

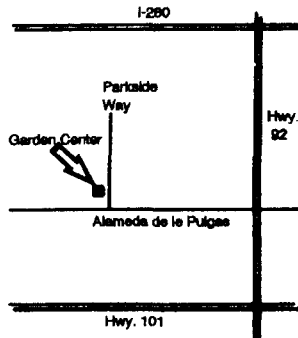
sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 42, No. 3
November, 1993



This Month's Program Status of the California Clapper Rail

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.



This month's meeting is Thursday, November 11. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

December's Program

Jim Lomax who delighted us last year with his presentation of the "Birds of Arizona with a Touch of Texas" returns with a completely new program on the **Birds of Southern Florida**. Jim's distinctive and succinct delivery enables him to show us an amazing number of bird slides in a short time. Another program not to be missed. Don't forget that the December meeting is also our winter potluck!

Regular (Voting) Meeting to be Held in January

The January Meeting will be constituted as a regular meeting for the purpose of enacting a change in the by-laws. A vote will be taken and minutes recorded. Although many members recall this particular change as having been enacted several years ago, it was not recorded properly and must be redone. See next month's **NEEDLES** for full details.



From The President Anne Moser

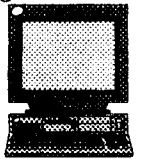
Writing on September 29 for you to read during the first week of November forces me to focus on the highlights.

The Board of Directors has approved our co-sponsoring the **Avocet Festival** on November 6 & 7 at the San Francisco Wildlife Refuge Headquarters just across the Dumbarton Bridge. We will be manning a booth and will need volunteers to help. Please call me at 324-1718 if you can give a few hours on either of these days.

Last year we had a great time, talking with booth visitors, touring the other booths, exchanging information and admiring the arts and crafts.

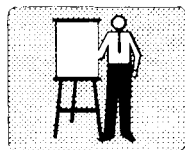
We will also be manning a booth at the **Coyote Point Museum Bird Festival** on December 4 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers please?

We are in the process of analyzing our **office computer** software and applications so as to make maximum use of our resources. Right now we're studying commercially available databases in order to improve our mailing list usage and integrate information from other sources. Please call me if you can help out on this or other computer projects.

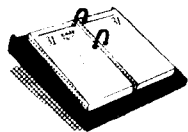


I attended the **National Audubon Committee meeting on Field Operations** when they met on September 11 in San Francisco. The meeting featured two presentations - one on wetlands preservation in California and the other on Audubon 2000. I was particularly impressed with the cooperation between government entities and private organizations involved with our wetlands. The Audubon 2000 discussion centered around people coming together to share ideas for the future. But to me the most valuable part of the morning was the opportunity to meet the National Audubon directors face to face and address our concerns.

Our program co-chairs **Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler** have introduced a new item to the **meetings** with their videotapes of local birds. This outstanding addition to the programs adds variety and local interest to an already excellent series of programs for this year. The September audience



was delighted with this new variation of "Bird of the Month" and amazed at the professional look and feel to the presentation. It's a shame that we have so few people at the meetings to appreciate work of this quality. Although we have a **NEEDLES** mailing list of 1700, there were only 25 at the September meeting. Do you have any thoughts or ideas to improve our meeting attendance. We'd surely like to hear them. As for yourself - come to the meeting, bring a friend with you, and then talk to me afterward about your ideas - not just on the programs but on any Audubon topic. We need your help!



The S A S Calendar

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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR I and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP I: This workshop will consist of a total review of the history, status, range and identification of all naturally occurring species in San Mateo County. The workshops are designed for beginning to intermediate level birders wanting to sharpen their skills on these often elusive and confusing little brown birds. The fee of \$20 is for both workshops and field trips. All checks should be made out to Sequoia Audubon Society. Call the office (345-3724) to make your reservations.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR II and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - SPARROW IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP II.

INSTRUCTOR DAN KELLER 726-3306



News From Your Ranch

Dan Murphy

ANNUAL APPEAL: Audubon Canyon Ranch is your system of sanctuaries and each year at this time we ask for your financial support. ACR is an independent, non-profit corporation which receives no support from the National Audubon Society. We are therefore dependent on the generosity of our supporters and the hard work and wisdom of our staff and volunteers to assure our fiscal stability.

Audubon members founded ACR in an effort to preserve the heronry at Bolinas Lagoon. Since then we have been instrumental in preserving not only the heronry but the lagoon itself, Tomales Bay and a portion of the Sonoma hills. In reaching out to Tomales Bay we have preserved critical habitat and have developed a major research project there. We met the challenge of expanding to Sonoma County and now we are a major conservation and education presence there. Our education programs are acclaimed worldwide. Our success in preservation and education made such impressions on Clifford Conley and David Bouverie than each of these very generous gentlemen established ACR preserves. Clifford and David have provided leadership, guidance and resources which have enabled ACR to continue to develop. But they are only two of the many donors, large and small, whose contributions have enabled ACR to become such a successful organization.

It is true that we continually seek your help and involvement in ACR. In addition to our employees there are about 700 volunteers who make ACR work. The volunteers serve as week-end hosts, docents, guides, researchers, maintenance workers, advisors and board members. As always there are ways for you to volunteer. But it is with our financial needs that we ask your help now.

Later this month you should receive a letter announcing our annual appeal. Even if you don't receive this letter please consider a contribution to Audubon Canyon Ranch. The problem of increasing expenses and limited income creates an immense challenge to our development, finance and budget committees. Those challenges - increasing our income and reducing our spending - are difficult to meet when we are faced with the operation and maintenance of three major preserves and a number of smaller properties.

Please help ACR continue to be a leader in conservation, preservation, education and research. Send your tax-deductible contribution to Audubon Canyon Ranch at 4900 Highway One, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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

Saturday and Sunday, November 6-7: Keeping a Nature Journal. Two one-day seminars at the Bouverie Preserve with Mark Baldwin of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (\$30). Learn how to sharpen your field skills and record your observations.

(Continued on Page Three)

(Continued on Page Three)



News From Your Ranch

(Continued from Page Two)

Saturday, November 20: Monarchs! At Bolinas Lagoon with Ray Peterson (\$30). Ray will show you the secrets of the Monarch butterflies and their mysterious multi-generation migration

BOUVERIE PRESERVE GUIDED NATURE WALKS continue on Saturdays, November 13, December 11 and January 22. Now taking reservations for the November and December walks. Call 707-938-4554 to reserve your spot.

Conservation Corner

Bob Wilkenson

Is It Really Economy vs. Environment?

Do strong environmental laws handicap a state's economy? The perceived wisdom for many people would be to answer "yes". Now we have solid research from a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, Stephen M. Meyer, who has ranked the economies of all 50 states, together with their environmental policies to determine if the common assumption is true.

Surprisingly, he not only found that strong environmental policies are not associated with weaker economies but instead that the economies of those states with such policies performed significantly better than states with weaker policies. Four out of five measurements of economic activity reflected this positive relationship.

These results are particularly significant at a time when the environmental laws are being blamed for recessionary conditions and efforts are being made to wipe out or weaken legislation such as the Endangered Species Act.

The construction industry, one of the sectors studied, is often cited as suffering from the constraints of environmental regulations; however that industry shows consistently the highest positive connection with strong environmental policies of any of the economic measurements.

While we may not be able to make the claim that we can improve the economy by passing more environmental laws there is no longer any basis, according to Professor Meyer, for claiming that strong environmental policies harm a state's economy.

A recently published survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics cited by Professor Meyer showed that less than one-tenth of one percent of layoffs in 1988 were environmentally related. The data was based on *company* responses.



"Water is a public resource. That means we have an obligation to make sure that its distributed equitably. Subsidized water resulted in a single farmer receiving a check for \$20 million from the public treasury for growing cotton. That's hardly equitable." ---Bill Keir, fisheries biologist and consultant.



The S A S Calendar

(Continued from Page Two)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - BELMONT SLOUGH. Join us on this midweek exploration of the perennially threatened Belmont Slough. 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 take a left on Shell Parkway to its end. We will meet as close to the end of Shell as the parking regulations allow at 9:00 A.M. Some of the areas may be muddy so boots are recommended. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER

AL DIMARTINI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 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. Not only does the harbor usually have one or two surprises, but the nearby willows, cypresses and grasslands have proven to be first-rate warbler traps. Clay-colored sparrows, palm and prairie warblers are only a few of the species that have wintered here the last few years. To get there take Hwy. 92 to Hwy. 1 and follow Hwy. 1 north to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the lights. Take your first left and proceed straight ahead into the upper parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 A.M. This will be a walking trip along the beach and rocks with some areas of broken footing, so boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER

DAN KELLER

726-3306

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7 - PRINCETON HARBOR.

Essentially the same meeting place and times as the trip above.

LEADER

NICK COIRO

349-1834

WATCH NEXT MONTH'S CALENDAR FOR POSSIBLE CHRISTMAS COUNT TRAINING FIELD TRIPS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 - THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT - SEE THE FORM ON PAGE 6 FOR MORE DETAILS.

COMPILER

DAN KELLER

726-3306

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - THE AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT - SEE THE FORM ON PAGE 6 FOR MORE DETAILS.

COMPILER

DAN KELLER

726-3306



"The administration has been looking at this (the spotted owl controversy) as if it's only a jobs vs. owls issue. What they don't see is that we're dealing with an eco-system that...has been reduced by logging to something around 10% of its original size. What will happen to the loggers when the last 10% is gone?"

---Fran Hunt, National Wildlife Federation

Estuary Project Heads Up Wildcat Creek Restoration

The San Francisco Estuary Project - a joint venture of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California - is heading up a multi-agency project to clean up the East Bay's Wildcat Creek.

The creek begins in Tilden Park, flows through Wildcat Canyon Park and then into the urban areas of Richmond, to empty into the bay near the Chevron refinery. Problems range from the impacts of cattle grazing in its upper reaches, past channelization efforts, urban debris and point-source pollution.

A new grazing plan has been put into effect on the creek's upper tributaries. By emphasizing seasonal grazing and fencing off most of the riparian areas, the EPA expects to eliminate the siltation and pollution created by cattle in the past. Old concrete channels in Richmond's Alvarado Park are currently being ripped up and replaced by a reconstruction of the natural stream bed. Volunteers in Richmond have been participating in and will continue an active clean-up and monitoring program, keeping the creek clear of urban junk and testing its pH, oxygen and temperature levels.

At the creek mouth, Chevron plans to move its cooling water outfall away from the creek and out into the deeper waters of the bay. This work is scheduled for completion in 1995.

While this is only one of many urban and suburban creeks to the Bay, it is one which involves almost all of the problems which can be encountered in a restoration effort and will serve as a pilot project for the entire bay effort.

For more information on this project call Tim Vendlinski of the San Francisco Estuary Project at 744-1989.

Your Conservation Committee In Action

In September your Conservation Committee reported its continuing involvement with the CALPAWS initiative. We were very near our signature goal and it looked as if the state program to get this bond issue on the ballot was going to be successful.

After due consideration the Committee decided to oppose all of the current plans being considered for the levee buildup in Redwood Shores.

We issued a CAL-WRAP Program press release to 11 local papers, announcing that we would recognize any local businesses that were eligible for listing under this program.

Members of the Action Alert Network were sent advisories on ancient forests and on Senator Boxer's proposed wetlands legislation. A revised list of legislators was included in the mailing.

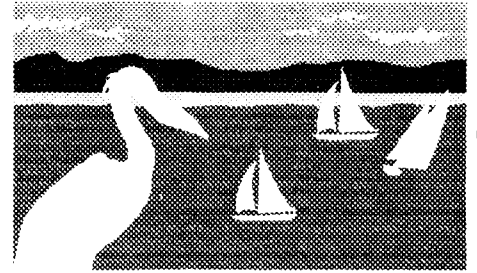
We conducted our annual Bay Cleanup Day on October 2. We had 38 volunteers - most of them not Audubon members - and collected about a ton of refuse. Newspaper publicity was instrumental in assuring this kind of turnout.

We sent representatives to an all-day Audubon conference on the Endangered Species Act.

We are studying closely the conservation issues involved in the possible liberalization of the San Francisco Watershed access rules.

Museum Art Festival

The Coyote Point Museum's 11th annual Children's Art Festival will follow the theme, "A healthy planet begins with me". The art show will include works from third through sixth graders from San Mateo County and from Mexico City in the first international show of this kind at the Museum. Admission to the Museum at 1651 Coyote Point Drive is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and \$1 for children 6-17.



Fourth Annual Audubon Sail to be Held in January.

The San Francisco Bay Oceanic Crew Group will hold its fourth annual Audubon Sail. All Audubon members are invited to spend the day sailing and birding with them. The last sail involved 17 boats and over a hundred birders and sailors.

Boats leave from all parts of the Bay, try to identify as many bird species as possible, and then "raft up" in a central cove for a pot luck lunch.

This year the Crew Group is handling all the details of coordinating this effort. Space on the boats will be on a first-come, first-served basis. **All reservations must be made by mail.** If you want to be a participant (*I highly recommend it! ---The Editor*) send your name, address and phone number to **The San Francisco Bay Oceanic Crew Group, Station B, PO Box 2386, San Francisco, CA 94126** before January 1.

To Feed or Not...

Recently some researchers have suggested that feeding birds may have a negative impact. They say that feeding increases the numbers of "pest" species - cowbirds, jays, house sparrows and starlings which parasitize, prey on, or compete for nest sites with songbirds.

Erica H. Dunn, an ornithologist from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, refutes this by comparing data from the Lab's Project Feederwatch with that from the USF&W's Breeding Bird Survey.

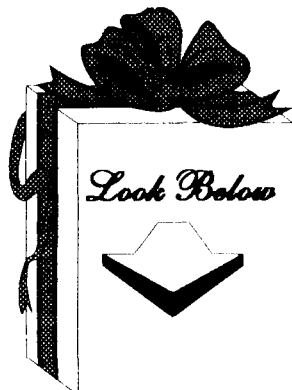
She was unable to find any correlation between bird-feeding and declining populations. She found a general decline in about 70% of the most widespread feeder birds, including the maligned blue jays, house sparrows and starlings.

Bird Seed Available At The S A S Office

Remember that we maintain a small supply of the most popular bird seed mixes at the office. So, if you're running short or are being besieged by a flock of band-tail pigeons, you don't have to wait for our winter sale. Just call the office at 345-3724. Prices and selections vary according to availability.



NEED SOME HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLD BIRDER?



Monterey Breeding Bird Atlas Published

The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Monterey County, edited by Don Roberson and Chris Tenney is now available from the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. The 448 page atlas is offered in both hard (\$51) and soft cover (\$24) editions. Sales tax and shipping are included in the prices. To order yours send your check to: MPAS, PO Box 985, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

ITEMS FOR SALE OR RENT

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

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

Items Sold at SAS Office or at Meetings

17.50
10.75
10.50
3.50
6.00
20.00
5.00
3.00
.50
4.00
1.50
2.50

\$2.00 per week
\$5 per tape/per wk.

Items Mailed to Customers

20.00
13.00
13.00
4.50
8.50
22.50
6.00
3.50
.75
5.00
2.00
2.75

Please call to make
arrangements for rental of
video tapes by mail.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX

Please make all checks payable to:
Sequoia Audubon Society
 30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202
 San Mateo, CA 94403-5671

The Christmas Bird Counts

The Christmas Bird Count is one of the most enduring and popular of Audubon activities - or for that matter of *all* outdoor volunteer activities in America. Last year more than 55,000 people participated in the count. And the CBC is for *everyone* from industrial strength birders to novices.

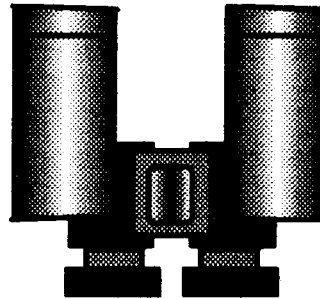
What accounts for the CBC's success? Well, for starters, it's just plain fun - an event of unparalleled camaraderie. For many, it's a first chance to learn the joys and skills of birdwatching. For others, it's high power competitive birding at its best. Moreover, taking part in the Christmas Bird Count contributes to a vital scientific endeavor. Each year the data from more than 1500 counts is published in *American Birds*. The resulting data base is tapped over and over again by scientists and researchers worldwide to

uncover important avian trends. There is simply no better source for this information.

This is the 77th annual Audubon Christmas Count. SAS is participating with its usual two counts, 12/18 for Crystal Springs and 1/4 for Año Nuevo.

Don't Delay! Sign Up Now!

Just send your check for \$5.00 for one count or \$10.00 for both, along with the name of the count and your telephone number. Call the office (345-3724), or Dan Keller (365-2032) or fill in and mail the form on this page to register for either count.



Burrowing Owls - Serious Decline

The initial reports from Dave DeSante's Burrowing Owl Census confirm statistically what most of us had known from observation - California's burrowing owls are in serious trouble. The loss is particularly severe in the Greater Bay Area where we lost 72% of our burrowing owl families from 1988 to 1992. Currently it is estimated that we are losing 13% of the population each year.

Although these results are preliminary with two more years of data to be assimilated, the results are already being reviewed by the Department of Fish and Game with the possible end of re-classifying the burrowing owl from a "species of special concern" to either threatened or endangered. Changing the classification would provide legal protection for the owl.

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS BIRD COUNT 12/18/93

Once again, Dan Keller will compile both counts and with four years' experience behind him will be shooting for new records, so we need even more help than usual. In order to do our best we need a lot of people. We need all the eyes and ears we can get to find birds, keep records in the field, and count birds. Christmas Counts mean dawn-to-dusk birding, and maybe even some owling. But even if you can only devote a few hours at a feeder or in a local park, we need your help. We need people who will walk city residential areas, school grounds, golf courses, parks and cemeteries within both count circles and report the population of each species they find. We need to perform good counts to evaluate the birds in our 15-mile diameter circles and compare results with other years.

PLEASE TEAR OUT OR COPY THIS FORM AND SEND IT IN TO THE AUDUBON OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK FOR \$10 FOR EACH COUNT SO WE CAN ASSIGN THE AREAS.

Sequoia Audubon Christmas Counts,
30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202
San Mateo, CA 94403

AÑO NUEVO BIRD COUNT 1/4/94

I will participate in the...

☐ CRYSTAL SPRINGS CBC on 12/18/93

☐ AÑO NUEVO CBC on 1/4/94

☐ I am an experienced birder and am willing to serve as an area leader.

For Crystal Springs, I would like counting this area:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

For Año Nuevo, I would like counting this area:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

I will count any area assigned. Yes ☐ No ☐

I will monitor and report my feeder on 12/19 _____ 12/26 _____

I will be at the compilation on 12/19 _____ 12/26 _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone Number _____

PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR REPLY BY DEC. 4

Sequoia Audubon Society

Page Six

The Backyard Birder



Rick Held

FEEDING PREFERENCES OF BACKYARD BIRDS

Feeding birds is the second fastest growing hobby in the US, exceeded only by gardening. It brings nature to our homes and provides hours of restful observation. How can we do this in the best way? Random use of commercial mix seed often produces the wrong species of birds and strange plants growing under the feeder. Is there a better way?

Yes! Most people who feed birds want to attract a more interesting variety of birds to their feeder. If you take care in selecting seed and other feeding items, you can attract the birds you want.

Extensive studies have identified **black oil sunflower**, a small thin-shelled sunflower grown primarily for oil, to be the most attractive seed to the widest variety of smaller bird species. It is especially effective when placed in elevated feeders. It is attractive to chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, house finches, purple finches and even grosbeaks because of its high fat content, and the thin shell which allows these birds to easily access the kernel. This seed is always my first recommendation to anyone just starting to enjoy bird feeding. It guarantees success and minimizes waste of seed caused by "thrashing" or tossing the less desirable seeds out of the feeder to get to the preferred type.

Sunflower chips are pieces of the hulled sunflower nutmeat. Chips are most attractive to goldfinches and pine siskins, although they will attract the birds listed before. Many people prefer to use chips because they leave no shells to clean up and they will not germinate.

Black striped sunflower, sometimes eaten as a confection, may be used

to attract Stellar's jays and scrub jays, if only to deflect their attention from a primary feeder. These birds have a stronger preference for peanuts, but feeding peanuts to jays can be an expensive proposition, so most people choose sunflower. (Black striped sunflower can also be provided for squirrels, who also have a preference for peanuts, and who also will consume vast quantities if allowed.)

The same studies identified **white proso millet** as the most attractive seed for ground feeders such as sparrows, doves, blackbirds, towhees and juncos. **Red proso millet** has similar attraction characteristics. When placed near the ground in a platform or hopper feeder with a flat feeding area, millet is especially effective in attracting these species.

Peanut kernels and shelled whole peanuts, placed in a small wire hanging basket or cage are very attractive to chickadees and titmice. Woodpeckers and nuthatches, also clinging birds, are potential visitors to this combination of feeder and nuts. Since the small basket is difficult for perching birds, such as house finches, to use, the consumption rate is low and the enjoyment is high.

Niger or thistle seed is used to selectively feed goldfinches and pine siskin. Thistle feeders have small feeding ports, just wide enough to allow the small niger seed to pass through. Goldfinches and siskins, with their relatively narrow beaks, can pull the niger out of the feeder but house finches are limited. Niger is sometimes mixed with other seeds to enhance the attractiveness of the blend, but its use in this fashion is rarely justified unless the feeder design restricts the access of house finches.

A **mix or blend** of seeds can be successful in attracting a variety of birds if the blend is tailored to the bird species at your feeder. This is rarely possible and many mixes, especially commercial blends consist primarily of millet and milo. This provides jays and house finches an opportunity to thrash the less attractive seeds onto the ground in order to get to the more desirable sunflower. For this reason, a quality seed blend for an elevated feeder should contain a substantial amount of black oil sunflower.

Suet, rendered beef kidney fat usually combined with seed, nuts, fruit pieces, or even dried insects, is attractive to chickadees, nuthatches woodpeckers and jays. *Rendered suet will drip in hot weather, but it is unlikely to become rancid if birds visit it regularly.* To minimize the dripping hang it in the shade or replace it with a "dough" product in the warmer months.

Doughs have replaced most of the beef fat with peanut oil and other natural ingredients to minimize dripping. You can put suet or dough in an open mesh bag, such as an onion bag, or use wire cages specifically designed for that purpose. Squirrels find suet and dough very attractive so you may have to protect your feeders from these raiders.

Smaller game birds, such as quail chicks, prefer **millet** but cracked corn is a good alternative. **Cracked corn** can also be used to attract other ground feeding species. Mature quail, larger game birds and jays are attracted with **whole corn** kernels. This seed is less likely to spoil than the cracked corn if it becomes moist.

Nectar, usually a four parts water to one part table sugar mixture (no color or other additives needed), placed in an appropriate feeder is the easy way to attract hummingbirds. This same mixture, sometimes changed to a six parts water to one part sugar, brings northern and hooded orioles to the nectar feeder during our summer.

The truly dedicated can feed **live mealworms** in a small dish or margarine tub. Mealworms are expensive but this is one of the few reliable ways to attract mockingbirds and western bluebirds to a backyard feeding station.



Everything for
Feeding & Enjoying
our Backyard Birds

• Feeders • Seed • Houses • Books
• Tapes/CDs • Baths • Binoculars • Gifts



Wild Bird Center
926 El Camino Real
San Carlos
(415) 595-0300

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.

**Sales and Marketing Staff, Information Access Company in memory of Arvin Niemeier
Roger and Jean Durick in memory of Mrs. Frank Bauman**

**Susan Bernhard Ethel Denton Richard Kuehn
Judy and Bert McKee Carol Miller Dean Schuler Mrs. Paul A. Schultz**

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 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-Sauppe	726-1081
Secretary	Francis Toldi	344-1919
Treasurer	Debbie Frantz	574-6759
DIRECTORS		
For term ending June '94	Janet Murphy	879-0411
	Cliff Richer	738-0176
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 Corro	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	Nick Corro	349-1834
Weekday	Judi Spitzer	355-9362
Weekend	Rick Baird	574-1067
Finance/Budget	Grace Sam	591-2373
Hospitality	Anne Moser	324-1718
Membership	Cliff Richer	738-9176
NEEDLES Editor	Sue Cossins	347-9358
Circulation Editor	Richard Kuehn & Dean Schuler	591-4380
Program	Harriette Judge	355-4867
Publicity	Susan James	345-3724
Staff	Weekly	510-528-0288
Rare Bird Alert	Daily Updates	510-524-5592

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter C16-7XCH

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

☐ **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:

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