



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society • San Mateo County • Volume 42, No. 8 • May 1994

MAY NEEDLES

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Letter From The President

By Anne Maser

It is with sadness that I share with you the fact that Sue James has resigned as Office Manager effective May 27. Throughout my two years as your President, I've not only enjoyed working with Sue, I've depended on her. In fact her attention to detail has saved me, on more than one occasion, from forgetting to do something I should have done. We've worked closely together and shared the pleasure of solving difficulties, but perhaps what I'll remember best is Sue's ability to field the most amazing variety of questions asked by SAS members and the general public. SAS has benefitted greatly from her presence in the office. We'll really miss you, Sue.

We will be advertising the position, interviewing, and hopefully hiring in time

for a 2-week overlap before Sue's departure.

May 19 is International Migratory Bird Day. We'll be watching especially for migratory birds on the field trip that weekend.

On page 4 is the list of our host days at Audubon Canyon Ranch. Do sign up through the SAS Office. You are needed, and it is a very pleasant volunteer experience.

Elsewhere in the *NEEDLES* you'll find Who's Who, an on-going feature that will let you know a little about the people who do so much for SAS. This month features the nominees for SAS Board positions.

It's spring and there's so much to do and see — good birding to you all.



☺ ☺ ☺

May Program

Dave Shuford from Point Reyes Bird Observatory will discuss the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas and sign copies of the book he recently published on the project. The book documents the distribution of all of Marin County's breeding birds and provides detailed information for all species on habitat needs, nesting sites, food requirements, foraging strategies and historical population trends. Dave will discuss what

a breeding birds atlas is and how it has revolutionized the way we look at bird distribution, what some of the results of the Marin Atlas are, and how atlasing is proceeding elsewhere in California. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about our nesting birds and see the first book on Marin County's diverse birdlife.

Dave has a Master's Degree from U.C. Davis in Ecology and has been a biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory since 1975.

Need To Reach Us?

Sequoia Audubon Society

(415) 345-3724

**30 West 39th Avenue, #202
San Mateo, CA 94403-4561**

I-280

Parkside
Way

Garden Center

HWY
92

Alameda de las Pulgas

HWY 101

GENERAL MEETING

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

MAY PROGRAM

THE MARIN COUNTY BREEDING BIRD
ATLAS: A Distributional and Natural History
of Coastal California Birds
Thursday, May 12, 7:30pm
At the San Mateo Garden Center
on Parkside at the Alameda.
Don't miss it!

BOARD MEETING

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

SEE SPECIAL MAY SALE

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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. April 30 for June issue.

Backyard Birder

By Rick Held

How to Host a Goldfinch

Our yards on the Peninsula are graced with two species of goldfinches, the **American Goldfinch** and the **Lesser Goldfinch**. Neither species is unusual to see around our homes, and both seem even more numerous this Spring. If you are not seeing them, how can they be attracted?

Selecting a feeder and proper seed will get you started, at least with the **American Goldfinch**. They are readily attracted by hulled sunflower, black oil sunflower or niger - sometimes called "thistle" - seeds.

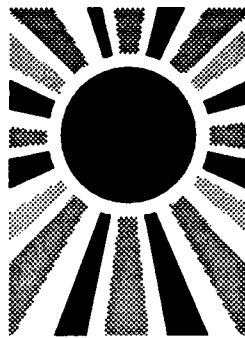
These seeds are also attractive to the more numerous and aggressive **House Finches**. One way to cope with this is to modify your tube feeder so that the **Goldfinches** are able to take advantage of their superior agility to feed where the **House Finches** can't. Trimming the perches to 1/2 inch will give an edge to the **Goldfinches**. If your feeder has solid metal perches, you may be able to push one side through so that the perch is offset, providing about 1/2 inch on one side and perhaps 2 inches or so on the other side. This has the effect of restricting one side of the feeder to the **Goldfinches**.

Goldfinches will readily use hopper and platform feeders, too, but it is difficult to modify either of these feeder styles to selectively accommodate the **Goldfinches**. You just have to pay the **House Finch** "tax" to enjoy their more colorful cousins.

Other feeders designed specially for the **Goldfinches** use niger seed. Niger is similar in size and shape to the seed of our native wild thistle. It is quite attractive to **Goldfinches** and **Pine Siskin**, but less attractive to many other feeder birds. Niger feeders have very small openings, just adequate for the seed to be pulled out by the narrow beak of the **Goldfinch**. When combined with a unique perch design, short perches as described above, vertical or even upside-down perches (the perch is above the feeding hole) may be used to discourage less athletic birds from feeding.

For an inexpensive trial, nylon bags for niger are available. The **goldfinches** can cling to the bag and pull niger through the mesh. Most of the other birds can't seem to adapt to this simple design.

To give the **goldfinches** a bit of space



away from the feeding frenzy, your **goldfinch** feeder should be placed at least 7 feet from the high-activity feeders frequented by the **House Finches**.

Lesser Goldfinches are difficult to attract to feeders. Providing food for them requires some planting, but the same plants will attract both species. **Goldfinches** specialize in seeds of garden plants and weeds. They eat ripe seeds of common plants such as wild and cultivated sunflowers, wild thistle, bachelor's button, coreopsis, dandelion, marigold, zinnia, sweet rocket, scarlet sage, cosmos, chicory, hollyhock and ragweed. Birches, acacia, and alder trees are important seasonal food sources for them, as are rosemary and many honeysuckles.

Water is also a favorite draw for these birds. A bath, fountain or pool with gradual sloping sides is inviting to them, both to drink and to bathe.

If they haven't found you yet, try plantings or a special feeder. Once these birds find the haven you've created, the **goldfinches** will brighten even the dreariest of days outside your window.



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 9. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

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

for term ending June '95
Cliff Richer

for term ending June '97
Eileen Jennis-Sauppe
Tom Vanden Bosch

Who's Who

Julia Mandeville, nominee for President

I am a resident of the seaside community of El Granada, with Ed, my husband of 7 years, and our 2 dogs and 2 cats. I am an Assistant City Attorney of the city of Santa Clara, specializing in Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental and Commercial Matters. I am involved with Sequoia Audubon because of the combination of opportunities for birds, conservation and action on local environmental concerns. My priorities for SAS are developing increased membership involvement, fund-raising, support for local conservation efforts and improving chapter/National relations. As a beginning birder, I also hope that some of the local birding expertise will rub off on me.

Rich Kuehn, nominee for Vice President

I first birded with my grandmother on an Iowa farm at age 11. Then I got a B.A. in Liberal Arts and a M.D. at the University of Iowa, before moving to California to complete my OB/GYN residency. I began working at Kaiser Permanente and returned to birding during an Alaskan vacation in 1991 and then became active in Sequoia Audubon. I am a member of the Sierra Club and a supporter of many other environmental and human rights organizations. I live in Belmont with Dean Schuler, my domestic partner of 12 plus years with whom I have shared the responsibility of SAS Program Co-Chairperson this past year. If elected as Vice President for the coming year, I would like to continue increasing the diversity and number of actively participating members in SAS.

Tom Vanden Bosch, nominee for Director, 1994-1997

I have a life-long interest in birds, spurred on by a copy of Audubon's Birds my Dad bought in the early 1940's. I work in manufacturing, so I see the need to balance the real requirements for conservation with the equally important need for well-paying jobs. My interest in Sequoia Audubon is focused on birds and the friends and acquaintances I've met through birding. (Tom also takes great bird pictures —AGM).

Calendar of Events



Saturday, May 14 - SAN PEDRO VALLEY PARK FIELD TRIP

This wooded park provides a variety of habitat for migrating & nesting species of forest and grassland birds. Our leader knows that park well as she has reported on it for the last several years - both for the Christmas Count and for the Breeding Bird Atlas. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. The park has been consistent in producing one or 2 surprises every spring and we may be lucky enough to find one of those **eastern warblers** or **vireos** this year. Begin at 9:00 am in the parking lot to the right of the visitor center. To get there take Hwy 1 to Pacifica, turn inland at Linda Mar Blvd. Follow Linda Mar to its end and "jog right" into the park.

LEADER: JUDY SPITLER 355-0362



Sunday, May 15 - WILLIAMS SISTERS RANCH FIELD TRIP

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

This very special field trip, a first for SAS, is multi-purpose. It's a birding field trip to one of Audubon's most recent and least accessible acquisitions (see article on p. 6); we will also do habitat enhancement with nestbox placement, and make SAS's contribution to International Migratory Bird Day. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of Alice's Restaurant at the intersection of Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) and Hwy 84. Group is limited to 15, so reserve your spot by calling the SAS office, 345-3724.

LEADERS: DAN KELLER & JESSE GRANTHAM

Saturday, May 21 - SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP



San Bruno Mountain stands in isolation, a bit out of place along the skyscrapers of San Francisco,

yet it is home to a wealth of wildlife hidden in pockets of woodland and in sheltered canyons. We will explore its unique flora and fauna during this half-day trip. Meet at 9:00 am at the San Bruno Mountain Ranger Station. From U.S. 101 North, take the Bayshore Blvd/Brisbane exit, go north on Bayshore Blvd about 1½ miles to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn left on GCP, follow the road about 2 miles to the station.

LEADER: AL SEUBERT 588-9025



Saturday, May 28 - BEGINNERS TRIP TO YERBA BUENA

NURSERY

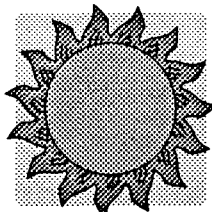
This is a marvelous spot for native California plants, with an exhibition garden and pond, that also gives an opportunity for close-up views of our more elusive breeding **warblers**, **vireos** & **thrushes** (possibly including MacGillivray Warbler and Chipping Sparrow). The road may host **Lazuli Bunting** & **Grasshopper Sparrow** as well. Meet in the nursery parking lot at 9:00 am. Go south on Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) about 4½ miles past the Hwy 84 junction. Turn right (west) on Langley Hill Road.

LEADER: DAN KELLER 726-3306



Saturday, June 4 - BREEDING BIRD BLITZ

Depending on how many people attend, we'll cover 1 or more standard 5 KM Atlas squares in an attempt to beat last year's record of 20 breeding confirmations in 1 day. It's a lot of fun (a new way of birding) and for an excellent cause - we have a lot of uncovered territory left. Mark your calendar now - details will follow in the next issue.



Saturday & Sunday, June 25 & 26 YUBA PASS FIELD TRIP

"The Call of the High Sierra" affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on any of our other field trips via easy walking trails through lovely mountain and Sierra Valley habitats. Saturday's birding in the mountain areas will be for Dipper, Black-backed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, summer warblers, flycatchers, etc.

Sunday we'll caravan to see the birds of the Eastern Slope and the Modoc Plateau. Arrangements have been made for us to use the facilities of San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus, where camping in platform tents with mattresses and cots, hot showers & three meals a day are available. Just bring your own bedding and towels. Motels are also available in Sierra City, with meals at the field campus.

On Saturday meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus 8 miles north of Sierra City. On Sunday meet at 8:00 am at the Summit Campground. Reservations are required for this trip and for the accommodations at the Field Campus. Call the leader for details and reservations.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 738-9176

Motels: Harrington's Sierra Pines (916) 862-1131, Sierra Chalet (916) 862-1110, Buttes Motel (916) 862-1170, Sierra Buttes Inn (916) 862-1122



Generous Donation Allows Special Sale

The following books have been donated to SAS and we are selling them. Please call the SAS office for information and price. They will also be at the April meeting and might be sold before this NEEDLES reaches you!

- THE BIRDS OF PARADISE, Michael Everett, 1978
- THE GREAT BIRD ILLUSTRATORS AND THEIR ART 1730-1930, Peyton Skipworth, 1979
- 102 FAVORITE AUDUBON BIRDS OF AMERICA, WITH COMMENTARIES BY ROGER TORY PETERSON (no date)

Audubon Canyon Ranch Volunteers Needed

Every year Sequoia Audubon provides volunteer weekend hosts for Audubon Canyon Ranch in Bolinas. It's a very pleasant activity for you to meet and greet people visiting the Ranch. You are given instructions when you arrive in the morning so you'll know what to do. There's also an opportunity for you to walk the trails yourself and visit the excellent bookstore. When you sign up, you'll receive driving directions and information. Our dates this year are June 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26 and July 10 & 17. To sign up, call the SAS office: 345-3724.

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Breeding Bird Atlas Project Continues

We are now beginning the 4th year of the Breeding Bird Atlas of San Mateo County Project. The goal of the 5-year project is to confirm the breeding distribution of as many bird species in San Mateo County as possible. We divided the entire county into 5 x 5 kilometer blocks, and for the last 3 years volunteers have carefully surveyed these blocks for evidence of breeding, recording their observations in data booklets. The data is then incorporated into a master database managed by Rick Johnson, Atlas Coordinator.

At the beginning of a 5-year project one feels a luxury of time; by the 4th year one begins to feel a sense of urgency (panic should set in in our next and final year). We have made a good start, but there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

To date we have been able to confirm 113 species, with 19 additional species identified as probable breeders. In recent history, 138 species have been recorded as regular breeding birds somewhere in San Mateo County, with an additional 15 identified as irregular or infrequent breeders. New species confirmed last year included **Sora**, **Horned Lark** and **Pigeon Guillemot**, and we identified probable nesting of **Rock Wren** and **Bank Swallow**. We also completed review of a number of Atlas Blocks.

Our goals for this year include pursuing confirmations of the 19 "probables," as

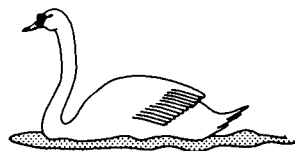
well as most of the remaining historical county breeders that have so far eluded us. A team of our best birders will "freelance" the entire county seeking only certain hard-to-confirm species such as **owls**, **rails** and our more elusive mountain species (**Hermit and Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrows**). We are also trying to improve coverage in areas that have not been sufficiently surveyed.

Certain areas in the county remain under-covered. Ironically one of the primary areas is the one with the most people: the urban corridor, including Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae and San Bruno. Data are also scarce from the central coast region west of Skyline.

Every SAS member can help, especially those living in the aforementioned regions. Becoming involved in this project is an ideal way to get to know the birds in your community, not to mention the other birders! One need not be an expert to make valuable contributions to this project. Simply by keeping careful record of any breeding evidence in your yard, on your street or along your favorite walking route, you can help us fill in critically needed information.

Here's how to record your information: Keep a list for the season with your name, address and phone number at the top. Put down four columns showing the bird you saw, that date and location of the bird, and what the bird was doing that suggests breeding. This could be a male singing repeatedly, a pair together, a bird carrying nesting material or food, birds on a nest, fledglings begging for food or being fed by a parent, etc.

Anyone wishing to take the next step and volunteer to cover an entire Block should call Robin Smith or Francis Toldi. If you want more information on how to observe and record breeding information, call either of them. On June 4 we will spend the day as a group in an effort to confirm breeding distribution in a single block (or blocks, depending on how many people show up). This would also be a good introduction to breeding bird census techniques. Thanks for your help, and happy breeding—I mean birding!



Field Trip Reports!

Pescadero Marsh

John & Nena Padley, Leaders

17 birders & nature lovers enjoyed the unusually warm spring sunshine at Pescadero. The spring flowers were not yet fully out, but the **Blue Herons** had started to nest in their usual Eucalyptus trees. 7 nests were counted. The usual birds were seen, plus 6 **Mergansers**. We shall have to wait a while before we see the results from the State Park's work to restore the marsh.

Sharp Park Shoreline

Judy Spitler, Leader

It was a beautiful day for about 12 birders, including some brandnew ones. We struggled to get all 3 **Scoters**, not finding the Black until we went out on the pier. We had good views of **Marsh Wrens** -always a treat - **Black Turnstones** and **Ruddy Ducks** in breeding plumage, 35 species in all.

Grizzly Island

Judy Spitler, Leader

6 hardy souls braved the rainy, windy, muddy weather. Actually a rather good trip for inclement weather because you can do quite a bit of car birding. Favorites included **Swans**, **Pat's Blue-winged Teal**, **American Bittern**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, a mystery dark phase hawk, and - a bit of a shock - a **Varied Thrush**, plus closeups of a **Great Horned Owl**, over 60 species in all. We also saw Tule Elk and a river otter having lunch.

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On the Shelf

M.L. Hungen

Locating that classic that's missing from your book collection can be frustrating. Before moving to Moscow, I thought I was going to have to give my eyeteeth for a copy of *The Birds of Idaho*. But you can avoid the search - I recently saw Taverner's 1947 *Birds of Canada* among selected new, out-of-print, imported and rare gardening, horticulture and natural history books offered by mail by Beth L. Bibby—Books, ABAA, 1225 Sardine Creek Road, Gold Hill, OR 97525-9730.

Conservation

Mary Bresler

You would have learned a great deal if you attended the Golden Gate Audubon and the College of Alameda's SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM at the College on Saturday, March 12. The symposium discussed the natural resource values of Alameda Naval Air Station (ANAS), including endangered species, waterbirds, harbor seals and fish found there. Of particular interest was the expert scientific information about roosting, foraging and/or nesting use for birds. There was a discussion of the effect of the base's closure might have on these species and the potential impact of habitat loss to the Bay Area population of these species.

The event began at 9:00 am and finished at 4:30 pm, closing with a summation of topics and a perspective. Three areas of ANAS must have protection: the runways, the west beach wetland, and the breakwater. The west beach wetland wildlife habitat is of regional, state and national importance. It is the leading nest site for **Least Terns** in Northern California. The rip-rap breakwater is the largest and northernmost roosting site for **Brown Pelicans**. The bay off Alameda has the greatest density of fish, there are haul-out sites for Harbor Seals, and rare species, e.g., **Horned Larks** can be seen there. It was reassuring to hear Douglas Pomeroy, Biologist for the Department of the Navy, Western Division, say that the Navy will continue management of the **Least Tern** colonies after leaving ANAS. They must enforce NEPA and ESA for 3 years after the closure, but funding for future protection is critical. An endowment would provide adequate long-term funding for habitat protection. The commitment to a top-quality resource plan and the establishment of a management entity are paramount to the future survival of Alameda's last frontier. We salute Golden Gate Audubon for sponsoring this excellent symposium!

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Highlights of the March 3 Board of Directors Meeting

On March 3, 1994, SAS's March Directors meeting included action on the proposed Coastal Protection Initiative, reorganization of SAS office organization and personnel, announcement of a new publicity chairperson Ann Loper, and announcement of the slate of candidates

for SAS Board in the next fiscal year. The Board also unanimously voted to thank Anne Moser for her fine work on behalf of SAS these last two years.

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New National Audubon Society Subscription Hotline

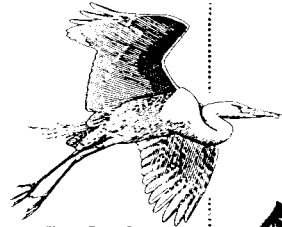
Do you have questions regarding your National Audubon subscriptions? NAS has a new toll-free "customer service" telephone number to answer your questions:

1-800-274-4201

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**PEOPLE
WATER
WILDLIFE**



Convention 1994

Begin Planning Now!

**National Audubon Society
Convention 1994**

Friday - Tuesday, November 11-15

Fort Myers, FL. For information contact the National Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303. (303) 499-3622



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



San Mateo Arboretum Society

Five beautiful gardens in Hillsborough will be open on May 7 for the 19th annual tour

sponsored by the San Mateo Arboretum Society, 2305 Valdivia Way, Burlingame.

Tickets are available at the following locations:

Ah Sam Florist

Burlingame Garden Center

Kato's Garden Center

Redwood City Nursery

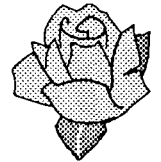
Roger Reynolds in Menlo Park

Peters and Wilson in Millbrae

Box lunches will be available also.



Call 344-0454 for more information.



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Purple Martin Information Wanted!

Brian Williams is collecting information of the historical and current distribution of the **Purple Martin** in California. The survey fulfills part of his thesis research at CSU/Sacramento and is supported by the California Department of Fish and Game. He would greatly appreciate any information on known or suspected nesting locations, through the 1994 nesting season. For further information or to send nest records, please contact Brian Williams, P.O. Box 605, Loomis, CA 95650; (916) 624-4861.

The Feather Duster: Identifying Empid Flycatchers (For real this time)

By Cliff Richer

In a 1992 article in the Observer, the quarterly journal of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Rich Stallcup reviewed the problems in separating and identifying empidonax flycatchers here in the West. Rich regularly writes identification articles for the Observer and these alone are worth the price of PRBO membership, although their other work deserves your full support. If you're a serious birder, you should read the original article - but here are a few excerpts and summations: In order of importance, these characteristics should be noted: 1.) *Call note*, 2.) *Song*, 3.) *Bill size and shape*, 4.) *Head-tail proportions*, 5.) *Eye-ring*, 6.) *Behavior*, 7.) *Winter habitat (Central America)*, 8.) *Plumage*.

"Western type" flycatchers: The experts are still working on separating Cordilleran from Pacific slope flycatchers. Many don't believe they ever should have been separated. On the coast and anywhere west of the Sierras, you can be pretty sure of your ground in calling empid with a yellow throat and an almond-shaped eye-ring a Pacific slope flycatcher.

Willow flycatcher: Its size, shape and lack of eye-ring make it more likely to be confused with a peewee than other empids. The lack of a "vest," the tail-flicking and the mostly orange lower mandible identify it as a willow flycatcher.

Gray Flycatcher: Palest of the empids, it is best identified by the tail, longer than any of the other empids, with a narrow white outer web. Also note that it is the only empid that pumps its tail down. All others flick the tail up. This tail movement is absolutely diagnostic. We've also noted the tail motion is much slower and more deliberate in this species.

Dusky Flycatcher: Intermediate between the gray and Hammond's flycatchers in plumage, attitudinal range and tail shape, it is separated from the gray by the tail-flick. The pale lores, giving it a spectacled look, the whitish outer webs on the tail and its soft 'whit' call separate it from Hammond's.

Hammond's Flycatcher: A "chunkier" (big head, short tail) bird than the dusky, it is best distinguished by its sharp "pic" call note. Its outer tail feathers are tannish rather than white. It is generally found at

lower altitudes than the dusky but there is considerable overlap.

In summary Rich quotes the advice given by Roger Tory Peterson in his first Field Guide to Western Birds (1969). If the bird still perplexes you, "...let most of them go as Empidonaxes."



Sequoia Audubon Honors Student Scientists

By Bob Wilkinson

Hundreds of San Mateo County students participated in the annual Student Science Fair at Coyote Point Museum in February. SAS again selected the entries of 2 students whose work exemplified Audubon's concern about conservation and education: Emi Lesure at Bayside Intermediate School in San Mateo, for her research, "Living Mud." Emi performed both field and laboratory work that required the collection of mud from 3 different ecosystems - Tomales Bay, Sacramento River Delta and the Great Salt Lake - and growing micro-organisms from the samples.

Morgan Strachan of Pescadero High School, for research on the Northern Elephant Seal. Morgan recorded his observations on visits to Ano Nuevo State Reserve on 33 consecutive days, drawing some conclusions about their behavior in relation to various factors. Certificates and Audubon T-shirts were given to Emi and Morgan at the awards ceremonies. SAS looks forward to hearing more in the future about the biological science interests of these 2 innovative students.



The Williams Sisters Ranch

By Rick Baird, excerpted from 10/93 NEEDLES

Upon the passing of Rhoda Williams, the last of the Williams sisters, their ranch west of Skyline Drive and south of La Honda Road was given to the National Audubon Society. NAS has a very limited presence because a life tenancy was created for the Bondi family, who have lived on the ranch for many years, doing an absolutely magnificent job of preserving and improving the property. It will probably be years before the ranch can or should be opened to the public.

Sequoia Audubon Society has been allowed to include this sanctuary in our Breeding Bird Atlas Project and a field trip is scheduled for the May 15 celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Like trips to Jasper Ridge, the number of participants is limited and advance registration is required.

National Audubon is interested in doing resource and habitat studies on the ranch, which encompasses several different ecosystems, including a creek and its accompanying pristine riparian area, as well as some fairly good-sized timber stands. SAS could participate in or manage other exciting projects in the future.



New Poster to Raise Funds to Support California Condor Recovery Efforts

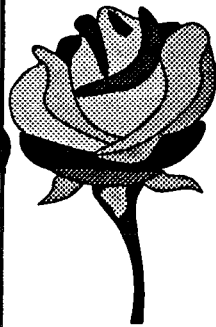
In 1987 a unique captive breeding program was developed to save this majestic bird from sure extinction. The last free-flying condor was captured and brought in from the wild; the population had plummeted to a low of 27 birds, in captivity. Biologists are now more optimistic after reviewing the results of several years of the program: the population has grown to 75 birds, 9 in the wild and 66 in the recovery program. So far, in this year's breeding season, 14 additional eggs have been laid.

Three releases of young offspring back into the wild were made into Los Padres National Forest in NE Santa Barbara County and the birds can be seen exploring the area. Though you can't drive into this remote area, you can hike in and hope for a glimpse of these 9 free-flying condors. Others may eventually be released into Arizona or Utah.

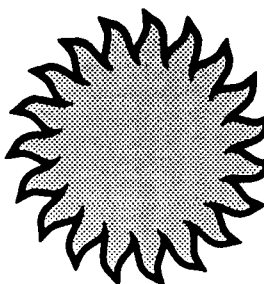
The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has produced a 18"x 24" educational poster of the California Condor. Proceeds from the sale of this poster are supporting Condor recovery efforts.

For more information about the Condor Recovery Program, please call 805/644-5185. To order posters call Cecily Harris at SFBWS 510/792- 4275.





SPECIAL MAY SALE



Special prices on books and T-shirts!

Order through SAS office (415) 345-3724.

Tax included in price. Add \$1 per item if you want them mailed.

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay -Was \$10.75, now \$7.50

Birding Northern California -Was \$10.50, now \$7.50

Mono Lake Guide -Was \$6.00, now \$4.00

Birder's Handbook -Was \$17.50, now \$15.00

T-shirts -Were \$15.00, now \$9.50



California's Treasured Wildlife

From the Exhibit by Moose Peterson

Renowned wildlife research photographer B. "Moose" Peterson and wildlife researcher Sharon Peterson will present selected prints from their CALIFORNIA'S TREASURED WILDLIFE exhibit on display in the Visitor Center of San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge through the end of May.

Moose Peterson is well known for his precise, aesthetic photography of endangered wildlife, and Moose and Sharon Peterson take great pride in developing ecologically sound photographic techniques.

Directions to the Visitor Center: From Highway 84 (at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge) exit at Thornton Ave. Go south on Thornton for 0.8 miles to the Refuge entrance on the right. Turn right into the Refuge and at the stop sign, turn left into the parking lot. Street address: 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA.



Protecting The Bay Commons

Protecting the Bay Commons will be the theme of Save San Francisco Bay Association's 13th biennial conference on Saturday, May 7, 8:30 to 2:00 at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall. This conference will explore what citizens need to know about the Public Trust Doctrine and other tools for protecting the Bay Commons. To request a conference brochure, call Ruth Gravanis, (510) 452-9261.



From the Education Committee

At the General Meeting on May 12, SAS will present its Environmental Education Award to Ms Mima Sanchez-Parsons, a 6th grade teacher at Hoover School in Redwood City. She and her class raised the ecological awareness of the whole school population by collecting all the organic waste from the school cafeteria to make compost and then started a school-wide recycling program for aluminum, paper and glass products.

With regrets, there is no article this month from Audubon Canyon Ranch.



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.

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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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