burrowing Owls in California" and the "Comprehensive Management Plan for the Bay and Delta", a summary for public review from the San Francisco Estuary Project. Copies of all of these are available on request. Call the office (345-3724) to get find out how to get copies.

The Conservation Committee has commented on the Bay-Delta Management Plan and copies of our written comments are also available.

Do bring a friend to our next meeting. We are committed to increasing our membership and member participation. This is one way you can help.

"In order to see birds it is necessary to become part of the silence." according to Robert Lynd, an Irish journalist. A nice thought - I hope to see you on one of our birding trips.



## The Eighth Annual Wild Goose Chase

The Annual Wild Goose Chase is on again!

See Page Six for more details and for your sign-up form. This year, more than ever, we need your support. Our conservation activities and our support of sister organizations will depend very heavily on the outcome of this effort.



## The S A S Calendar

October

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

#### 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.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

#### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON 75TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Festivities begin at 6:30 PM in Conference Room A-1 in Building A at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. The keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Ehrlich. NAS President Peter Berle will be in attendance. Admission \$15. Call the GGAS office at 510-843-2222 or Steve Margolin at 434-4262 (extension 6005) to make reservations or for more information.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

#### SAS GENERAL MEETING

##### AFRICAN BIRDS AND CRITTERS - BETH DUNBAR

Beth has visited Africa more than 30 times and has captured its essence on film so that she can share it with us. She is a world famed photographer and her photos are models for the "Birds of Uganda" stamps. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Socialization and refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting begins at 8:00.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

#### BEGINNERS' TRIP TO MOUNTAINVIEW FOREBAY

Those frustrating little brown shorebirds will be the focus of this beginners' trip. Concentration will be on identifying the basic birds you need to know before you can get into identifying the more exotic visitors. This will follow our beginners trip format of a relatively short field trip followed by a discussion session of what we saw - or any other topic of interest to the participants. We will meet at 9 AM at the park entrance on San Antonio Way. To get there, take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio exit and follow San Antonio to its end.

LEADER: FRANCIS TOLDI 344-1919

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

#### THE PHIPPS RANCH IN PESCADERO

Besides boasting one of the best (if not the best) farm stands anywhere, the Phipps Ranch offers fantastic birding opportunities and a very cooperative management. In addition to an outstanding variety of our usual resident species, the Ranch has produced rarities ranging from ferruginous hawk to Harris' sparrow. We'll meet at 9 AM in front of Duarte's Restaurant in downtown Pescadero. To get there take Hwy. 1 to Pescadero and turn inland on Pescadero Road. Turn left at the traffic signal in Pescadero and find a parking place.

LEADER: DAN KELLER 365-2032

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## News From Your Ranch

Dan Murphy



**ACR RESEARCH:** Research is such an important part of ACR's efforts we thought you would like to know a little more about some of our ongoing projects.

We're in the fourth year of our 5 year aquaculture study on Tomales Bay. That study, funded by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), is designed to monitor the effects of the Tomales Bay oyster industry on shorebird use of wetlands. The results aren't in yet, but when they are we'll let you know.

The study in Parson's Pond at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve is in its fifth year. Ray Peterson reported the discovery of several new insect species during the year. He found a new halipid (crawling water beetle) recently and one day, 40 predacious water beetles turned up in a single live trap. No, we don't keep them. Our insect research is "catch and release". We also got our first toad-bugs and shorebugs this year. They are predators living along the pond's shore. We don't know why the ratio of rough-skinned newts to California newts has changed from 30-1 to 1-1. We do know the newts aren't as kind as our researchers. They have invaded several of our live traps and eaten all of the bugs in them. No catch and release there. All of these signs indicate that Parson's Pond is maturing. (It was dug in 1987, following floods that wiped out the existing pond.). It is now at a stage where the food chain is growing in structure and complexity.

Information like this can't be developed in short-term studies. When research is carried on for years on end, it can show us just what is going on in our environment. Our healthy pond gives us answers, but for every answer we are led to even more questions. Will the pond's biodiversity continue to increase? How long will it take for the pond to reach its maximum level of diversity? What is happening with the newts? Is this kind of population fluctuation normal?

You can help with our research programs. Call one of our biologists to see if there is a project which interests you. It's not too early to consider volunteering for our winter waterbird census project on Tomales Bay. There are some opportunities to join one or more counts during December, January and February. John Kelly will schedule as many as five count dates, but under winter conditions expects to actually do three. With limited space on the boats experienced birders are preferred, but less skilled birders will be needed as recorders. Call John Kelly at 663-8203.

**THE DUNN PROPERTY** is once again a matter of grave concern. Last year funds were appropriated to purchase part of the property, but the remaining funds were left out of this year's Senate appropriations bill. Its fate is now in the hands of the Joint Interior Appropriations Conference Committee. Call or

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## News From Your Ranch

(Continued from Page Two)

write your Senators and Representatives and let them know that you want the \$2 million appropriated to the Golden Gate National Recreational Area for acquisition of the Dunn property on Tomales Bay. This acquisition is essential to maintain the integrity of the bay and to complete the GGNRA.

**FALL SEMINARS:** (Please register in advance for all seminars and workdays by calling 868-9244).

**GREENING THUMBS:** Saturday, October 3 - A propagation workshop at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with Walter Earl. (\$30)

**THE WAY THEY LIVED: NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE-STYLES** on Saturday, October 17 at Bouverie Audubon Preserve with Foley Benson and John Petersen. (\$30)

**BATS, TOADS AND AUTUMN TRICKS,** Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25, at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with John Kipping and Ray Peterson. (\$90 for a family of four.) A Halloween treat for the entire family to enjoy.

**FALL WORK DAY,** Saturday, November 7 at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with the ACR family (Free).

**MONARCHS,** Saturday November 14 at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with Ray Peterson. (\$25)

**BOUVERIE PRESERVE GUIDED NATURE WALKS:** Saturdays, October 24, November 14 and December 12. Free guided nature walks in the Sonoma Hills. Reservations are taken from the beginning of the month preceding the walk of your choice. Call (707) 938-4554 to reserve your choice.



## The S A S Calendar

(Continued from Page Two)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

### FIELD TRIP TO COYOTE POINT

A special week-day field trip to explore the birds and environmental assets of this very special area. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM at the lower end of the museum parking lot near the picnic tables.

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**

### VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION: COMMUNITY STENCILING PROGRAM.

Participate with other Sequoia Audubon Members in a volunteer stenciling program. We will meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot of the Circle Star Theatre for a brief orientation before going on to mark storm drains in the unincorporated areas of San Carlos & Belmont. Wear old clothes. Refreshments will be provided. We will finish before noon.

## November

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 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, NOVEMBER 7**

### BEGINNER'S FIELD TRIP - FOSTER CITY SHORELINE

We'll review some of the shorebirds and waterfowl from our Mountainview trip and take a look at some of the open water birds on the bay as well as the shorebirds of the rocky shores and mudflats. The two hour field trip will be followed by an open-ended discussion period. Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the Beach Park Shopping Center at the intersection of Beach Park and Marlin in Foster City.

LEADER FRANCIS TOLDI 433-0660

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

### SAS GENERAL MEETING

**EL NINO: THE PHENOMENON AND ITS RESULTS** presented by Dr. James C. Kelley, Dean of the School of Science of San Francisco State University. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Socialization and refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting begins at 8:00.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

### MID-WEEK FIELD TRIP TO REDWOOD SHORES

Despite intensive development, this area still affords some marvelous birding opportunities. To get there take Hwy. 101 to either the Marine World Parkway or Redwood Shores Parkway exits. Follow either of those two roads to the end and then follow Shell Parkway until it intersects with Radio Road. We will meet at the intersection of Shell and Radio at 9:00 A.M.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

### FIELD TRIPS TO 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. We'll also investigate some of the local areas that have produced some winter surprises in recent years. Because of the richness of the area we'll do this in two field trips, following this one with another on December 6. To get there take Hwy. 92 to Hwy. 1 and follow Hwy. 1 north to Capistrano Road. Take Capistrano Road to the Princeton Inn and turn right, continuing until you come to Vassar Street. We'll assemble at 9:00 AM at the end of Vassar Street where it meets the beach.

LEADER DAN KELLER 365-2032

### FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

**DECEMBER: RESCUE REHABILITATION AND RELEASE** by the Peninsula Humane Society.

**FEBRUARY: AUDUBON IN ACTION IN SACRAMENTO** - John McCaull, Audubon California Legislative Affairs Director

# Conservation In Action

## From The Conservation Committee

### San Francisco Begins At Your Front Door

The second greatest source of pollution in the Bay is non-point source pollution - pollution derived from sources that cannot be directly identified or controlled. Discarding common household materials - paint, motor oil, detergents, pesticides - in storm drains means that these will end up in the Bay where they degrade water quality and present hazards to birds and fish.

Communities around the Bay are instituting storm drain stenciling programs to warn residents not to dump toxics and other substances in gutters and drains. Marking storm drains helps to raise the public consciousness about the proximity of the Bay, its sensitivity to our behavior and how our actions can benefit the greatest environmental treasure of the area. The County Supervisors have initiated a program for the unincorporated parts of the county, preliminary to a more comprehensive city-county program to enhance water quality. Some communities - San Bruno, in particular - have already instituted the program. This is a large-scale project. There are 1170 drains to be marked in the unincorporated areas alone.

### What Can I Do?

Find out if your city has a storm drain stenciling program underway. If they don't, urge them to get moving on this program.

Avoid the purchase of products harmful to the Bay and the environment. Don't use oil-based paints, paint removers, creosote or root-killers. Substitute latex or water-based paints, remove paint by hand, use decay-resistant woods and take out intruding roots by mechanical means.

**Participate with other Sequoia Audubon Members in a volunteer stenciling program on Saturday morning October 24.**

We will meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot of the Circle Star Theatre for a brief orientation meeting before going on to mark the storm drains in the unincorporated areas of San Carlos and Belmont. Wear old clothes. Refreshments will be provided. We will finish before noon.

**Be there! You will make a difference!**



"Environmentalism increasingly reflects urban perspectives. As people move to cities, they become infatuated with fantasies of land untouched by humans. They believe that whatever happens naturally...is good. But this urbanization of environmental values also signals the loss of the rural way of life and the disappearance of hands-on experience with nature. So the irony: As popular concern for preservation increases, public understanding about how to achieve it declines."

---Alston Chase

# Audubon Adventures

## Investments In The Future - A Success Story

Robin Smith

The Audubon Adventures - a reincarnation of the Junior Audubon program of 50 years past - is one of the most successful and best supported of National Audubon's programs. Throughout the United States, 552,000 classroom teachers are receiving bi-monthly instructional materials for themselves and their students. In addition, 96,000 students in Costa Rica received Spanish language editions of the lesson units on bird migration. The lesson plans are targeted for grades 3-6, but are suitable for nearly any age group.

SAS has participated in this program since its inception. We began with individual sponsors and less than a dozen classrooms in our first year. In our second year, we began soliciting classroom teachers and assuming direct sponsorship. In 1991-1992, we sponsored 69 classes and are shooting for 100 in 1992-1993. The cost of supporting a classroom for one year is \$30. In this year of extremely tight budgets, that \$3000 will hurt, but we are so sold on this program that we have curtailed the help we usually give to other organizations in order to be sure that Audubon Adventures continues.

If you are a teacher or know a teacher who would be interested, let us know. And even though we are investigating the possibility of corporate sponsorship, we can still use your individual investment in our environmental future. If you have a classroom or teacher you want to sponsor, or wish to support the program in general please make a check out to Sequoia Audubon Society and mail it to our office at 30 West 39th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403. Be sure to indicate clearly that it is for Audubon Adventures and let us know if you are sponsoring a specific classroom. All contributions are tax-deductible.

### And More From The Education Committee

In November we will be sponsoring a teacher scholarship to the Aquatic Habitat Institute Workshop, "Teaching about Water in the San Francisco Bay and Delta", being held at the California Academy of Sciences on the 11th.

We have also written to all of the county public school principals reminding them of our Environmental Education Award and asking for their assistance and nominations. There is still a long way to go before the award is given but we feel it's important to begin recognizing worthy nominees now.



Burned, standing timber isn't necessarily wasted timber. Dead snags are used for shelter and foraging by a vast number of wild species, and deadfall wood serves to combat wind and water erosion. Environmental assessments should be applied as rigorously to burned woodlands as unburned ones.

---Glen Martin, San Francisco Chronicle, 8/24/92



## Aleutian Goose Upgraded



### An Endangered Species Success Story

With its numbers now up to about 7000, the tiny Aleutian race of the Canada Goose has been reclassified by the USFWS. It is now considered a **threatened**, rather than an **endangered** species. Most Aleutian geese breed along Alaska's southern panhandle and winter in the Sacramento Valley's refuges. One significant factor in its comeback was a painstakingly negotiated agreement between the USFWS and several Native American tribes and corporations. Under the agreement the Native Americans agreed to discontinue gathering eggs from the goose's nesting grounds and patrol those grounds for poachers. Another factor was California's efforts to educate hunters and a ban on hunting the Aleutian goose in its winter range.

## Endangered Species Report

The US Fish and Wildlife service publishes a biennial "Report to Congress: Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Program". The current report notes that 41% of the listed species have stable or increasing populations, but 38% are still declining. They state there is too little data available to report the status of 19% and that 2% are extinct.

Of local interest is the plan to develop a captive breeding program for light-footed and California clapper rails. Current estimates are that there are less than 500 of each left in the US.

The full report is available for \$24.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

## FALL 1992 SAS BIRDSEED SALE - - - ORDER FORM

Please check preferred pickup location:

- ☐ **San Bruno** ..... By arrangement
- ☐ **Burlingame** ..... 10/15, 6 - 8 pm, 10/17, 9 am - 1 pm
- ☐ **Pacifica** ..... By arrangement
- ☐ **San Mateo** ..... 10/15, 10/16, 9 am - noon, By arrgt.

- ☐ **Belmont** ..... 10/15, 10/16, 6 - 8 pm
- ☐ **Half Moon Bay** ..... 10/15, 10/16, 6 - 8 pm,  
10/17, 10 am - noon.
- ☐ **Atherton** ..... 10/15, 10/16, 6 - 8 pm

|                                             |         |             | # BAGS | \$-COST-\$ |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------|------------|
| <b>AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX</b> .....          | 50 lb @ | \$17.00/bag |        |            |
| red & white millet plus black oil sunflower | 20 lb @ | \$ 9.00/bag |        |            |
| <b>RED/WHITE MILLET MIX</b> .....           | 50 lb @ | \$16.00/bag |        |            |
| (previously called "western wild")          | 20 lb @ | \$ 8.00/bag |        |            |
| <b>BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER</b> .....            | 50 lb @ | \$25.00/bag |        |            |
|                                             | 25 lb @ | \$14.00/bag |        |            |
| <b>WHITE PROSO MILLET</b> .....             | 50 lb @ | \$13.00/bag |        |            |
|                                             | 25 lb @ | \$ 8.00/bag |        |            |
| <b>THISTLE</b> .....                        | 25 lb @ | \$44.00/bag |        |            |
|                                             | 5 lb @  | \$11.00/bag |        |            |

\*\*\* SALES TAX IS INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES ABOVE\*\*\*

Contribution to Sequoia Audubon Society (tax deductible)

**TOTAL**

☐ I am interested in other types of seed/supplies

☐ Might be willing to help in future seed sales

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your confirming letter will enclose maps to all pickup locations, with phone numbers and any updates.

**ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 9TH!!!**

# The Chase Is On! The Eighth Annual San Mateo County Wild Goose Chase!

The Annual Wild Goose Chase is on again!

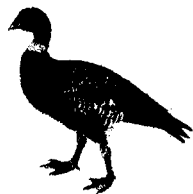
The Wild Goose Chase is Sequoia's number one fundraiser for the year. Barry Sauppe will lead a team of crack (?) Sequoia Audubon Society Birders, Dan Keller, Linda Kyp-ta, Cliff Richer, through all the county's prime birding spots trying to identify as many species as possible. The county is "hot" this year and weather permitting we have an excel-lent chance of breaking last year's record of 169 species.

We are asking you to support the effort with a pledge of just a few pennies for each species they identify.

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confi-dence in the team's goal of 169+ species by "pre-paying" your pledge for 170 (or 100) species.

Make all checks payable to **Sequoia Audubon Society** and mail them to:  
**30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202**  
**San Mateo, CA 94403**

## All Honored Pledges Are Tax-Deductible



☐ YES, I will support Sequoia Au-dubon Society and its conserva-tion efforts with a pledge of \_\_\_\_\_ per species.

☐ YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 100 or 170 species being identified.

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*Sequoia Audubon Society*

## California Gnatcatcher Coastal Scrub Habitat Disappearing

A few years ago the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) de-cided that the California gnatcatcher was not a race of the black-tailed gnatcatcher, but a true species.

This inconspicuous little bird occurs in Orange, San Diego and western Riverside counties and on the Palos Verde Peninsula in Los Angeles. According to Jon Atwood, who did much of the work on the bird in the '80s, there are somewhere between 1200 to 2000 of the birds remaining. The problem - as in so many other cases - is loss of habitat. The bird lives only in coastal scrub, a prime target for developers.

Coastal scrub has none of the majesty of ancient forests, the lun-ar beauty of Mono Lake or the obvious fertility of wetlands. Much of it is already degraded by quarries, sand pits, access roads, old foundations, exotic plants and the insult of illegal dumping. Except for a brief and modest display of spring wild-flowers it presents a gray and unprepossessing landscape. It makes for dull and depressing scenery, difficult walking or jog-ging and harbors little in the way of "cute" wildlife. It is hab-itat that is difficult to "sell".

In August of 1991, the California Fish and Game Commission met to review the petition to list the gnatcatcher as a state endan-gered species. Despite overwhelming testimony in favor of list-ing and a concluision by the Fish and Game Director that the listing was acceptable to his department, the Commission voted 3-1 against listing. Insrtumental to this was a declaration by the State Resources Agency that listing was unnecessary since the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) would offer suf-ficient protection.

The NCCP is a fine idea but contains serious flaws. First, it is entirely voluntary. City councilors and county supervisors can ignore it entirely. Second, it is still just an idea with no rules, regulations or guiding bureaucracy.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has decided to con-sider the gnatcatcher for listing. The one year comment period ends this month. Meantime no restrictions are in effect and some landowners have cleared their land even where no specific development has been planned. In April the *LA Times* identified 2145 acres of gnatcatcher habitat that had been razed.

There is a distinct danger that this newly-declared species will pass into oblivion before it is officially recognized as endan-gered. A Southern California group - which includes most of the region's Audubon chapters - has been formed to prevent this. Embattled by the well-heeled development interests, this group needs all the help it can get. Send whatever help you can to:

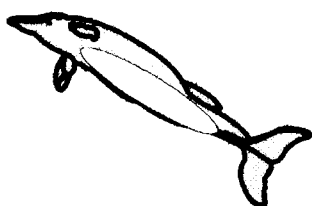
Dan Silver, Coordinator  
The Endangered Habitats League  
1422 N. Sweetzer Avenue, #401  
Los Angeles, CA 90069

## Ten Hints For Pelagic Birders

Cliff Richer

Here are some valuable hints for the first-time pelagic birder.

1. If you are prone to sea-sickness, save yourself the money. Instead get in the back seat and have a bad driver travel as fast as he or she can to Stinson Beach via Highway 1. The results will be the same but the effects will be over more quickly.
2. If you are prone to sea-sickness and choose to disregard hint one, then try to choose the most stable spot at the center of the boat. You won't be able to see anything, but then again you probably won't care.
3. If despite your proclivity for *mal-de-mer*, you choose to ignore hints one and two, then choose a spot in the stern of the boat so that you can contribute to the chum stream.
4. Avoid all boats with Titanic or Pequot in their name, or any captains named Jonah.
5. Be sure to take your highest power, narrowest field optics with you. Trying to look through these will guarantee that you will make your fair contribution to the chumming process.
6. The bow of the boat is one of the best spots to plant yourself. You'll also get the benefits of a bracing salt-water shower and your expensive binoculars will acquire an attractive white patina that will defy time and your best efforts to remove it.
7. If you are one of the lucky ones for whom "the patch" works or who has found that you don't mind an unstable platform underneath you (most Californians qualify for this), you'll find that you *still* can't see anything. The prime law of pelagic birding is that the most desirable birds will always appear furthest from you. When this happens the best way to see the bird is to scream, "Red-tailed tropicbird" and point in the opposite direction. If you can avoid being trampled in the rush, you can then proceed leisurely to the rail and view the bird at your leisure.
8. Always disguise your voice when screaming "Red-tailed tropicbird." I would be better to scream "Stejneger's petrel", but it's much harder to pronounce and any mis-pronunciation might lead to someone being able to identify you later when you repeat the ploy. The importance of this hint is in direct proportion to the size of the biggest birder on the boat and the distance he traveled to take this trip.
9. It is not considered good form to yell "Thar she blows" when pointing out a marine mammal. You will be forgiven only if your name is Ahab or Ishmael.
10. Above all, enjoy yourself.



## Piping Plovers Doomed In Great Lakes Region?

The breeding population of piping plovers in the Great Lakes Region may have fallen past the point of no return. From a high of 800 pairs in the '50's, it has dropped to 11 pairs in 1990.

Habitat loss is the prime factor in the decline and even though the beach areas they need for nesting are now protected, the population may be too small to recover from the hazards of normal predation or the possibility of a natural disaster.

## Wing-Banded Ravens

Since 1989 common raven adults and nestlings around Camp Pendleton have been fitted with colored and numbered patagial (wing) tags. The migratory and post-breeding dispersal of northern ravens has never been adequately studied in the west and it is hoped that information from this effort will provide some new information.

Anyone spotting a raven with a plastic wing tag should note the color of the tag, whether it is on the right or left wing, the date and location of the tag and, if possible, the number on the tag and forward the information to Ed Knittle, Denver Wildlife Research Center, Federal Center, Bldg. 16, Denver, CO 80225.

## More Trouble For The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker may have suffered a population crash. A survey done in the Apalachicola National Forest of northern Florida - home of the largest contiguous population of the birds - found 13 of 50 territories abandoned and 14 occupied by single birds. This implies a probable loss of 54% of the year's nestlings.

## Carolina What?

### Bad Bird Creates New Criminal Class

We don't see many South Carolina license plates out here, but take a closer look at the next one you spot (without tailgating, if you please.) Their state bird - the Carolina wren - is supposed to be depicted on the plate.

However, Carolina birders disagreed, leading to the creation of a new cottage industry. Stickers of "real" Carolina wrens are being sold and, although it is a violation of state law to cover or deface the license plate, thousands of drivers have "corrected" their plates.

To date none of the criminals have been arrested.

# 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.

**Pat Moon**  
for her generous donation of office supplies

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