



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society • San Mateo County • Volume 42, No.10 • September 1994

SEPTEMBER NEEDLES

Backyard Birder.....	2
Activist Network Coordinator Wanted.....	2
Birdseed Delivery Volunteer Needed.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	3
News From Audubon Canyon Ranch.....	3
Audubon Canyon Ranch SAS Hosts.....	4
Field Trip Report.....	4
Annual Bay Clean Up.....	4
Ocean Life in Oakland Museum Exhibit.....	4
Who's Who.....	4
Wandering Tattler.....	4
1994-1995 Field Trip Schedule.....	5
In Search of the Yellow Rail.....	6
Birdseed Sale Order Form.....	7
Wandering Tattler East.....	7

REMEMBER THESE DATES

Board Meeting – September 1

General Meeting – September 8

Letter From The President

By Julia Mandeville

The summer has been productive. On July 10, 1994, the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met at my home to plan the coming year. Primary topics of discussion were the opportunities presented by our maturing ranch, Audubon Canyon Ranch, the increasing need for organized development activities, the status of our book (volunteers needed, call Francis Toldi) and the news from National. Informal notes composed by the Secretary are available at the SAS office.

When you read this letter the Board will have met again on August 4, 1994. I expect we will have discussed the following items among others: Finance Committee report, proposed nomination of Shirley Higuera for the vacant Board seat, consideration of Sierra Club request for environmental litigation funding, and the possibility of a Sequoia Audubon role at the Pilar Point Marsh.

We in San Mateo County are fortunate to have varied and rich resources. The diversity and quality of our physical environment remains unique in the

greater Bay Area. Within the membership of Sequoia Audubon we also enjoy varied and rich human resources. I trust that our members will examine their own talents and resources and offer assistance as we work together in the coming year. The example of my predecessor as president, Anne Moser, should inspire each member to give enthusiastically.

In addition to asking for help with the needs of the Sequoia Chapter, we will be asking you what you want from the Chapter. Under the able leadership of Ann Moser, the Membership Committee will send a questionnaire to each member, soliciting your impressions of our activities, meetings and field trips, and asking for suggestions. PLEASE take the time to complete and return this questionnaire.

In closing I ask that you welcome our new employee, Terri Simpson. Terri comes to us with extensive experience in the administration of the City of San Francisco and a demonstrated ability to organize and administer not-for-profit organizations. We are fortunate to work with Terri and consider her an essential member of the Sequoia Chapter team.

General Meeting Program, September 8

The Birds and Environment of Honduras and Central America.

Cliff Richer, long-time member of Sequoia Audubon will present a program of slides taken on his recent trip to Central America. In addition to birds, his topic will cover deforestation, ecotourism and the affects of the increasing numbers of automobiles and human population.

GENERAL MEETING

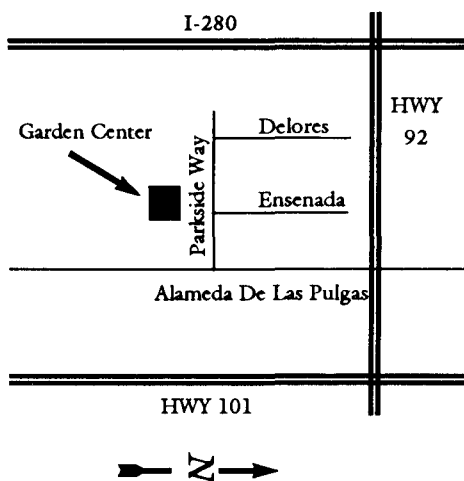
Second Thursday of the Month, 7:30 pm
At the San Mateo Garden Center
on Parkside at the Alameda

BOARD MEETING

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

SEE BIRDSEED SALE
ORDER FORM 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.



Backyard Birder

By Rick Held

Autumn Planting For The Birds



Here on the Peninsula, Autumn is an ideal time for new plantings. We look forward to cooler temperatures and winter rains to give the new plants a good start. Other activities are slowing down. There is certainly less activity at the feeder, and the winter migrants have not yet arrived. It is a good time to select plants for hosting wild birds in your yard.

As a class, the best plants for attracting wild birds are our local California natives. They are usually easily grown since they are adapted to our soils and climate. Our wildlife and these native plants are mutually well adapted, since they have thrived together for thousands of years. Some natives are beneficial to our wildlife in multiple ways, providing spring nesting sites, fruit or berries in Autumn as well as year-round shelter from weather and predators.

Non-native plants can be good choices also, but you should select them carefully to ensure that they will indeed attract the species you desire and will not be too invasive. Most experts caution against selecting plants that are reported to be "vigorous" growers.

Hummingbird Plants

Several species of plants offer showy flowers and are quite attractive to hummingbirds. Flowers are not all that is required, since the hummers also require insects to meet nutritional needs. Many of the most attractive plants to hummers, in fact, have quite small blossoms. Typical hummingbird plants include:

Trichostema lanatum - Woolly bluecurls

Nicotiana glauca - Tree tobacco

Abutilon hybridum - Flowering maple

Penstemon cardinalis - Beardtongue

Callistemon citrinus - Lemon bottlebrush

Lonicera sempervirens - Trumpet honeysuckle

Kniphofia uvaria - Red-hot poker

Fruits and Berries

Most of our fruit and berry producing plants are attractive to wild birds, much to the regret of many fruit growers.

Providing a berry or fruit plant especially for the birds, though, might just keep them away from the "people" food, or at least somewhat distract them. Some fruit and berry plants that are attractive to songbirds include:

Prunus ilicifolia - holly-leaved cherry

Ficus carica - common fig

Vaccinium parvifolium - tall red huckleberry

Schinus molle - California pepper tree

Mahonia nervosa - Oregon grape

Rhamnus californica - California buckthorn

Vitis californica - California grape

Information and Plant Sources

We are fortunate to have an excellent source of information on California native plants, and non-native plants also, right in our own back yard. The Yerba Buena Nursery, located off Skyline Boulevard in Woodside, has a wide selection of natives, and a knowledgeable staff to assist in your selection. Many plants have been planted on the grounds and allowed to mature, allowing the buyer to anticipate the plant's appearance, size and growth habit at maturity. The Yerba Buena Nursery is at 19500 Skyline Blvd in Woodside, 94062. It is well off the road, so a phone call, (415) 851-1668, to get directions and verify closing time is well advised.

We have an especially active local chapter of the California Native Plant Society. This organization provides information, arranges volunteer work groups and takes responsibility for many native plant conservation activities in our area. Information on chapter activities, publications and their annual native plant sale at Foothill College, can be obtained by writing the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, California Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 9232, Stanford, CA 94309-9232.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge also operates a native plant nursery, operated by volunteers. Plants are sold for fund-raising purposes at various times and locations through the year. For information on plants and availability, call the refuge headquarters at (510) 792-4275.

For a handout on California Native Hummingbird Plants and Berries for the Birds, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Wild Bird Center, 926 El Camino Real, San Carlos CA 94050, Attn: CNPS Handout.

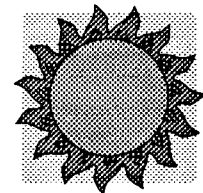
Much of the information above came from "The Audubon Society Guide To Attracting Birds," (Stephen W. Kress,

Scribners, New York, 1985). This book is currently out of print, but worth a search at local libraries. There may be a new edition soon.



Activist Network Coordinator Wanted - REWARD!

The Conservation Committee alerts SAS members of the Legislative Alert Network to important legislation in Congress and Sacramento several times during the year. A coordinator is needed for the task of preparing legislative news from alerts mailed to SAS and arranging for their mailing. The amount of time needed would be about 3 hours 6 to 8 times a year. The rewards would be an opportunity to become familiar with the details of significant legislation, such as the Endangered Species Act, wetlands protection, etc., and working with a supportive committee. Call the committee chair, Bob Wilkinson at 347-8367.



Birdseed Delivery Volunteer Needed

A volunteer with a small pickup truck or van able to stack 50# sacks for distributors and deliver one order to Atherton is needed for 2 or 3 hours work on the 3 Tuesdays when birdseed will be delivered for the SAS sale. The first date is October 18, then one in February and one in April.

If you can be on call, it could be any time during the day, usually after 10 am, or at 2 or 3 pm in the afternoon. Please contact Iona Luke (415) 349-1555.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 8 - SAS GENERAL MEETING

The Birds and Environment of Honduras and Central America. Slide presentation by Cliff Richer

Sunday, September 11 - POINT REYES FIELD TRIP

A search through the "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost anything at this time of year. We'll be looking for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect migrants and some early arriving winter residents as well. Walking will be minimal but sturdy shoes are recommended. Clothing should be layered since the weather is extremely changeable. We will meet at the Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters building at 9:00 AM, rain or shine. Bring lunch: the trip normally lasts till 2:00 PM.

Leader Cliff Richer 738-9176

Saturday, September 17 - COASTAL CLEANUP AT PIGEON POINT

This year we'll meet at the Pigeon Point Lighthouse at 9:00 am and work on the stretch of beach south of the lighthouse. The Lighthouse is on Hwy 1, 8 miles south of Pescadero Marsh.

Beachmaster Cliff Richer 738-9176

Sunday, September 18 - THE PHIPPS' RANCH FIELD TRIP

The public areas of this multi-use farm consist of riparian areas, open fields and wooded glades. During migration and in winter this farm has sheltered vagrant warblers, sparrows and woodpeckers, in addition to its broad representation of local resident species. The Ranch's fruit and vegetable stand is 1/2 mile east of the flashing red light at the center of the town of Pescadero. We'll meet in front of the farm stand at 9:00 am. (Although there is ample parking, please leave the areas closest to the farm stand free for use by its regular customers.)

Leader Dan Keller 726-3306



Sunday, September 25 -

BURLEIGH- MURRAY STATE PARK FIELD TRIP



Just south of Half Moon Bay is an excellent birding area. It was preserved for its historic buildings (a working ranch in the 1860's). An old farm road runs northeast about 2 miles following Mills Creek. Overgrown hay fields, chaparral-covered canyon hills and the alder-bordered riparian area have yielded common nesting birds. Our leader has surveyed this park for the Breeding Bird Atlas but it will be an exploratory trip for all of us to determine what is here in the Fall. (Thanks to Corinne Foster for this trip suggestion). Begin at 9:00 am in the graveled parking area just inside the entrance gate located off Higgins Purisima Rd. From the Highway 1/92 intersection go south on Highway 1 1.2 miles to Higgins Purisima Rd, turn left (east) and go 1.7 miles to the park entrance on the left.

Leader Carol Miller Need Phone #1#

Thursday, October 13 - SAS GENERAL MEETING

Birds of Australia presented by Denise White, Program Chair of Diablo Audubon.



News From Audubon Canyon Ranch

By Dan Murphy

THANKS FOR THE HELP

To all our friends who came out to volunteer during the public season we would like to say thanks. We really couldn't do it without your help. That first impression hosts make in our visitors is so very important. It lets them know that ACR is a friendly place where they can enjoy nature in any of a number of different ways.

The public season is over and things are pretty quiet at the Ranch. Now is the time we plan for the future. A new docent class is in training at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. We're getting ready for the school children who will visit us during the fall. If you're a fourth or fifth grade teacher it's time to call one of our

preserves to apply for your spring field trip. We're so popular, all visits are by lottery now, so call us to get your application. Bouverie Preserve trips are limited to fourth grade classes and Bolinas Lagoon Preserve are limited to fourth and fifth grade classes.

We did have some problems with our weekend hosting program during the past season. We're thinking of ways to spark interest in our weekend hosting program. If you have any thoughts on the matter why not mail them to me, Dan Murphy, c/o ACR, 4900 Hwy 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

We're getting ready for a new Ranch Guide class in February that will give you the opportunity to join us in presenting an excellent public season during 1995.

We're even planning for a couple of off season visits from our friends. On Saturday, October 29, ACR biologist Ray Peterson will conduct a special program called "Under the Heronry". You're invited whether you've ever visited the Ranch or not. Just come out at about 9:30 am, then at 10:00 Ray will help us discover just what's behind the gate at the end of the Ranch yard. This little program is scheduled to last about 2 hours and it promises to be lots of fun. Bring your picnic lunch and do a little birding around Bolinas Lagoon or Point Reyes during the afternoon.

Work days are always important at the Ranch. Come out on Sunday, November 6 to help us baton down the hatches for winter. We need your help with gardening, trail maintenance and a bunch of other stuff known only to our staff. A poorly kept secret about this seasonal event is that you do get a FREE LUNCH!

Tomales Bay Volunteer Opportunity

Make Tomales Bay part of your fall migration birding plans. We can always use the help of experienced birders in our shorebird counts during August and early September. Dates aren't set yet, but if you call John Kelly at (415) 665-8203 he can give you information about this and other ongoing field studies at Tomales Bay.

Docent Training

This is your last chance to join the 1994 Docent Training Class which begins in September. The twenty-two Wednesday classes are designed to provide new

continued on page 6

Audubon Canyon Ranch June and July Hosts

Many thanks to Sequoia Audubon members who hosted at Audubon Canyon Ranch in June: Barbara and Ray Armstrong, Cliff Richer, Melinda Zeilinger, Carl Brown, Margaret Caulkins, Carol and Stan Larsen, Mary Bresler, Harriette Judge, Rick Baird, Damion Kaczorowski, Grace Sain, Louise Fletcher, Shirley Sampson; July hosts: John and Nena Padley, Damion Kaczorowski, Carol Belew, Sue and Bob Cossins, and Carol Earle.



Field Trip Report!

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve 4/24/94

By Louise Fletcher

Twenty-seven birders led by Jasper Ridge docents: Jane Becker-Haren, Bob Buell, and Elizabeth and Leonard Rush plus SAS leader, Al De Martini, enjoyed a beautiful day at Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Highlights included 2 nest-building *Blue-grey Gnatcatchers*, a small flock of migrating *Spotted Sandpipers*, both Caspian and *Foster's Terns* and a mystery bird — was it or was it not a *Hammond's Flycatcher*?



Annual Bay Clean Up

Saturday, September 17
9:00 am to 12 noon

The SAS Conservation Committee is sponsoring a clean up in a wetland area in South San Francisco this year. SAS members and the general public are invited to participate. Bring gloves and old shoes. Beverages will be supplied.

Directions: Take Grand Ave east to Haskins, turn right to end of street.

The South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Dept. as well as the SSF Beautification Committee are also supporting this event.

For further information call the SAS office at 345-3724 or the Conservation Committee Chair, Bob Wilkinson at 347-8367



A Fascinating Look at Ocean Life in Oakland Museum Exhibition

"To See the Sea: The Underwater Vision of Al Giddings," a major traveling exhibition of marine photography, objects of undersea technology, videos and interactive exhibits, will be on display Sept. 24 through Jan. 8, 1995 in the Oakland Museum's Hall of California Ecology.

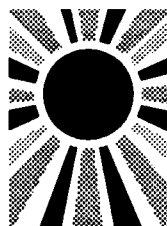
Organized by the Oakland Museum with exhibit design, fabrication and traveling tour by Academic Studio, "To See the Sea" offers a fascinating and thought-provoking look at marine life and at the past, present and future of marine exploration. Spectacular video footage and 18 dramatic, oversize photomurals are at the center of the exhibit, along with hands-on exhibits that give visitors a multi-sensory experience of a voyage beneath the sea. The exhibit also examines the ecological choices that shape future exploration and urges adoption of a responsible ocean ethic.



Who's Who

Robin Smith, Education Chair

A San Francisco native, reared in Saratoga and Palo Alto, graduate of UC Berkeley, I have tromped through the great outdoors all over the world, often preceded by some or all of my four children.



1987 saw the start of my serious birding career on a trans-Siberia trip led by David Gaines, who also enlisted me into the ranks of Mono Lake supporters.

As a teacher of kids with learning disabilities I focused on turning them into readers and environmentalists. I retired from full time teaching in June and now have more time and energy available for Sequoia Audubon's Education Program.

PLEASE become a member of the Ed Committee! We'll have an adventure together and some fun as well.



Keep These Blo's Coming!



Illustration by Don Keller

Wandering Tattler

By Anne Maser

Red Crossbills are such a find in San Mateo County, but I was lucky enough to see them in Oregon at Davis Lake Campground near Bend, and Edelweiss Campground near John Day, and at Eagle Lake, CA (near Susanville). Once again we went camping for 2-1/2 weeks, making a rectangle from Menlo Park, Bend, Baker, Susanville, Menlo Park. Davis Lake also produced resting *Bufflehead* and a *Great Grey Owl* sitting on a snag! We looked at each other for minutes! *Cedar Waxwings* are a wintering bird here for me sometimes, but near Baker I watched them fly-eating, lots of them. At Burns we turned off Highway 395 and spent 1-1/2 days at Malheur. What a place to visit, even in mid-July: 3 different *Soras* out in the open, *Yellow-rumped Warblers*, *Sage Thrashers*, *White Ibis*, *Eastern Kingbirds* (I really had to check that one out) *Willow Flycatchers* and in broad daylight a *Short-eared Owl* sitting on a post. One again we stared at each other for minutes. There was an excellent BLM campground near French Glen, Page Springs.

At Eagle Lake we camped near a little creek, dry except for three shallow pools overhung with willows. By sitting low on a bridge support over the creek I had a good view of the pools. Between one evening and the next morning, I saw 14 species: *Juncos*, *Western Tanagers*, *Robins*, *Red Crossbills*, *Flickers*, & *Yellow-rumped Warblers* were the most abundant, with 2 *Evening Grosbeaks*, a *Hermit Warbler*, an *Orange-crowned Warbler*, *Chipping Sparrows*, a *Rufous Hummingbird*, several *Cassin's Finches*, *Pine Siskins*, and a *Steller's Jay*. What a way to end a trip!



1994 - 1995 FIELD TRIP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

September	Sunday	9/11/94	Point Reyes	Cliff Richer
	Saturday	9/17/94	Beach Clean-Up (Pigeon Point)	Cliff Richer
	Saturday	9/17/94	Bay Clean-Up (So. SF Wetlands)	Bob Wilkinson
	Sunday	9/18/94	Phipps Ranch	Dan Keller
	Sunday	9/25/94	Burleigh-Murray State Park	Carol Miller
October	Saturday	10/1/94	San Pedro Valley County Park	Judy Spitler
	Sunday	10/2/94	Pelagic Birds From Shore (Pigeon Pt.)	Barry Sauppe
	Saturday	10/15/94	Hawk Mountain in Marin County	Leslie Flint
	Wednesday	10/19/94	Sharp Park - Shore and Golf Course	Judy Spitler
	Saturday	10/22/94	Coyote Creek Bird Banding Demo	Chris Otahan
November	Saturday	11/5/94	<i>Beginners' Trip - Foster City Shell Bar</i>	<i>Francis Toldi</i>
	Sunday	11/13/94	Woodbridge Road, Thornton	Cliff Richer
December	Thursday	12/1/94	Smith & Steinburger Sloughs	Al DiMartini
	Sunday	12/4/94	Princeton Harbor	Dan Keller
	Saturday	12/10/94	Christmas Count Warm Up	Toldi/Keller
	Tuesday	12/13/94	Foster City	Nick Coiro
	Saturday	12/17/94	Crystal Springs Christmas Count	Dan Keller
	Saturday	12/31/94	Ano Nuevo Christmas Count	Dan Keller
January	Saturday	1/7/95	Foster City	Nick Coiro
	Saturday	1/21/95	<i>Beginners' Trip - Palo Alto Baylands</i>	<i>Francis Toldi</i>
	Tuesday	1/24/95	Redwood Shores	Nick Coiro
	Sunday	1/29/95	Princeton Harbor	Dan Keller
February	Saturday	2/4/95	Altamont Pass	Nick Coiro
	Saturday	2/18/95	**Tule Lake and Klamath Lake Refuges	Cliff Richer
	Sunday	2/19/95	Eagles of the Klamath Basin*	
	Monday	2/20/95	Presidents' Day Weekend (3 day trip)	
	Saturday	2/25/95	Grizzly Island	Robin Leong
March	Tuesday	3/7/95	Coyote Point	Nick Coiro
	Sunday	3/12/95	Natural History of Pescadero Marsh	John & Nina Padley
	Sunday	3/26/95	Grant Ranch	To Be Announced
April	Saturday	4/8/95	San Bruno Mountain	"Mack" MacCormack
	Sunday	4/16/95	Mines Road	Cliff Richer
	Sunday	4/23/95	Yerba Buena Nursery	Dan Keller
	Saturday	4/29/95	Jasper Ridge*	Louise Fletcher
May	Saturday	5/6/95	San Pedro Valley County Park	Judi Spitler
	Sunday	5/14/95	Willilams Sisters' Ranch*	Jesse Grantham
	Friday	5/26/95	**Lee Vining	Cliff Richer
	Saturday	5/27/95	Birds of Mono Basin	
	Sunday	5/28/95	and Tioga Pass*	
	Monday	5/29/95	Memorial Day Weekend (4 day trip)	
June	TBA	TBA	**Deserts & Mountains From Yosemite to the White Mountains * (Tentative 5-6 day trip)	Dan Keller

* Indicates reservations needed

** Indicates trips are two or more days. Meeting places and itineraries are highly dependent on weather and the leader must have the names of the participants in order to keep them advised of any changes

All trips are open and suitable for beginners unless otherwise specified.

Trips designated as Beginners' Trips also include advice on binoculars and telescopes and a short open-ended discussion on birding and the environment.

While this schedule will be adhered to as much as possible, everyone should realize that it is subject to change.

Trips may be added or cancelled and dates may be changed. All changes will be announced in the Needles as far in advance as possible.

In Search of the Yellow Rail

By Francis Toldi

I have wanted to see a **Yellow Rail** for many years. The **Yellow Rail** is one of our most furtive species in North America, regularly confounding even the best birdwatchers. It has a tendency to crouch and hide when confronted by danger, rather than flee. This behavioral trait makes it very difficult to see the bird, and has led to some unfortunate abuses by overzealous birders who have inadvertently crushed their target bird while attempting to flush it out of the reeds.

On several occasions I have had the wonderful experience of birding on the Upper Texas Coast. **Yellow Rails** are relatively common, if rarely seen, in that area. In earlier years local Refuge managers consisted on a large balloon-tired tractor pulling a little cart on which sat or stood a gaggle of excited birdwatchers. The buggy would drive through the marsh while the birdwatchers would happily tick off the terrorized **Yellow Rails**, along with assorted rats and mice (that they would pretend were **Black Rails**, but that's a story for another day). I declined to go on these trips. They just seemed too intrusive, too much in the "let's just cut down these damn reeds so we can see the birds better" school of birdwatching. In fact, the buggy trips have since been discontinued.

Other well known destinations for **Yellow Rails** are just not on the agenda right now. So what to do to find this bird?

A few years ago I read with great surprise of a breeding population of **Yellow Rails**

recently discovered in the Klamath Basin, Oregon, hundreds of miles from the nearest regular breeding locales. It seems that years ago **Yellow Rails** were local but regular breeders in the Western States (including California), but habitat destruction had eliminated them from most of this range. Apparently the Klamath birds were remnants (or possibly a reestablished population) that everyone overlooked, which is not hard to do with this bird.

It so happens that we decided to take a family camping trip to the Klamath area this summer. Family trips are a wonderful thing, but what limited birding time there is, is generally restricted to pointing out egrets to my four year old (not a bad way to spend some time). We would be there late in the season for the Rails. They stop calling in early July, just when we would be there. The idea would be to get the little one tucked into her sleeping bag with her mom, then race up to the northern end of the basin and listen for Rails. My personal listing rules (as well as those of the American Birding Association) permit me to count a bird if I have definitively heard it. This really only works with birds that have a distinctive call or song, fortunately including the **Yellow Rail**.

At 8.30 pm on the fourth of July, my father-in-law Ted and I set out to find the bird. Steve Summers, in his excellent new book on Birding in the Klamath Basin lists four roads in the vicinity of Fort Klamath that are good for the Rails. After a brief and unsuccessful stop for **Great Gray Owls** at the Klamath dump, we started searching for the Rail in earnest. Few people were on the road (most were

down in Klamath Falls for the fireworks). Once we had to swerve to avoid a roman candle going off in the middle of the highway. (Where else would you do your fireworks if you lived up there?).

First stop Dixon Road, which Summers notes as the best place recently for birds. Silence. A few **Snipe** whinnying in the distance. A rustling sound – what could it be? Put on the light, and it is...cows. Next stop Seven Mile Road. More cows, more silence, a few **Kildeer**. We looked for but couldn't find Loosely Road – not on our maps. At Nicholson Road we finally found some good looking habitat, but all we could hear was the howling wind screaming around the telephone poles and fence lines. It grew later and darker.

Okay, so it just wasn't going to happen this year. We headed for home, philosophizing about how it is better to try and fail than to never try at all and wonder if you could have. We headed back toward the highway for the long drive back. We turned onto the last lateral before the highway, when Ted suddenly shouted out, "Hey, this is Loosely Road!" We screeched to a halt, rolled down the window, and plain as could be, heard "tic tic...tic tic tic...tic tic tic...tic tic..." just as described ("like two pebbles being knocked together"). We leaped out of the car, and followed the sound back about a quarter mile to its source. Two birds ticked away in the soggy field 30 feet away; invisible, but very countable. **The Yellow Rail**

Now, about that Great Grey Owl...



News From Audubon Canyon Ranch Continued From Page 3

docents with the information and confidence needed to lead groups of fourth and fifth grade students on nature walks at the Ranch and to provide instruction in the classroom. An orientation session is scheduled for August 31. If you are interested in learning more about docent training, please call us at (415) 868-9244. There is a \$90 fee for this program.



Thank You!

From Anne Maser

At the May meeting I was given a copy of Lars Jonsson's "Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East" by Sequoia Audubon. The illustrations are beautifully done and include some of our North American birds as vagrants. It's fun to compare their descriptions with the "National Geographic Field Guide." The book is a lovely present I'll enjoy to the utmost.



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

FALL 1994 SAS BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

All Orders With Payment Must Be Received By Wednesday October 12! Prices Include Sales Tax.

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be October 20 - 23 with details to be advised later.

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

	# 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 _____

Wandering Tattler East

by Anne Moser

A week in Lithuania even with a non-birding companion gave me an opportunity to see a few European species that were new. You can imagine my frustration when the large bus in which I was riding went right past a **White Stork** nest with an adult stork standing on its edge! Most of the time I was visiting Kaunas, the town where my husband taught. As a country first occupied by Germany in 1941 and then by Russia in 1944, Lithuania is struggling to become a viable part of a capitalistic economic system.

The weather was cold, rainy or overcast, adding to an overall drab impression, but when we took a boat ride to the resort town of Nida, the sun came out! There I

saw Icterine Warbler, Crested Tit, Coal Tit, Mute Swan & many Chaffinches and Pied Wagtails. The town is largely used by German and Russian tourists who come to the Baltic Sea and walk along paths lined with pines and deciduous trees.

In Kaunas I was fortunate enough to meet and talk with Ricardas Patapavicius, the director of a banding (ringing) station on the migratory flyway to the Scandinavian Arctic. He is concerned for the future of the poorly-funded center and would be very receptive to a few visitors who wished to visit the center.

After my week in Lithuania I flew to London and visited birding friends near Lincoln and in Essex. We birded non-stop for 3 days and my English list grew! Their warblers are really hard to tell apart, being mostly shades of brown, soft green and pale yellow in color. No bright

yellows and often no very distinguishing marks, but as always birds are fascinating. I was taken to see a rocky field where **Stone Curlews** breed and we saw two!

If anyone is thinking of a trip to Lithuania or other Baltic States, I'd be glad to share what information I have.

☺ ☺ ☺



Illustration by Dan Kaller

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 Society at 1-800-274-4201.

Name _____ Gift From: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ 7XCH C16

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.

Kimberly Kitano in memory of Y Lillian Kitano

Mrs. Paul A. Schultz

Georgia H. Askew

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lynch in memory of Mrs. Jean Boegel

Harriet W. Nye

OFFICERS

President Julia Mandeville 729-1006
Past President Anne Moser 324-1718
Vice President Richard Kuehn 591-4380
Secretary Francis Toldi 344-1919
Treasurer Debbie Frantz 571-6759

DIRECTORS

for term ending June '95 Robin Smith 325-3306
..... Cliff Richer 738-9176
for term ending June '96 Shirley Higuera 595-2187
..... Rick Baird 574-1067
for term ending June '97 Eileen Jennis-Sauppe 726-1081
..... Tom Vanden Bosch 369-8305

STANDING COMMITTEES

ACR Rept Rick Baird 574-1067
Audit Nick Coiro 349-1834
Bird Sightings Dan Keller 726-3306
Christmas Count Dan Keller 726-3306
Conservation Bob Wilkinson 347-8367
Education Robin Smith 325-3306
Field Trips Weekday Nick Coiro 349-1834
..... Weekend Judy Spitler 355-9362
Finance/Budget Rick Baird 574-1067
Membership Anne Moser 324-1718
NEEDLES Co-editors Harriette Judge 355-4867
..... Michael Lee Huygen 738-0806
Circulation editor Sue Cossins 347-9358
Program Richard Kuehn & Dean Schuler 591-4380
Publicity Ann Loper 343-9570
Staff Terri Simpson 345-3724
Rare Bird Alert To Report 510/528-0288
..... Daily Sightings 510/524-5592

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN MATEO, CA
PERMIT NO. 293