



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society • San Mateo County • Volume 42, No. 5 • February 1994

Happy New Year!

Sequoia Audubon is looking forward to an exciting new year. We hope all our members will take an active part in our organization. We have a new look to our newsletter too and we hope you like it.

FEBRUARY NEEDLES

Calendar.....	2
Field Trip Policy.....	2
Field Trip Report.....	2
Birding In Switzerland.....	3
Klamath Conference.....	4
Costa Rica.....	4
On The Shelf.....	4
News from Audubon Canyon Ranch.....	5
Backyard Birder.....	5
Items For Sale Or Rent.....	6
Duck Days.....	6
Western Regional Conference.....	6
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.....	6
Conservation Report.....	7
Santa Clara Fundraiser.....	7
Board Highlights.....	7
Birdseed Sale Order Form.....	7

Letter From The President

By Anne Maser

Peace and joy in 1994 and good birding to all.

In November we had problems! We had no place for the Crystal Springs Christmas Count Dinner, and Cliff Richer resigned as Needles editor ... but volunteers are wonderful!

Barrett Anderson told me about the Shell Cove Homeowners recreation building, and it was available December 18th. Thank you, Barrett.

A few phone calls later and we had 2 co-editors for the Needles. Thank you, Harriette Judge and Michael Lee Huygen.

Harriette had been doing our publicity. She's now doing the layout and electronic production of the Needles. Harriette is a graphic designer and print production specialist for a software development company in San Francisco. She has been doing computer design and layout for six years. She enjoys her work as well as the outdoors; hiking, birding, and going for walks with her dog. She has been an Audubon supporter since childhood. She is also the sister of our newly married vice president, Eileen Jennis-Sauppe.

Michael Lee had sent a note to the office offering librarian help but has

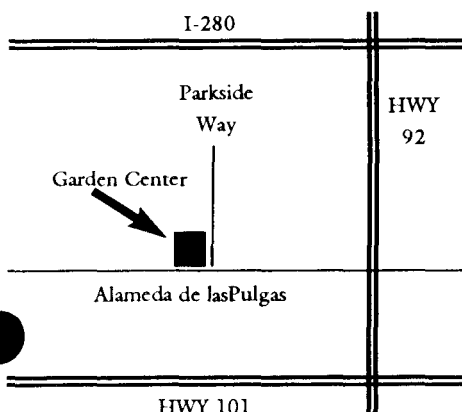
taken on the compiling, organizing and editing prior to Harriette's production. Michael Lee is a contract information professional, a 2-time academic science librarian who birds while continuing to snorkel and SCUBA around the world.

So late in November, I flew off to the tip of South America knowing that two problems were under control even if American Airlines was having a work stoppage.

Other nice things occurred. Thanks to Natalie, Dan Keller's fiancée, our Crystal Springs Compilation dinner December 18th was great. Dan's mother got up at 2:00 AM to look for owls and then baked a dessert. I'm sure the dinner on January 2nd will be as good. All the hardy souls who participate earn our thanks. More Christmas Count news will appear in our March newsletter.

Now to look ahead: Our annual Spring Birdathon is a major fund raiser, but last year we only had one team. This year we would like several teams to count birds and get financial pledges per bird seen. So, why don't you get a team together, have fun, and help Sequoia Audubon too? More in the next newsletter.

We have received a bird check list for Butte County - Altracal Audubon Society. On file at the office.



GENERAL MEETING

Second Thursday of the Month, 7:30 pm
At the San Mateo Garden Center
on Parkside at the Alameda

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

THE MARBLED MURRELET IN THE
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

An endangered species at the edge of its range, with Steven and Stephanie Singer and David Suddjian.

At the San Mateo Garden Center
on Parkside at the Alameda February 10th.
Don't miss it!

BOARD MEETING

First Thursday of the Month, 7:30 pm
At the Sequoia Audubon Office
All members welcome

FEBRUARY BIRD SEED SALE

SEE PAGE 7

Any information for the Needles should be sent to the Sequoia Audubon Society office. The deadline is the last day of the month 2 months prior to the month of publication. ie. Jan. 30th for March issue.

Sequoia Audubon Society

Official Field Trip Policy

Adopted November 4, 1993

Board of Directors Official Policy Report: It is moved that the following be adopted as an official field trip policy of the Sequoia Audubon Society. It is further moved that copies of this motion when adopted, be sent to each field trip leader, each officer and director and that copies be made available at the first general meeting following its adoption.

- ♦ We understand that trespassing is a major concern for landowners.
- ♦ Private property will **not** be entered without prior permission.
- ♦ We shall at all times respect posted lands and fences. The absence of fences or posted notices shall **not** be taken as permission to enter.
- ♦ When we are on private property or on "multiple use" public lands, we shall leave the property as we found it; closing fences, avoiding disturbances of animals and crops, and respecting privacy, etc.
- ♦ We will **not** park automobiles so as to block driveways or farm roads or in such a way as to cause damage to shrubs, lawns or other private property.
- ♦ On public land, we will stay on marked trails or in areas where permission to enter is known to exist. We will take special care in environmentally sensitive areas - sand dunes, wetlands, propagation areas, desert and alpine habitats, etc.
- ♦ We shall avoid at all times disturbing wildlife by approaching too closely or attempting to flush nesting or resting birds and animals.
- ♦ We will strive to set an example by our actions for other birders and amateur naturalists.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Graphic Artist to design flyer for second edition of "SF Peninsula Birdwatching" Call Anne Moser
324-1718

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Thursday, February 3 - SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the SAS office. All members are welcome. Call ahead to be sure there will be room.

Saturday, February 5 - THE RAPTORS OF ALTAMONT PASS. This area east of Livermore is best known for its windmill farms - except to birders. For birders, Altamont Pass is noted as the winter home of a great number and variety of hawks and eagles. Every winter the resident red-tails, prairie falcons and golden eagles are joined by their cousins fleeing the snows and cold of the north. Peregrines, bald eagles, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks are only some of the visitors to these rolling grasslands and rocky outcrops. This trip normally extends into the afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. We'll begin our caravan of the area at 9:00 AM. To get there take I-580 past Livermore to Vasco Road. Take the Vasco Road exit south. We'll meet near the gas station on the right a short distance down Vasco Road. Rain cancels trip.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

Thursday, February 10 - SAS GENERAL MEETING - THE MARBLED MURRELET IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS: An endangered species at the edge of its range, with Steven and Stephanie Singer and David Suddjian, at the San Mateo Garden Center.

Saturday, February 12 - CANCELLATION - FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE TIDEPOOLS FIELD TRIP - sorry, but a good low tide morning in February isn't possible.

Tuesday, February 15 - MID-WEEK FIELD TRIP TO REDWOOD SHORES. Despite intensive development, this area still affords some marvelous birding opportunities. To get there, take Hwy. 101 to the Holly Street exit. Follow Redwood Shores Parkway to the Radio Broadcasting Station at its end. We will meet by the side of the road in front of the radio station at 9:00 AM. Rain cancels trip.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

Saturday, February 19 - GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA FIELD TRIP. This state wildlife area on the

shores of Suisun Bay is noted for its variety and number of waterfowl and wintering passerine species. This trip should last until mid-afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. To get there, follow Hwy 80 across the Bay and the Carquinez Bridge to Fairfield. Take the Hwy. 12 east exit (Rio Vista/Suisun City), then Grizzly Island Rd. to the wildlife area headquarters parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 AM. Rain cancels trip.

LEADER JUDY SPITLER 355-9362

Saturday, February 26 - FOSTER CITY BY BICYCLE. Enjoy the many species of Foster City birds while biking. Using bicycle paths we will make a complete circle around the city. Most winter birds should still be here. We will meet - with bicycles - at the parking lot on the southeast corner of Foster City Boulevard and Beach Park Boulevard at 8:30 AM. The trip should last until noon. Limited to 8 participants. To reserve a space call the Sequoia office 345-3724.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

Sunday, March 13 - PESCADERO MARSH Since handing the Pescadero Marsh over to the State Parks, they have studied how to return it to a more natural state. In 1993 a start was made on this program. Join us on a nature walk and see the changes. For more information call the Sequoia Audubon Office. 345-3724

LEADERS JOHN & NENA PADLEY

Field Trip Report

Belmont Slough 11/16/93

Leader - Al De Martini

On a beautiful sunny day with little to no breeze, 43 species were seen along our walk (with 14 more added on post-trip investigations). A fine, friendly group of birders, 13 strong, walked along the Redwood Shores levees enjoying the weather, birds, and conversation. Unusual numbers of Egrets were noted - over 100 Snowy and Great together at one place. Highlights included a Black-shouldered Kite lunching on a small rodent, a fly-by by 8 Hooded Mergansers, and a close inspection of a confiding immature Black-crowned Night Heron.

Casual Birding in Switzerland

By Tom and Marian Vanden Bosch

Anne Moser asked me to write a few words about my experiences with weekend and evening casual birding in Switzerland during late May and June 1993. I was there on a work assignment so birding was a catch as catch can experience. I worked near Basel in the northwestern corner of Switzerland so most of my birding was in or near there. My wife, Marian, was able to join me for the last 12 days of my assignment. We used the Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe that we purchased on a previous visit.

The **Swift** was the most common bird I saw. They were overhead everywhere I went in Switzerland and nearby Germany. They nested underneath the roof of the building next to my apartment so I watched them all the while I was there and saw the young fledge. How often have you been that close to a Swift nest?

Other birds in the city included **Kestrel**, **Red Kite**, **Collared Dove**, **Carriion Crow**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Buzzard**, and **Blackbird** or **Amsel**, as it is called there. There were also lots of **Rock Doves**, **Starlings**, and **House Sparrows**.

Within about 20 minutes of my apartment was a small forest preserve called the Hard. The Hard belongs to the village of Birkenfeld and is on the order of 1-2 miles square, bordered by the Rhine, a main railway line, industry and the village. Some wood is harvested there for the villagers but in a very careful way. The Hard has many paths and trails and is frequently used by the local people. But the birding was quite good! I saw **Robins**, **Blackcaps**, **Black Redstarts**, **Redstarts**, **Wrens**, **Garden Warblers**, **Golden Oriole**, **Jay**, **Carriion Crow**, **Blackbird**, **Buzzard**, **Swallow**, **House Martin**, **Swift**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Short-toed Tree Creeper**, **Nuthatch**, **White Wagtail**, **Great Tit**, **Blue Tit**, and **Mallard**. The **Blackbird** was the most common, followed by the **Robins** and **Tits**.

My Swiss non-birding colleagues were most helpful to me in finding other birding places. One associate took me

to at least four places to bird and I think I may have got him interested in birding. His family lived in an apartment building with **House Martin** nests just outside their kitchen.

My favorite bird from my visit was the **Red Kite**, a raptor somewhat larger than a **Red-tailed Hawk** but soaring much closer to the ground and seemingly fearless of habitation. My best view was while walking in the Jura Mountains south of Basel. In open, hilly farmland on several occasions there was one close, maybe 50 feet overhead for several minutes. A reddish body with longer wings than a **Buteo**. Wing coverts are red, black markings at the wrist, a large white patch of outer secondaries and the inner ends of the primaries. The outer 2/3 of the primaries are black. The head is silver grey with fine black striping. The bird has a 6 to 7 foot wingspan and a long deeply forked tail. The tail is red above like our **Redtail**. Quite a sight!

A memorable experience was birding from the terrace of a hilltop restaurant in the village of Dornach while enjoying a **Coupe Danemark** (that's a chocolate sundae with whipped cream). The restaurant was also a working farm. Birds included **Greenfinch**, **Swallow**, **Black Kite**, **Buzzard**, **White Wagtail** and **Swift**. Switzerland is loaded with hiking and walking paths. The one along the Birs, a small river in Dornach, yielded **Spotted Flycatcher**, **White** and **Grey Wagtail**, **Fieldfare**, **Swallow**, **Collared Dove**, **House Martin**, **Swallow**, **Chaffinch**, **Garden Warbler** and **Great Tit**, among others.

Since I am also a train fan, I did a lot of traveling on the Swiss railroads and trams. In addition to seeing the countryside you can also bird. I saw my first **Kestrel**, **Wood Pigeon**, and **Great Grey Heron** that way. Marian's sharp eyes spotted the **Wood Pigeon** on our return trip from Engleberg.

We went to Engleberg to walk and hopefully see some alpine birds. We did walk and did see some birds but not close enough to identify and no raptors. Darn!

On a visit to Appenzell in eastern Switzerland to see painted houses and the beautiful countryside, we got lucky on a walk by the local stream when

Marian spotted a **Dipper**. Behaves like ours but colored differently. Also saw the ever present **White Wagtail**. Lastly we visited Reichenbach Falls, where Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Moriarity fought it out, to see the **Wall Creeper**. And sure enough, just as the book predicted it was there. A bird like a **Brown Creeper**, but larger, living in vertical cliffs near waterfalls. The bird is grey with vivid magenta coverts in the wings. Quite a sight when it flies.

There are at least two locations where **White Storks** are supported, one each north and south of the Jura. In those two areas the storks are abundant. The places are privately funded and appear to be succeeding in keeping nesting flocks of storks in Switzerland.

Oh yes, before I forget, **Tufted Ducks** are easy to find.

Finally, we visited the Swiss Vogelwarte in Sempach near Luzern. As near as I could tell, this is the headquarters of bird monitoring in Switzerland. They had a great exhibit of mounted Swiss birds and a small birding area; I mean small. You could also buy books and the usual nature center stuff.

All in all, we had a good time birding while in Switzerland. We did it regularly but not exclusively. I saw about 60 new birds and Marian about 40. Except in the centers of the big cities, it is possible to bird almost everywhere. I would not plan a birding trip to Switzerland, but if I go again I definitely will take my bird book and binoculars.



WHO...

Do you ask for expert advice on bird feeding?

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



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

15TH ANNUAL KLAMATH BASIN BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE:

*A retrospective, looking back on 15 plus
years of Bald Eagle management*

Sponsored by Klamath Basin Audubon
Society et al

February 18-20, 1994

Oregon Institute of Technology,
Klamath Falls, Oregon

The Klamath Basin of Northern
California and south-central Oregon -
home to over 170 species of breeding
birds and world famous for spectacular
flocks of migratory waterfowl - hosts the
largest concentration of Bald Eagles in
the lower 48 States. The Klamath Basin
Bald Eagle Conference coincides with
the presence of wintering waterfowl and
Eagles so that Conference participants
can enjoy these magnificent birds. The
purpose of the conference is to share
information, increase awareness, and
gain understanding of our wildlife
resources, especially our National
Symbol, the Bald Eagle.

Contact the Sequoia Audubon Society
office for more information - space is
limited.

On The Shelf

By Michael Lee Huxgen, MLS

SEQUOIA NEEDLES is unique, and
we're going mainstream by applying to
the Library of Congress National Serials
Data Program for an ISSN, an
International Standard Serial Number.
To do this we need the date/volume/
number information that appeared on
the first issue. Does anyone still have a
copy? All this information will make its
way into the periodical directories of the
world, which are where libraries seek
new titles to build and complete their
collections. (If your newsletter is also
unregistered, I have extra copies of the
ISSN application form. You may also
call NSDP at 202-707-6542).

Does anyone have a complete run of the
NEEDLES? I would also like to arrange
to have the Society's missing issues
copied so anyone seeking wayward
leaves can go directly to the source.
This kind of highly localized
information is invaluable in reassessing
populations and conditions.

TWO MORNINGS IN COSTA RICA

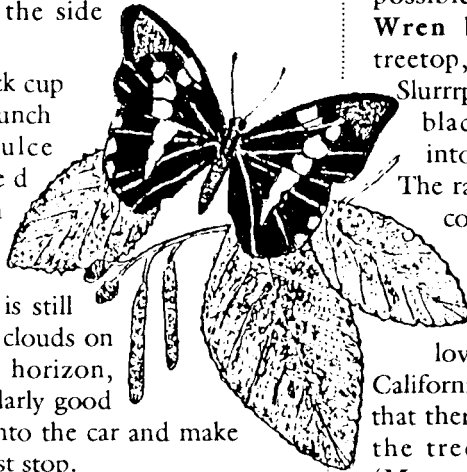
By Francis Toldi

Sunday, August 8, 1993

I didn't need the help of the alarm clock
to wake up at 5:00 am. Despite
lingering fatigue from yesterday's long
and largely sleepless night flight from
San Francisco to San Jose, Costa Rica,
followed by a stressful drive to this
mountain lodge on the shoulder of the
Cerro de la Muerte, I jump out of bed
eager for a day's birding. It rained
steadily last night, with gusty winds
rocking the little room
perched on the side
of the hill.

I brew a quick cup
of tea and munch
on a pan dulce
purchased
yesterday on
the way
here. Some
breakfast. It is still
breezy, with clouds on
the Western horizon,
not a particularly good
sign. I hop into the car and make
off for my first stop.

Keith Taylor's *A Birder's Guide to Costa
Rica* is a marvelous book, essential for
the independent birder in Costa Rica
and helpful for tour birders as well. He
identifies quite a number of good
stopping points on the Panamerican
Highway here on the Cerro, including
lists of expected species. As the dawn
turns to morning I reach my first stop.
No birds. None. No **Silky Flycatchers**,
no **Spangle-checked Tanagers**, no
Black-checked Warblers. OK, on to
the next stop, a little further up the
mountain. After a lot of work, I turn up
a **Yellow-thighed Finch**, hear a
Timberline Wren in a tangle of
vegetation (but can't get it to emerge,
despite reports that they respond well to
"pishing"), and hear one of the
Nightingale Thrushes but can't
remember which one. Francis Toldi, ace
tropical birder, has tallied one countable
species in an hour of prime time birding
(OK, three if you count the **Sooty-capped
Bush-Tanagers** and **Rufous-collared
Sparrows** that are practically flying into
the car windshield at every turn).



This has got to get better. It is
stunningly beautiful here, with thick
epiphytic vegetation crawling up every
available tree, dripping mossy ground
glistening in the morning sun. But I
want to see some birds!

Further up the mountain the mists close
in around me and it starts to rain. More
stops, more slogging around on the
muddy slopes, more peering into misty
trees and dark thickets yields a few new
species: a brilliant pair of **Ruddy
Treerunners**, lots of **Magnificent
Hummingbirds**, hard-earned **Blue
Seedeater** and **Silvery-fronted
Tapaculo**. Just as I am chasing down a
possible glimpse of an **Orchraceous
Wren** bubbling away in a nearby
treetop, I step in a deep mud hole—
Slurrrp! Up to my knees in thick, silty
black mud! The bird fades away
into the forest, of course, unseen.
The rain intensifies. How can it be so
cold in the tropics?

How about a little side trip
down the road to beautiful
San Gerardo de Dota? A
lovely winding dirt road through
California-like pastures and oaks (except
that there are bromeliads hanging on all
the trees) is not particularly birdy.
(**Mountain Robins**, more **Magnificent
Hummingbirds**). The sun is breaking
through and in about one more mile I
will hit good oak forest habitat, with
possible **Quetzal**, not to mention many
of the other species I've been missing.
The road drops suddenly down a steep
hill and my wheels start to spin on the
muddy track. I pull the car out on a
wide curve and after considerable
internal debate, cautiousness wins again,
and I spin and swerve my way back up
the hill toward the highway, visions of
Quetzals fading slowly from my mind.

I make a brief stop near the top of the
Cerro, a cold, windswept paramo, very
untropical in appearance. A forlorn
Black-capped Flycatcher, a passing
flock of **Barred Parakeets**, and a
Volcano Hummingbird are all the
birds I can muster. It is noon and I
must make time to get to my evening's
destination. As I drive I sum up the day:
beautiful country but miserable
conditions, and a lot of work for not
very many birds. Who knows what
tomorrow will bring?

To be continued next month.

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch, Our Ranch

By Dan Murphy

ACR DOCENTS, the core of our education program, have announced a docent exchange between the Bolinas Lagoon and Bouverie Preserves. Many of those same docents will participate in an advanced training program to get ready for the spring season. And in the fall of 1994, you can apply to join the ranks of this wonderful corps of educators when we offer a training program for new docents. Watch NEWS for details or check it out when you visit the Ranch this spring.

At the last ACR board meeting, Al Fisk announced BAP docents will train a group of 5th grade students to be junior docents. The Juniper Program will involve 25 volunteer students who have participated in field trips to BAP and who wish to share their experiences with others. They will attend 5 Saturday training programs before meeting the public.

U.N. BIOSPHERE RESERVE This column keeps mentioning that ACR is a world class preserve with world class programs. It seems others agree since Audubon Canyon Ranch has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations.

BIKE TRAIL REMOVAL Can you believe the nerve? Some mountain bikers decided that ACR was just the place for a break-neck trail from Bolinas Ridge to the Lagoon. It's bad enough that some of these folks find their way onto our trails to surprise hikers and staff, but right over the hill and dale shows a true disregard for everything Audubon Canyon Ranch stands for. On our last workday about a dozen volunteers spent hours obscuring the trail. Hopefully winter will lend a natural hand and by next spring the trail will be lost. Our staff will continue monitoring the area.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT TOMALES BAY HARBOR SEAL MONITORING will pick up again in the spring. We need volunteers who can commit to being in the field on at least 5 days between March and July. Not only do you get to count all the harbor seals Tomales Bay can supply, you get to monitor pupping success, record

human impacts and be part of a very important research project. For more information call Mary Ellen King at (707) 537-1546 or John Kelly at (415) 663-8203.

SPRING SHOREBIRD COUNTS are upcoming at Tomales bay. John Kelly needs the help of knowledgeable shorebird watchers. You don't need to be a pro, but you should have a pretty good idea of what you're looking at. A scope is necessary for this project. Call John at (415) 663-8203 for further information.

ACR'S PUBLIC SEASON begins again in mid-March. Unpack the picnic basket and get ready. We'll need volunteer hosts as always. Why not plan ahead by calling the office at (415) 868-9244, or better yet, volunteer through your Audubon Chapter.

FREE LUNCH! Yes, if the public season is upon us it must be time for another work day. That would be on Saturday, March 5th. Join the ACR staff and friends in the spring preserve cleaning. As your reward you'll spend a day in the field, meet some great people, and best of all is that **FREE LUNCH!** Call the office at (415) 868-9244.

GUIDED NATURE WALKS at Bouverie Audubon Preserve will be scheduled through the spring. February 12th is probably full, so call (707) 938-4554 for information about spring walks.

Backyard Birder

By Rick Held

Get Nesting Boxes Up Now

Our San Francisco Peninsula weather is temperate enough to encourage local bird species to start nesting earlier than in some other parts of the country. Many of the cavity nesting birds here will initiate nesting in late February or March. (We noted that the **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** started building their nest in our yard on March 5 last year.)

Several local species will take a nesting box. Our **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**, **Plain Titmouse** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** all accept the same size box, making the likelihood of success of this box higher than some others. The box dimensions are typically 4x4 inches at the base with about six inches from the floor to the entrance hole. It should be located

in a tree six to twelve feet from the ground. Pointing the entrance hole away from the direction of oncoming storms enhances the chance of nesting. These birds also seem to prefer houses that have a couple of inches of wood shavings loosely placed in the bottom. That is handy, because the first thing they do when adopting the box is empty the chips, providing an obvious clue to you, the landlord, of their intent to lease.

Areas that have more shrubs and low bushes are more likely to accommodate a **Wren** house. These houses are small and have a very small entrance hole to allow the **Wren** to enter while restricting the access of larger predators.

If your landscaping includes more mature trees, you may be able to attract **Downy**, **Hairy**, **Acorn** or **Nuttall's Woodpeckers**, although you might want to verify that one of these species is occasionally around before you venture to put up a box.

Larger birds, such as **American Kestrels** and **Western Screech Owls** are surprisingly easy to attract. They also like a few inches of wood shavings in their box. Both of these species can be easily identified when seen or heard, in the case of the owl, so erecting a nesting box for them doesn't have to be a long-shot proposition.

For those lucky few who live on or adjacent to large open areas, such as a park, golf course or the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way, you should consider putting up a **Bluebird** nesting box. This native species is under substantial pressure from lack of housing and from competition by non-native **House Sparrows** and **European Starlings**. Since **Tree Sparrows** may adopt the same size box, you may be able to have a successful spring even if you don't attract **Bluebirds** the first year. Both species will nest in a box four to five feet from the ground. Monitoring the box and providing protection against predators is especially important for the successful nesting of these birds.

A great deal of information is available on nesting boxes, much of it inconsistent or even conflicting, so don't take it too seriously. It is clear that cavity nesting birds are very flexible in adopting a nesting location, provided it has adequate size for their brood and an adequate entrance hole for access. Other factors may just be fine tuning. As is frequently the case in nature, our best teacher is experience, so get that nesting box up now.

Items For Sale or Rent

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX. Please make checks payable to:
Sequoia Audubon Society

	Direct Sale	By Mail
Birder's Handbook <i>By Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye</i>	17.50	20.00
Birding at the Bottom of the Bay - SCVAS	10.75	13.00
Birding Northern California <i>By Jean Richmond</i>	10.50	13.00
Enjoying Hummingbirds More <i>By various authors</i>	3.50	4.50
Mono Lake Guidebook <i>By David Gaines</i>	6.00	8.50
National Geographic Field Guide	22.00	24.50
Species in Danger In Our Backyard - <i>Jamison</i>	5.00	6.00
Pacific Coast Checklists - <i>Pads of 25</i>	3.00	3.50
San Mateo County or Foster City Checklists	.75	1.50
T-Shirts (<i>blue, green, grey, red, white</i>)	15.00	17.50
"I'd Rather Be Birding" <i>Bumper Sticker</i>	1.50	2.00
Sequoia Audubon Society Patch	2.50	2.75

Videos For Rent:

<i>Techniques of Birding - Arnold Small</i>	2.00 per week
<i>Video Guide to Birds of North America - 5 tapes</i>	5.00 per tape / per week

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

California Duck Days '94

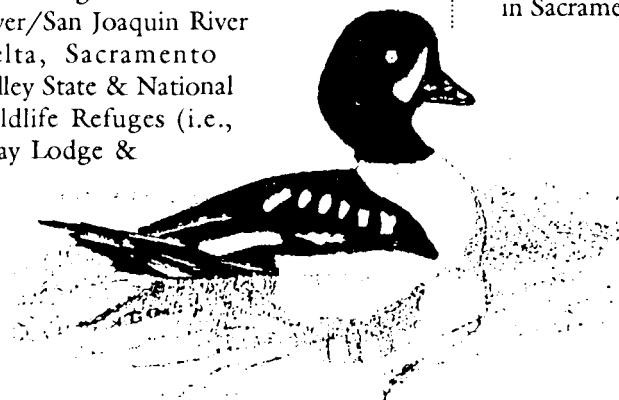
The National Audubon Society is co-sponsoring "California Duck Days '94 - A Wetlands Festival in the Heart of the Pacific Flyway." The festival will be held February 17-22, 1994, in and around Davis, Yolo County.

Field trips to outstanding winter birding areas within two hours of Davis will be offered all six days of the festival. Some of North America's largest concentrations of waterfowl and other wintering bird species will be found on field trips to private and public wetlands and uplands including the Sacramento River/San Joaquin River Delta, Sacramento Valley State & National Wildlife Refuges (i.e., Gray Lodge &

Sacramento), and Bobelaine Sanctuary. Field trips will be led by volunteers from National, Napa-Solano, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter Buttes, and Yolo Audubon Societies, among others.

Entertainment, speakers, special events, and workshops will be concentrated on the Presidents' Day weekend (Friday night through Monday).

For more information, please write, or call, California Duck Days '94, PO Box 5000, Davis, CA 95617; 1-800-425-5001. Or contact Bob Barnes at Audubon's Western Regional Office in Sacramento.

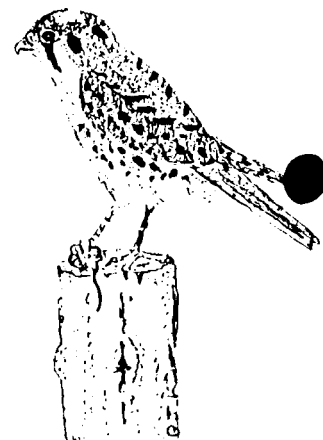


1994 Western Regional Conference at Asilomar

Make plans to join hundreds of fellow Auduboners on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula on March 26-29 for the 1994 Western Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society. This year's conference theme focuses on Audubon's new and compelling Birds in the Balance Program and will feature top-notch speakers, interactive workshops and a variety of field trips. Presentations and workshops will draw special attention to key migratory bird habitats including forest, wetland, and riparian landscapes and the work being done to protect and restore those key habitats.

Call Sequoia Audubon Society office for registration information.

We will remind you again next month by putting this in the newsletter again.



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has purchased two parcels to be added to its Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, approximately two miles east of Lexington Reservoir. These parcels, a total of 134 acres, provide an important segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail that will someday connect Lexington Reservoir Recreation Area to Almaden Quicksilver County Park. This segment also provides a connection to Kennedy Road and is part of a loop trail that traverses the southerly side of Soda Springs Canyon. The total cost of the two parcels is \$222,000.

Conservation Committee Report

By Bob Wilkinson

THE ENVIRONMENT: GLANCING BACK AT 1993 AND LOOKING AHEAD

Regional Milestones

An historic achievement was the completion and submission of the San Francisco Bay Estuary Comprehensive Management Plan, which also received the governor's signature.

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi has introduced legislation to initiate the first steps toward implementation of the plan to end the degradation of our most important resource and hopefully to contribute toward its restoration, a long term process to restore some of its original greatness.

Also of vital concern to the health of the Bay was the Environmental Protection Agency's agreement to promulgate water quality standards, as a result of litigation which SAS supported. The issue of state implementation promises to draw continuing controversy in 1994.

Another regional planning step in 1994 will concern the San Francisco Peninsula watershed. Should there be increased access? SAS has been studying the issues and expects to submit recommendations for the watershed, which is said to have the greatest biodiversity of any region in the Bay Area.

State Legislation

Audubon's Legislative Affairs Director John McCaull reports that the quality of environmental voting declined sharply in the 1993 legislature. Looking ahead the prospects for good forestry legislation are no better than they were in 1993, perhaps worse.

Of highest priority will be work to secure passage of the Endangered Species legislation to be introduced by Gary Hart; it is expected to strengthen the existing law by adopting features similar to the Studds bill (HR2043) in Congress, but Governor Wilson is opposed.

The CALIFORNIA PARKS AND WILDLIFE INITIATIVE qualified for the ballot, with SAS help, and will be voted on in June.

National

Looking ahead to 1994 in Congress, the ESA appears to be shaping up as a battle royal with major opposition developing in the form of the Tauzin-Fields bill. Fortunately both San Mateo County Congressional representatives favor the Studds bill, but we still need Sen. Feinstein's support for the Senate version.

Book note: Edward D. Wilson's much acclaimed *The Diversity of Life* is now available in paperback.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Fund-Raiser

Benefit Audubon by taking wing to Venezuela on a 19-day tour (April 16-May 4, '94). This tour has been arranged by Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris and by the Venezuela Audubon Society as a fund raiser for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon environmental advocate position. It will also benefit Venezuela Audubon. Resident Venezuelan guide David Ascanio and Houston Audubon President-Elect Lynne Aldrich will lead this birding tour, limited to 10 people.

For further information contacts the Cheesemans' at 408-867-1371 or 800-527-5330.



Board Highlights

December 2, 1993

THANK YOU - The Sequoia Audubon Society Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution thanking Cliff Richer for eleven years of faithful service as editor of the Needles.

CAL-PAW ENDORSEMENT - With one opposed, the Board voted to endorse the CAL-PAW initiative which will be on the ballot June 1994.

WINTER 1994 SAS BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

All Orders With Payment Must Be Received By Thursday, February 3rd! Prices Include Sales Tax.

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be February 10th - 13th with details to be advised later.

- | | | |
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| ☐ Pacifica | ☐ Burlingame | ☐ Belmont |
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	# Bags	Cost
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red & white millet plus black oil sunflower20 LB @ \$10.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
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Contributions beyond the bird seed amount to Sequoia Audubon Society are tax deductible. Mail to Sequoia Audubon Society, 30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202, San Mateo, CA 94403.

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

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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

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 Society office (415) 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 Audubon Society to avoid a lapse in magazine or newsletter issues.

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.

Gary & Shari Deghi Benjamin B. Law Anne Moser

Margaret W. Nelson Pat Moon Dan Keller

**Richard Kuehn & Dean Schuler in honor of
Cliff Richer's dedicated effort to the Needles**

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Chapter C16-7XCH

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My check for \$20.00 is enclosed

Please make membership checks payable to:

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