



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society • San Mateo County • Volume 42, No. 6 • March 1994

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1994 BIRDATHON!

See article on page 4.

To participate, fill out
enrollment form on page 7
and return it to:

Sequoia Audubon Society
30 West 39th Avenue, #202,
San Mateo, Ca 94403-4561

Letter From The President

By Anne Moser

Our chapter is having financial problems. No, we're not alone in this, and yes, we've taken actions to tighten our budget. And a big YES, you could help! Let me try, very briefly, to share with you what is going on.

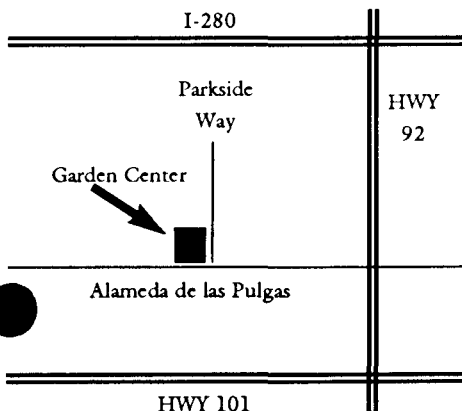
Our income has decreased steadily for the past two years. Our sources are income from investments (the rate of return is way down), our share of National Audubon memberships (their numbers are also down), sales (birdseed, books, T-shirts, checklist), donations, and our fund raisers (the Wild Goose Chase and the Annual Birdathon).

Each summer we make up the next year's budget with projected income and expenses. Two years ago we cut our expenditures substantially, including estimates of the contributions we've made, historically, to other organizations. This year we have cut again. We still have operating expenses: office rent, insurance, wages, telephone and supplies. We also pay for our meeting place, and 3 committees have small budget allowances. We found cheaper printing for the NEEDLES and made other reductions wherever we could.

We really need your help. Our major fund raiser is The Annual Birdathon, which takes place soon (see the separate article in this issue of the NEEDLES). Only half of what we raise remains with our chapter, for we also support designated National Audubon programs, Mono Lake, and the Richardson Bay Educational Center.

There are approximately 1700 members on our mailing list, and if each of you pledged a minimum of \$5.00, we could not only meet our projected budget amount of \$2200 but also help offset the dwindling income from other sources. Please help your chapter by making a pledge.

Good birding to
you all.



GENERAL MEETING

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

MARCH PROGRAM

WHAT HAPPENS TO BIRDS AFTER
THEY LEAVE THE NEST

With Jim Steele

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

BOARD MEETING

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

APRIL 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. Feb. 28th for April issue.

CHRISTMAS COUNT STATISTICS

Species	Año Nuevo	Crystal Springs
Red-throated Loon	57	37
Pacific Loon	371	62
Common Loon	26	33
Pied-billed Grebe	34	93
Horned Grebe	4	44
Red-necked Grebe	2	3
Eared Grebe	6	15
Western Grebe	629	324
Clark's Grebe	12	60
Northern Fulmar	2	26
Black-vented Shearwater	47	0
Sooty Shearwater	2	0
Short-tailed Shearwater	6	0
Sooty/Short-tld SW Species	5	0
Brown Pelican	1043	114
Double-crested Cormorant	41	914
Brandt's Cormorant	112	158
Pelagic Cormorant	95	97
American Bittern	1	0
Great Blue Heron	21	53
Great Egret	12	135
Snowy Egret	17	204
Cattle Egret	4	1
Green-backed Heron	0	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	15	38
Brant	7	8
Canada Goose	0	344
Wood Duck	9	0
Green-winged Teal	78	645
Mallard	26	738
Northern Pintail	50	627
Cinnamon Teal	5	6
Northern Shoveler	24	242
Godwits	19	127
Eurasian Wigeon	0	5
American Wigeon	33	388
Canvasback	61	1791
Redhead	0	6
Ring-necked Duck	26	64
Greater Scaup	0	249
Lesser Scaup	0	151
Scaup Species	0	8733
Harlequin Duck	1	0
Oldsquaw	1	0
Black Scoter	2	3
Surf Scoter	353	1938
White-winged Scoter	56	29
Common Goldeneye	11	1790
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	29
Bufflehead	101	791
Hooded Merganser	4	68
Common Merganser	0	1
Red-breasted Merganser	43	117
Ruddy Duck	132	1424
Turkey Vulture	18	63
Osprey	0	1
Black-shouldered Kite	6	16
Bald Eagle	0	1
Northern Harrier	18	25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	11
Cooper's Hawk	6	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	15
Red-tailed Hawk	56	71
Ferruginous Hawk	1	0
Golden Eagle	2	1
American Kestrel	49	38
Martin	3	4
Peregrine Falcon	4	7
Prairie Falcon	1	0
Wild Turkey	0	2
California Quail	411	273
Virginia Rail	16	3

Species	Año Nuevo	Crystal Springs
Sora	2	2
Common Moorhen	0	1
American Coot	256	1641
Black-bellied Plover	67	566
Snowy Plover	0	18
Semipalmated Plover	0	183
Killdeer	49	154
Black Oystercatcher	50	3
Black-necked Stilt	0	121
American Avocet	0	2222
Greater Yellowlegs	8	49
Willet	131	4488
Wandering Tattler	3	2
Spotted Sandpiper	0	16
Whimbrel	61	58
Long-billed Curlew	8	311
Marbled Godwit	43	1820
Ruddy Turnstone	0	12
Black Turnstone	82	50
Surf Scud	55	32
Red Knot	0	4
Sanderling	596	415
Western Sandpiper	0	2459
Least Sandpiper	13	623
Dunlin	0	12385
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	148
Long-billed Dowitcher	6	156
Dowitcher Species	—	954
Common Snipe	6	15
Pomarine Jaeger	4	1
Bonaparte's Gull	4	82
Heermann's Gull	243	5
Mew Gull	903	508
Ring-billed Gull	8	745
California Gull	522	7842
Herring Gull	71	214
Thayer's Gull	9	9
Western Gull	522	5902
Glaucous-winged Gull	308	305
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	3
Gull Species	750	3413
Forster's Tern	2	116
Common Murre	1209	864
Marbled Murrelet	10	6
Ancient Murrelet	8	6
Cassin's Auklet	11	11
Rhinoceros Auklet	47	32
Rock Dove	137	1852
Band-tailed Pigeon	256	71
Mourning Dove	122	917
Barn Owl	4	2
Western Screech Owl	10	7
Great Horned Owl	15	12
Northern Pygmy Owl	16	5
Burrowing Owl	0	3
Spotted Owl	1	0
Long-eared Owl	0	1
Short-eared Owl	0	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11	9
Anna's Hummingbird	64	252
Belted Kingfisher	6	12
Acorn Woodpecker	163	46
Red-breasted Sapsucker	12	3
Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	5
Downy Woodpecker	13	8
Hairy Woodpecker	49	14
Northern Flicker	123	122
Pileated Woodpecker	2	0
Black Phoebe	103	283
Say's Phoebe	26	4
Horned Lark	0	80

Species	Año Nuevo	Crystal Springs
Swallow Species	0	1
Stellar's Jay	220	120
Scrub Jay	158	237
American Crow	2	22
Common Raven	82	129
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	782	484
Plain Titmouse	1	25
Bushitit	248	858
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	7
Pygmy Nuthatch	126	101
Brown Creeper	76	19
Bewick's Wren	82	66
House Wren	2	1
Winter Wren	82	11
Marsh Wren	32	11
Canyon Wren	1	0
American Dipper	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	91	42
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	210	271
Western Bluebird	26	14
Hermit Thrush	56	57
American Robin	277	669
Varied Thrush	78	17
Wrenitit	138	75
Northern Mockingbird	3	15
California Thrasher	4	21
American Pipit	42	69
Cedar Waxwing	106	145
Loggerhead Shrike	5	5
European Starling	677	1916
Hutton's Vireo	39	34
Tennessee Warbler	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	21
Nashville Warbler	0	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	96	182
Audubon Myrtle	131	538
Myrtle	151	53
Blk-throated Gray Warbler	1	0
Townsend's Warbler	149	240
Palm Warbler	1	5
Black-and-white Warbler	5	0
Common Yellowthroat	33	14
Wilson's Warbler	0	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	64	69
California Towhee	82	185
Clay-Colored Sparrow	1	0
Savannah Sparrow	103	81
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	0
Fox Sparrow	132	50
Song Sparrow	414	142
Lincoln's Sparrow	57	22
Swamp Sparrow	18	5
White-throated Sparrow	3	4
Golden-crowned Sparrow	404	1633
White-crowned Sparrow	600	769
Dark-eyed Junco	196	286
Redwinged Blackbird	964	511
Tricolored Blackbird	1375	36
Western Meadowlark	180	228
Brewer's Blackbird	1418	1173
Brown-headed Cowbird	46	96
Purple Finch	54	48
House Finch	334	633
Red Crossbill	39	6
Pine Siskin	395	97
Lesser Goldfinch	10	16
American Goldfinch	41	34
Evening Grosbeak	0	4
House Sparrow	49	416

Año Nuevo Count Participants

Barbara Armstrong Rick Baird J. R. Blair Al De Martini Harold Higby Grant Hoyt Karen Hoyt Rick Johnson Dan Keller Don Keller Evelyn Keller John Keller Valerie Layne Al McKee Bert McKee Judy McKee Peter Metropoulos Carol Miller Anne Moser Janet Murphy Pete Popin David Powell Cliff Richer Steve Rotenberg Heather Rotenberg Barry Souppé Robin Smith Judy Spiller Maria Strommann Emily Strauss Ron Thorn

Crystal Springs Count Participants

Rick Baird Rick Baird Al DeMartini Gary Deghi Alan Eisner Louise Fletcher Leslie Flint Reid Freeman Henry W. Hansen Dave Hershey Chuck Higinie Linda Higinie Grant Hoyt Karen Hoyt John Keller Evelyn Keller David Keller Don Keller Dan Keller Richard Kurehn Rosalie Lefkowitz Ann Lopez Iona Luka Bert McKee Judy McKee Peter Metropoulos Carol Miller Anne Moser Pat Pouch Donna Petersen Pete Popin David Powell Diana Quon Cliff Richer Grace Sain Barry Schuler Dean Schuler Cheryl Seehorn Robert Seehorn Robin Smith Judy Spiller Ron Thorn W. Telford Telford Francis Telford

Statistics

Año Nuevo Count:

January 2, 1994 175 Species 22,636 Birds 31 Participants

Crystal Springs Count:

December 18, 1993 191 Species 88,997 Birds 44 Participants

Compiler, Both Counts: Dan Keller

TWO MORNINGS IN COSTA RICA

By Francis Toldi

Continued from February Needles
Day 2, Tuesday, August 10, 1993

Lying in bed at 4:30 am. Ever optimistic, I still didn't need the alarm. With the difficult birding conditions so far and yesterday's torrential all-day rain, my philosophical reasoning is working overtime. Is it fair to come to a wonderful place like this, loaded up with expectations and very specific lists of birds I want to see? What about the many plants, the bountiful insect life, the friendly people? If all of the above are providing great experiences, but there are few birds, is this still a successful trip? I continue to ponder these questions while doing some stretching exercises in the pitch black. Outside the night sounds are still going full force: tink frogs tinkling, insects grinding away, the distant growl of a Crested Owl. As dawn approaches I make out the mournful "whoop" of the Blue-crowned Motmot and the ethereal quavering call of the Little Tinamou (or a Great Tinamou?). It appears that it will be a beautiful sunny day.

I slip on my boots and make my way through the more cultivated trails at the Wilson Botanical Gardens, my home for the next four days. I silently walk down the Jungle Trail—a wider, less maintained trail still within the Gardens proper—just as it is getting light enough to really see anything. Suddenly I see a Ruddy Quail Dove walking along the trail just 25 feet in front of me. A moment of lapsed attention and I just missing something—maybe a Wood Quail or Tinamou—that flutters into the impenetrable thicket.

A few moments of complete silence are followed by an explosion of bird activity as a feeding flock passes through: Blue-backed Grosbeaks close by, Wedge-billed Woodcreepers, Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher and Spot-crowned Euphonia overhead, and a number of other birds, some identified, some not. A White-breasted Wood-wren is calling nearby, then another, then three pop into view. A red-flowering tree Purple-crowned Fairy, Long-billed Starthroat and Green Hermit are all feeding within a few

minutes of each other. Not far away a noisy band of White-faced Monkeys are both concerned and curious about the nature of this forest visitor.

Slightly later, from "the Observatory," a small hill overlooking the forest canopy, I count a half dozen species of brilliantly colored tanagers, four flycatchers, various wrens and hummingbirds, the stunning Pale-billed Woodpecker, and a small flock of Fiery-billed Aracari (toucans). It continues this way for much of the day. Everywhere I look, new birds appear! Yet later I have a leisurely walk around the Gardens with one of the Garden directors and learn more about tropical plants in an hour that I knew previously. We tour the Maranta, Heliconia, Bromeliad and Palm collections (some of the best in the world) and inspect an interesting experiment she is conducting exploring the interrelationship between a specialized beetle and their collection of rare Cycads. One of the workmen shows us an Eyelash Viper he had found while clearing old Banana leavers (not too closely, thank you).

That evening at dinner, sated from a day of birds and more, I listen with some fascination and some incomprehension to a visiting scientist describe in detail the rare fungus he is here to study. At a nearby table is an animated conversation over the proper classification of a species of moth. Outside the sky grows dark and the night chorus begins. On my way back to my room I almost trip over a giant toad of unknown species. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch, Our Ranch

By Dan Murphy

RANCH OPENS March 12 marks the beginning of the 1994 public season. If you're a fan of all those baby egrets you'll just have to wait until May.

But if early spring wildflowers excite you, if heron and egret courtship displays are of interest, if hiking a damp and quiet trail will restore you, March and April are great times to visit the Ranch.

RANCH PREVIEW It's work day at the Ranch on March 5. Join our staff and friends as we get ready for the public season. You may get a chance to hike a trail or two. But most important to true friends of ACR is the **FREE LUNCH!** Do register in advance (415) 868-9244; we need to hear from you to plan our work day and to plan lunch.

HOSTING AT THE RANCH We can almost always use volunteer hosts to greet visitors at ACR. If you don't volunteer through your Audubon Chapter, do give us a call at (415) 868-9244.

WELCOME KATIE AND PAT Katie Borisso has joined our staff to replace Edris as our receptionist and secretary. She will be the voice on the other end of the line when you call to register for seminars or just for information. Pat Garmy recently joined our maintenance staff at Cypress Grove Preserve.

BOUVERIE GUIDED NATURE WALKS Saturdays: March 5 & 19, April 2 & 9, and May 7 & 28 Enjoy the wonders of spring at our beautiful Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Territorial birds will be singing, wildflowers will abound and early in the season the creek will be full. Join a BAP docent for one of our wildly acclaimed half day nature walks. Registration is free. You can register at the beginning of the month preceding the walk of your choice. Call (707) 938-4554.

SPRING SEMINARS Participation in all seminars is by advanced reservation only. Please call the Ranch at (415) 868-9244 to register or for additional information.

OWL & OTHER EYESHINE Saturday, March 9, at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Join Cathleen Cannon for a guaranteed look at some of our common but seldom seen nocturnal predators. True, there's no guarantee of what you'll see or hear on the night walk, but the owls from Santa Rosa Bird Rescue will make seeing some a sure thing. (\$20)

SPRING WILDFLOWERS A Personal Introduction. Saturday, April 10 at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Wildflowers at the Bouverie Preserve are magnificent during the spring and John Peterson is just the person to help you discover them. (\$30)

Continued on page 4

BIRDATHON 1994

by Francis Toldi, Birdathon Coordinator

The Birders are coming! The Birders are coming!

Yes, folks, it's nearly that time of year again, when normally reserved and urbane citizens dash wildly about counting birds. It's also that time when we contact you seeking contributions.

Birdathon 1994 is almost upon us. We hope to make this year's Birdathon a great success, and we can only do that with your help. The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain exactly what a Birdathon is and how you can assist in making it a success.

What is a Birdathon? Birdathon is an annual national effort to raise money for bird conservation, preservation and enjoyment. It is organized and run by National Audubon Society and over 100 local Audubon Societies through-out the United States, including Sequoia Audubon. The event takes place during the last 2 weeks of April every year.

How much money is raised? Locally last year we raised about \$1800, low by even our modest standards, to be split and 50% retained by Sequoia Audubon.

How is the money spent? All funds raised are split, with 50% retained by the local Audubon club and 50% sent to National Audubon, which allows the local clubs to designate which National programs receive the money. Our tradition (which will continue this year) is to designate the national portion to the Mono Lake effort (at a critical juncture this year and desperately in need of funding) and Audubon's Richardson Bay Educational Center (if you've never been there, it's worth a tip to Tiburon!). We use the local share to fund our Sequoia operations. It is the year's most important fund raiser for us.

What exactly happens? Sometime at the end of April or beginning of May teams of birders spend a 24-hour period in the field, counting as many bird species as possible. Supporters pay a pledged amount per species seen (or a simple flat contribution).

If I just want to contribute money, what do I do? You may pledge or just mail in a flat amount. You may pledge a particular amount per species seen by the group you are pledging to. If you do

not designate a specific team, your pledge will apply to the Official Team's results. The Official Team usually sees around 200 species, sometimes more, sometimes less. If you want to play the "per species" game but worry about pledging too much, you can designate a "cap," or maximum amount for your pledge (e.g., 10¢ per species, with a \$15.00 cap; if 160 species are seen, you would still owe only \$15.00).

Can I play too, or do you just want money? We welcome your support in whatever form it is offered. Whoever you are, we need your help. A modest pledge to the Official Team would be easy to do and is always deeply appreciated. A generous contribution would be even better, of money or time: we always welcome volunteers to help in the administrative effort of running the Birdathon. We particularly encourage you to form your own team and obtain your own pledges. We can offer you considerable guidance and support in your efforts.

Do I have to be an expert to have a team? Not in the least. The Official Team spends 20 hours in the field, finds around 200 species and in general acts semi-delirious, but others can arrange their bird count in any way they please. As long as the count takes place within a continuous 24-hour period within the last 2 weeks of April, it is not necessary to copy the Official Team's procedure. A "team" can be 1 person. You can count the birds seen only in San Mateo County, or your town, or at your feeder. You can sleep late, have a full breakfast, bird from 11 am to 2 pm, take a nap and finish off the day with a 4-course meal. You can count the five species you know (House Sparrow, Rock Dove, Starling, Mallard, northern Beardless Tyrannulet) and leave it at that. You can form a special team (teachers only, women only, under 16 only, over 70 only, lousy writers only).

Is this event any fun? Personally, it is the highlight of my year. When we've driven back home after 20 straight hours of exhausting birding, we find ourselves excitedly talking about how we want to do next year's count! Friends, family and work associates are enthusiastic and quite willing to pledge against our team's results, although it does confirm their suspicions that I am a little strange.

SPRING WORK DAY at Cypress Grove Preserve. Saturday, April 30. If you've ever wondered how to get into Cypress Grove Preserve on Tomales Bay we've got the ticket for you. The place is incredible and all you have to do is help with a little gardening, maintenance, or cleaning up. Like all our other preserves, Cypress Grove doesn't take care of itself, so join with the ACR family for this work day. (Free)

JELLYFISH Saturday, May 7 at Cypress Grove Preserve. You know jellyfish are not jelly and they're not fish, but did you know they don't have brains? Imagine what else you don't know about these incredible cnidarians which inhabit the waters of the central California coast. Let Cathleen Cannon help you discover jellyfish. (\$15)

WILDFLOWERS IN WATERCOLOR Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15 at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Join Vesta Kirby and enjoy the late blooming wildflowers at the Ranch as you learn to use "expressive brushstroke techniques to create lively, colorful paintings." (\$80)

AMAZING COASTAL MARSHES Saturday, June 18 at Cypress Grove Preserve. John Kelly will lead you around Tomales Bay to see a variety of coastal marshes. Marsh ecology varies with the season, salinity, tide and inflow. See the wonderful variety of plants and some of the wildlife which have adapted to these superficially similar but vastly different habitats. (\$30)

BUTTERFLY COUNTS Saturday, June 25 in Marin County, and Sunday, June 26 in Sonoma County.

Grab your butterfly net and swagger out in a field to count butterflies. If you don't know how to identify butterflies, or perhaps more importantly how to swagger while carrying a butterfly net, join Ray Peterson at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on the evening of Wednesday, June 22 for "get-to-know-the-critters" night. Take it from me, Ray can swagger with the best of 'em. In reality this is a very important bit of field work and we do need your help to continue to assess butterfly populations in Marin and Sonoma Counties. (\$8)

Bluebird Trails on the Peninsula?

By Rick Held

Our native Western Bluebird, along with its Eastern and Mountain Bluebird cousins, has suffered a serious decline in population over the last 100 years. This decline has been most carefully studied in the Pacific Northwest, where farmers first cleared land and planted crops in the 1880's. Increasing counts of these birds were noted at that time and for a few years thereafter. Around 1900, declines in population started, until, by the mid 40's, these birds were virtually extinct along the coast of Washington and Oregon. The Western Bluebird was suffering the same fate as its eastern cousin.

One major factor threatening the survival of this cavity nesting species was the availability of appropriate nesting sites. In early years the development of agriculture in the United States was a boon to the bluebirds, since wooden fence posts proved to make ideal nesting locations. Over the past fifty years changes in fencing materials, steel posts rather than wood, and increased use of pesticides has combined to make fewer good nesting locations available. Those that are available have fewer insects near the front porch. In addition, the House Sparrow, an aggressive and often successful nest competitor, was literally pushing the bluebirds out the door of the nesting locations they prefer.

In the early 70's bluebird trails, groups of bluebird nest boxes placed at intervals along a trail or fence line, were initially constructed in the northwest. Ideal locations for these trails are fence lines, trees and posts on the perimeter of open grasslands, pasture or golf courses. The boxes are usually placed about one hundred yards apart, or located so that they are out of sight of each other. Monitoring the boxes during the nesting season, to make sure that predators are controlled and that House Sparrows have not taken up occupancy, is as important as placing the boxes themselves. Today, at least partially due to these bluebird trails, Western Bluebird populations are increasing in the northwest, although much remains to be done.

Here on the Peninsula, several bluebird trails have been constructed. Philip C. "Red" Pendleton of Palo Alto has personally placed many boxes and supervised the placement of others by Boy Scouts working on projects for their Eagle rank. In total, Red is personally responsible for the construction and placement of over 50 bluebird nest boxes (as well as Wood Duck nest boxes and bat roosting boxes) at several locations on the Peninsula. Red believes that his efforts have brought about substantial increases in bluebird sightings in the Rancho San Antonio Preserve near Los Altos, as well as other locations.

Many places in our area have prime habitat for these beautiful birds and are good prospects for new trails. The ideal location would not only meet the local habitat requirement described above, but would also be accessible for monitoring by responsible individuals but not exposed or accessible to vandals.

This Spring a Bluebird Trail Registry for the Peninsula is being initiated. Red Pendleton has generously provided copies of his records to initiate the project. The registry will be available to record new trails constructed and new individual boxes hung. Reports of trail monitoring, including predator activity, nesting activity by species and fledging success will be recorded. This information will be made available to any interested individual or organization as an encouragement for the creation of new trails throughout the Peninsula.

If you have information about Western Bluebirds that you would like to share, or you would like to know more about local bluebird trail efforts, call (415) 595-0300.



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

Field Trip Report

Palo Alto Baylands, 1/22/94

By Francis Toldi

Despite predictions of rain, 9 beginning & intermediate birders enjoyed a beautiful morning of birding at the Palo Alto Baylands Preserve. Before the trip had even officially started, we were treated to the sight of a White-Tailed Kite buzzing a Peregrine Falcon (first spotted by eagle-eyed Rick Baird); then there were 3 very cooperative Clapper Rails (despite the not very high tide), good closeup comparisons of Greater and Lesser Scaup, and a wide variety of ducks (11 species overall). We recorded a total of 39 species before retiring to the Palo Alto Airport cafeteria for coffee and further discussions.



Highlights of the January 6 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board heard reports from its various committees, highlighted by a presentation from the Conservation Committee on SAS's position on public access to the San Francisco Watershed. The Board also discussed upcoming fund raising efforts, including the Wild Goose Chase, Birdathon 1994, and the publication of the revised Birding the San Francisco Peninsula. Other topics addressed concerned organization of the SAS office, insurance coverage, the SAS computer system, and formation of the Nominating Committee for next fiscal year's officers and directors.



Goodby

SF Chronicle 1/15/94

New York In mid-January 2 juvenile Great Blue Herons stranded in wintery New York finally migrated south by USAir jet, accompanied by Gretchen Kaneb, a New York wildlife rehabilitator. After helping to nurse them back to health, she paid for the trip, saying it was cheaper than paying \$40 for their daily dinner of 10 dozen minnows each.

Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash!

Sequoia Audubon Society to Co-sponsor Symposium—All Invited!

"Alameda Naval Air Station's Natural Resources and Base Closure Planning for the Future"

Saturday, March 12, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Avenue, Alameda

Sponsored by*:

Golden Gate Audubon

Bay Area Audubon Council

College of Alameda

East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission

Save San Francisco Bay Association

United States Navy

Sequoia Audubon Society

(*The presentations at the Symposium do not necessarily represent the positions of all sponsoring organizations)

This symposium will discuss and document the natural resource values, including endangered species, waterbirds, harbor seals, and fish, found on the Alameda Naval Air Station. Expert scientific information will be presented addressing roosting, foraging and/or nesting use for birds such as least and Caspian terns, western gulls and brown pelicans. Discussion will be held on the effect of the base closure on these species. Habitat requirements to maintain these species will be discussed as will the potential impact of habitat loss to the Bay Area populations of these species.

Join us for a tour of the Alameda Naval Air Station Natural Resources Areas on March 11th at 2:00 p.m. For reservations, contact: Sherril Withrow (510) 263-8742

**CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE REPORT**

by Bob Wilkinson

**PLAN TO RESCUE BAY-DELTA
RELEASED**

Under threat of court action initiated by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, with participation of this and other Bay Area Chapters of Audubon, the EPA in December released proposed water quality standards designed to prevent the further collapse of the Bay-Delta ecosystem, following years of delay and inadequate measures taken by the state of California.

In cooperation with three other federal agencies the EPA draft plan would establish water salinity and flow standards to protect the Delta smelt, salmon, striped bass, and other fish. The Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish marsh on the west coast, would also be benefitted along with several bird species such as the Suisun Marsh Song

Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Black-crowned Night Heron.

Under the Clean Water Act most implementation is a state responsibility. Whether there will be cooperation between state and federal agencies in this election year remains to be seen. The possible impacts on agriculture and on urban users stemming from greater water flows to the Bay have been outlined in the EPA draft; the degree of impact would depend on how flexibly water allocations are made, whether there are payments to agriculture (which uses 75-85% of the state's developed water) for water transfers, the amount of water trading, improved irrigation efficiency, the amount of conservation measures adopted, etc. Impacts on the 18 million urban water users might be as little as \$25 million if such measures as water transfers, water reclamation, or an efficient drought water bank were to be utilized. There are expected to be sizable economic benefits to commercial fisheries if the

**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.

♦ ♦ ♦

New Book For Sale

by S. Allen D. Summers

A Birder's Guide to the Klamath Basin contains 88 pages & covers 32 key birding areas in the Klamath Basin of southcentral Oregon and northcentral California. There are maps for 15 of these areas showing their location & road or highway access. A bar graph showing the seasonal occurrence, relative abundance & common locations for over 270 species known to occur there is also included, plus a list of about 60 'Vagrant or Accidental' species. The book is 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 & has a plastic binder which allows it to be opened fully for ease of use in the field. Price is \$10 or \$11 by mail. Contact Sequoia Audubon Society office.

♦ ♦ ♦

Conservation Report continued...

fish population increases as expected due to the proposed changes.

Final adoption of the draft plan is expected in coming months. In the meantime we can anticipate opposition from some of those users affected by the proposed standards.

Further details concerning this very complex plan may be obtained from the conservation chair (415) 347-8367.

Nominating Committee

This by-law change was approved by the membership at the regular meeting of the Sequoia Audubon Society January 13, 1994:

Prior to March 1st, the Board of Directors shall designate a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members in good standing, of whom at least two (2) are not officers or members of the board. Notice with names of the members of the Nominating Committee will be given in the Society's publication. Suggestions for nominations of the Officers and Directors may be submitted to the Nominating Committee by any member of the Society.

1994 Birdathon Enrollment

Fill out and return to Sequoia Audubon Society, 30 West 39th Avenue, #202, San Mateo, CA 94403-4561

☐ Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$15
☐ \$10 ☐ \$5 ☐ Other _____

☐ I pledge \$_____ per species (with a total cap of \$_____)

☐ I want to organize a team

☐ I know what to do; my team is named _____

☐ I haven't done this before. Please send me more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

The members of the Nominating Committee for 1994 are Anne Moser, Nick Coiro and Richard Kuehn. Positions to be filled include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Directors for the term ending June 1997. Please call a member of the Nominating Committee if you have a candidate to suggest.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Thursday, March 10 - Sequoia Audubon Society GENERAL MEETING - WHAT HAPPENS TO BIRDS AFTER THEY LEAVE THE NEST, with Jim Steele at the San Mateo Garden Center.

Sunday, March 13 - Nature Walk Pescadero Marsh docents John & Nena Padley, who love "their" marsh, will share its complexities & secrets with us. Though this is a multi-faceted field trip dealing with all aspects of the marsh ecosystem, birders need not worry their interests will be overlooked: Pescadero Marsh is one of the premier birding spots in the county. The weather may be cool or warm depending on fog & wind conditions, so be prepared accordingly. Boots are recommended but any walking will be relatively easy & on level grades. We will meet at 9:00 AM in the first parking lot south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek on Hwy. 1
LEADERS JOHN & NENA PADLEY 345-2984

Tuesday, March 15 - Field Trip to Coyote Point

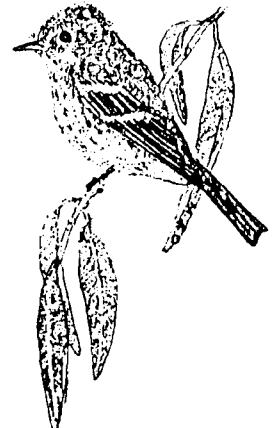
A special week-day field trip to explore the birds & environmental assets of this very special area. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM at the lower end of the museum parking lot near the picnic tables. Rain cancels the trip.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

Saturday, March 26 - Pacifica - the Sharp Park Shoreline & Golf Course

This area can be extremely productive in winter, encompassing a harbor with Scoters, Loons & Mergansers, a beach, a fresh-water marsh & isolated groves of trees, all of which have been known to yield surprises. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Anchor monument just south of the fishing pier on Sharp Park Beach. The trip should break up at noon. Heavy rain cancels the trip.

LEADER JUDY SPITLER 355-9362



SPRING 1994 SAS BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

All Orders With Payment Must Be Received By Thursday, April 14th! Prices Include Sales Tax.

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be April 21st - 24th with details to be advised later.

☐ Pacifica ☐ Burlingame ☐ Belmont ☐ San Bruno
☐ San Mateo ☐ Atherton ☐ Half Moon Bay

	# Bags	Cost
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX.....50 LB @ \$22.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower20 LB @ \$11.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
RED/WHITE MILLET MIX.....50 LB @ \$21.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
.....20 LB @ \$10.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER.....50 LB @ \$30.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
.....25 LB @ \$16.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
WHITE PROSO MILLET.....50 LB @ \$21.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
.....25 LB @ \$11.50/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
THISTLE.....25 LB @ \$49.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
.....5 LB @ \$11.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS.....25 LB @ \$30.00/BAG	_____	= \$ _____

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.

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Even. Phone _____

Membership: We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society/SAS. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to SAS, 30 West 39th Avenue, # 202, San Mateo, Ca 94403

☐ **National Audubon Society Membership:** New members \$20.

Members receive *Audubon* magazine and the *Needles* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

☐ **Needles only subscription:** \$10 annually (includes 9 issues per year).

Make check payable to Sequoia Audubon Society.

☐ **Donation:** SAS greatly appreciates your tax deductible donation which helps fund the Chapter's education, conservation and ongoing activities.

For membership renewal information, call National Audubon at 1-800-274-4201.

Name _____

Gift From: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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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 last day of the month two months prior to the month of publication. 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 Please notify Sequoia Audubon Society at (415) 345- 3724 of name or address changes. 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.

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Susan Bernhard

Iona Luke

Rich Kuehn

Dean Schuler

Syd & Ann Lambertson

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