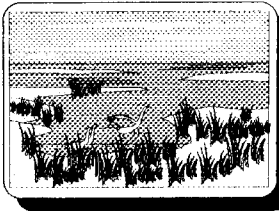


sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society

San Mateo County Volume 45, No. 8

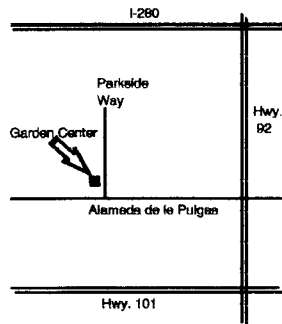
May, 1996



This Month's Program

Bair Island and the other Wetlands in the Bay Area

will be the focus of this month's program. The program will feature Florence La Riviere and Ralph Nobles of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and Santa Clara Valley Audubon, who will outline some of the work and many of the problems associated with trying to conserve the remaining 5% of San Francisco Bay's wetlands. The meeting will be at Thursday, May 9 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.



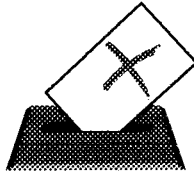
Next Month's Program

Next month's meeting will feature our annual elections, our Spring potluck and two SAS members who will show us all about their trip to Costa Rica. (Since it was first visited by Barry Sauppe in 1993, Rancho Naturalista has been virtually turned into SAS south by Dan Keller.) Rich Kuehn's videos, Dan's slides and their combined narrative should bring Costa Rica's attractions north for all of us.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee - Ann Moser, Rick Baird and Grace Sain - have completed their slate of officers and are recommending the following candidates for election in June.

- President - Francis Toldi
- Vice-president - Debbi Frantz
- Treasurer - Tom Vanden Bosch
- Secretary - Shirley Higuera
- Director (term expiring June 1999)
 - ♦ Sue Cossins
 - ♦ Alvaro Jaramillo



More From The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has found a candidate to fill the unexpired term of Tom Vanden-Bosch, who will be moving up to the Treasurer's job. **Rich**

Kuehn, a former director and the retiring Vice-president, has agreed to stay on the Board for at least one more year (this term expires in June 1997) as a Director. Rich is a OB-Gyn physician in the Kaiser system, but was unable to work in this capacity for some time due to a shoulder injury. While searching for an outlet to his energy Rich (fortunately for us) discovered Sequoia Audubon Society. Meeting attendees have known him primarily as the successor to Charles Newman and Nick Coiro as our "Bird-of-the Month" Master of Ceremonies. He has become a tireless birder and is ready to produce his video gear on a moment's notice to capture a previously un-taped bird for our monthly meetings.

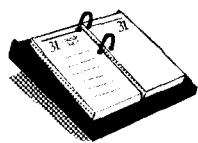
Among his other notable Audubon projects are his continuing work on developing an Internet Web Page for SAS, his ram-rodding of the final stages of our publication of *Birding the San Francisco Peninsula (Second Edition)*, his seeking of alternate methods of funding through his chairing of the Development Committee and his participation in preparing his Costa Rica tapes for our June meeting. Although he is now back to work full time (after a number of shoulder operations) we hope he will continue to devote some of his boundless energy to SAS.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for someone to fill the capacity of auditor. This appointive officer is required under the by-laws to review SAS's financial transactions at the end of the fiscal year (June) and report on the status of its operations to the membership in September. Since SAS's finances are relatively uncomplicated, the auditor need not be a sophisticated financial specialist - a basic knowledge of bookkeeping is all that is required. If you are interested in helping us out by filling this important position, please give Anne Moser (324-1718) a call.

Don't forget the Proposed By-law Change previously approved by the Board of Directors. This change will be presented for approval of the members in June. The proposed changes are in bold-face type.

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



The S A S Calendar

May

THURSDAY, MAY 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, MAY 4 - SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN - San Bruno Mountain stands in isolation, looking a bit out of place alongside the skyscrapers of San Francisco. Yet it is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden in pockets of woodland and in sheltered canyons. We will be exploring its unique flora and fauna during this half-day trip. We will meet at the San Bruno Mountain Park ranger station at 9:00 AM. To reach the ranger station: From northbound US. 101, take the Bayshore Blvd./Brisbane exit, and go north on Bayshore Blvd. about 1½ miles to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn left on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and follow the road about two miles to the station.

LEADER AL SEUBERT 588-9025

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

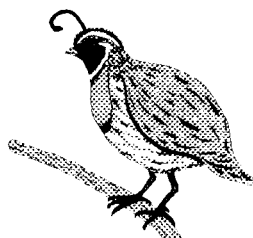
THURSDAY, MAY 9 - GENERAL MEETING - The meeting will be at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together begins at 7:30 PM with the General Meeting and program at 8 PM. The program will feature Florence La Riviere and Ralph Nobles on **Wetlands in the Bay Area**, with a special focus on Bair Island.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 - THE WILLIAMS SISTERS' RANCH. This marvelously tended ranch has been bequeathed to National Audubon and will eventually become one of Audubon's sanctuaries. Just off Skyline Drive west of San Mateo, it has an amazing diversity of habitat. We should find Lazuli Buntings and other grassland species as well as woodland and riparian species. **Because this is still a working ranch, we must limit the number of participants to 15. Call the office (345-3724) to reserve your space.** We'll meet at 9 AM in the parking lot of Alice's Restaurant at the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Hwy. 84. From there we'll carpool and caravan to the Ranch.

LEADER FRANCIS TOLDI 344-1919

TUESDAY, MAY 28 - SHAMROCK RANCH occupies most of the southwest corner of the city of Pacifica. It has mixed habitat with a good variety of breeding birds. To get there turn east (the only direction you can turn) off of Highway 1 onto Linda Mar Boulevard. (This is the southernmost stop light on Hwy. 1 in Pacifica). Turn right onto Peralta Road at the second stop light. We'll meet at 9 AM in the school parking lot at the corner of Peralta Road and Rosita. Do not drive into the Ranch as there is limited parking

LEADER JUDI SPITLER 355-9362



Birding Festivals Around The Nation

May 1-5 - Alaska - Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival - Celebrating the return of the nesting shorebirds

- Guided trips, ID workshops, boat tours on Prince William Sound. Contact *Cordova Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 99, Cordova, AK 99574 Tel. 907-424-7260*

May 10-12 - Alaska - Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival - Dedication of Kachemak Bay as critical habitat within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Guided tours, birding cruises, photography and ID workshops. Contact *Homer Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 541, Homer, AK 99603 or call 907-235-7740*

May 11-12 - Maryland - Delmarva Birding Festival - Celebrating the return of warblers and shorebirds to Chesapeake Bay. Guided trips to Assateague, Blackwater and Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuges, Deal Island Wildlife Management Area. Boat tours to nest islands and children's decoy painting also featured. Contact *Maryland DNR, 580 Taylor Ave., Floor E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401 or call 440-9074-3195*

May 17-19 - New Jersey - Cape May Spring Weekend - Observe millions of shorebirds gorging on the eggs of the horseshoe crabs. 170 bird species to be seen at this time of year. Butterfly tours, photo and bird ID workshops, landscaping for wildlife demonstrations. Contact *Cape May Bird Observatory, PO Box 3, Cape May Point, NJ 08212 or call 609-884-2736*

May 18-19 - Michigan - Kirtland's Warbler Festival - Celebrate the return of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler to Huron National Forest. Kirtland's Warbler auto-tour, birding tournament, presentations on status of the warbler. Contact *Oscoda County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 670, Mio, MI 48647 or call 517-826-3712*

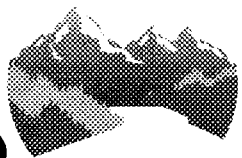
August 9-11 - Idaho - American Falls Shorebird Festival - See 32 species of shorebirds at the American Falls Reservoir. Guided field trips and shorebird ID workshops. Contact the *American Falls Economic Development Committee, PO Box 63, American Falls, ID 83211 or call 208-226-3181*

August 9-11 - New Brunswick - Atlantic Waterfowl Celebration - Celebrating the beginning of the southward migration features bird tours and workshops. Contact *Pat Finney, Atlantic Waterfowl Celebration, PO Box 1078, Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0 CANADA or call 506-364-8080*

August 17 - New Hampshire - 19th Annual Loon Festival - At the Loon Center on Lake Winnepesaukee. Bird tours, nature walks, children's activities, updates on loon status and loon ranger awards. Contact the *Loon Preservation Committee, PO Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03245 or call 603-476-5666*

August 22-25 - Arizona - Southwest Wings Birding Festival - 400 species of birds can be found in the Huachuca Mountains at this time of year. Owl, butterfly and bat tours, birding trips, ID and photo workshops, Ramsey Canyon Hummingbird tour. Contact *Southwest Wings Birding Festival, PO Box 3432, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636 or call 800-946-4777*

(Continued on Page 5)



LA DPW Continues to Drag Feet on Mono Restoration

Despite having lost the war, the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water continues to fight last ditch battles to reduce the amount of restoration work required and to shift the burden of funding to the taxpayers of California and the United States, rather than to its own rate-payers.

As part of the restoration process, DWP was forced to appoint panels of scientists to make plans for restoration. These plans, as completed by the scientists, were acceptable to the Mono Lake Committee, the Audubon Society and DWP's other opponents in the long court battle to restore the lake. However, when DWP submitted its final plans, it chose to pick and choose from among the scientists' recommendations and to disregard some of their most important findings.

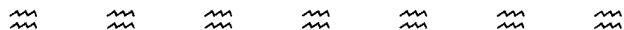
In its stream restoration plan, the DWP ignored the necessity of allowing higher levels of water flow at normal peak periods - especially the spring. Such higher water flows are considered necessary to scour the streams' gravel beds and prepare these for the trouts' egg-laying activities. These higher peak flows are also considered vital to restoration of a normal riparian eco-system. One of the stream scientists commented, "DWP adopts flows that are woefully inadequate to do the work that needs to be done to create and maintain instream and riparian habitat".

The DWP incorporated almost all of the scientists' recommendations into its waterfowl habitat restoration plan, but maintains that funding for this restoration should come from state and federal wildlife funds. The Mono Lake Committee and its allies oppose this approach, insisting that DWP was exclusively responsible for damage to the habitat and that its rate-payers, who benefited from the use of Mono Basin water, should bear the burden of the costs involved in restoration.

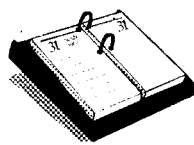
The DWP also had agreed to submit a plan for the management of Grant Lake, its primary holding facility for the diverted Mono Lake water. The plan, when submitted, was four inches thick but padded with generalities and completely lacking in specifics as to what actions DWP would undertake in this management effort.

At the present time these plans are drafts and have to be submitted to the California Water Resources Control Board this summer. The Mono Lake Committee, armed with the scientists' recommendations, hopes to have them amended substantially before they are accepted by the Board.

Incidentally, in the two years since the DWP was required to cease its diversions, the lake has risen nearly 4.5 feet! This rise is attributable in large part to last year's wet winter, but still gives us hope that full restoration may occur faster than expected.



When a man says he approves of something in principle, it means he hasn't the slightest intention of putting it into practice.
Prince Otto von Bismarck



The S A S Calendar

June

TUESDAY, JUNE 4 - CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members welcome. Please call ahead to confirm time and place.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 - 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, JUNE 13 - ANNUAL ELECTION, GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER - The meeting will be at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. The Potluck begins at 6:30 PM. The Election of Officers and the General Meeting follow. The program on Costa Rica will feature Rich Kuehn and Dan Keller.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JUNE 15 & 16 - YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY - HIGH SIERRA & HIGH DESERT MARSHLANDS - *Note that this is a change of date from the earlier schedules.* This trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on any of our other field trips. The trip features easy trail walking through lovely mountain and Sierra Valley habitats. On Saturday we will meet at 9 AM in the parking lot of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus east of Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak, summer warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll meet at the Summit Campground at 8 AM. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to see the birds of the Eastern Slope and Modoc Plateau. Bring liquids for two days. Arrangements have been made for us to use the facilities of the Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University. Camping in platform tents with mattresses and cots, hot showers and three meals a day are available for \$25.50 a day. Just bring your own bedding. If you're not into camping the meals (breakfast, dinner and a box lunch) are available for \$14.50 a day. Motels are available in Sierra City and reservations are advisable since there may be several other birding groups in the area at the same time. Some of the motels are:

- HARRINGTON'S SIERRA PINES (916) 862-1151
- SIERRA CHALET (916) 862-1110
- BUTTES MOTEL (916) 862-1170
- SIERRA BUTTES INN (916) 862-1122

In order to properly scout the area and determine the exact itinerary, the leader must know approximately how many participants to expect so please call to let him know you are coming and to get further information and directions.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 873-1754

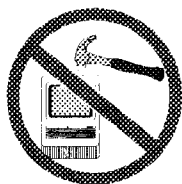


There is perhaps no phenomenon which contains so much destructive feeling as moral indignation, which permits envy or hate to be acted out under the guise of virtue.

Erich Fromm

From the Editor

Cliff Richer Rejecting the New Luddites



We hope that the arrest of a Unibomber suspect will stop the activities of this terrorist.

Once again I am bothered by the number of people who characterize this suspect as an "extreme" or "real" environmentalist. This man, whether or not he is the Unibomber, is not an environmentalist. He shares at least one characteristic with the Unibomber. They are both New Luddites.

The original Luddites took their name from Ned Lud, a feeble-minded worker who accidentally destroyed two spinning machines. This accident touched off an anti-technology crusade that swept England from 1811 to 1816. Factories were burned, machines were vandalized and products were sabotaged - all in the belief that the new technology would put men out of work and flood the marketplace with useless products.

For some time during the nineteenth century it looked as if the Luddites might have been wrong in their conclusions but right in their efforts. The early Industrial Age is one of mankind's darkest chapters. Child labor, 16-hour days, sweat shops, maimed workers, goons, scabs, finks, and the Black Hand are only a few of the ills that originated in this period. Indeed, these ills persist today in third world countries undergoing their own industrial revolution. In our own country these activities are illegal, but they surface every so often in sweat shops and on farms where illegal immigrants are employed under physical or psychological coercion.

Yet it is to technology that we owe our present standard of living and our present life expectancy. We may not like everything about our modern life. But everything is a trade-off. You may feel that organic foods are healthier, but the fact is that the "green revolution" has saved more lives and extended our collective life spans far beyond what it was before World War II.

You may decry the evils of the automotive age with its pollution, invasion of open space, its fatal and crippling acci-

dents, its contribution to urban sprawl, and its predominance world-wide as a status symbol. Yet it is the ultimate consumer product. It is desired world-wide and entire civilizations (ours) have been reconstructed around it. You may feel that its liabilities far exceed the benefits to be derived from it but the world disagrees with you. (By the way, have you ever thought what the pollution would be like if we used horses as widely as we used automobiles?)

Recycling is currently in vogue. A trip to your local landfill or transfer station will convince you that recycling is necessary and desirable. Newspaper is still a principal component of the landfill. Perfectly good pieces of lumber, repairable appliances, beverage cans and bottles are there for the picking. In some countries entire sub-cultures arise out of the local dump where the underprivileged grub for the treasures abandoned by the overprivileged. In our country some smaller landfill operators do allow local people to scavenge through the detritus, but this is more of a somewhat eccentric hobby than a way of life. Most of our recycling is well-organized, requires a great deal of educational advertising, and is usually ineffective unless mandated by law.

There is a New Luddite myth that is very popular among environmentalists who are into the "guilt school" of environmental awareness. Ever since the '60s I have been hearing "10% of the world's population consumes 90% of the world's resources." I believed this for a long time until one day I sat down with a world almanac and tried to figure it out. Well, no matter how I figured it I couldn't get it to come remotely close to those figures. Try it yourself sometime. No matter what criteria you use, you won't be able to make it work. The truth is that our "comfortable" society may be into over-consumption, but it can also afford the resources to become environmentally aware. The vast bulk of people occupying the African continent and the Indian sub-continent are too occupied with survival to be concerned about the environment. Western Europe, the United States and Japan are at ZPG (zero population growth) if you exclude the effects of immigration. If you believe - as I do - that overpopulation is the world's most compelling environmental danger,

then the anti-technologists are ultimately and foolishly wrong.

It is rather to technology that we should turn for answers to the problems that it has created. When anti-pollution controls were first introduced they were grossly ineffectual. They reduced pollution per gallon of fuel, but reduced fuel efficiency to the point that you actually had a net increase in pollution per mile traveled. Since then the auto makers have succumbed not to environmental pressures, but to the realities of the marketplace and the mandates of the federal government. Our emissions per gallon of fuel has been reduced somewhat, but our efficient use of that fuel has increased dramatically. In 1965, the US automobile that got 17 miles to the gallon under ideal conditions was exceptional. The 8 cylinder "land yachts" of the day all had single digit fuel consumption and massive fuel tanks so that they would not have to refuel too often. Today, I drive a vehicle that averages 30+ miles per gallon under all conditions and has gone over 50 miles to the gallon on long drives. If you take into consideration the pollution generated at the source and the low efficiency of the transmission and battery systems, this compares quite favorably to the electric car.

Organized recycling is still in its infancy. For a while, used newspaper was a drug on the market. Millions of people were saving their daily papers, but the world paper market could not absorb the amount being recycled. Much of it ended up in landfills, dumped by the collectors who were unable to dispose of it. Today, paper manufacturers have developed new "blends" that allow a higher percentage of consumer recycled paper to be used. New inks have been developed that are easier to remove from the paper and bleaching methods have improved so that in many cases it is cheaper for the manufacturer to use consumer recycled paper than it is for him to use raw wood pulp.

For the third world and its overpopulation, technology should also be the answer, but the immediate demands of keeping pace with the increasing human pressure makes this a slow, desperate and uncertain struggle. The New Luddites certainly do not have the answer. A 'return to nature' is simply not possible. There isn't enough nature left.

New National Audubon Society Books

The Bird Garden, by Stephen W.

Kress, director of Audubon's sea-bird restoration program, is a companion piece to NAS's *North American Birdfeeder Handbook* and is a comprehensive guide to attracting birds to your backyard throughout the year. Published by Doring Kindersley. Retail price. \$24.95

Audubon's Art and Nature is an anthology of Audubon's Art and selected writings of American poets and essayists such as Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost. Assembled by John Borneman, who recently retired from NAS's Sacramento office after 40 years with Audubon, the book is a tribute to this fine gentleman's taste and sensibility.

Sierra Nevada Field Campus Offering Bird Classes

The Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University is offering the following bird classes this summer. These classes may be taken for college credit or audited for your own satisfaction.

June 3-7: Bird Identification by Song with Dr. Luis Baptista.

June 17-21: Birds of the Sierra Nevada; identification, natural history and ecology of the birds with Dave Shuford.

July 15-19: Sierran Bird Banding with Dave DeSante.

July 19-August 2: Sierran Bird Banding with Jim Steele.

Cornell University also conducts its bird song recording classes at the campus. These courses are only available through Cornell University however.

The Field Campus offers a full range of natural history courses in fungi, mammals, insects, bats, botany, algae spiders, astronomy and geology as well.

The cost of most of these classes (including all bird classes) is \$145. Lodging and meals at the campus are \$25.50 per day

International Environmental Educators

Conference to be Held in Burlingame

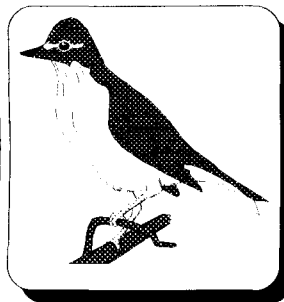
The next International Environmental Educators' Conference is scheduled to be held this November in Burlingame. Details on the conference are sadly lacking at this time.

Nevertheless, SAS is looking for ways in which we can help in promoting and carrying out this important event.

If you have any information please call the office. One of the new officers or committee chairs will get back to you.

Birding Festivals Around the Nation

(Continued From Page 2)



September weekends - Festival of Hawks (Ontario) - Celebrating the spectacular fall raptor migration at Holiday Beach Conser-

vation Area. Besides the great numbers of hawk birders may look for both passerine and aquatic species in migration. Hawk-banding, speakers and ID workshops. Contact *Mike Turton, Essex Region Conservation Authority, 360 W. Fairview Ave., Dept. WB, Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6 Canada or call 519-766-5209.*

September 12-15: Seventh Annual Hummer/Bird Festival (Texas) - Workshops on landscaping for birds and hummers in particular, Hummer ecology seminars, hummer tours. Padre Island National Seashore nearby. Contact: *Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce, 404 Broadway, Rockport, TX, 78382 or call 800-242-0071*

September 13-15: Oregon Shorebird Festival (Oregon) - Sponsored by Cape Arago Audubon Society. Celebrating the abundance of coastal birds in the area. ID workshops, pelagic and land field trips, visits to inland parks as well as coastal areas. Contact: *Barbara Griffin,*

1691 Grant St., North Bend, OR 97459 or call 503-756-5688.

September 15: Darlington Waterfowl Festival (Ontario) - Birding tours, decoy carving, waterfowl banding and retriever demonstrations. Contact *Darlington Provincial Park, RR#2, Bowmanville, Ontario, L1C 3K3 Canada or call 905-436-2036.*

September 27-28: Fiftieth Annual Cape May Autumn Weekend (New Jersey) - ID and landscaping workshops, evening programs. Field trips to see 200 species of migrating birds including spectacular raptor migration. Contact: *Cape May Bird Observatory, PO Box 3, Cape May Point, NJ 08212 or call 609-884-2736.*

September 28 - Kern Valley Vulture Festival (California) - Celebrating the largest vulture migration north of Mexico. Many other raptor species, field trips, interpretive activities, passerines at Kern River Preserve, banding demonstrations. Contact *Reed Tollefson, Kern River Preserve, PO Box 1662, Weldon, CA 93283 or call 619-378-2531.*

October 5-6: Eastern Shore Birding Festival (Virginia) - Thousands of songbirds and raptors follow the narrow Delmarva Peninsula. Field trips to Kiptopeke State Park and Chincoteague NWR, guided canoe trips, habitat hikes to normally inaccessible areas, beginner's and advanced ID workshops, falconry demonstration, ecology and bird-feeding programs. Contact *Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce, PO Drawer R, Melfa, VA 23410 or call 894-787-2460.*

October 6: Migration Madness (Ontario) - Celebrating the migrants funneled down the Lake Ontario coastline. 200 species have been recorded here. Contact *Debbie Jackson, Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, 2259 Milburough Line, Campbellville, Ontario L0P 1B0 Canada or call 905-854-2276.*



The Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma has become an avian adoption agency. When animal control officers were forced to destroy several Mississippi Kite nests because the kites were attacking passers-by, this Audubon chapter took the eggs and placed them in other nests. The foster parents in each case were able to handle the additional chicks with little trouble.

Preserving Endangered Species

An Audubon Priority In 1996

John McCaull,

California Legislative Affairs Director

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is at the heart of the National Audubon Society's conservation and policy agenda. All of our efforts to preserve birds, wildlife and habitat are in one way or another linked to the legal safety net of state and federal endangered species laws. Once again, reauthorization of the ESA will be one of Audubon's high priority policy efforts for 1996.

What can we expect from Congress in 1996?

Thanks to grassroots pressure from thousands of conservationists across the country, Congress backed off from passing any comprehensive overhaul of the ESA last year. Newt Gingrich himself intervened in the ESA debates in the House and squelched floor hearings on the devastating Young-Pombo Bill. In the US Senate, there were no hearings on ESA bills and this relative quiet promises to roll over into 1996.

Congress' failure to pass ESA authorization in 1995 does not mean that ESA opponents were unable to inflict damage to the law. Congress passed a moratorium on the listing of any new species through 1996, tried to gut the budget of the US fish and Wildlife Service and attached a host of harmful riders to budget bills. Most of these riders did not become law because of the overall budget stalemate, but our greatest danger is that we will see more strategic attacks on the ESA which will dismantle the law piece by piece.

What can we expect from the Clinton Administration? While most of the popular attention in the ESA debate has been paid to the Young-Pombo bill and Congress' efforts to weaken and defund

the law, the Clinton and Wilson administrations have issued a proliferation of habitat conservation plans (HCPs), Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and regulatory rewrites of the law which have dramatically changed the landscape of habitat protection and species recovery planning in California.

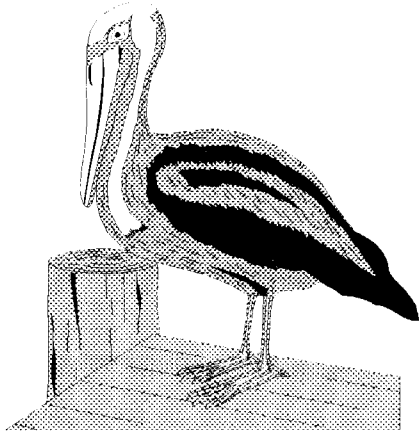
In the past few months the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt have issued administrative rules which:

- create exemptions from the ESA for any parcel of land five acres or less in size
 - streamline requirements that federal agencies consult with the USFWS before harming threatened or endangered species
 - removed thousands of species from potential protection under the act by getting rid of the entire Candidate 2 category (species under consideration for threatened or endangered status).
- The Babbitt-endorsed rewriting of the ESA must be dealt with in an unflinching head-on manner which demonstrates that Audubon cares about the ESA, not about which party is in the White House or in control of Congress.

The driving philosophy of our 1996 ESA campaign work in the West will be a realization that *what is happening on the ground with implementation of the law is just as important as the eventual outcome of the ESA debates in Congress.*

Too bad ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation.

Henry Kissinger



Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Needs Volunteers

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory needs about 230 volunteers to conduct its fall observations. Each year that means they need to sign up 80 new recruits. Most of its volunteers have come from the ranks of the Bay Area Audubon chapters.

If you want to learn to identify the hawks, falcons and eagles of California and you want to be part of a long-term wildlife conservation project this is your opportunity.

The Observatory needs volunteers who can commit one day of raptor counting or banding every two weeks from August through December and can attend some weekend and evening training sessions in July.

Recruiting and orientation meetings will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 7-9 PM and on Saturday, May 4 from 10 AM to 12 noon at Building 201, Upper Fort Mason, San Francisco. (Enter the fort at Franklin and Bay). For more information, call the GGRO at 415-331-0730.

Weekly Action Alert & News Network

Sequoia Audubon, through its Conservation Committee's new fax machine is now receiving the California Audubon Rotunda Report, a one-page weekly update designed to give chapters the latest breaking information on legislation in the California Legislature and in Congress.

Each week the Rotunda Report is faxed and e-mailed to each chapter who has signed up with Audubon's Legislative Office in Sacramento.

The Rotunda Report is also available to individual members who have fax or e-mail capability. Just call 916-444-5557 and leave your fax or e-mail number on the answering machine.



May 16-19

The **Partners in Flight** Program is sponsoring a long weekend conference in the Klamath Basin.

The programs begin at noon on Thursday May 16 and extend through noon on Sunday, May 19. Thursday will be occupied with the California Riparian Joint Venture and Intermountain West Joint Venture meetings. On Friday, following a breakfast meeting on the status of several threatened species, the meetings will continue.

Saturday will feature meetings of the Oregon and Northern California Audubon Councils.

Friday and Saturday evenings will feature programs by various federal agencies.

Sunday will be devoted to guided field trips and monitoring workshops in the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge.

For those who do not plan on attending the meetings, other workshops and bird-banding programs are also being planned for Saturday. These will include trips to one of the world's largest White-faced Ibis colonies, to Clear Lake, Crater Lake, Lava Beds and other wildlife areas.

For more information call Bob Barnes or Jill Shirley at National Audubon's Sacramento Office. Telephone (916) 481-5332, FAX (916) 481-4283 or e-mail bbarnes@audubon.org or jshirley@audubon.org.

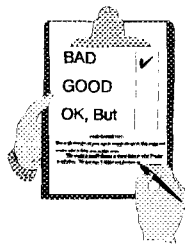
Tricolored Survey

The California Department of Fish and Game is conducting a survey of Tricolored Blackbird nest sites. They are concerned because there has been a general decline in the total number of "trikes" in the state - particularly in the Central Valley.

If you did not participate in the first survey on Saturday, April 20, you may still participate in the second on May 20.

For more information, contact Ly-
ann Comrack at the DFG, 1416 9th
Street, Rm. 1280, Sacramento, CA
95814...Phone 916-657-4436; FAX
916-653-1019.

Volunteer Monitors' Conference



The third Bay Area Volunteer Monitoring Conference will be held Friday, May 10, 1996 at the San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue in San Leandro.

The conference will include workshops on starting a volunteer monitoring program, its goals, using students, data management and other topics. Optional field trips will be offered on Saturday and Sunday.

The conference is sponsored by the State Water Resources Board, the National Parks Service and the Urban Creeks Council.

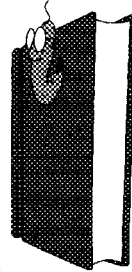
A fee of \$15 is required for the conference and an additional \$15 is charged for each field trip. If you need more information or wish to register, call Joelle Bouchard at the San Francisco Estuary Institute (510) 231-9566. She can also be reached by e-mail at joelle@sfei.org

The Bookworm

Cliff Richer

Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide To Planning North American Trips

Every time I think I've seen every conceivable king of bird book - paintings, photos, field guides, encyclopedias, life histories, reference works, area birdfinding guides, etc., - someone comes up with something new.



The Birdfinder fits itself into a niche between the generalized Pettingill birdfinders and the more specific, detailed birdfinding guides like our San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching. Jerry Cooper, the author, has picked 19 major areas and 12 "minor" areas in the United States and has arranged them in the chronological order (January through December) in which they should be visited. Although he does give a generalized description of the area, its birds and where to go to find specific birds, he leaves most of the

details up to the more localized guides - which he names and describes.

Each major site and some of the minor site descriptions list rare bird alerts, special equipment to bring to the area, some details on accommodations, a suggested itinerary, estimates of expenses (and a page on which you can list yours), a space in which to write your notes, and a list of species. The species lists are especially helpful since they tell you what you should look for in particular, their relative "value" in the ABA listings (1=easy to see, 5=you should be so lucky), their likelihood in the area, and any "stakeouts".

Although the book is more of a planning guide than an actual birdfinder for the described areas, any birder who does a lot of business traveling, and tries to squeeze in some birding as well would find it invaluable.

I had two criticisms as I reviewed the book. The species lists are broken into several categories, each separately listed. A checklist (with notes) would have been more useful. He also skips over many of the excellent local guides published by local Audubon societies in favor of the commercially published guides.

There are also a number of curiosities - for example he lists White-tailed Kite as a "key" species for southern Texas, but completely omits it from his chapter on Northern California - where it is far more common.

Nevertheless, if you're planning a trip to one of these areas, or you merely do a lot of armchair birding, the book may be worth its \$17.50 price tag to you.

It is available from the American Birding Association through ABA Sales, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 (Telephone 1-800-634-7736 or FAX 1-800-590-2473). A few copies may still be available at the San Pedro Valley County Park's bookstore in Pacifica. (Open Sat.&Sun 10 AM-4 PM).

"The victory of disposables in the Great Diaper War reflects a human trait...people won't do something that makes no sense to them, even when the advertised reason for doing it could be viewed as a good one." — *The Greenville News*, Greenville, S.C.

Gifts and Bequests

Sequoia Audubon 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 the Society. 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 the *NEEDLES* and personally on behalf of the Society. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Barbara Hatem

**Fairway Residents Club
in memory of
Miral Foulks**

Sequoia *NEEDLES* is published monthly except in January, July and August. Members are encouraged to submit material to be published in the *NEEDLES*. The deadline for the submission of materials is the first day of the month preceding publication. These may be original articles, original artwork or cartoons, or uncopyrighted material from other sources. Items dealing with conservation issues must be submitted to the Conservation Committee prior to publication.

Information for all officers and chairpersons should be mailed to 30 West 39th Ave., Suite 202, San Mateo, CA 94403-4561. Please send **RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS** directly to National Audubon in the envelope accompanying your renewal notice.

Please send **LATE RENEWALS** or **NEW MEMBERSHIPS** through Sequoia Audubon Society to insure continuity of newsletter or magazine subscriptions.

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☐ **Needles** subscription only. \$12 for 9 issues

☐ **Donation:** SAS 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 (800) 274-4201

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