



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society ♦ San Mateo County ♦ Volume 44, Number 5 ♦ February 1995

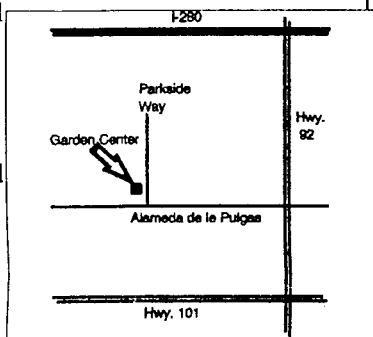


This Month's Program

At one time the entire Bay Area was prime nesting and hunting ground for burrowing owls. We have one known burrow left in San Mateo County and none in San Francisco.

Citizens of Santa Clara County who were concerned that their owls might suffer similar fates organized the **Burrowing Owl Restoration Project**. Lynn Trullio will present a program on this project and on these fascinating little owls.

The program will be held immediately following the business meeting on Thursday, February 9. Meetings are held at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside the second Thursday of every month.



March's Program

Valerie Layne of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will present a program based on the SFBBO's Colonial Breeding Birds Study.

Moser to Head Nom Com

Past President Anne Moser has been named to head the 1995 Nominating Committee. She will select the other two committee members.

Anyone wishing to serve on the Nominating Committee, or to serve Sequoia Audubon in any capacity is invited to call Anne at 324-1718 or to call the SAS office at 345-3724.

Early indications are that one of the positions to be filled is that of Treasurer. Debbi Frantz will be stepping down after two years of service and this position will be the one most in need of filling.

Volunteers for the Treasurer's job are being actively solicited.



From Your President

Julia Mandeville

The Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and the BATS presentation was one of our best attended meetings in some time. It was also fun and informative. We were blessed with several children who shared our wonder in examining the *live* bats.

The Christmas Counts were also well attended with one of the highest species totals in recent years recorded on the Crystal Springs Count. The Año Nuevo count reverted to its traditional format - wet and rainy. Nevertheless the participants in both counts seemed to enjoy the challenge.

Terri Simpson has compiled a summary of the 55 membership surveys received. You may request a copy from the office by calling 345-3724¹. Thanks to Terri for her hard work on this project. Slightly less than half of the respondents had attended a general meeting within the past six months. Some of the written comments as to why they had not attended are worth repeating: "...I hate meetings...sorry, not your fault...cannot drive after dark...I am tired by 8:00 P.M...." Our Program Chairs will enjoy responding to the comments to "What would you like to have happen at a general meeting?" The most flattering: "...more great videos by Rich Kuehn²." Those of you who volunteered to help with the work of the chapter will receive a phone call from one of our board members to talk about your interests. Thank you! If you haven't sent your survey in, please do so. Its not too late. If you have misplaced your survey, please call Terri Simpson at 345-3724¹.

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work. Please call Anne Moser (or any Board Member) if you want to serve as an officer or director. We urgently need a Treasurer for '95.

Special thanks to Michael Lee and Harriette Judge for their year's service as **NEEDLES** co-editors. They have both retired. Cliff Richer has volunteered to resume editing the **NEEDLES** while we put together a new **NEEDLES** team. Thank you, Cliff.

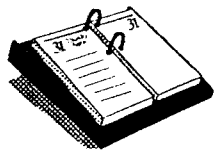
(1. One or two survey respondents complained that they could never find the number of the SAS office. The following is for their benefit.

Sequoia Audubon Society - 345-3724

2. The remarkable and amazing bird videos being presented as the "Bird of the Month" feature by Rich Kuehn are by themselves worth attending the monthly meeting. They are well beyond the "home movie" stage and often rival the work of professional wildlife filmmakers. For those of you who may have missed them or wish to see more of them, Rich has assembled a short program of these videos which he will present to the San Pedro Valley Park Volunteers' Association at the Visitors Center of San Pedro Valley Park in Pacifica following their general meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8.

---The Editor)





Calendar February

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - BOARD MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members welcome. Please call ahead to be sure there will be room.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - THE RAPTORS OF ALTAMONT PASS - This area east of Livermore is best known for its windmill farms - except to birders. For birders, Altamont Pass is noted as the winter home of a great number and variety of hawks and eagles. Every winter the resident red-tails, prairie falcons and golden eagles are joined by their cousins fleeing the snows and cold of the north. Peregrines, bald eagles, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks are only some of the visitors to these rolling grasslands and rocky outcrops. This trip normally extends into the afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. We'll begin our caravan of the area at 9:00 AM. To get there take I-580 past Livermore to Vasco Road. Take the Vasco Road exit north. We'll meet near the gas station in the small shopping complex just north of 580. Rain cancels the trip

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - RICH KUEHN OF SAS presents **BIRDS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**, a compilation of some of his finest videos from his "Bird of the Month" presentations. At the Visitors' Center at San Pedro Valley County Park in Pacifica. Presentation follows the business meeting of the San Pedro Valley Park Volunteers' Association at 7 P.M. The public is invited.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - GENERAL MEETING featuring Lynn Trulio on the **Burrowing Owl Restoration Project**. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM with the program at 8:00. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 18, 19 & 20 - THE NORTHERN REFUGES - TULE LAKE, KLAMATH LAKE & ALTURAS. The Lower Klamath Lake area has the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles south of Alaska. Drawn to the area by an incredible number and variety of waterfowl, they sit in wait for the weak and sick among the ducks and geese. In February any open water is dominated by the tundra swans' regal dignity. Time and weather permitting we will also visit Lava Beds National Monument, Surprise Valley and the Ash Creek Wildlife Area searching for Bohemian waxwings, tree sparrows and northern shrikes. Call the leader for full details. **Reservations are required for this trip**. Trip may be canceled unless we have a minimum of 6 birders. Call the leader for more information or to make your reservations.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - GRIZZLY ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA with special guest leader, **ROBIN LEONG** of Napa-Solano Audubon. Robin is one of the Bay Area's best birders and the most active conservationist in the Vallejo area. Let him acquaint you with this State Wildlife area on the shores of Suisun Bay. The area is noted for its variety and number of waterfowl, its

(Continued on Page Three)



News From Our Ranch

Dan Murphy

DAVID PLEYDELL BOUVERIE

David Bouverie, our friend and benefactor, died on Monday, December 5. It was David's gift of land which became the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. He supported that gift by sharing his own wealth. He personally raised considerable additional funds to maintain the preserve and to support the environmental education programs he helped guide.

David's insistence on fiscal responsibility will be imprinted on our Board of Directors for the foreseeable future. It was at his urging that we undertook a \$3,000,000 endowment drive which was so successful it raised five million dollars. David had the vision to know we could achieve such goals and he and his friends contributed generously in an effort to assure ACR's financial stability.

David's ideas of land stewardship guide our use of the Bouverie Preserve. He believed the land should serve to provide a base for environmental education while retaining its pristine beauty. He loved his rose garden and its reflection in the pool outside his home, but he also loved the wildflowers, oaks and wildlife which are the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. One of the projects which will leave David's imprint on the land was to replant oaks with the help of children who visited the Preserve. That may be his most lasting legacy of all.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Harbor Seal Study at Tomales Bay. This spring marks the fifth year of our Harbor Seal Census/Disturbance Study. Here is your chance to join us in monitoring the goings-on at the harbor seal colony near the mouth of Tomales Bay. We need volunteers who are willing to monitor numbers and record observations of disturbances from clambers, fishermen, kayakers, etc. A commitment of at least five sessions from March through June is needed.

Call Mary Ellen King at (707) 537-1546.

WORK DAY AT BOLINAS

Yes, its that time! We're preparing for the 1995 public season. Sunday, March 5 is your chance to join us for last minute chores to get the Ranch ready for spring visitors. You do the work and we'll provide the **FREE LUNCH!** There is a catch. You need to register by calling 868-9244 so we can plan to provide enough food.

From The Conservation Committee

Earthday 1995

Mark your calendars for April 22 and 23. On that weekend Earthday will be observed in both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties with habitat restoration activities at such locations as Edgewood Park, San Bruno Mountain, Montara Mountain and Pescadero Marsh. Details will be forthcoming in future *NEEDLES* articles

Coastside Protection Initiative

More than 29,000 signatures were gathered for the Coastside Protection Initiative in San Mateo County. Sue Cossins, Pat Moon, Rich Kuehn, Dean Schuler, Shirley Higuera, John Padley and Bob Wilkinson were some of SAS's signature collectors. Unfortunately a printer's error rendered most of the petitions useless and the proposed measure could not be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Instead it had to be referred to the Planning Commission with the expectation that it would be referred to the Board for action in July. Despite our disappointment we will keep monitoring this closely until then.

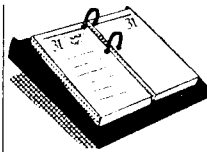
An Appeal From The Rain Forest

The Venezuelan Audubon Society is appealing to all US Audubon chapters for help. Foreign mining companies are ruining their rain forest. Habitat is being destroyed by deforestation; drinking water is being polluted; rivers are no longer able to support their fish populations; and in the state of Bolivar the lives of indigenous peoples are being disrupted. These indigenous people depend on the Abismo Rain Forest and the Caroni River for fish, game and the maintenance of their small agricultural plots.

You may express your concern by writing to

Ambassador Pedro Luis Echeverria
Venezuelan Embassy
1099 30th St. NW
Washington, DC 20007

In addition to your concerns about sustainable development you might mention the potential impact of poor environmental policies on future ecotourism to Venezuela.



Calendar

(Continued from Page Three)

wintering passerine species and its friendly river otters. The trip should last until mid-afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. To get there take Interstate 80 across the Bay and

Carquinez Bridges to Fairfield. Then take the Highway 12 (East) exit (Rio Vista/Suisun City) to Grizzly Island Road. Turn right on Grizzly I. Road to Hill Slough where we will meet at 9:00 AM. This is the first slough you will come to. Take a right turn over a small bridge and park in that area.

LEADER ROBIN LEONG (707) 643-1287

March

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 - BOARD MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members welcome. Please call ahead to be sure there will be room.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 - COYOTE POINT FIELD TRIP with Nick Coiro

THURSDAY, MARCH 9 - GENERAL MEETING featuring Valerie Layne of San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory on the Colonial Breeding Birds Study. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM with the program at 8:00. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - PESCADERO MARSH FIELD TRIP with John and Nina Padley.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 - GRANT RANCH FIELD TRIP (Leader to be announced)

Results Of First Annual Market Christmas Count

Conducted by Debbi Frantz on 12/21/84

Location: Foster City Safeway

Number	Type of Bird	Genus & Species	Activity
37	Whole Chickens	<i>C. frozenica</i>	Dead
22	Whole Turkeys	<i>T. butterballis</i>	Dead
6	Peking Ducks	<i>D. chinesefooda</i>	Dead
3	Non-Peking Ducks	<i>D. hadtheireyesclosedus</i>	Dead
18	Cornish Game Hens	<i>H. likeeatingyourpetica</i>	Dead
7	Geese	<i>G. fromthelagoona</i>	Dead
4324	Blackbirds	<i>B. scavengeris</i>	Pecking
202	Gulls	<i>G. theyalllookalikea</i>	Roosting

Our thanks to Debbi Frantz for sharing the results of this unauthorized, but important Christmas Count. While many of us visit this and similar ecosystems, few of us have noted and taken advantage of the birding opportunities.

Next year Debbi plans on conducting a Christmas Count of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

We applaud her for her scientific curiosity and enterprise.

Field Trip Reports

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
WOODBIDGE ROAD, THORNTON

A dozen birders met the leader just off I-5 in Thornton and we went caravanning down Woodbridge Road in search of sandhill cranes. This was one of the easiest searches ever, since we found thousands of them almost immediately. Many of them were relatively close to the road giving everyone good looks. Otherwise the trip was relatively uneventful (except for the leader's flat tire) until we reached Grizzly Island where we were treated to the activities of a family of river otters. Hawks and waterfowl were scarcer than in recent years probably because of the relatively clement weather on the more northern refuges. --- Cliff Richer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
SMITH & STEINBERGER SLOUGHS

Fifteen early rising birders enjoyed a warm and sunny morning walk among our local raptors. Although no owls blessed our early morning efforts and the previously present Barrow's Goldeneyes proved elusive, our happy group was rewarded with looks at a feasting golden eagle, a fly-by peregrine falcon and numerous white-tailed kites (8), northern harriers (3) and American kestrels (4). We also saw loggerhead shrikes and a Say's phoebe. Close studies were obtained from cooperative least sandpipers, American pipits and western meadowlarks. All told 36 species were recorded along with black-tailed jackrabbits (eagle food).

An extreme high tide floated enough garbage around our wintering waterfowl to inspire some members to consider this for a boat based effort at our next Coastal Clean-up Day. Good idea!

---Al DeMartini

Rick Held's Backyard Birder will not appear this month as the article was delayed in the mail and did not reach us in time for publication. It will resume next month.

Oregon, Maine, Vermont and California - in that order - are the four best states, environmentally, according to the *Green Index* (Institute for Southern Studies). Air pollution and solid waste disposal (where California is dead last) bring down our rating.

In Search Of The Bohemian Waxwing Francis Toldi

The trip began typically enough, driving up Interstate 80 at night, listening to the Warriors almost beat the Houston Rockets and gazing at the fabulously brilliant stars outside the window. My brother John and I were headed for one of my favorite areas: The Klamath Basin and nearby North Eastern California in the winter.

The early reports were encouraging. Bohemian Waxwings were turning up on various eastern California Christmas Counts in good numbers. Maybe this would be the year I would finally get to see this elusive bird. No matter how long you have been birding, no matter how experienced you are, there will always be a bid that eludes detection. And as soon as you find that bird there will be another.

We slept for a few hours in a motel in Oz--I mean Reno--and arrived in Susanville at mid morning. Susanville is a lovely old railroad town, small by our urban standards, but quite a metropolis for the area. It also has many beautiful old houses, tree lined streets and a charming downtown along the highway. I know that because we spent the entire morning driving down every street, peering at the trees for the slightest sign of a waxwing, or another bird for that matter.

Susanville is usually a popular spot with the Bohemian Waxwing crowd, at least that is the conventional wisdom. In our morning's drive we saw many beautiful birds--Evening Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, Purple Finches, American Goldfinches--but no Bohemian Waxwing. Just before noon we saw first one, then another, then many waxwings landing in a nearby tree. We leaped out of the car and studied them one by one. All Cedar Waxwings. Despite our fervent hopes and vivid imaginations we couldn't even make the slightly darker one that skulked in the background into a Bohemian. I think we earned points in Bird Heaven for that.

So onward! We birded the Honey Lake area, seeing raptors of all sizes and shapes, including 3 Falcons (Prairie, Merlin, Kestrel), Bald and Golden Eagles, Rough-legged, Ferruginous and Red-

tailed Hawks (the latter in a dizzying array of sizes and color phases). Wintering landbirds were also in abundance, with Northern Shrike particularly catching our interest. Up the highway near Alturas we watched our first ever Mink cavorting in an icy pond, while various duck species and a Belted Kingfisher looked on.

The Klamath Basin in northern California and southern Oregon is truly one of the world's great destinations, especially in winter. I am used to extreme cold and snow when in this area, but as we stepped out of the car at our first stop, we felt the cold sting our cheeks. Despite my nine layers of clothing, I could tell that it was COLD! Virtually all water in any form was frozen, and there was at least a foot of snow most everywhere. Consequently the whole food chain was suspended, and birds were scarce. Bohemian Waxwings were out of the question here.

With diligent searching we turned up some open water at the extreme south end of Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, and enjoyed a couple hours with a thousand Tundra Swans, additional thousands of White-fronted and Canada Geese, a huge raft of ducks. Here and there lurked little gangs of Bald Eagles, waiting for an indication that some duck or goose was succumbing to the numbing cold. The cold kept the Eagle totals down: only 60 or so, instead of the usual 200+.

(Continued next month)

Madrone A. S. Involved in Yellow-Breasted Chat Habitat Program

Madrone Audubon Society of Santa Rosa, along with the Sonoma County Water Agency, the California Native Plant Society, and the state Department of Fish and Game, is participating in a program to restore the habitat along the Santa Rosa Flood Control Channel above Spring Lake. The project is planned as part of both National Audubon's Partner in Flight and Birds in the Balance Programs. Madrone Audubon and the Water Agency will also participate in International Migratory Bird Day next May. Restoration of native plants was begun in the fall to take advantage of the onset of the rainy season.

The Wandering Tattler

Anne Moser



I spent five wonderful weeks "Down Under" in October and November. The first ten days were spent with a non-birding friend who lives north of Auckland.

There my birding was on my own, although when I left, I was told, "We know more about our birds than we've ever known."

New Zealand once had many endemic species but some have become extinct and many are rare or endangered. Evolving on an isolated island with few natural predators these birds were, in large part, slow-moving, slow-breeding, ground-feeding, even flightless. The elephant bird - the world's largest - was killed off by the Maoris; the kiwi - New Zealand's national bird - now is known to exist only in national reserves where stringent measures have been taken to eliminate cats, rats, pigs, mongoose and other introduced predators. Competition from birds introduced by the home-sick English settlers has accelerated the decline of these endemics. It was odd, recognizing blackbirds, chaffinch, goldfinch and greenfinch, all of which I had last seen in England.

The New Zealand pigeon was one of my favorites. It is large with an easily identifiable white apron on its belly. Two of the shorebirds on my "wish list" were the New Zealand dotterel and the wrybill - an especially odd-looking bird. After sloshing thorough muddy boggy marshland we reached the mouth of the Wade River where I found the dotterel, but not the wrybill.

My friend arranged a trip to Tiritiri Island, one of the open sanctuaries reached only by boat. This sanctuary is extremely well run with well posted walks, friendly informative rangers and a number of the rare, hard-to-see native species. I saw the saddleback there, as well as tui, New Zealand robin, bellbird, pukekas (a rail), brown teal, takahe and the blue penguin on its nesting grounds. The takahe was a favorite of my daughter, who described it as "a vast avocado with a

heavy bill." The one I saw was begging at the Visitors' Center.

I also visited the Kiwi House at Otorohanga. Here I had great views of the brown kiwi...in captivity, but at least I had a chance to see one. I also got a look at a pair of blue ducks, kea (a parrot), kaka (another parrot) and weka (a rail). While I appreciated the chance to see these rare birds in captivity, I regretted not being able to list them.

New Zealand was very clean and green and the people were friendly and helpful. It's a lovely place to visit.

(Next month - Australia)

NEW ITEM FOR SALE

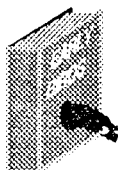
SAS NOW HAS A BEAUTIFUL FIELD IDENTIFICATION CARD (TRI-FOLD - \$8.50) OR PLACE MAT (\$6.00) SHOWING THE BIRDS OF THE PENINSULA.

This visually stunning plastic-laminated card has to be seen to be appreciated.

All prices include sales tax.

The Bookworm

Anne Moser



The SAS Office has received a copy of *A Birder's Guide to the Lompoc Valley* by Gene Lynch, published by the Purisima Audubon Society.

Birding sites are listed and a map shows their locations. There is a checklist at the back of the book. Having birded in the area, I know how helpful this guide would be.

No price is given, but I'm sure a copy could be ordered from the Purisima Audubon Society, PO Box 2045, Lompoc, CA 93436.

The Feather Duster

Cliff Richer

Myths and Exceptions

Loony tunes: Two

of the most popular loon myths have just been debunked. "Loons mate for life," says Henry Fonda in *On Golden Pond*. Sorry, Henry. Researchers have recently found that when nesting failure occurs, for whatever reason, the female loon will immediately leave her mate and seek another. The change of mates is sudden because of the short breeding season and can make a Mexican divorce look leisurely.

"Loons breed only on lonely unpeopled lakes." So goes another loon legend. At least in Maine that's not true. Researchers there found no difference in loon populations or reproductive success on isolated forest lakes and on lakes lined with summer homes and resorts.

Another more recent myth - that mercury poisoning was a major cause of decline in loon populations - also has been debunked. Although loons have elevated concentrations of mercury in their tissues, it does not appear to have any effect on reproductive success or be a significant cause of death. Researchers have found that the most common causes of death among loons are, in order: Boat collisions, fish line entanglement, shooting and lead poisoning (from fishing sinkers and expended shotgun shells).

Dams are good? Or so it would appear - at least so far as black rails are concerned. A study has shown that black rails on the lower Colorado River need stable marsh areas with shallow water. Such areas are found only behind the numerous dams in the area.

Kind and benevolent Mother Nature? I still encounter a few self-styled environmentalists and more than a few animal rights advocates who have a distorted picture of what life in the wild is really like. I would ask them to consider this - British scientists estimate that 90% of all hawks and eagles die before the age of two. Darwin had it right...not Beatrix Potter.

The Christmas Counts

Because of our early deadline our information on the Christmas Counts is necessarily sketchy.

The **Año Nuevo Count** lived up to its traditional reputation for drawing rainy weather. Survivors of other years' counts, however, noted that it was practically balmy compared to some counts when temperatures in the 40's were accompanied by howling winds.

The **Crystal Springs Count** on the other hand had glorious weather and some very cooperative birds. The preliminary compilation showed that we identified **200 species**. This is the third best count ever for us and is topped only by 1984's 207 and 1986's 204.

We should have the complete compilation of species and bird population in next month's **NEEDLES**.

About Birds Did'ja Know That...

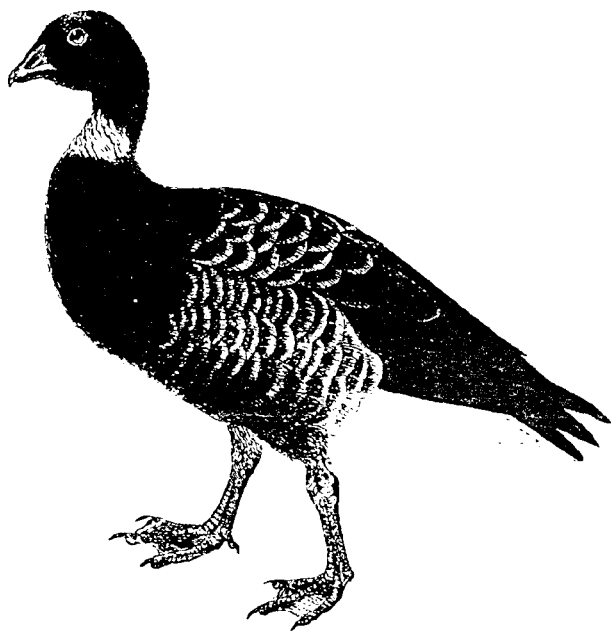
The Aleutian race of the **Canada goose** was extirpated in Russia when fur traders released red foxes on their breeding islands in the 1890s and early 1900s. Now 19 breeding age adult geese have been "loaned" to Russia by the US in hopes of reestablishing the species. Japanese authorities are also cooperating since the geese formerly wintered there.

Ruddy ducks were introduced into England in the '50s and are now a serious problem throughout Europe. They are interbreeding with the native white-faced duck and threatening the Old World species with genetic extinction. Ruddy ducks are also nest parasites. Not only do they raise their own young, but they also lay their eggs in the nests of other species. This is threatening a number of other troubled duck species.

Striking back; or Alfred Hitchcock remembered: When an ostrich attacked and hospitalized a woman jogger

in South Africa it was headline news. Not so in Australia where the **cassowary** -- a smaller, but more ill-tempered, flightless bird -- has been responsible for more deaths than any other wild creature. Most of the victims are pre-teen aborigines who have the responsibility for taking care of captured cassowaries - a sign of wealth in some tribes.

Learning from experience: In Alma, Ontario an **American kestrel** was banded in 1991. In 1992 she was captured at the same location. After being



released she continued to hang around the banding station and soon learned how to feed on snow buntings trapped in the mist nets. The bander captured her again and released her 15 kilometers away. By the time he drove back to his banding station, the kestrel was back on her perch waiting for him to spread the mist nets.

Sage grouse in Northeastern California may be adversely affected by an explosion in sagebrush moths. These moths generally attack only older big sagebrush plants. While this could adversely affect sage grouse populations in the short term, the long-term effects should be beneficial. As older sagebrush plants die they will be replaced by vegetation more appealing to other wildlife or by younger, more succulent sagebrush preferred by the grouse.

Are they splitting **Hutton's vireo**? Carla Cicero and Ned Johnson have published research that shows that the West

Coast populations and the interior Arizona populations, separated by 400 miles of desert, differ genetically. The findings are similar to those for the spotted owl (another candidate for splitting) and the brown towhee (already split into the California and canyon towhees). The results are probably not enough to cause the American Ornithologist's Union to declare two separate species but are significant enough to generate further study.

Black-billed magpies are becoming a more important predator on the Great Plains. Their numbers have been increasing as man changes the habitat and they have become a serious threat to other nesting birds. Like other jays and corvids they are omnivorous and will eat bird's eggs and chicks.

The endangered **'alala** (Hawaiian crow) got a population boost in '93 as seven new chicks were born. All of the chicks were from eggs laid by the 13 birds left in the wild but incubated artificially. Five of the birds were "hacked" back into the wild and two were added to the captive flock, now numbering 13. So far the captive flock has failed to produce any viable chicks.

Any one who has spent any time in the north woods during spring and early summer soon learns to fear and loathe the black fly. I had always assumed that local wildlife had adapted to live with and tolerate this tiny vampire. Not so! One study in Wyoming found that black flies caused the death of 53% of hatchling **red-tailed hawks**.

It's been assumed that **cowbirds** laid more eggs than any other US bird, but no one knew how prolific they were. In a controlled experiment involving 12 female cowbirds, researchers found that the average number of eggs laid was 26.3 while one cowbird laid 77! Another study found that the cowbirds' egg-laying abilities were directly related to the amount of calcium in the birds' diets. Cowbirds on a limited calcium diet laid 61% fewer eggs.

WINTER 1995 SAS BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

All Orders With Payment Must Be Received By Wednesday February 15!

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be Feb 23 - 26 with details to be advised later.

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

	# Bags	Cost
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX20 lb @ \$8.00/Bag		= \$
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower		
RED/WHITE MILLET MIX20 lb @ \$8.00/Bag		= \$
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER25 lb @ \$15.00/Bag		= \$
WHITE PROSO MILLET25 lb @ \$10.00/Bag		= \$
THISTLE.....25 lb @ \$38.00/Bag		= \$
.....5 lb @ \$9.00/Bag		= \$
SUNFLOWER CHIPS.....25 lb @ \$31.00/Bag		= \$

Prices include Sales Tax.

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 _____

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

- ☐ **National Audubon Society Membership:** New members \$20.
Members receive *Audubon* magazine and the *Needles* newsletter. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.
- ☐ **Needles only subscription:** \$10 annually (includes 9 issues per year).
Make check payable to Sequoia Audubon Society.
- ☐ **Donation:** SAS greatly appreciates your tax deductible donation which helps fund the Chapter's education, conservation and ongoing activities.

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

Name _____

Gift From: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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Gifts and Bequests

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