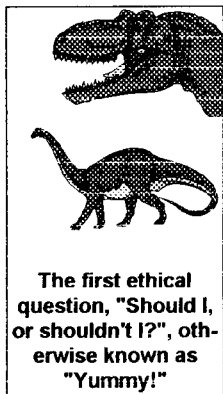


Sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County Volume 45, No. 6

March, 1996

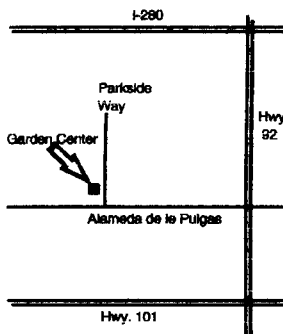


Can Ecology Be A Basis For Ethics?

David Schrom is a researcher and teacher of human ecology. In a talk illustrated with slides, he will discuss concepts such as health education, values clarification, dispute resolution and environmental restoration. David holds degrees in history and law from Yale and is the

founder of Magic, a non-profit educational corporation in Palo Alto.

The meeting is Thursday, March 14 at the Garden Center on Parkside Way at the Alameda in San Mateo. Social get-together at 7:30 PM with the meeting beginning at 8.



Next Month's Program

Jim Lomax, who has previously given us programs on the birds of Texas, Arizona and Florida turns his attentions northward to present a new program, "Birds of the Midwest".

The Nominating Committee

Anne Moser heads up the nominating committee and is ably assisted by Rick Baird and Grace Sain. Early indications are that they are having trouble finding candidates. None of the incumbents have expressed a desire to continue (*but we haven't gotten to the guilt-laying and arm-twisting stage yet*) so the field is wide open. Besides the elective offices we need a volunteer auditor.

So, if you have any ambitions towards being the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Director or Auditor of a non-profit organization - or know someone who has - contact Anne Moser (324-1718) or any of the Nominating Committee.



From The Editor

Anne Moser rescued us last month, finding us a new printer (just for the month) so we could get your *Needles* to you on time, but this month its back to O.I.C.W. Not only does O.I.C.W. do remarkable work in training people who others believe are untrainable, but they give us a fine price and quality work as well. We're keeping our fingers crossed that their situation will be back to normal. But once again, if you get this on time - credit Anne and her volunteers.

Things are heating up slowly on Bair Island. There is nothing definite happening as yet, but rumors abound. Our Conservation Committee is watching this situation closely as are a number of other watchdog groups. Years ago, we thought we had this particular problem solved when Mobil Oil's real estate department folded its tent and retired its plans for a massive development on its part of the island. (The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge owns some of the island but its portion is generally considered to be less important to wildlife and, in any case, would be despoiled by an adjoining housing tract). The problem is that a Japanese firm has purchased the property from Mobil. While we don't have a lot of information on this particular corporation, the track record of Japanese companies in Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and even in our own states of Alaska and Hawaii is enough to cause concern.

There will be a proposed by-law change on the agenda for this year's General Meeting in June. The proposed change has been approved by a 4-1 vote of the Board of Directors and will be proposed to the membership for approval. The text of the proposed revision follows:

- ♦ "Article VI - Officers. 1 The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may designate. **Two or more individuals may share a single office, if so elected by the members of the Society.** The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of members for a term of one (1) year, or until a successor shall be selected. Vacancies occurring shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Board of Directors.

The new language is highlighted in bold -face type. The remainder of the rule all other parts of the by-laws remain unchanged.

Don't bother memorizing it now. We'll run it again in both the May and June *Needles*. The proposed by-law change will be voted on before the election of officers in June. In the meantime the Nominating Committee will be operating under the assumption that this measure will be adopted - but will also be prepared in the event that it is not passed.

The mission of Sequoia Audubon Society is to participate actively in environmental education, and conservation and in the restoration, preservation, protection and enjoyment of our native natural resources with emphasis on birds and their habitats.



The S A S Calendar

March

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, PESCADERO MARSH - John and Nina Padley truly love "their" marsh and will share its complexities and secrets with us. This is a multi-faceted field trip which will deal with all aspects of the marsh's ecosystem, but of course, Pescadero Marsh is one of the premier birding spots in the county so birders need not worry that their hobby will be overlooked. The weather may be cool or warm, depending upon fog and wind conditions, so be prepared accordingly. Boots are recommended but any walking will be relatively easy and on level grades. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the parking lot opposite Pescadero Road on Hwy. 1.

LEADERS JOHN AND NINA PADLEY

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 - CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members welcome. Please call ahead to confirm time and place.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 - GENERAL MEETING - David Schrom will give a presentation titled "Can Ecology Be a Basis for Ethics", covering land use and transportation issues. The meeting will be at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together begins at 7:30 PM with the General Meeting and program at 8 PM.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 - SAWYER CAMP TRAIL - This is a new field trip by a leader who so ably filled in on the Klamath Field Trip last year. See next month's *NEEDLES* for details.

LEADER WERNER SCHUMANN

April

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 - CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members welcome. Please call ahead to confirm time and place.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 - 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, APRIL 6 - SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK - This park provides a variety of habitat for migrating and nesting species of riparian, chaparral and grassland birds. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. For those

wanting to stay on after the end of the birding trip at noon, the park offers the seasonal 175-foot high Brooks Falls and one of the most botanically diverse trails in California, the Hazel Nut, at the height of wildflower season. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park. Picnic tables and ample parking are available. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica and, turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to its end and follow the signs to the park. Note that the \$3 parking fee will be in effect.

LEADER JUDY SPITLER 355-9362

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 - GENERAL MEETING - Jim Lomax presents a new program, "Birds of the Northern Midwest". The meeting will be at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together begins at 7:30 PM with the General Meeting and program at 8 PM.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - MINES ROAD - Our annual caravan through parts of four counties (Alameda, Santa Clara, Stanislaus and San Joaquin) takes us into some of the best birding areas of the Bay Area. Local rarities such as Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis' Woodpecker, Roadrunner, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Prairie Falcon and Costa's Hummingbird share this

habitat with the introduced Wild Turkey and most of our common land species.

This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable, with temperatures in the last four years varying between 40 and 90 degrees on this trip at this time of year.

There are only two reliable restroom facilities, at lunchtime and at mid-afternoon; and one service station (often out-of-service) at the half-way point so be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 for about 25 miles to the Vasco Road exit. Follow Vasco Road south (right) to its end at Tesla Road. Take a right on Tesla. In

less than a mile you will come to Mines Road on the left. We will meet at the inter-section at 8:30 AM. Late arrivals will have no problem in catching up with the group at our first stop less than a quarter-mile up Mines Road.

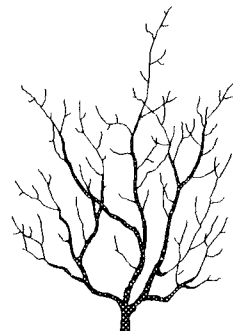
LEADER CLIFF RICHER 873-1754

† † † † † † †

The road to extinction may be long - but in some cases is inevitable.

There is a genus of trees confined to the island of Mauritius, all of which's trees are more than 300 years old. The trees' seeds do not germinate since they must first pass through the digestive tract of a dodo.

The last wild dodo was killed in 1691.



Birdathon '96

Chuck Mitchell

Each April and May, birders throughout the country go out and try to count as many species as possible in one 24-hour period raising money for Audubon causes.

The money is raised by having the individual (or team) enlist sponsors who pledge a stated amount per species.

The birders then go out and observe and list all the species they can identify within a 24 hour period. Birders don't have to go out for the full 24 hours. There are lots of variations. You can count numbers of birds instead of species or you can limit your count to a lesser number of hours. For example, Cliff Richer (the Ultimate Coot) is going to limit his count this year to birds identified within 50 feet of the Visitors' Center at San Pedro Valley Park. (The birds can be anywhere, but the birder must be inside the fifty-foot circle). You can even do a Birdathon without ever leaving your living room - just count the numbers of birds or species at your feeder.

The money raised is paid to Sequoia Audubon which keeps half of the total for its own conservation or educational uses. The other half goes to National Audubon. The chapter can specify what Audubon cause to which this half of the money can be allocated. This year we have designated the Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Marin county as our recipient.

Skill (except at obtaining pledges) doesn't matter either. Just adjust your pledges to fit your skill level. A beginning birder who identifies 20 species at 50¢ will do just as well as he team of experts that gets 200 species at 5¢.

We hope to have a listing of some of the teams in next month's Needles. At this point we have three teams signed up but only Cliff Richer's team has chosen a name (the Ultimate Coot). In the past we've had such names as the Garbled Mopwits, the Mega-ticks and the Huffin' Puffins.

If this sounds like a good way to encourage birding and support Audubon, please call me (Chuck Mitchell, 583-9773) or the chapter office (345-3724) for further details and/or an information packet.

Asilomar Conference

Audubon's Western Regional Conference will once again be held at Asilomar from Saturday, March 30 through Tuesday, April 2.

The conference theme is "Birds, Wildlife and Habitat: Building a Culture of Conservation". Scheduled highlights include a Mono Lake retrospective, a performance by David Geison on the life of John James Audubon and presentation by puffin expert Steve Kress. Speakers will include Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, NAS President John Flicker and Audubon Chief Scientist Frank Gill.

Field Trips (all scheduled for the morning of Monday, April 1) include a tour of Big Sur Ornithological Lab, birding trips to Garland Ranch and Elkhorn Slough and a Pelagic Trip.

Because of the late date on which the Needles received this information, it will be necessary for you to call the regional office in Sacramento ((916) 481-5332) directly in order to make your reservations.

Condor Update

The population of California Condors is now up to 103 birds - thirteen of them in the wild. Of the 15 condor chicks hatched this year, six will be released in the Grand Canyon, four at Castle Crags in San Luis Obispo county and the rest at Lion Canyon in Santa Barbara County.

Field Trip Reports

Foster City - January 10, 1996

Bright, sunny skies greeted our group of six congenial birders and their last-minute fill-in leader for Nick Coiro - a victim of the flu bug. We managed to identify 56 species in three hours of scanning the lagoons and shorelines with only a single wrong turn along the sometimes confusing streets of Foster City. Although we missed the Eurasian Wigeon we were happy to have good views of Barrow's Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers alongside of the more common duck species; of a roosting Black-crowned Night-heron 10 feet overhead; and an adult female Cooper's Hawk obligingly perched where we got feather-inspecting scope view in great light.

On Belmont Slough we got fine comparative looks at Whimbrels and Long-billed Curlews at the water's edge.

Our final stop was at the shell bar in the bay. Even without the benefit of a high tide to concentrate the birds, we were able to pick out 11 Red Knots from the hordes of feeding, preening and sleeping Willets, Godwits and Dowitchers. A flock of Semi-palmated Plovers impressed us with their synchronized flight and we ended on a high note with the discovery of an adult Thayer's Gull sharing the mudflat with fellow gulls and terns.

---Al DeMartini

Tahoe License Plates Available

Special Lake Tahoe license plates are now available. This is an official plate issued by the DMV. Net proceeds from sales of the plate will benefit programs for the restoration and preservation of the Lake Tahoe environment. The initial cost of the plates is \$50 in addition to the normal registration fee. Renewals will be \$40 over the cost of the normal registration renewal. Call or write your local DMV office for applications.

Birdathon '96 Entry Form

- ☐ I want to pledge \$ _____ per species seen by the (name of team) _____
- ☐ I will pledge a flat amount of \$ _____
- ☐ I will volunteer to help with the running of the Birdathon.
- ☐ I will form a team. Send me more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

BT '96

The 1995 Christmas Counts

Al DeMartini

December 16, 1995

The Crystal Springs Count had great weather and visibility following the previous week's storm which had 100+ mile per hour winds.

Three birds were new to the count - Spotted Owl, Solitary Vireo (long overdue) and Lucy's Warbler. 17 birds had 20-year high numbers, probably due to various reasons:

Some of the high duck and shorebird numbers were storm-related. Redheads, Buffleheads, Black-bellied Plovers and Black Oystercatchers would appear to fall into this category.

Local recent breeding success was also a major factor in the increased numbers of some species. Short-eared Owls and Common Ravens had particularly good years in this regard.

Anna's Hummingbirds and Red-shouldered Hawks continued a steady pattern of annual increases in numbers.

Mild temperatures through the fall were undoubtedly related to the numbers of Nashville Warblers, Forster's Terns and Heermann's Gulls. The previous week's storm may have affected these species too.

A more powerful tape recorder assisted us in getting vocal responses from isolated island populations of Virginia Rails. This was also the major reason for the return of the Clapper Rail to the count after an absence of eight years.

Ferruginous Hawks, Sanderlings, Great Horned Owls, and Common Yellowthroats just seem to be having good years. The Myrtle sub-species of the Yellow-rumped Warbler also seems to fall into this category although an increased awareness of sub-specie identification by birders is certainly a contributing factor.

Species probably present in the count area but missed were Wood Duck, Common Moorhen, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Hermit Warbler and Swamp Sparrow.

(Editor's Note: This is the first of our Christmas Counts in which 9 species of owl were recorded. This is highly unusual for any Christmas Count and should be a national high for 1995.)

Sequoia Audubon Society

December 30, 1995

Rain and persistent heavy drizzle hampered visibility and bird activity yet we were able to add Harris' Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow to the count for the first time.

Highest numbers ever were recorded for Solitary Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Townsend's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird. The Myrtle sub-species of the Yellow-rumped Warbler also falls into this category although an increased awareness of sub-specie identification by birders is certainly a contributing factor.

Sixteen of the Seventeen Swamp Sparrows were found in a single 10-acre flooded field along with 80 of the Lincoln's Sparrows.

Solitary Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Myrtle Warblers seem to be enjoying a good winter here in Central California.

Barrow's Goldeneye, which has never been recorded on this count, was seen during the count week but missed on count day. Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Parasitic Jaeger and Spotted Owl were also seen during the count week.

Other birds known to have been in the count circle recently included Brant, Canvasback, Harlequin Duck, Common Merganser, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Western Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Forster's Tern, White-winged Dove, Violet Green and Tree Swallows and House Wren.

While some of these 19 species undoubtedly had moved on to other areas, we feel that the weather was the main inhibiting factor on count day.

Although bad weather (for California) seems to be a typical feature of this count we'll hope for better weather and higher counts next year!

Christmas Count Histories

Two spreadsheets are available - one for each count - giving a statistical history and analysis of the last 25 years. To obtain a copy send \$3 (to cover postage and copying) for either count or \$5 for both to Cliff Richer, 330 Baden, S. San Francisco, 94080.

The Audubon Camps- Summer Employment Opportunities

Natural History Instructors and Student Assistants are needed for the Audubon Camps in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming.



Natural History Instructors should have teaching experience in a natural science or ecological discipline and must be able to conduct field demonstrations as well as lectures. The programs run for approximately eight

weeks from mid-June to late August. The positions include salary, as well as room and board.

Student Assistants should be college age. They work in the kitchen or as maintenance assistants. In addition they are each expected to carry out a field study project. In return they get an opportunity to participate in the programs, receive room and board and earn a salary commensurate with their position and the camp season.



If you're interested, send your resume to:

**Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops
National Environmental Education Ctr.
National Audubon Society,
613 Riversville Road,
Greenwich, CT 06381**

Qualified persons who are selected for consideration will receive a detailed job description and application forms.

Bird Seed Sale - Correction

In another indication of our infallibility, the *Needles* had earlier pointed out that no change in prices was expected in the Spring Bird Seed Sale.

As one can see from the Page 6 Bird Seed form, prices have changed - most of them going up slightly.

Oops! Sorry about that!

CRYSTAL SPRING CHRISTMAS COUNT STATISTICS -1995

SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN
Red-throated Loon	89	11	Black-bellied Plover	1311	42	Stellar's Jay	181	44
Pacific Loon	734	42	Snowy Plover	46	11	Scrub Jay	469	70
Common Loon	38	7	Semipalmated Plover	51	0	American Crow	21	1
Pied-billed Grebe	112	10	Killdeer	468	124	Common Raven	180	49
Horned Grebe	34	7	Black Oystercatcher	14	36	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	607	440
Red-necked Grebe	2	0	Black-necked Stilt	93	0	Plain Titmouse	40	5
Eared Grebe	65	10	American Avocet	1026	0	Bushtit	698	210
Western Grebe	162	95	Greater Yellowlegs	15	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	1
Clark's Grebe	87	7	<u>Lesser Yellowlegs</u>	1	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	7	0
<i>Aechmophorus, species</i>	3	2	Willet	1988	24	Pygmy Nuthatch	65	74
Northern Fulmar	65	234	Wandering Tattler	1	1	Brown Creeper	44	63
Sooty/S.T. Shearwater	12	0	Spotted Sandpiper	7	0	<u>Canyon Wren</u>	0	1
Black-vented Shearwater	5	6	Whimbrel	70	3	Bewick's Wren	108	33
Brown Pelican	205	1066	Long-billed Curlew	24	3	House Wren	3	0
Double-crested Cormorant	434	36	Marbled Godwit	930	10	Winter Wren	20	19
Brandt's Cormorant	211	208	Ruddy Turnstone	19	1	Marsh Wren	25	34
Pelagic Cormorant	56	67	Black Turnstone	112	52	American Dipper	0	2
American Bittern	0	1	Surfbird	30	37	Golden-crowned Kinglet	88	106
Great Blue Heron	44	7	Red Knot	142	0	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	362	238
Great Egret	69	6	Sanderling	617	131	<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</u>	0	2
Snowy Egret	75	6	Western Sandpiper	1878	0	Western Bluebird	45	32
Green Heron	2	1	Least Sandpiper	254	5	Hermit Thrush	112	36
Black-crowned Night Heron	40	14	Dunlin	2355	8	American Robin	914	148
Brant	3	0	Peep, species:	2238	1	Varied Thrush	40	42
Canada Goose	189	0	Short-billed Dowitcher	56	0	Wren	140	63
Wood Duck	0	28	Long-billed Dowitcher	12	4	Northern Mockingbird	31	2
Green-winged Teal	241	108	Dowitcher, species:	402	0	California Thrasher	14	1
<u>Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)</u>	1	0	Common Snipe	20	8	American Pipit	109	85
Mallard	815	76	<u>Red Phalarope</u>	62	6	Cedar Waxwing	277	2
Northern Pintail	533	25	Pomarine Jaeger	2	1	Loggerhead Shrike	3	4
Cinnamon Teal	11	12	Bonaparte's Gull	2	4	European Starling	1672	693
Northern Shoveler	263	24	Heermann's Gull	36	175	<u>Solitary Vireo</u>	1	2
Gadwall	255	26	Mew Gull	483	565	Hutton's Vireo	18	19
Eurasian Wigeon	2	0	Ring-billed Gull	701	2	<u>Tennessee Warbler</u>	1	0
American Wigeon	288	30	California Gull	6637	962	Orange-crowned Warbler	19	5
Canvasback	685	0	Herring Gull	126	86	Nashville Warbler	6	0
Redhead	38	0	Thayer's Gull	13	12	Lucy's Warbler	2	0
Ring-necked Duck	47	20	Western Gull	3172	1307	Yellow-rumped Warbler	543	43
Greater Scaup	1063	0	Glaucous-winged Gull	280	75	Myrtle	320	351
Lesser Scaup	486	8	Black-legged Kittiwake	7	3	Audubon's	582	68
Scaup, species:	14395	0	Gull species	12500	550	Townsend's Warbler	87	218
<u>Oldsquaw</u>	2	1	Forster's Tern	173	0	<u>Hermit Warbler</u>	0	2
Black Scoter	2	4	Common Murre	656	429	<u>Palm Warbler</u>	2	0
Surf Scoter	3721	137	Marbled Murrelet	7	7	Black and White Warbler*	0	1
White-winged Scoter	13	24	Ancient Murrelet	15	5	Common Yellowthroat	54	44
Common Goldeneye	848	17	Cassin's Auklet	7	3	<u>Wilson's Warbler</u>	1	1
Barrow's Goldeneye	28	0	Rhinoceros Auklet	26	41	Rufous-sided Towhee	146	26
Bufflehead	2610	61	Rock Dove	1778	56	California Towhee	292	77
Hooded Merganser	45	1	Band-tailed Pigeon	150	190	<u>Chipping Sparrow</u>	0	1
Common Merganser	5	0	Mourning Dove	777	108	Savannah Sparrow	212	25
Red-breasted Merganser	66	26	Barn Owl	6	4	Fox Sparrow	141	54
Ruddy Duck	1601	59	Western Screech-Owl	15	5	Song Sparrow	406	363
Turkey Vulture	42	8	Great Horned Owl	40	5	Lincoln's Sparrow	49	116
Osprey	1	0	Northern Pygmy-Owl	6	3	Swamp Sparrow*	0	17
White-tailed Kite	36	16	Burrowing Owl	3	1	White-throated Sparrow *	4	7
Bald Eagle	1	0	<u>Spotted Owl</u>	1	0	Golden-crowned Sparrow	1292	458
Northern Harrier	37	14	Long-eared Owl	1	0	White-crowned Sparrow	1078	518
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	5	Short-eared Owl	9	1	<u>Harris' Sparrow</u>	0	1
Cooper's Hawk	16	4	Northern Saw-whet Owl	14	8	Dark-eyed Junco	501	398
Red-shouldered Hawk	28	11	White-throated Swift	1	0	<u>Dark-eyed Junco (slate-clrd)</u>	1	0
Red-tailed Hawk	135	27	Anna's Hummingbird	339	48	Red-winged Blackbird	957	1160
Ferruginous Hawk	4	0	Belted Kingfisher	14	10	Tricolored Blackbird	350	107
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	Acorn Woodpecker	38	51	Western Meadowlark	527	18
Golden Eagle	1	0	Red-breasted Sapsucker	9	3	Brewer's Blackbird	2503	974
American Kestrel	70	23	Nuttall's Woodpecker	9	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	12	89
Merlin	5	4	Downy Woodpecker	11	10	<u>Northern Oriole</u>	1	0
Peregrine Falcon	3	0	Hairy Woodpecker	17	5	Purple Finch	90	14
California Quail	574	451	Northern Flicker	122	51	House Finch	786	196
Clapper Rail	4	0	Pileated Woodpecker	0	1	Red Crossbill	1	0
Virginia Rail	13	9	Black Phoebe	104	51	Pine Siskin	40	31
Sora	2	6	Say's Phoebe	13	10	Lesser Goldfinch	25	6
American Coot	3204	274	Horned Lark	10	0	American Goldfinch	131	8
<u>Underlined boldface type indicates an unusual bird or an unusually high number for the count</u>						House Sparrow	314	11

Crystal Springs (CS)

Total birds identified
Total Species identified
Number of participants

95338
197
55

Ano Nuevo (AN)

Total birds identified
Total Species identified
Number of participants

16669
171
32

Compiler for Both Counts: Al De Martini
Assistant Compilers for both counts: Dan Keller, Robin Smith



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

30 W. 39th Avenue #202, San Mateo, CA 94403
(415) 345-3724

WINTER 1996 SAS BIRDSEED SALE - ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY FEB. 14TH!!

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be February 22-25, 1996 with details to be advised later.

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

				# BAGS	\$-COST-\$
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX.....	20 lb @	\$ 8.50	/bag	_____	= _____
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower					
RED/WHITE MILLET MIX	20 lb @	\$ 8.25	/bag	_____	= _____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER.....	25 lb @	\$16.00	/bag	_____	= _____
WHITE PROSO MILLET	25 lb @	\$11.00	/bag	_____	= _____
THISTLE.....	25 lb @	\$53.00	/bag	_____	= _____
	5 lb @	\$11.50	/bag	_____	= _____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS.....	25 lb @	\$35.00	/bag	_____	= _____

SALES TAX IS INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES ABOVE

Contribution to Sequoia Audubon Society (tax deductible) _____

CHECK # _____ TOTAL _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Mail your check and order to

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

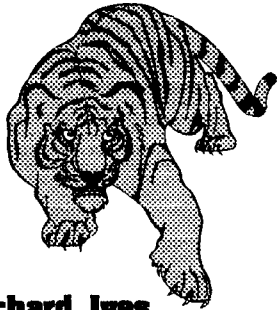
30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202

San Mateo, CA 94403

The Bookworm

Cliff Richer

Of Tigers and Men



by
Richard Ives

Anne Moser usually does our occasional book reviews, but since she "poached" on my "Feather Duster" this month, I feel free to return the favor.

In the early 80's, I often ran into Mary Louise Rosegay of Golden Gate Audubon. She was sometimes in the company of Richard Ives. I remember very little of Mr. Ives except that he was an excellent birder.

It turns out he was much more than that. He was a native Californian but a seasoned world traveler - one of those perennial vagabonds who was at home in Sri Lanka as much as in San Francisco. After his short residency in Marin County he journeyed on to Alaska and from there became a professional tour leader specializing in India, Indonesia and Southeast Asia. During this period he became absorbed and even obsessed by tigers - the one essential ingredient that all his tourists needed to include in their tours.

From 1986 to 1990 he visited with world-renowned tiger experts "Billy" Singh and Vlamik Thapar, with Indian peasants and mahouts and with his mysterious "informant", probably a high or mid-level Indian government official. For part of the time he traveled in the company of Werther, who Ives identifies as the best "field naturalist" he has ever met. But the murderous, drug-addicted Werther is a man driven by his love of the outdoors and his hatred of mankind whose bitterness will probably destroy him.

This book is a tale of that period. But it is not "just" an adventure story. Ives' friends and associates are unanimous in their judgments. The tiger, in all of its

sub-species and habitats, is on the road to extinction. Ives feels that the last surviving wild tiger may be alive today.

Universally it is felt that the governments of Southeast Asia have lied - reporting populations of tigers far beyond the carrying capacity of the dwindling forests. India's exploding population, Japan's thirst for wood to feed its plywood industry, the governments' needs for "hard" money and the need of officials to save "face" all are indicted in this unthinking conspiracy of extinction.

At the end of his tale Ives becomes a modern day Captain Ahab, obsessed by his need to come face to face with a tiger "on the ground" and without the protection of elephants and armed guides. Unlike Ahab he survives this ordeal and it becomes his watershed. At last, in his late 40's, he can settle down, have his family and write his book.

This book's conclusions are dismal and pessimistic but yet it is not a depressing or off-putting work. It is an excellent "read" - hard to put down. As a combination of adventure and research, it rivals Thor Heyerdahl's *KonTiki*, but with greater psychological insights and sounder science.

This book is especially timely in view of this month's Mountain Lion ballot proposition that would allow trophy hunting of our own big cat.

Richard Ives will be at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park on Friday, March 8 for a book signing. Call them at 324-4321 for exact times. I will be there to renew an old but too-casual acquaintance.

He will also be at Book Passage in Corte Madera (March 12), A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books in San Francisco (March 13) and The Easy-going Travel Shop and Bookstore in Berkeley (March 14)

The Disappearing Phalarope

Chris MacIntosh of Menlo Park visited England last September and found a "local interest" article in the *Daily Telegraph* that he thought might be interesting to our locals.

It seems that some "twitchers" (birders chasing down rare birds) had gathered

at the Leicestershire Reservoir to view a Red-necked Phalarope when a four-foot pike rose from the depths in a scene worthy of *Jaws*.

While it took some moments for the birders to realize that the phalarope had undergone a natural transformation to lunch, the shock was long-lasting and the event made the pages of two birdwatching newsletters.

The *Telegraph* correspondent, a Quentin L., (the rest of the name is lost on the photocopy sent to me), admitted that his initial sympathies were with the pike. Most fishermen would agree. The Red-necked Phalarope is not *that* rare but a four-foot pike - now that is a rarity!

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An infallible method of conciliating a tiger is to allow oneself to be devoured.

Konrad Adenauer

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Lois Harter

William Groll

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