



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society • San Mateo County • Volume 42, No. 7 • April 1994

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SUPPORT OUR AUDUBON CHAPTER

The seed sales are an important source of income for our chapter, allowing us to continue our conservation, education and field-trip activities. This year costs have jumped once again and we have been forced to raise our prices in response. We apologize but feel we have no choice. We'd like to remind you that Volkman seed is the best available: there's no waste seed and it's cleaned four times before packing so there's no dust or debris. We will once again have extra seed in the office, so if you forget to order all that you require, we should be able to satisfy your needs.

Letter From The President

By Anne Maser

April is Audubon Month, a birthday celebration. We will have a very special speaker at our General Meeting, April 14th, Bob Barnes from the Audubon Western Regional Office in Sacramento. Bob's topic is "Birds in Balance." Bob is the regional coordinator of Audubon's program that is working with other agencies to stem and reverse the destruction of habitat, especially riparian woodlands to conserve the state's neotropical migrant bird population. I know Bob as an excellent field trip leader and as an active member of the Kern River Research Center. It will be a special evening. Do come!

We'll also have our field trips. Judy Spitler coordinates these and we owe Judy and her volunteer leaders many

thanks for the hours they spend giving us a chance to birdwatch.

The other special big event will be the Birdathon during the last 2 weeks of April. Please use the form on page 3 to make a pledge or to form a team and join in this annual fund-raising event.

Ann Loper has volunteered to take on the job of Publicity chairperson. Aren't we fortunate to have so many people becoming involved in SAS? Thanks, Ann.

Don't forget our Birdseed Sale. This is your last chance to order until next fall. (The office does stock a few bags, so call if you run out.) Prices for birdseed have increased substantially due to last year's floods in the Midwest, and SAS is absorbing some of the increase to keep prices realistic. We need these sales to make our budget goal of \$6000 gross for this year.

Good birding to you all.

A note from the editors...

We want to personally thank everyone who is contributing to the Needles. All your contributions are greatly appreciated and we want to encourage you to keep the articles and information coming. Our newsletter is bursting with interesting articles, important news and valuable information. (The illustrations are fewer, but the facts are greater). We may not have space for all submitted articles at the time they are received but they will be kept for future use. Of course any date-sensitive information will be included appropriately. We also want to thank you for your positive feedback and support for our "new look." Your comments are *always* welcome. *Please* remember to submit information before our deadline; the last day of the month, 2 months prior to the month of publication. *Thank you,* Harriette Judge and Michael Lee Huygen

GENERAL MEETING

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

APRIL PROGRAM

BIRDS IN THE BALANCE

By Bob Barnes, Sacramento Office of
National Audubon Society

At the San Mateo Garden Center
on Parkside at the Alameda April 8th.

Don't miss it!

See page 5 for more information.

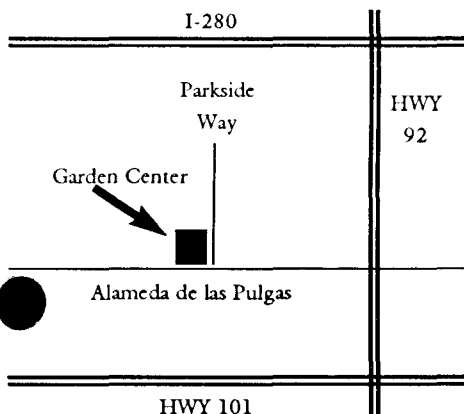
BOARD MEETING

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

SPRING 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. March 31st for May issue.



Big Mono Lake Breakthrough

Audubon the Mono Lake Committee and LADWP Reach Important Agreement

by Jill Shirley, Sacramento Audubon Office, 2/94

Audubon's decades long battle to save Mono Lake saw a major breakthrough last month when the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) finally agreed to apply for dedicated funds from the State of California to invest in water conservation and reclamation programs and give up its claim to 35,000 acre feet of Mono Lake water. This landmark agreement marks a dramatic departure from years of hostility and mistrust, and will help meet the water needs of Los Angeles while protecting the fragile Mono Lake environment.

The agreement is founded upon legislation passed in 1989 that authorized \$60 million in state funds for projects to restore Mono Lake. Included in that figure was \$36 million for the LADWP to develop alternative water sources. But, the law required that both sides agree on what those projects should be. The understanding reached is consistent with our goals of fixing the water supply problem where it exists—in Los Angeles.

While this accord is extraordinarily significant, it does not yet mean permanent protection for the ecologically devastated Mono Lake. That protection rests in the hands of the State Water Resources Control Board. Until the Water Board makes its decision, this fragile and irreplaceable ecosystem is still in jeopardy.

However, this accord does not signal an end to the delayed strategies of the LADWP and their cabal of attorneys. Even as they have agreed to pursue alternative water sources to diversion from the streams of the Mono Basin, they are attempting to thwart the court mandated restoration of those streams.

From the beginning, LADWP's role on the RTC has been more destructive than constructive. As a Water Board decision nears that may be unfavorable to LADWP, their tactics are becoming more cynical and transparent. As of this writing, they are refusing to authorize a

budget for the 1994 restoration season and are refusing to pay the consultants for much of the work done in 1993.

Apparently LADWP thinks that if they hold out long enough, those individuals contracted to repair the streams will just give up and go home. It is now up to Audubon, the Mono Lake Committee and CalTrout to go back to court to get the restoration effort moving again.



Carpool Statement

Passed by the Board of Directors 2/3/94

All SAS activities begin and end at the meeting place designated in the activity announcement in the NEEDLES. SAS encourages activity participants to carpool as much as possible, however SAS assumes no responsibility or liability for arranging the transportation. Carpooling is done at the sole risk of the carpool participants.



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has met and is very pleased to present this slate for 1994-95. The election takes place at the General Meeting June 9th. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

President	Julia Mandeville
Vice President	Richard Kuehn
Secretary	Francis Toldi
Treasure	Debbie Frantz
Directors	

for term ending June '95

Cliff Richer

for term ending June '97

Eileen Jennis-Sauppe

Tom Van den Bosch



Art Show

Wings, A Show of Birds

Featuring work by *Keith Hansen, Phillip L. Greene, Adele Maze, Denise Breaux, Laurie Fry, Inez Storer, Andrew Romanoff* and more!

For more information call Linda Gemignani (415) 663-1318.

March 12 thru April 17 at Marshall Arts - Hog Island Oyster Co., Hwy1, Downtown Marshall on Tomales Bay. *Reception Sat. March 12, 2-5pm - live music.*

Come Learn About Birds of Prey

If you want to learn to identify the hawks, falcons, and eagles of California and you want to be part of a local, long term wildlife conservation project, then we at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) want you! Come attend our only 1994 GGRO Recruitment Meetings to see if you want to get involved. Meetings are Sat., April 23, 10am-12noon; or Thurs, April 28, 7-9pm. Both programs will be held in GGNRA Headquarters Bldg. 201, Upper Fort Mason, SF. Enter at Franklin and Bay Sts. For more information call (415) 331-0730.



Wild Goose Chase Report

By Cliff Richer

The Wild Goose Chase began Feb. 6 as a solo adventure. The air was damp, the weather cool, but the overcast clearing. The owls seemed to welcome the clearing weather and barely needed coaxing. The rails at Pescadero Marsh were equally cooperative and by the time I heard a **Saw-whet Owl** at Butano State Park, I had time for a quick nap before the dawn chorus began. **Stellar's Jay, Scrub Jay, Flicker, Robin** and **Varied Thrush** started the dawn chorus well, but the other birds remained unconvinced that the weather was clearing. By the time I got to Pigeon Point, my list was a disappointing 27.

I was able to more than double my total at the Point, assisted by quick fly-bys by a **Merlin** and a **Pomarine Jaeger**.

I returned to Gazos Creek and Cloverdale Rd. where I found the birds more cooperative and picked up almost all of the expected species.

Quick excursions to Princeton Harbor and Crystal Springs Reservoir picked up some new species, but only one more that I could not expect to see again on the Bayshore. At Foster city, I wasted too much time looking for - and finally finding - one **Red Knot** and skipped Redwood Shores to go on to Charleston Slough. A **Golden Eagle** along the way buoyed me up, but Charleston Slough failed to produce some of its expected species and my after-dark sojourn to Palo Alto Baylands was a washout, leaving me with 152 species for the day.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 5 - STERN GROVE FIELD TRIP

A little park in San Francisco was "discovered" a few years ago by local birders seeking a rare Brown-crested Flycatcher. To get there, take 19th Ave (Hwy 1) north through San Francisco. Since you can't take a left turn onto Sloat, go past it & find a permissible U-turn & come back to turn right on Sloat. From Sloat make a right on Vale & go downhill into Pine Lake Park to the parking lot. We'll meet there at 9 am
LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

Saturday, April 9 - BEGINNER'S TRIP TO THE PHIPPS RANCH IN PESCADERO

Besides boasting one of the best (if not the best) farm stands anywhere, the Phipps Ranch offers fantastic birding opportunities & a very cooperative management. In addition to an outstanding variety of our usual resident species, the Ranch has produced rarities ranging from **Ferruginous Hawk** to **House Sparrow**. We'll meet at 9 am in front of the Phipps Ranch Produce Store. Take Hwy 1 to Pescadero & turn inland on Pescadero Road. Continue past the Pescadero stoplight until you reach the ranch on your right.

LEADER DAN KELLER 726-3306

Thursday, April 14 - SAS GENERAL MEETING - BIRDS IN THE BALANCE PROGRAM

Audubon's program to stem the destruction of habitat, with Bob Barnes of the Audubon Western Regional Office, at the San Mateo Garden Center.

Sunday, April 17 - MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP

Annual auto caravan through an isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on despite destruction of their habitats. **Phainopepla**, **Lewis' Woodpecker**, **Lawrence's Goldfinch**, **Golden Eagle** & **Prairie Falcon** are near certainty while **Roadrunner**, **Wood Duck**, **Purple Martin**, **Wild Turkey**, **Costa's** & **Calliope** hummingbirds, **Rufous-crowned**, **Sage** & **Grasshopper** sparrows are likely. This all-day trip ends at dusk, so bring lunch & liquids. Weather is unpredictable, temperatures vary between 40 & 90 degrees this time of year; there are only 2 reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime & mid-afternoon. A full gas tank is recommended, so be prepared. Take I-580 east past Livermore to Vasco Road exit. Take a right at the exit & follow Vasco Road to its end at Tesla Road. Take a right & follow Tesla Road for a little over 1/2 mile until you reach Mines Road on the left. We will meet at this intersection at 9am. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group if they continue on Mines Road.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 738-9176

Saturday, April 23 - PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Monument is located in the Gabilan Range, which forms the NE boundary of the Salinas Valley. With wooded canyons & peaks reaching nearly 4000 feet, there exists a variety of habitats in relatively close proximity. We will meet at 9:30 am at the Pinnacles Campground Store. The Campground is outside before you actually enter the Monument. Please contact the leader as early as possible for any additional needed details.

LEADER DAN KELLER 726-3306

Saturday, April 30 - JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Join Jasper Ridge's docents for a half day of birding at Stanford University's unique biological preserve. Birds seen on previous SAS trips include **Blue-grey Gnatcatchers**, **Green-backed Herons**, **Western Tanagers**, **Wood Ducks** and 5 species of **Flycatchers**. Meet at 8:30 am at the Main Gate on Sandhill Road, 2 miles west of I-280 on the left side of the road. Be prompt as the gate will only be open from 8:15 to 8:30 am! \$4 entrance fee, rain or shine. Size of group is limited so reserve your spot by calling the SAS office (345-3724). Sorry, no children under 14.

COORDINATOR:
LOUISE FLETCHER 591-6804

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: _____

Mono Lake Still Not Saved

By Martha Davis, Mono Lake Committee Executive Director

I am often surprised and occasionally disheartened when friends and supporters ask me: "Now that Mono Lake is protected, what is the Committee going to do?"

The answer is that Mono Lake is not yet saved—which means, of course, that the Committee has much more work to do.

We can achieve protection for Mono Lake only by winning *permanent* water flows that will restore a healthy ecosystem in the lake and one its tributary streams. Our courtroom victories have taken us a long way towards this goal, but we have not yet won permanent water for Mono Lake. That is why the current evidentiary hearings before the State Water Resources Control Board are so important. It is there that a final, binding decision can force the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to relinquish its legal grip on Mono's tributary streams and keep the water flowing to Mono Lake—forever.

And yet I understand why so many friends may imagine that Mono Lake's protection is close at hand. The Committee's political news in recent months has been so spectacularly good that it's easy to feel victory is inevitable.

The first news came in early October when California Governor Pete Wilson surprised LADWP by taking a forceful stand in favor of full restoration of Mono Lake's public trust values. James Stock, California Secretary for Environmental Protection, testified on behalf of the Governor at the Water Board's October 4 hearing in Los Angeles, calling for a minimum protected level of 6390 feet but encouraging the Board to go even higher, if necessary, to comprehensively resolve the multitude of environmental concerns at Mono Lake.

Then several weeks later, the Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Dan Beard, came to California to announce the support of the Clinton Administration for Mono Lake's preservation. Affirming his agency's commitment to the full implementation of H.R. 429 (see Mono Lake Newsletter, Winter 1993), Commissioner Beard promised to fund up to 25% of the cost of

developing 120,000 acre-feet per year of reclaimed water in Southern California to replace LADWP's Mono Lake diversions.

Another shot of good news followed in late December. After more than 4 years of delay, L.A.'s political leaders finally agreed to join with the Mono Lake Committee in applying for State AB 444 funds to develop water projects in Los Angeles. Although the details of the joint application are being worked out [as this newsletter went to press], the breakthrough announcement headlined newspapers throughout the State. California's political leaders joined with the Committee at a landmark press conference on December 13 to pledge their support for the accord. Governor Wilson added his personal commitment to making the AB 444 funds available in the State's budget.

With all this good news, I understand why our friends may feel we are close to success. In the face of such remarkable political support, how could the Mono Lake Committee fail to win full protection for Mono Lake?

Saving Mono Lake requires translating this year's political support into permanent water flows for Mono Lake. All the support we gather contributes to our ability to win that water in the Water Board proceedings.

But we haven't won yet.



Sequoia Audubon Job Opportunity

We are sad to announce that Sue James, our part-time office coordinator, has decided to retire at the end of May. Sue has been an extremely valuable resource and we will miss her. We now are facing the task of filling her shoes.

The office coordinator works 12 hours a week (days and times flexible). The qualified candidate will be an extremely organized self-starter, able to work with little supervision. He or she will need bookkeeping experience (minimal), personal computer expertise (word processing, spreadsheet, database), and good interpersonal skills. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Interested parties should contact Debbie Frantz at 725-3195 (day) or 571-8759 (evening).

Audubon Canyon Ranch

ACR Depends on Volunteers. Docent training begins Sept. 1994. Orientation Dates: May 18 & August 31 9 am

Call (415) 868-9244

- Enrich your life through education.
- Experience nature through the eyes of children.
- Encourage young people to protect the environment.

**Audubon Canyon Ranch
needs your help.**



News From Our Ranch

By Dan Murphy

Bouverie Guided Nature Walks Saturdays; April 2 & 9, and May 7 & 28. Join a BAP docent for one of our widely 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 advance reservation only. Please call the Ranch to register or for more information. (415) 868-9244.

Spring Wildflowers, A Personal Introduction; Sunday, April 10 at BAP with John Petersen. \$30.

Spring Work Day at Cypress Grove Preserve. Saturday, April 30. Free

Jellyfish. Saturday May 7 at Cypress Grove Preserve with Cathleen Cannon. \$15.

Wildflowers in Watercolor. Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15 at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve with Vesta Kirby. \$80.

Amazing Coastal Marshes. Saturday, June 18 at Cypress Grove Preserve with John Kelly. \$30.

Butterfly Counts. Saturday June 25 in Marin County and Sunday, June 26 in Sonoma County; Wednesday, June 22 the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve, "Get-to-know-the Critters Night", with B. Peterson. \$8.

Field Trip Report

Altamont Pass 2/5/94

Leader - Nick Coiro

About a dozen birders enjoyed a fine day in the Altamont Pass area. A little fog was encountered but the day was mostly fine for birding activity centered on raptors. Most species expected were found except **Prairie Falcons**.

We enjoyed fine views of **Merlins** (including some aggressive behavior), dark morph **Red-tailed Hawks**, **Ferruginous Hawks**, **White-tailed Kites** (also some aggressive behavior) and **Golden Eagles**. Near the Bethany Reservoir we found a **Red-shouldered Hawk** - the first-sighting of this species on trips I have led to this area. There were numerous sightings of **American Kestrels** and **Northern Harriers**. The day concluded with a less than satisfactory view of a **Rough-legged Hawk**. A total of 47 species were seen. Interesting non-raptor species included **Mountain Bluebirds** (many), **Lark Sparrows**, **Common Snipe**, **Horned Lark** and **Rock Wren**.

Highlights of the Feb. 3rd Board of Directors Meeting

The Committee reports included updates from the Conservation Committee on pending legislative environmental issues, and a very positive report on the successful first issue of the **NEEDLES** by our new co-editors Harriette Judge and Michael Lee Huygen. The Board also voted to fund a partial scholarship to assist Bert McKee, a promising young SAS birder, to attend Camp Chiricahua. In other business the Board considered various issues including insurance coverage, adoption of a Car Pool policy and the organization of the SAS office.



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

Birds in the Balance Program

Bob Barnes

Tricolored Blackbird Census Set For April 23rd.

The CA Dept. of Fish and Game's Tricolored Blackbird Working Group has taken notice of the success of the January 1994 California Mountain Plover Census, especially the important role of Audubon chapters and members. As a result they have asked the National Audubon Society's Western Reg. Office to help coordinate the first, single date, statewide census of Tricolored Blackbird nesting and foraging locations. The census will be held Sat., April 23, 1994. Your participation will make an important scientific contribution by helping to determine overall numbers of Tricolored Blackbirds, size and location of nesting colonies and foraging areas.

3436 Mountain Plovers found in California

A total of 3436 Mountain Plovers were counted in CA on Sat., Jan. 29, 1994, on the first, single day, statewide census. The census was coordinated by the Western Regional Office of the National Audubon Society. Several Audubon chapters and their members joined personnel from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Mgmt., and CA Dept. of Fish & Game in providing census assistance and support. The Mountain Plover census was part of National Audubon's Birds in the Balance migratory bird program. For further information contact Bob Barnes, Birds in Balance Program Coordinator, at Audubon's Western Reg. Office in Sacramento. Phone: 916/481-5332. FAX: 916/481-6228.

Audubon Helps Save Lives

Reprinted with permission, Marin Audubon Society

Public awareness is essential to reverse the downward spiral in the populations of songbirds. 50-90% of the birds that spend some of their residency in the U.S. have been lost due to loss of habitat.

Here in the Bay Area that translates to millions of birds, common ones like the **white-and-golden-crowned sparrows** and the lively wrentits that sound like a bouncing pingpong ball and live on the slopes of Mt. Tam and along wooded trails. Also disappearing are the colorful **warblers** that joyously announce mating time and brighten our days as one catches a glimpse of brilliant yellow, flashes of red-spotted breasts or black and grey streaked bodies.

Citizens can help reverse this decline by resisting the urge to fell trees or prune during the nesting time between mid-February and the end of May. If necessary, prune in early spring.

Audubon asks that one look first for evidence of nests by watching for activity such as birds carrying nesting materials or food. If a nest is suspected, avoid that area until the babes have left the nest. Additionally, provide food and water. Bird baths are a delight as one can watch the birds closely as they busily dip, splash and drink. If a tree has been removed, plant a native species or low-growing shrubs that will provide cover as well as insects and food.

Cat owners should keep their pet inside, have it neutered or place a bell around its neck. Every citizen can make a difference. Help save a life!

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Ph: (408)946-6548 Fax: (408)946-9279

Volunteer field observers are needed to conduct surveys of herons and egrets, and ground nesting species such as gulls and terns as SFBBO begins its 12th year of monitoring the status of colonial breeding birds along the shores of the South Bay. East Bay, Peninsula and South Bay colony sites are available.

Call the SFBBO office for more information. Shorebird Identification Field Class, Saturday, April 23. Take advantage of Peter J. Metropulos's many years of experience in the field studying the finer points of identification as well as natural history. You'll visit a variety of habitats, observing numerous species of shorebirds in various plumages. \$10.00 class fee. Call the SFBBO office for time and location.

Items For Sale or Rent

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

	Direct Sale	By Mail
A Birder's Guide to the Klamath Basin <i>By Steve Summers</i>	10.00	11.00
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.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we have these used books for sale, all hard cover editions in good condition. Call the Sequoia office for prices.

Clements - Birds of the World, a checklist 1981

Pettingill - Ornithology in Laboratory and Field 4th edition 1970

Keast & Morton - Migrant Birds in the Neotropics: Ecology, Behavior, Distribution and Conservation 1980

A.O.U Checklist of North American Birds 5th edition 1957

Infectious and Parasitic Diseases of Wild Birds, Iowa State 1971

In paper: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Field Guide to Wildlife Diseases 1987

Backyard Birder

By Rick Held

Getting Orioles to Visit

Anytime between April and September, a brief flash of color may be your first signal that your neighborhood is host to one of our most colorful bird species. But if you train your binoculars to the tree tops you may soon confirm the presence of a **Bullock's** or **Hooded oriole**.

In both species the male is a brilliant orange-yellow to lemon-yellow, two of the most colorful birds to visit our yards. They are well worth attracting because they will frequent your yard daily, even bringing their young by to learn the feeding ropes.

The **Bullock's Oriole** prefers oak woods and open area habitat, often near creeks or streams. City parks and neighborhoods with tall shade trees also host these beautiful birds. Their nest is a well crafted hanging basket made with fine grass, plant down, and hair. It is usually attached to a drooping

branch among the leaves and is so artfully placed than you won't even know of its existence until autumn, when the leaves have fallen and the inhabitants have flown south.

The **Hooded oriole** has a strong preference for tall palms with fan-shaped leaves such as the Washington palm. Their nest is hung on the underside of one of the palm fronds, a small basket woven of wiry green blades of grass or palm leaf fibers. It may be lined with plant down.

Your real chance of regularly getting either of these birds seems primarily dependent on the availability of suitable nesting sites nearby. Late in the summer, the birds are seen less frequently as ripening fruit draws them farther afield in preparation for migration.

Both species are primarily insect eaters, but fruit and nectar are major supplements to their diet. Taking advantage of that with a piece of orange (sweet and overripe is best) placed on a nail or feeder with an appropriately

spaced perch will often attract an oriole family to the yard. One customer on the Alameda in San Carlos was very pleased when he found several orioles tending some over-ripe pieces of pineapple he had chopped and tossed onto the compo-
pile a few hours earlier.

Many folks find out about this colorful summer visitor when they see a large bird trying to sip from their hummingbird feeder. Since they are very much over-sized for a hummer feeder, you can see some incredible contortions when they attempt to take advantage of this source. As it turns out, one of the most popular hummingbird feeders, the Perky Pet "Four Fountains" Number 203, is also one that has seems to consistently attract the attention of the orioles. (It must be the tacky plastic flowers.) Several folks from Nevada high desert report that they can't keep enough nectar in the feeder for the hummers, the orioles are so persistent. They even pull out the yellow bee guards to get at the nectar.

Nectar feeders designed specifically for the orioles are locally successful. We suggest that the nectar feeder be filled with a sugar water mixture similar to that provided for the hummingbird (four to one, water to table sugar). That way you may get both hummers and orioles at the oriole feeder.

Some commercial oriole nectars have an orange scent and bright orange color, but the color of the feeder itself seems to be the primary attraction.

Feeder behavior is quite interesting in these species. The colorful males are quite cautious in approaching the feeder, giving a characteristic "chuck" call just prior to his arrival. As you might expect for such a conspicuously marked fellow, he seems almost paranoid, surveying the area before and after each sip. It's a wonder he ever gets fed. The slightest move, especially in the early part of the summer, will send him to high cover.

The females and young, including the young males, are much less nervous, hanging around relatively casually and even tolerating observers nearby, so long as they are quiet and not too close.

Can you imagine having these colorful natives just on the other side of your kitchen window?

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.

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

	# Bags	Cost
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX.....50 LB @\$22.00/BAG	_____	= _____ \$
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower		
.....20 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 _____ Evening Phone _____

Conservation Report

By Bob Wilkinson

Will Ducks Flock Back to Mono Lake?

After 20 years of expensive and bitterly fought battles waged by Audubon and the Mono Lake Committee against the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power, we may feel justified in thinking that we are much closer to success. In December a major breakthrough was negotiated; LADWP will give up 35,000 acre feet of water and invest in water reclamation and conservation measures. The Governor is one of those supporting the agreement.

However, two barriers to victory must still be overcome. First, the State Water Resources Control Board must still determine how much water it will allow LADWP to divert from Mono Lake. A final decision is expected in a few

months. The other hurdle is to convince the Governor's office to ensure that funding is secured under AB444 for this historic agreement with LADWP so that alternative water resources can be utilized. As of this writing, the Governor's budget proposes instead taking funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund for this purpose. ACTION: Write Governor Wilson and urge that the Mono Lake Committee-LADWP agreement be implemented using AB444 funds, and that the integrity of the Habitat and Conservation Fund be protected. Sequoia Audubon members have contributed to the Mono Lake campaign for many years. Let's make sure that our efforts have not been in vain. Write Pete Wilson, Governor, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Coastside Initiative for San Mateo County. The Save Our Coast Committee has been working to place

an initiative on the ballot that would further strengthen and clarify policies adopted by the voters in 1986 when Measure A was passed. This initiative seeks to extend coastal protection policies for scenic views and development controls to the Skyline area. For rural lands, water use would limit the density of development and sizes of houses, determined by on-site water sources. In urban mid-coast communities, smaller houses would be required on small substandard lots and height limitations would be adopted to protect coastal views. For rural Skyline lands, the rural coastal zone density limits would apply. This would be helpful in avoiding the kind of high fire danger exhibited in the East Bay hills. This initiative has been viewed favorably by the SAS Conservation Committee.

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.

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Make check payable to Sequoia Audubon Society.

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

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