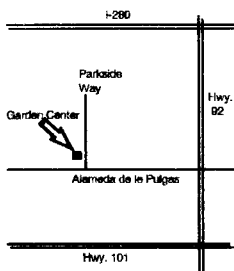




This month's program is designed for younger, aspiring birders and will start promptly at **7:30 PM** and will feature presentation by Nick Coiro and Anne Mo-(and commonly seen) birds of our Bay. Refreshments will be ready at the general meeting will follow the presentation of our Environmental Award. Rotating Commit- officers will wind at about 8:30.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.



Birds in an Urban Setting - Radio Road and Bair Island with Katherine B. Rambo. Ms. Rambo is an award-winning photographer from Foster City who has spent extensive time on studying and photographing the co-existence of birds and humans and the effect of that co-existence on the birds.

Last month's speaker, Elaine Harding-Smith, was unable to make it to the Garden Center when she was suddenly taken ill on the job.

Although she called both the office and Anne Moser's home and left messages on the various answering machines, neither message was received until after the meeting. Our meeting was conducted without a program and adjourned shortly after 8:30.

Ms. Harding-Smith's presentation has been re-scheduled for November. We apologize to any of our members who were inconvenienced.



Anne Moser

On March 13, I spent an enjoyable and interesting day hosting at Audubon Canyon Ranch on Highway 1 at Stinson Beach. If you're like me, volunteering to do something when you don't know what's involved is not done easily. This was my first time and I share it with you in hopes that it will encourage you to take a turn at hosting on our next tour in July.

Several days before my stint, I received a letter from the Ranch outlining the volunteers' responsibilities. When I arrived at 9:30 AM on the thirteenth, I was re-assured to see the familiar faces of the other Sequoia volunteers. ACR's Volunteer Coordinator gave us a short orientation session and we prepared for the opening of the gates to the public. Our duties were to meet, greet and direct the visitors and accept any donations from the visitors. We volunteers had plenty of time to spell one another so we could take walks to the overlook, visit the excellent book store, observe birds at the hide and take a lunch break. By 4:20 PM, we were on our way home. A plus for me was the excellent birding at the Ranch and the bird-watching along Bolinas Lagoon on the way back.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is not affiliated with the National Audubon Society, but is independent with the support of Sequoia Audubon and the other Bay Area Audubon chapters.

Migratory birds are very much on our minds right now. An international migratory bird day has been set for May 8. Our special slide program for young birders on May 13 and our follow-up field trips on the 23d are, in part, our way of marking that day. What better way to celebrate than to introduce a new generation of birders? Do come with a young friend.

We owe many thanks to volunteer Marcia Klimer who has catalogued our reference library. We're now putting this information into the office computer so that when you call, we can tell you immediately what we have available and how you can utilize this asset.

The report of the Nominating Committee (of which I am a member) desperately needs your help. As you can see from this report, we really need your participation to keep Sequoia Audubon operating. Please call if you can volunteer or have a name to suggest.

President

Vice-president

Secretary

Treasurer

Directors for term ending June '96 Rick Baird and one Open

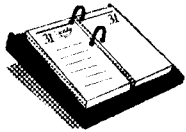
(Also see Page Three)

Open

Eileen Jennis

Francis Toldi

Debbie Franz



The S A S Calendar

May

SUNDAY, MAY 2 - BEGINNER'S FIELD TRIP - LAND BIRDS - JUNIPERO SERRA COUNTY PARK. Because of their proximity to a large apartment complex and to I-280, the birds of this urban park have a reputation for being relatively tame and easy to see. This trip will follow the format of our other beginner trips in which a relatively short birding trip will be followed by a discussion section over coffee (or whatever). The discussion session will be held at the Park's picnic tables so bring your own "whatever". Meet at the first parking lot inside the park entrance at 9:00 AM. To get there take El Camino to San Bruno and turn west on Crystal Springs Avenue. Follow Crystal Springs Ave. to the park entrance on the left.

LEADER FRANCIS TOLDI 433-0660

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 - HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE. Many of the shorebirds (some in breeding plumage) and waterfowl will still be here, the winter resident peregrine falcon should still be around and the marshes should be teeming with wildlife at this time of year. Meet at the Hayward Regional Shoreline Interpretive Center at 9:00 AM for a morning of easy walking and birding. To get there take Hwy. 92 across the San Mateo Bridge to the first exit. After exiting, take a left and look for the signs to the interpretive center.

LEADERS JOHN AND NENA PADLEY 345-2984

THURSDAY, MAY 6 - 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.

THURSDAY, MAY 13 - SAS GENERAL MEETING A SPECIAL MEETING FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

The general meeting will be preceded by a special program and slide show for children in Grades 4-8. This will feature the common birds of the garden and the most visible birds of the Bayshore. This will be followed up by field trips on Sunday, May 23. Refreshments at 7:00 PM with the program at 7:30. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

SUNDAY, MAY 15 - SAN PEDRO VALLEY PARK. This wooded park provides a variety of habitat for migrating and nesting species of forest and grassland birds. Our leader knows the park well as she has reported on it for the last several years - both for the Christmas Count and for the Breeding Bird Atlas. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. The park has been consistent in producing one or two surprises every Our

(Continued on Page Three)



News From Your Ranch

Dan Murphy

public season continues until July 19. If you're a regular at the Ranch you can skip the rest of this and go directly to the Spring calendar.

But if you have never been to the Ranch you should really come out and enjoy one of the Bay Area's really great free resources. Just take the half mile walk up the trail to overlook to see the heronry. It will be active with a half-dozen pairs of great blue herons and their young. Meanwhile the great egrets will be at the peak of their nesting cycle. Many of the wildflowers will be gone, but if you hike the three mile loop trail around Pitcher Canyon you will surely find a few nice displays along your path. The Pacific-slope and olive-sided flycatchers, warbling vireos, orange-crowned and Wilson's warblers, song sparrows and purple finches will be singing, and if you're lucky you'll hear a northern spotted owl from a redwood grove. Be sure to bring your lunch for a picnic in the ranch yard where the swallows dart overhead as they sweep the skies for their own picnics. Bring your camera and snap a picture of a hummingbird or quail at the bird hide. Even if we have a late season storm you can visit the Zumwalt Gallery, our little museum. You won't want to miss the bookstore where you can pick up ACR volunteer Helen Pratt's new book, *The Herons and Egrets of Audubon Canyon Ranch*, (\$10.95). We sell rubber critters, posters, bird or flower earrings, and all sorts of other stuff you don't really realize you really need. There's more but you'll have to discover it for yourself or with the help of one of our volunteer Ranch Guides. The Ranch is located on Bolinas Lagoon about 12 miles south of Olema and 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on Highway One.

SPRING CALENDAR NOTES: All seminars require advance reservations. Please call Edris Cole at 868-9244.

Introduction to the Taxonomy and Ecology of Coastal Prairie Grasses at the Cypress Grove Preserve on May 15, with John Kelly (\$20).

Heron and Egret Photography at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on May 15 with Philip Loring Greene (\$35).

The Ninth Annual Downhill Hike at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on May 22 with Ray Peterson and Tom Bradner (\$20).

ACR's Ponds - with the Researchers at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve - June 4 & 5 with Ray Peterson & Tom Bradner (\$20).

Butterfly Counts in Marin County on June 26 and Sonoma County on June 27.

Get-to-Know the Critters Night at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on June 23 with Ray Peterson (\$5).

(Continued on Page Three)



News From Your Ranch

(Continued from Page Two)

Local Ecology and Natural History at Bolinas, Cypress Grove and Bouverie Sanctuaries during the week of July 19-23 with John Kelly, John Petersen and Ray Peterson (\$195). This is the widely acclaimed annual program for teachers which will help you make natural history an integral part of your science program. The fee includes three semester units.

Bouverie Guided Nature Walks continue on May 1 and 15. All walks begin at 9:30 AM and end around 1:30 PM. Reservations for these free walks are required so call 707-938-4554.

Volunteer Opportunity: If you haven't signed up to host at the Ranch this season there's still plenty of time. Contact the Sequoia Audubon Office to volunteer for SAS's July hosting tour or call Edris at 868-4554 if you'd like to volunteer for an earlier date. This is a great way to introduce people to the Ranch and its a wonderful way to spend a day.

Nominating Committee Report

Anne Moser

(Also see Page One)

At this time we have still been unable to fill the President's position. Eileen Jennis has expressed her willingness to run for the Vice-president's slot and Francis Toldi and Debbie Franz have expressed their willingness to continue as Secretary and Treasurer. Rick Baird has agreed to stay on as a Director. The other director's slot remains open.

However, Mary Bressler, Maria Straatmann and Bob Wilkinsen all find it necessary to cut back and concentrate more on their other obligations. Bob will continue as Conservation Chair and both Mary and Maria will remain active on various committees.

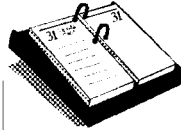
One side benefit of making so many telephone calls to fill the Board positions has been the recruitment of members to help out in other areas. Our Program Committee has been completed. Iona Luke has volunteered to coordinate Bird Seed Sales and Sue Hillard will continue to head up our Cleanup projects.

You'll find the official list of nominees on Page One.

(Anyone who undertakes the Presidency will find the job considerably less daunting than in the past thanks to Anne's efforts to devise written time tables and procedures for the President's duties and for Sequoia's projects. ---The Editor)

SO, WHAT'S NEW? DEPT.: "Take followers with you wherever you go. Call everyone by name. When asked anything, always say yes. Make promises, whether you keep them or not." ---Cicero's advice to the politicians of Rome.

Sequoia Audubon Society



The S. A. S. Calendar

(Continued from Page Two)

spring and we may be lucky enough to find one of these eastern warblers or vireos this year. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot to the right of the visitor center. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica and turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to its end and "jog right" into the Park.

LEADER

JUDY SPITLER

355-9362

SUNDAY, MAY 23 - SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS FOR

GRADES 4-8. All children at this grade level and accompanied by an adult are eligible even if they can't attend the May 11 meeting. Several leaders will be available for each trip. The Bay Shore trip will meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. in Foster City at 9:00 A.M. The Coastside trip will meet in the upper parking lot at Princeton Harbor (Take your first left after entering at the Princeton Harbor sign.)

THE MEMORIAL DAY FIELD TRIP TO TIOGA PASS AND MONO LAKE HAS BEEN CANCELED as we do not expect Tioga Pass to be open in time this year.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3 - 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, JUNE 6 - GAZOS CREEK AND BUTANO STATE PARK. (This date is still tentative as our leader has a commitment to participate in the Mono Lake Breeding Bird Census which may conflict. Check next month's *Needles* for possible changes.) 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 intersection 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

PETER METROPULOS

592-2417

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 - SAS GENERAL MEETING. OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK AND GENERAL ELECTION; AND BIRDS IN AN URBAN SETTING with Katherine Rambo, noted Bay Area photographer. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Potluck at 6:00 PM, election of officers and program immediately following.

NOW THEY TELL US DEPT.: Arkansas is the lowest ranking state environmentally, according to the *Green Index* (Institute for Southern Studies).

Page Three

CHRISTMAS COUNT STATISTICS

SPECIES	Ano Nuevo	Crystal Springs	SPECIES	Ano Nuevo	Crystal Springs	SPECIES	Ano Nuevo	Crystal Springs
Red-throated Loon	89	40	Snowy Plover	12	0(Low)	Horned Lark	0	8
Pacific Loon	483	59	Semipalmated Plover	0	94	Tree Swallow	40	0
Common Loon	60	72	Killdeer	47(Low)	306	Violet-green Swallow	10	0
Pied-billed Grebe	25	105	Black Oystercatcher	18	2	Steller's Jay	196	176
Horned Grebe	1(Low)	19	Black-necked Stilt	0	13	Scrub Jay	108	300
Red-necked Grebe	0	2	American Avocet	0	1072	American Crow	1	12
Hared Grebe	13	13	Greater Yellowlegs	6	6(Low)	Common Raven	75	73
Western Grebe	738	114(Low)	Willet	124	2082	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	666	538
Clark's Grebe	8	20	Wandering Tattler	1(Low)	3	Plain Titmouse	2	13
Northern Fulmar	73	3	Spotted Sandpiper	0	2	Hushtit	438	732
Sooty Shearwater	6	6	Whimbrel	57	48	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	14
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	2	Long-billed Curlew	0(Low)	63	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	9
Sooty/S.T. Shearwater	0	9	Marbled Godwit	23(Low)	1501	Pygmy Nuthatch	34	40
Black-vented Shearwater	346	22	Ruddy Turnstone	2	1(Low)	Brown Creeper	29	25
Brown Pelican	1043	130	Black Turnstone	111	32(Low)	Bewick's Wren	49	52
Double-crested Cormorant	26	396	Surfbird	28	30	House Wren	2	2
Brandt's Cormorant	266	179	Red Knot	0	277	Winter Wren	39	9
Pelagic Cormorant	107	68	Sanderling	577	185	Marsh Wren	17	14(Low)
American Bittern	0	1	Western Sandpiper	0(Low)	6158	American Dipper	3	0
Great Blue Heron	12	25	Least Sandpiper	7	192(Low)	Golden-crowned Kinglet	35	28
Great Egret	8	28	Rock Sandpiper	0	1	Kuby-crowned Kinglet	158	190
Snowy Egret	13	106	Dunlin	19	1349(Low)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0
Cattle Egret	4	1	Short-billed Dowitcher	0	130	Western Bluebird	29	11
Green-backed Heron	2	0	Long-billed Dowitcher	15	31(Low)	Hermit Thrush	86	119
Black-crowned Night Heron	15	12	Common Snipe	2	5	American Robin	711	1053
Greater W.E. Goose	0	1	Red Phalarope	3	0	Varied Thrush	363	309
Brant	8	1	Pomarine Jaeger	3	2	Wrenit	104	124
Canada Goose	0	176	Bonaparte's Gull	7	3	Northern Mockingbird	3	18
Wood Duck	10	5	Heermann's Gull	78	3	California Thrasher	1	3
Green-winged Teal	37	390	Mew Gull	189	409	American Pipit	31	85
Mallard	49	258	Ring-billed Gull	18	310(Low)	Cedar Waxwing	0	70(Low)
Northern Pintail	38	310	California Gull	447	3303	Loggerhead Shrike	2(Low)	7
Cinnamon Teal	8	5	Herring Gull	19	222	European Starling	1020	1627(Low)
Northern Shoveler	57	209	Thayer's Gull	8	23	Solitary Vireo	1	0
Gadwall	65	128	Western Gull	1459	1750	Hutton's Vireo	37	20
Eurasian Wigeon	1	3	Glaucous-winged Gull	296	551	Orange-crowned Warbler	11	16
American Wigeon	162	249	Black-legged Kittiwake	6	12	Nashville Warbler	0	5
Canvasback	22	1441	Gull species	663	1970	Myrtle	137	99
Ring-necked Duck	55	39	Forster's Tern	2	93	Audubon's	143	287
Greater Scaup	2	193	Common Murre	10425	3851	Yellow-rumped Warbler	143	760
Lesser Scaup	4	248	Marbled Murrelet	25	10	Townsend's Warbler	177	90
Harlequin Duck	0	1	Ancient Murrelet	12	21	Black and White Warbler*	1	0
Black Scoter	8	6	Cassin's Auklet	8	3	Common Yellowthroat	29	17
Surf Scoter	240	3771	Rhinoceros Auklet	874	24	Wilson's Warbler	0	1
White-winged Scoter	32	47	Rock Dove	146	467	Rufous-sided Towhee	43	74
Common Goldeneye	17	595	Band-tailed Pigeon	24(Low)	489	California Towhee	88	236
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	29	White-winged Dove	1	0	Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1
Rufflehead	76	339	Mourning Dove	150	670	Savannah Sparrow	48	60(Low)
Hooded Merganser	2	20	Barn Owl	3	4(Low)	Grasshopper Sparrow	1	0
Common Merganser	0	8	Western Screech-Owl	4	1	Fox Sparrow	150	129
Red-breasted Merganser	17	46	Great Horned Owl	12	13(Low)	Song Sparrow	266	187
Ruddy Duck	222	879	Northern Pygmy-Owl	13	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	35	22
Turkey Vulture	18	19	Burrowing Owl	0	1	Swamp Sparrow	2	0
Black-shouldered Kite	16	10	Short-eared Owl	0(Low)	1	White-throated Sparrow	3	3
Northern Harrier	21	11(Low)	Northern Saw-whet Owl	5	2	Golden-crowned Sparrow	634	1273
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	11	White-throated Swift	0	1	White-crowned Sparrow	589	743
Cooper's Hawk	7	10	Anna's Hummingbird	64	205	Dark-eyed Junco	406	1142
Red-shouldered Hawk	15	19	Belted Kingfisher	12	5(Low)	Red-winged Blackbird	1062	360
Red-tailed Hawk	38(Low)	56	Acorn Woodpecker	132	27	Tricolored Blackbird	311	122
Golden Eagle	0	2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	Western Meadowlark	193	200(Low)
American Kestrel	34	44(Low)	Red-breasted Sapsucker	6	3	Brewer's Blackbird	1494	1220
Merlin	3	3	Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	11	31
Peregrine Falcon	4	4	Downy Woodpecker	21	3(Low)	Northern Oriole	0	1
Prairie Falcon	1	0	Hairy Woodpecker	19	8	Purple Finch	67	48
California Quail	294	261	Northern Flicker	88	104	House Finch	815	608
Virginia Rail	6	9	Pileated Woodpecker	3	0	Pine Siskin	496	457
Sora	4	2	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	1	0	Lesser Goldfinch	7	19(Low)
American Coot	485	1484	Black Phoebe	54	58	American Goldfinch	57	64
Black-bellied Plover	82	642	Say's Phoebe	4(Low)	6	House Sparrow	54	53

Bold Print = Species/numbers of special note

	Ano Nuevo	Crystal Springs
Total birds identified	33488	51535
Total Species identified	174	190
Number of participants	31	32

Compiler: Both Counts
Dan Keller

PARTICIPANTS Both Counts

Rick Baird Al DeMartini Grant Hoyt Donald Keller Peter Metropulos Carol Miller
Anne Moser Cliff Richer Barry Sauppe Robin Smith Judy Spitzer
Maria Straatman Ron Thom

Ano Nuevo Count

J.R. Blair Bob Buell Alan Eisner Kaen Hoyt Rick Johnson Bill & Celeste Kirscher
Andy Kratter Steve Maskel Janet Murphy Evelyn Myers Kristie Nelson
Duane O'Sullivan Frank O'Sullivan Pat Pauch Pete Popin David Powell Joanne Spitzer

Crystal Springs Count

Charles Bonachet Alan Eisner Louise Fletcher Ben Giannini Shirley Higuera Jim Hully
Rick Johnson Rosalie Leflowitz Iona Luke Claudette Maccan Genevieve Miller David Powell
Grace Sain Carol Scott Bob & Carol Seehom W. Bettina Taft Francis Toldi

SPRING 1993 SAS BIRDSEED SALE - - - ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH!!!

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location:

☐ San Bruno By arrangement

☐ Burlingame By arrangement

☐ Pacifica By arrangement

☐ San Mateo 5/6, 5/7, 9 am - noon, By arrangement

☐ Belmont 5/6, 5/7, 6 - 8 pm

☐ Half Moon Bay 5/6, 5/7, 6 - 8 pm,

By arrangement

☐ Atherton 5/6, 5/7, 6 - 8 pm

				# BAGS	\$--COST--\$
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX	50 lb @	\$19.00	/bag	_____	= _____
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower	20 lb @	\$10.00	/bag	_____	= _____
RED/WHITE MILLET MIX	50 lb @	\$18.00	/bag	_____	= _____
	20 lb @	\$ 9.00	/bag	_____	= _____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER.....	50 lb @	\$25.00	/bag	_____	= _____
	25 lb @	\$14.00	/bag	_____	= _____
WHITE PROSO MILLET	50 lb @	\$17.50	/bag	_____	= _____
	25 lb @	\$10.00	/bag	_____	= _____
THISTLE	25 lb @	\$48.00	/bag	_____	= _____
	5 lb @	\$12.00	/bag	_____	= _____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS**	25 lb @	\$24.50	/bag	_____	= _____

** A new item!! Try hulled sunflower seeds and avoid the cleanup under your feeder. Attractive to smaller seedeaters; be sure to use a feeder that discourages large birds.

SALES TAX IS INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES ABOVE

Contribution to Sequoia Audubon Society (tax deductible) _____

CHECK # _____

TOTAL _____

Please enclose a **stamped self-addressed envelope** to receive your order confirmation and directions to your pickup location.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Mail your check and order to

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202

San Mateo, CA 94403

☐ I am interested in other types of seed/supplies

☐ Might be willing to help in future seed sales

We are interested in knowing what birds you are seeing most frequently at your feeders as well as the most unusual. We would like to share this information with our members, so please take a moment to list them at the bottom. Thanks!

Most Frequent: _____

Most Unusual: _____

Field Trip Reports

Sunnyvale Sewage Ponds - Sunday, March 14

Five of us walked the levees, sewage ponds and adjacent marshes of the Sunnyvale sewage ponds. The numbers of gulls were surprisingly low but we nevertheless saw 51 species of birds including a rare Ross" goose and we had an opportunity to make close observations and comparisons of four different species of blackbird - Brewer's, red-winged, tri-colored and brown-headed cowbirds. In the future, we will schedule this trip for an earlier date in order to maximize our opportunities for observing gulls ducks and shorebirds.

Francis Toldi

Francis Toldi

Pescadero Marsh - Sunday, April 4

Thirteen birders began the walk - a lucky number as it turned out. The early morning showers cleared up before the starting time and resumed only after the group was returning to their cars. We observed the usual marsh ducks and got good views of the nesting great blue herons. In addition to the birds there were western pond turtles in the canal and harbor seals in the lagoon, but the wildflowers were just starting to bloom.

John and Nena Padley

Mines Road - Sunday, April 18

After a rainy Saturday, Sunday dawned bright and clear, with a mild breeze. Six of us started the trip but we soon picked up two independent birders, were joined by nine latecomers and then by two more independents, so that by mid-day, the group numbered nineteen. As is usual for this long trip, birders dropped off during the afternoon so we ended up with our "hard-core" of five birders in Corral Hollow, opposite the Lawrence Livermore Lab facility. Birding was sporadic - good in the morning and very slow in the afternoon. We missed three of the Mines Road specialties - phainopepla, prairie falcon and Costa's hummingbird - but got excellent looks at Lawrence's goldfinch and Lewis' woodpecker, several different sightings of wood ducks and golden eagles, and day-ending views of nesting great horned and barn owls.

Cliff Richer

Cliff Richer

Purple Martin Data Needed

Brian Williams is documenting the historical and present distribution of the purple martin in California as part of a study initiated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Brian is requesting that you submit any records regarding purple martin nest sites and migratory staging areas. As much of the following information you can provide is requested: dates, locations (including county), nearest town, elevation, landowner, detailed site directions (photocopied topographic maps would be ideal), numbers of individuals, pairs or nests, stage of the breeding cycle, nest substrate, reproductive success, habitat type including condition and proximity to water, presence of starlings, and any other comments you believe may be useful. Please send information to Brian Williams, PO Box 605, Loomis, CA 95650 or phone (916) 624-4861.

From The Conservation Committee
Bob Wilkinsen

Proposed Conservation Bond Act

Although their target date is more than a year away, the Planning and Conservation League, with the help and support of many other conservation organizations, is launching its signature gathering drive for a June 1994 initiative to enact the largest-ever California conservation bond act.

The initiative will be to fund numerous projects with both state and local significance. Locally, it would provide funds for the expansion of Butano and Big Basin state parks; wetlands acquisition and restoration; San Mateo coastal projects; open space acquisition at San Bruno and King's Mountains; and would fund the development of many Bay Area trails.

Voter pre-testing indicates general support for the measure. However, our participation in signature gathering will be needed to place it on the ballot and we will be asking for your assistance in the future.

Volunteer Raptor Study Begins Tenth Year

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory began teaching volunteers to band and identify hawks in the Marin Headlands ten years ago. Today more than 200 local volunteers annually track the fall flight of more than ten thousand birds of prey near the Golden Gate. The GGRO is currently seeking new volunteers for the 1992/93 class who can commit one day every two weeks from August through December 1992, along with some evening and weekend trainings.

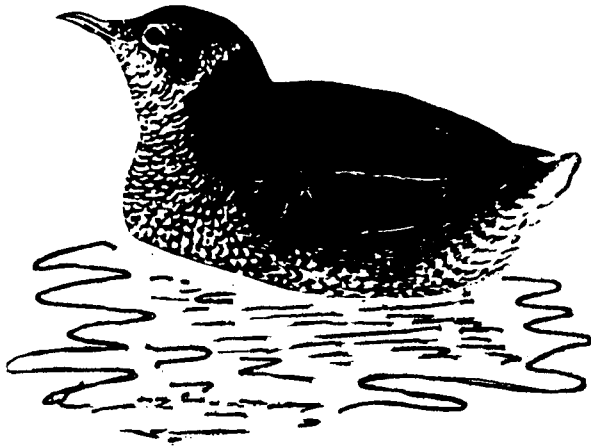
Volunteers will learn to identify 19 species of hawks, eagles and falcons as they participate in banding, counting or tracking studies. If you want to be part of this long-term wildlife conservation project, then please attend one of our 1993 recruitment meetings. Come either on Thursday, May 6, at 7 PM or on Saturday, May 8, at 10 AM. Both hour-long programs will be held at GGNRA Headquarters, Building 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. Enter at Franklin and Bay.

For more information, call the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at 331-0730.

Even if it could be proven that a certain species had no utility for us or for our descendants, and that it could be plucked from the ecosystem at no cost, we would still be obliged to protect it for its sake and our own. To be fully human is to have a sense of moral responsibility. If we do not recognize the intrinsic worth of other species, and if we nonchalantly observe and abet their extinction, we become less than human. --- G. Jon Rusch

Murrelet Information Needed

Investigators looking into the status of the marbled murrelet urgently need help from people who have made observations of the species in the past. Now underway is a cooperative effort - the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Assessment - to determine the present status of the murrelet, its past history and future prognosis. Participating in this effort are biologists and scientists from



throughout the species' range, including all federal and state agencies, many non-governmental organizations and private interests. An important part of the process of determining the bird's present status is the compilation of all known sightings of the species in its own habitat. Especially helpful would be quantitative surveys done from boats and from shore. An example would be numbers of murrelets recorded on a cruise in the inland passage of Alaska, on a pelagic trip off the northern California coast, or on a fishing trip along the British Columbia coast. We are interested in information at any time in the past, the older the better. Anyone knowing of even a single day's survey that recorded the numbers of murrelets, with some indication of the course taken, should contact Dr. C. John Ralph, Marbled Murrelet Conservation Association, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, CA 95521. (Telephone 707-822-3691 or FAX 707-822-3691).

Golden Trout Workshops

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra from August 1 through August 21, 1993. They are sponsored by the Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara chapters of the National Audubon Society. An informal field natural history program, consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists, will be offered, with visiting guest naturalists at some sessions. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness in the southern portion of the High Sierra at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For details, write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373 (909-793-7897). Reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Friends at Sequoia:

It's always great to get the *Needles*. How I wish I were there to take in the Mines Road field trip. I know it will be a good one.

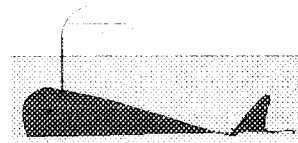
My husband and I just got back from sandhill crane watching along the Platte. Rowe Sanctuary is a great spot to see them. There were thousands! There's still no visitors' center, just an old farmhouse. It rained every day of the three days we were there. (It has been an unusually cloudy, dreary, rainy period here in mid-America.) We nearly got stuck on one of the farm roads near Gibbon, but seeing the cranes dance, take off and land was such a treat.

We will always support you guys and thank you for your appreciation of same.

Jean Durick,
Glenwood, IA
April 9, 1993

P.S. We have a great horned owl who sits on the tip of the barn roof. We have no chickens, geese, etc., but some that do don't care for his appetite for their poultry.

They're Killing Whales Again!



Norway is turning its back on the International Whaling Commission's worldwide moratorium on all commercial whaling. This summer, Norwegian whalers announced their plans to hunt down

2000 minke whales over the next year. Even though the minke whale is neither threatened or endangered, Norway's flagrant violation of the IWC moratorium threatens to undermine all significant whale protections won over the last twenty years. It also threatens to disrupt the spirit of global cooperation and consensus essential to other international environmental treaties such as those on ozone depletion and global warming.

The resumption of commercial whaling is strongly backed by Norway's self-proclaimed "green" Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who took some of the tougher environmental positions at the Earth Summit.

Representatives of the EOC have denounced Norway. Burger King has canceled a multi-million dollar deal for Norwegian cod and the US has cleared the way for an embargo of Norwegian fish products. Send a message to Norway to stop the killing. Stop buying Norwegian products such as Jarlsberg cheese, salmon, sardines and cruise line vacations.

---From Earth Island Institute

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Corinne Foster

Patrick J. McGibbon

**In Memory of Virginia Wilkinson
Bob and Blosson Wilkinson Josephine and Irving Witt**

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