



sequoia needles

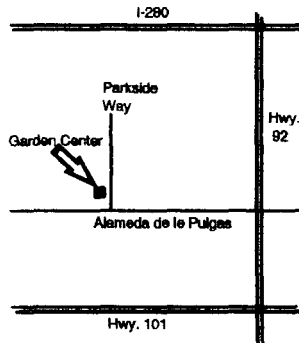
Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 42, No. 2
October, 1993



This Month's Program The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago

Gail and Doug Cheeseman return to the Garden Center to describe the exotic wildlife of Trinidad and Tobago. This tiny island republic just north of the Venezuelan coast offers great habitat diversity on its two main islands and Doug's photography brings its wildlife to us in amazing detail.

This month's meeting is Thursday, October 14. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.



Next Month's Program

Elaine Harding Smith, a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will bring us up to date on the status of, and the continuing dangers to, the endangered California clapper rail. Elaine has a Master of Arts degree in biology from San Jose State and has worked for California State Parks and as an environmental consultant. Expect to hear about such vital issues as habitat preservation, predator control and monitoring techniques used to guarantee preservation of this unique San Francisco Bay species.

Backyard Birds Revived

The **Backyard Birds** Column, which was once a regular feature of this newsletter, is about to return. Beginning in November, Rick Held, who along with his wife Marsha, owns the Wild Bird Center of San Carlos, has agreed to take over this duty. Rick's knowledge of the subject is that of a professional and his enthusiasm is infectious.

The Wild Bird Center is located at 926 El Camino Real in San Carlos and is open from 10-6 weekdays and noon to five on Sundays.



From The President

Anne Moser

The new printing schedule for the **NEEDLES** means I have to write this article before the Board Meeting every month. This also means that we may need an occasional "flash" box to alert you to something important that can't wait. The change is necessary since we had to reduce costs, either by reducing the number of issues of this newsletter or shrinking our printing or mailing costs. Fortunately we were able to find a less expensive printer - but one which requires more of a lead time in order for us to get the **NEEDLES** to you by the first of the month.

Opportunities Industrial Center West is our new printer. OICW is a non-profit organization that provides job skills training and placement for the unemployed. They offer courses in culinary arts, office skills, printing technology, industrial maintenance and electronics. They also have academic and vocational programs for teenagers and an educational pre-school. They are doing the printing of a number of other non-profit groups' newsletters. **Shirley Higuera** tipped us off about them. Thanks, Shirley.

B.A.A.C. is the Bay Area Audubon Council. It is made up of representatives from the seven Bay Area Audubon chapters and meets every other month. Each chapter takes its turn hosting. October 9 is our turn. At the meetings, the chapters share concerns and activities so that each has a better understanding of what is happening - particularly on conservation issues - in the Bay Area.

Endangered species really catch children's interest. How about a Halloween costume of an endangered animal this year? A kindergarten salt marsh harvest mouse would be awfully cute and help publicize this species' plight.



The National Audubon Society's Board met in San Francisco from September 9 to 12. We invited the national board members to attend our September general meeting but unfortunately they all had other commitments. At press time, it is my intention to attend some of their committee meetings.

If you should visit a good birding area that has a check list, please try to get an extra copy and send it to the office. We are trying to build up our travel resources and we appreciate your help.

If you are interested in serving on our Membership Committee please give me a call at 324-1718. This does not involve keeping or updating the membership rolls. This is handled by Sue James at the office. This is an idea and policy job! We need new ideas as to how to increase our new members, hold onto our existing members and - above all - how to increase our active members.



The S A S Calendar

October

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 - COASTAL CLEANUP DAY. Sequoia Audubon Society celebrates the state-wide Coastal Cleanup Day by helping to clean up our abused bayshore wetlands. This year we will clean up the wetlands north of the Redwood Shores' industrial and office buildings. To get there take the Marine World Parkway Exit off of Highway One and proceed to the first left turn, and then another immediate left turn onto Island Parkway. Follow this winding road past the baseball diamond and the office buildings to where it dead-ends at Concourse. Take a left on Concourse and a right on Clipper. We will meet there at 8:30 AM. There will be signs pointing out where to park.

BEACHMASTER

SUE HILLARD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 - SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the SAS office. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.** Call ahead to be sure there will be room.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 - COYOTE CREEK RIPARIAN STATION - Bird-banding demonstration and field trip. Biologist Christin Shields will show us Coyote Creek's network of mist nets and demonstrate how birds are captured, recorded, banded and released. Some of the other work of the Station will be discussed and demonstrated and there will be a field trip to the adjacent ponds which have been so productive of fall and winter shorebirds in recent years. **The trip is limited to 15 people** so check with the office beforehand to be sure there is still enough room, to investigate possible car-pooling and to reserve your space. To get there take 101 south to Highway 237, and take 237 east to the McCarthy Blvd. Exit. From this exit take a right on Bellevue, a right on McCarthy, a left on Ranch Road and a right on Milpitas/Alviso Ave. over a bridge. Look for the entrance to the Station on the right just beyond the bridge and before you come to any houses. Look for the gate on the levee. We'll meet at the gate at **8:00 AM.**

LEADER

CHRISTIN SHIELDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 - SAS GENERAL MEETING. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO with Gail and Doug Cheeseman. Frequent Program Lecturers Gail and Doug Cheeseman will take us to another exotic and outstanding birding location. Doug, an excellent wildlife photographer, will show off his slides of this island nation and birders' paradise. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social get-together with refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting at 8:00 with the program immediately following.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17-PELAGIC BIRDS FROM SHORE The man who virtually created the concept of pelagic birding from shore will show us some of the field marks that identify those distant (and sometimes not-so-distant) off-shore birds.

(Continued on Page Three)



News From Your Ranch

Dan Murphy

Your letters are needed to support legislation to expand the Point Reyes National Seashore. The proposed bill (no number has been assigned as yet) is called the Tomales Bay Protection Act and is being introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer and Representative Lynn Woolsey. The bill will authorize the Seashore to acquire development easements on the Tomales Bay watershed and so protect one of California's most pristine estuaries.

The goal is to assure the watershed east of Tomales Bay remains open space and agricultural. The legislation would block subdivisions, golf courses and such while preserving agricultural use. The purchase of the easements is far more effective than purchasing the land but will still provide the environmental protection necessary to preserve Tomales Bay.

WORK DAYS AND FREE LUNCHES: We need your help more than ever for Ranch maintenance. Current economic conditions are forcing ACR into a period of austerity. Needless to say some maintenance projects have already been deferred. So come out to prune, plant, mend and patch so our preserves will be ready for winter. We have two scheduled workdays. Both are free and you even get a **FREE LUNCH.** Pre-registration is required so call us at 868-9244.

Saturday, October 16 - Cypress Grove Preserve

Saturday, November 6 - Bolinas Lagoon Preserve

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

- Saturday, October 9: **Under the Heronry** with Ray Peterson at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve (**Free**). We'd rather not say what's under the heronry. You'll have to see for yourself.
- Saturday and Sunday, October 30-31: **Bats, Toads and Autumn Tricks** with John Kipping and Ray Peterson at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. (\$90 for a family of four.) Make Halloween a memorable treat for you and your entire family by being part of the new Halloween tradition at ACR. The highlight of this special family weekend will be the launching of the lighted Jack-o'-lanterns on the lagoon.
- Saturday, October 30: **The Way They Lived: Native American Lifestyles** at the Bouverie Preserve with Foley Benson and John Petersen. (\$30.) Discover how the Native Americans lived in the Valley of the Moon thousands of years and left it untouched.
- Saturday or Sunday, November 6 or 7: **Keeping a Nature Journal** at the Bouverie Preserve with Mark Baldwin of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. (\$30.) Learn to sharpen your field skills and record your observations in a journal in this very special one-day seminar.
- Saturday, November 20: **Monarchs** at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with Ray Peterson. (\$30). Ray will tell you all the secrets of the monarch butterflies and their migration - except just how they manage to return to wintering areas several generations after their ancestors migrated the previous spring.

Conservation Notes

Bob Wilkinson

CALPAW: VICTORY IN SIGHT! Since early June Sequoia Audubon has been gathering signatures for the California Parks and Wildlife Initiative which we, along with other environmental organizations, hope to place on the June '94 ballot so that funds may be generated for acquisition of land for parks, wildlife trails, open space, etc. Our goal is to gather 2500 signatures out of the 650,000 required statewide. Our volunteers have stationed themselves at Sawyer Camp Trail, Audubon Canyon Ranch, REI (on sale days), and at local parades, street fairs and outdoor concerts. Our thanks go out to these signature gatherers: **Mary Bresler, Sue Cossins, Leslie Flint, Sue Hillard, Harriette Judge, Julia Mandeville, Pat Moon, John and Nina Padley and Linda Wagner.** (Bob neglected to mention those tireless workers, **Bob and Blossom Wilkinson** ---The Editor.)

The statewide goal is within our grasp if a few more of us assist with petitions during these last few days of the campaign. Call the SAS office or the Conservation Chair for information on how to help. The last day for gathering signatures is October 10 and all petitions must be returned to the office by October 12.

AWARDS FOR GREEN BUSINESSES: Do you work for, patronize or know of a local business which utilizes sound and commendable environmental practices?

Sequoia Audubon is working with the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help recognize those businesses in the county which practice sound waste management.

The program rates business in items which include waste prevention, materials reuse, recycling, recycled product procurement and employee education. Businesses are being asked to apply. Brochures describing the program in more detail are available at the SAS office and applications may be obtained by calling the Local Government Commission at 916-448-1198.

The deadline for submitting applications is October 29.

Kakekori Project

Island ecology around the world has taken a beating from the accidental and sometimes deliberate introduction of alien species. The South Seas island of Raratonga has not been spared from the inroads of these ship-borne pests. For centuries the kakerori was a common bird in the Cook Islanders' taro fields where it fed on insect pests. In 1885 a visiting missionary noted that the bird had become rare. By 1985 ornithologists found that there were only 29 birds left and a conservation team from New Zealand began to study the problem. The black rat - a particularly good tree climber - was found to be the culprit.

In 1989 a project was begun to save this little flycatcher. A rat-eradication program was begun and nest trees were protected with wide aluminum collars to keep the rats away from the nests. However the project is running out of money and is forced to ask for donations. You can help by sending a check made out to the "Kakekori Project" to the Hon. Elliot R. Smith, The State Bar Court, 735 San Carlos Ave., Albany, CA 94706.

(Judge Smith is well-known for his interests in the Cook Islands and in environmental causes in general. ---Ed.)



The S A S Calendar

(Continued from Page Two)

We'll meet at 9:00 AM just north of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse on the access road off Highway One about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay. If weather conditions do not permit off-shore viewing, we will retreat to inland areas for a morning of birding.

LEADER

BARRY SAUPPE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the SAS office. **ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.** Call ahead to be sure there will be room.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 & 7 - THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGES. Clouds of geese and enormous rafts of ducks are typical of & the sights that greet the birder at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges or at the state's Gray Lodge refuge nearby. These are primarily car-caravan tours since walkers tend to disturb the wildlife. We will meet at 7:00 AM in the parking lot of the Blue Gum Motel on Saturday morning and regroup at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. The motel is just off I-5, 3 miles beyond Willows. Take the next off-ramp after the motel's sign and turn right onto Blue Gum Road. At the end of the road turn left and the motel is approximately 1/4 mile on the left. There is camping at the state park in Colusa. Reservations are advised at this time of year. The Blue Gum Motel's phone number is (916) 934-5401. Other motels - all area code 916 - are Casa Linda, 934-4224; Crossroads West, 934-7028; Golden Pheasant, 934-4603; Grove Motel, 934-5067; Super 8 Motel, 934-2871; Western Motel, 934-3856; Willows Motel, 934-4778. Trip reservations are not required but you are requested to call the office (345-3724) or the leader so that we may know how many to expect at each rendezvous point.

LEADER

CLIFF RICHER

738-9176

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - SAS GENERAL MEETING - Elaine K. Harding-Smith, a wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, will update on the status of and continuing dangers to the endangered California clapper rail. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Socialization and refreshments at 7:30 PM. Meeting begins at 8:00.

Details are unavailable on the following trips and seminars at press time. See next month's **NEEDLES** for details.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR I and **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP I: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR II** and **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP II.** All led by Dan Keller.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - BELMONT SLOUGH. To be led by Al Dimartini.

Western Land Reform Cliff Richer

Complaining that President Clinton's Forest Compromise fails to protect ancient forests, National Audubon has launched an effort to convince Congress to pass legislation to protect the vast regions of the West that are owned and controlled by the Federal Government.

Brock Evans of National Audubon notes that government scientists and agency representatives prepared a list of eight possible options, ranging from strong to weak forest protection. Intense lobbying by timber interests and western Democrat Congressmen needed by the President for his economic package produced a ninth option however. "It's the best deal timber could get without breaking the law," said Evans who went on to say that the plan tilts toward the logging industry, but, "with substantial modifications", could be acceptable.

NAS's objections and alternatives are listed below:

- 7,100,000 acres are set aside as old-growth reserves, but "salvaging and thinning" are allowed in the reserves.
- ♦ **No logging of any kind should be allowed in the reserves and the reserves should be expanded to include additional sensitive areas.**
- The Allowable Sales Quantity from the "owl forests" of the Pacific Northwest is 1.2 billion board feet per year.
- ♦ **The maximum sustainable yield from these forests is only 730 million board feet annually.**
- High viability is established for the spotted owl and marbled murrelet but only medium high viability for ancient forests and fish.
- ♦ **Long term viability of the ecosystem and of salmon and other fish must be guaranteed.**
- No protection for forests east of the Cascades or in the Sierra Nevada.
- ♦ **Expand protection to these areas.**
- Based on science but modified by political pressure.
- ♦ **Plan must be based on science and allow a safety margin for the future.**
- Eliminates tax breaks for log exports.
- ♦ **All raw log exports from Federal lands should be banned.**

The plan is not without merits. The \$1.2 billion in economic assistance to

timber-dependent communities is necessary for an orderly transition. Elimination of the tax breaks (about \$100 million) is a necessary first step to prohibit this job-destroying practice. It is also the first forest plan to be based on science, rather than short-term economics.

Ronald Tipton, Audubon's Vice-president for Government Relations, says "If we can strengthen the key elements of the plan it could be a model for how to manage an ecosystem properly and balance it with a sustainable economy."

On the other hand, the timber industry has taken to the courts and has appealed to its friends in Congress. House Speaker Thomas Foley, (D-Wash.), generally regarded as the second most powerful man in the nation, has assailed what he called a "utopian view that we might by federal law guarantee that no species would ever become extinct."

You can help strengthen the plan. Comments and letters from the public are being accepted through the end of this month. Send your comments on the plan to James Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, USDA, Room 2173, North Building, Washington, DC 20501.

Send a copy of your letter to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and to your representatives and to The White House c/o Kathleen McGinty, Director of Environmental Policy, Rm. 350, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20501. National Audubon suggests you praise the worthwhile elements of the plan even while calling for its strengthening.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has already announced some overdue reforms - increased grazing and mining claims fees. Further, he has ordered that environmental rules be enforced, not overlooked.

Jim Baca, the new BLM Director, is making all the right environmental noises while making due allowances for a reduced budget. An "interview" with Jim Baca dominated the entire August issue of *Newsbeat*, the newsletter of the BLM in California. The interview sounded more like what I have been hearing for years from the field workers of the BLM - rangers, biologists and archeologists - than what we are accustomed to hearing from the bureaucrats.

Ronald Tipton of National Audubon expects a reform of federal mining laws and a ratification of the increased grazing fees in this Congress. "The time has come," Tipton says, "when people who use public lands for economic benefit are going to have to play by some rules."

The nation's hard-rock mining law dates from 1872 when Congress felt it was necessary to encourage settlement of the West. It allows miners the right to "patent" (file claims on) public land for as little as \$2.50 per acre and contains no restrictions or requirements for stewardship of the land. Nor do miners pay any royalties or fees on the ore they extract. A weak reform bill has passed the Senate but is expected to be replaced by the tougher bill sponsored by Representative Nick Rahall, (D-W. Va.) in the House.

The open range conjures up pictures of the cowboy and the legends of the Wild West. In fact, the open range today is usually fenced and jealously guarded by a corporate employee riding a pickup. "Grazing on public lands is a privilege," says Tipton, "but many ranchers have come to view it as a right. Congressional members from that region are going to fight like hell to keep it that way."

Both critics and supporters of public grazing agree that the ranchers know how to take care of the land and manage it properly. The problem is that the offending ranchers carry out sound practices only on their own property, where they charge or are charged up to \$20 per Animal Unit Month. By contrast the federal government charges \$1.86 per AUM.

In addition to Foley and Babbitt, here are some of the players to watch this year:

- **The White Hats:** Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Reps. George Miller (D-Martinez), Mike Synar (D-OK) and Bruce Vento (D-Minn.)
- **The Black Hats:** Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-Mont.), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-Colo.), Larry Craig (R-Idaho), Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.)
- **Uncertain or Do They Carry an Extra Hat in Their Saddlebags?** Senators Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and J. Bennett Johnson (D-La.), Asst. Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons and White House Environmental Policy Director Kathleen McGinty.

FALL 1993 SAS BIRDSEED SALE - - - ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH!!!

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ San Bruno By arrangement | ☐ Belmont By arrangement |
| ☐ Burlingame By arrangement | ☐ Atherton 10/21, 10/22, after 6 pm, |
| ☐ Pacifica By arrangement | 10/23, 10/24 By arrangement |
| ☐ San Mateo 10/21, 10/22, 9 am - noon, By arrangement | ☐ Half Moon Bay By arrangement |

			# BAGS	\$--COST--\$
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX	50 lb @ \$18.00 /bag			=
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower	20 lb @ \$ 9.00 /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!

The Williams Sisters Ranch

Rick Baird

Upon the passing of Rhoda Williams, the last of the Williams sisters, in 1989, their ranch of several hundred acres was given to the National Audubon Society. This ranch is located west of Skyline Drive and south of La Honda Road.

At this time Audubon has a very limited presence on the ranch. In part this is because the estate is still under probate. But primarily it is because a life tenancy was created for the Bondi family who live on the property and are responsible for managing and preserving the ranch.

The Bondis have lived on the ranch for many years and have done an absolutely magnificent job of preserving and improving the property over those years. Several of us from Sequoia Audubon have been given the opportunity to visit with the Bondis and tour the property and can attest to the conscientious and loving stewardship of the Bondis.

Jessie Grantham, National Audubon's Western Region Sanctuary Manager, is responsible for management of this property for the Society. But with the tight budgets of the NAS, the life estate of the Bondis and - most importantly - the marvelous job the Bondis have done and continue to do in maintaining the ranch, it will probably be years before the Williams Sisters' Ranch can or should be opened to the public.

In the meantime Sequoia Audubon has been allowed to include this new sanctuary in our Breeding Bird Atlas Project. We are also putting together a field trip to this facility - tentatively scheduled for January. We plan on conducting this trip like the trips to Jasper Ridge. The number of participants would be limited and advance reservations would be required.

The property begins at Skyline Drive and runs west down the hill for a considerable distance, encompassing several different ecosystems. Near Skyline there is grassland on a fairly steep hillside. Grain crops are grown in the meadows near the ranch buildings and cattle are allowed to graze in these fields at certain times of the year. A creek and its accompanying pristine riparian area wind their way past the buildings and down to the lower elevations where it waters some fairly good-sized timber stands.

National Audubon is interested in doing some resource and habitat studies on the ranch. Our Breeding Bird Atlas is such a project and SAS could participate in or manage other similar projects. Thus the Williams Sisters' Ranch offers Sequoia Audubon Society the possibility of some exciting future projects. In the meantime I would certainly urge all of take advantage of any opportunity to see this nearby new addition to the sanctuary system of the National Audubon Society

stamp was said to be significant in the judges' decision to select Mark Klinger's painting.

Copies of the stamp are available by mail from the California Wildlife Campaign, Department of Fish and Game, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816; or directly from Fish and Game offices throughout the state. A single stamp is \$9.50 but various combinations and package deals are available for collectors and wildlife area users. Call Monique Born at 916-653-4776 for more information.

Mono Lake Rising

At last, after seven years of drought and 50 years of diversions by Los Angeles' Department of Power and Light, Mono Lake is rising. In mid-March the lake stood a little more than a foot higher than its mid-December level. With 2½ feet to go before it reaches the court-mandated minimum level it's unlikely that the DWP will be able to take water from the Basin in 1993.

Hydrologist Peter Vorster has created a computer model of the lake which shows that the "normal" lake level, without the LA diversions, would be 50 feet higher and, if the diversions had not been stopped by the courts, the level would be eight feet lower, exposing another eight square miles of alkali lakebed. Audubon, along with the Mono Lake Committee and California Trout, was instrumental in pursuing this successful legal battle.

The LADWP continues to resist stream restoration efforts, arguing that a simple release of water is all that is required to restore the Mono Basin fisheries. Judge Finney has consistently denied their motions but they continue to delay - consuming weeks of court-time and hundreds of thousands of dollars of legal expense.

Despite a reduction in breeding area and a below average brine shrimp population, the gulls had an exceptional year. Migratory birds were unaffected by the changes at the lake. A decline of Wilson's phalaropes is attributed to habitat loss in the prairie states. Despite major die-offs and reproductive failures elsewhere, the red-necked phalarope and eared grebe populations were at record levels.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
presents
AVOCET FESTIVAL '93

featuring
13th Annual Wildlife and Nature
Arts and Crafts Sale

Saturday and Sunday, November 6 & 7
9:00am to 5:00pm

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
One Mendocino Road, Point San
(Exit Thornton Ave., off Highway 94, east end of Dumbarton
Bridge. Follow Thornton south one mile to Refuge entrance.)

Pottery + Paintings + Photography + T-Shirts
Wood Sculpture + Jewelry + Raffle + Food
Environmental Fair + Wildlife Programs
and More!

Help finance 1993's nature programs at the Refuge by doing your
Christmas shopping early! At the same time, enjoy some of the
fine educational exhibits that are part of Avocet Festival '93.

Co-sponsored by:
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Children's Audubon Society
TDC City Ecology Center
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
and
Sequoia Audubon Society

Phone (510) 792-4273 for information.

'93 Native Species Stamp

The California Department of Fish and Game which was late in issuing and publicizing its 1993 Native Species stamp has announced that this year's stamp features the Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth. This moth was first discovered in 1888 and thought to be extinct until its re-discovery in 1974 by Chris Henne an amateur entomologist from Pearblossom.

This rare moth is known from a single colony in Kern County and its collection has been prohibited since 1980. Both the moth and the Kern Primrose are endangered and the depiction of both on the

The Wandering Tattler

Anne Moser

While on our Oregon/California camping trip in August I did manage to see 80 species of birds.

One thing I noticed was how many juvenile birds were around - making identification difficult. Many spotty robins were still pursuing their parents asking to be fed.

At Davis Lake, southwest of Bend, an osprey dove for a fish right by our campsite; a juvenile Townsend's solitaire complete with mottled spots (just like in the National Geographic Field Guide!) poked around a dead stump for ten minutes; common nighthawks were busily catching insects over the marsh and I went hurrying to see red crossbills reported in another campground. Unfortunately they were gone by the time I got there.

Along the trail to Fawn Lake we encountered a black bear, but not too closely. Later, we came across a mixed flock of warblers - Townsend's, hermit, and yellow-rumped along with mountain chickadees. Many were juveniles.

We took Oregon Road 31 from La Pine to Lakeview as recommended in the *Oregon Wildlife Viewing Guide*. It was great! We visited Fort Rock, where white-throated swifts nest. They were there, but so high that I couldn't identify them for sure. As consolation, a golden eagle came soaring by. We took a cutoff back to Road 31 via Silver Lake. As we went by a field, I noticed that one of the fence posts was lumpy. "Stop!" I yelled. I got out and walked back slowly until I was four feet away, at which point the common nighthawk calmly opened one eye, decided I was harmless and went back to sleep.

This was sandhill crane nesting country and we were to see family groups all through the area until we got back to Fall River.

A little further south we came to Summer Lake, a wildlife refuge managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The campground had toilets but no other facilities so we ended up camping in the middle of a mosquito-rich

Sequoia Audubon Society

marsh along the levee roads and trails. Wilson's phalaropes were the highlights here, along with the baby coots with their "hairy" heads. The next morning we drove alongside Summer Lake, the green meadows standing out in a basin surrounded by hills. We soon found a natural hot spring and took advantage of it for a badly needed bath! Nearby, the little town of Paisley proved to have a bed-and-breakfast, a motel and a restaurant. All good things to remember as I want to go back in the spring or fall when the shorebirds are migrating through this area.

Back in California, Alturas was hot but the **Modoc Wildlife Refuge** was wonderful. An oasis set in the high desert, it has a good auto tour around some open ponds. The eared grebes, still in breeding plumage, some with juveniles, some still on their reed nests, were the find of the day. (Editor's note: *The Modoc Wildlife Refuge is marvelous, huge and varied. It has more than a dozen ponds and reservoirs, at least one waterfall, and extends from the desert floor up into the Warner Mountains. It's one of my favorite places.*)

Lassen National Park was our next stop. I found an adult and juvenile spotted sandpiper just where I'd seen an adult five years ago at Summit Lake. This particular stop was very cold and un-birdy so I traded one day of trail hiking to Bill (my non-birding husband) in return for a half-day and a night at the Battle Creek Forest Service Campground at a lower elevation just outside the park.

Battle Creek was great! As I got out of the car I could see a brown creeper on my left and three red-breasted nuthatches on the right. At 6:30 the next morning as we packed to leave a dipper was feeding in the stream, giving me 17 new "trip" birds at this one site.

I've filed my checklists at the office in case anyone can benefit from them. I highly recommend this route to all of you.

* * * * *

Fish are said to keep growing until they die. Among mammals only the beaver shares this attribute. So why don't we have killer guppies and Godzilla beavers?

---The Editor

SCVAS

Photo-Lecture

On Wednesday, October 13, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will host a photo-lecture on Africa's Okavango Delta by Frans Lanting.

Lanting was the BBC's Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 1991 and is the author of the recently released *Okavango: Africa's Last Eden*.

The program will be at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto at 7:30 PM. Tickets may be purchased from the SAS office in Cupertino at the advance price of \$10. or at the theater for \$12.50. Half of the proceeds will go to SCVAS.

Banded Snow Geese

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wants to know if you spot any neck-banded geese. These geese sport colored and numbered lightweight plastic collars. All of these geese were banded on their nesting grounds. A red band is from Wrangel Island in Russia; a blue one is from Alaska; black from Western Canada; and yellow from Central Canada. Anyone who spots one of these should report the location, the color of the band and - if possible - the number on the band to: Advise Bird Band, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC. Sightings made on the Las Banos Wildlife Area or any of the national or private lands in the Los Banos area should be reported to the Los Banos National Wildlife Refuge.

Last Chance!

RICHER EXPERIENCES

Quality Birding Tours

*Still has openings on its tour of Costa Rica
November 13-26, 1993*

Cloudforests
Atlantic Plateau & Slope
Pacific Coast



All expenses included (except International Airfare)
Leader: Barry Sauppe

For More Information **\$1598**
Call *Wild Goose Travel*
738-9176

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.

Ed & Del Aquirre
in memory of
Gladys Stoddard and Virginia Snow Wilkinson

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.

INFORMATION FOR ALL OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS — INCLUDING EXCHANGE BULLETINS — SHOULD BE MAILED TO: 30 WEST 39TH AVE., SUITE 202, SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94403-4561

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEEDLES SEPARATELY IS \$10.00 PER YEAR.

If you CHANGE YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, send the label from a recent Audubon Magazine wrapper with your new name or address to: NATIONAL AUDUBON, MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER, PO BOX 2066, Boulder, Co. 80322. Then, please notify the Sequoia Audubon office (345-3724) of the change. Be sure to give the name and address where Audubon Magazine is to be delivered. This avoids duplicate listings and incorrect expiration dates. Please send RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS directly to National Audubon in the envelope accompanying your renewal notice. LATE RENEWALS should be sent through Sequoia to avoid a lapse in magazine or newsletter issues.

The following application is for NEW MEMBERSHIPS only.

OFFICERS:

President:	Anne Moser	324-1718
Past President:	Mary Bresler	994-3587
Vice President:	Eileen Jennis	355-0553
Secretary:	Francis Toldi	344-1919
Treasurer:	Debbie Frantz	571-6759

DIRECTORS:

For term ending June '94:	Janet Murphy	879-0411
	Cliff Richer	738-9176
For term ending June '95:	Dan Keller	726-3306
	Robin Smith	325-3306
For term ending June '96:	Rick Baird	574-1067
	Julia Mandeville	726-1006

STANDING COMMITTEES:

ACR Host:	Rick Baird	574-1067
Audit:	Nick Coiro	349-1834
Bird Sightings:	Dan Keller	726-3306
Christmas Count:	Dan Keller	726-3306
Conservation:	Bob Wilkinson	347-8367
Education:	Robin Smith	325-3306
Field Trips: Weekday:	Nick Coiro	349-1834
Weekend:	Judi Spitzer	355-9362
Finance/Budget:	Rick Baird	574-1067
Hospitality:	Grace Sain	591-2373
Membership:	Anne Moser	324-1718
NEEDLES Editor:	Cliff Richer	738-9176
Circulation Editor:	Sue Cossins	347-9358
Program:	Richard Kuehn & Dean Schuler	591-4380
Publicity:	Harnette Judge	355-4867
Staff:	Susan James	345-3724
Rare Bird Alert:	Weekly	510-528-0288
	Daily Updates	510-524-5592

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter C16-7XCH



YES, enroll me as a member in the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below:

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
30 W. 39TH AVE. , #202
SAN MATEO, CA. 94403-4561

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN MATEO, CA.
PERMIT NO.293

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

MY CHECK FOR \$23.00 IS ENCLOSED.

Please make membership checks payable to the National Audubon Society and mail them to.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
30 WEST 39TH AVENUE, SUITE 202
SAN MATEO, CA 94403
345-3724

7XCH

TIME VALUED MATERIAL! PLEASE DO NOT DELAY