

sequoia needles

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 47, No. 1
September, 1997

This Month'S Program

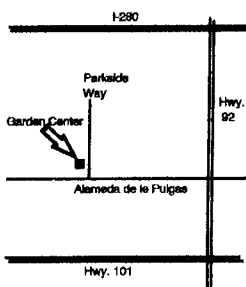


The rain forests of the upper Amazon are among the world's richest in birdlife.

Rich Kuehn and Dan Keller will present a video and slide program showing the highlights of their recent

trip to Ecuador. In addition to the rainforest, they visited and will show tapes and slides from the Andes, the Mindo region, the western foothills and some relatively unbirded areas.

The meeting is at the Garden Center at Parkside on Alameda. Social get-together begins at 7:30 PM on Thursday, September 11. The meeting begins at 8:00 with the program following immediately thereafter.



Next Month'S Program

Ice, Inuits and Ivory Gulls

In one month, we will travel from the depths of the jungle to the rigors of the north, as Anne Moser and Robin Smith will share their adventures birding in the High Arctic last June. Marvel at the rugged beauty of Baffin Island. See the Inuit outfitters in action pulling the komatiks with their snowmobiles across the ice. Stand vicariously at the floe edge. Feel the tundra just coming into bloom. See some really spectacular birds.

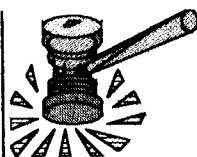
Coastal Clean-Up Day

Saturday, September 20



Once again, we are cooperating with the City of South San Francisco and focusing our efforts on the Bayshore at the end of Hawkins Way near

Strand Ave. Starting time is 9 AM and we should be done by noon. Wear old clothes and work gloves. Call Gus Vellis at 877-8572 from 9-5 to let him know how many will be in your party.



From the President

Francis Toldi

Welcome back to a new year of Sequoia Audubon activities and programs! The cast of hard-working volunteers that make SAS possible always evolves each year. As many of you already know, **Rich Kuehn** and **Dean Schuler** have decided to be regular SAS members instead of Board members and committee chairs. Another hard SAS worker, **Judi Spitler**, has elected not to continue as Field Trip Chair. On behalf of the board and membership I want to thank them for their countless hours in support of Sequoia. I'm sure we will still see them around at general meetings and on field trips.

Fortunately we also have some new faces in leadership positions. **Marilyn Noah**, last year's Birdathon Coordinator, is now our vice President. **Gary Deghi**, well known to active birders and our coastside members, has also joined our board as a director. Seek them out at an SAS function and say hello!

Other familiar figures have taken on new responsibilities. **Merry Haveman** has taken over the Field Trip duties. **Sue Cossins** is the new Chair for Hospitality and **Debbie Frantz** is Secretary. Thanks to them, and also to the many officers, directors, chairs and other fine volunteers that are continuing in their valuable roles.

Two critical positions remain unfilled. We are still lacking a second representative to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Board of Directors (to join **Leslie Flint** in her continuing efforts). We also desperately need a Program Chair. Several board members have expressed a willingness to work closely with whoever fills this position, so if you are willing you would not be on your own! Please call me if you are interested in knowing more about either position.

Thanks also to you, the members of Sequoia Audubon Society. Let's make 1997-8 another wonderful year for Audubon!

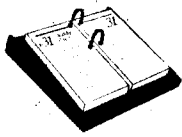
Francis Toldi



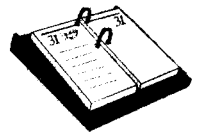
Snowy Plover Monitoring

At very short notice, **Anne Moser** was able to recruit volunteers to monitor a Snowy Plover nest at Francis Beach in Half Moon Bay. Three chicks hatched under the watchful eyes of Anne, **John** and **Nena Padley**, **Sue Cossins** and **Merry Haveman**. Thank you all.

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



September

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at the Sequoia

Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome. Please call ahead to be sure to confirm time and space.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 — GENERAL MEETING

— **BIRDING IN ECUADOR** with Rich Kuehn and Dan Keller at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. An informal get-together begins at 7:30 with the General Meeting and Program at 8 PM.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 — PHIPPS RANCH

FIELD TRIP - The Phipps Ranch is best known for its outstanding produce stand but in recent years has become renowned as a year-round birding hot spot. At various times this ranch has yielded an astounding varieties of unusual and rare wintering birds. We'll meet at the Phipps Farm Stand at 9 AM. To get there take Hwy. 1 to Pescadero Rd. Follow Pescadero Rd. through town until you come to the farm stand. Park away from the buildings so as to leave the nearest spaces for customers

LEADERS MERRY HAVEMAN & JUDI SPITLER 344-2146

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1997— COASTAL

CLEANUP DAY — See Page One for details on our Bayside Cleanup. There will also be cleanups all along the coast.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, PELAGIC BIRDS FROM

SHORE — At Pigeon Point the deep-water channel comes closer to shore than at any other point on the Pacific Coast. Meet outside the gate to the lighthouse premises at 8 AM. To get there take Hwy. 1 south and take a right at the first lighthouse south of Half Moon Bay (approximately 22 miles).

LEADER

BERT MCKEE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 — POINT REYES FIELD

TRIP. A search through the "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost anything at this time of year. We'll be looking for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect migrants and some early arriving winter residents as well. Sturdy shoes are recommended. Clothing should be layered since the weather on Pt. Reyes is extremely changeable. Fall is normally the most pleasant time of year on Point Reyes but remember that it has the coolest average summer temperature in the continental US. We will meet at the new Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters building at 9:00 AM. The trip will take place rain or shine. Bring lunch. The trip normally lasts until 2 PM.

LEADER

JUDI SPITLER

355-9362

October

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING at the Sequoia Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome. Please call ahead to be sure to confirm time and space.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 — HAWK HILL AT GGNRA —

This is a traditional time and place to watch hawks gather their courage to cross the Golden Gate. Accipiters outnumber

all other species combined so everyone should have a chance to test their pet theories on how to distinguish between Sharp-Tailed and Cooper's Hawks. However, Bald and Golden Eagles, Swainson's and Broad-Winged Hawks and Goshawks have all been observed from here in past years. Bring lunch, liquids and layered clothes. Our leader has acquired her expertise in 7 years of hawk-watching for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. We will meet at the base of Hawk Hill at the point where Conzelman Road becomes one-way. To get there take 101 across the Golden Gate Bridge and exit almost immediately on Alexander Street. Swing back under the freeway and follow the road up the hill.

LEADER

LESLIE FLINT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 — GENERAL MEETING —

ICE, INUITS and IVORY GULLS with Anne Moser and Robin Smith at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. An informal get-together begins at 7:30 with the General Meeting and Program at 8 PM.

Tentative Field Trip Schedule 1997-1998

Day	Date	Name	Leader
Saturday	9/13/97	Phipps Ranch	Merry Haveman Judi Spitler
Saturday	9/20/97	Bay Clean-Up (SSF)	
Sunday	9/21/97	Pelagic Birds from Shore	Bert McKee
Thursday	9/25/97	Point Reyes	Judi Spitler
Sunday	10/5/97	Hawk Hill at GGNRA	Leslie Flint
Saturday	10/11/97	Beginners' Trip - Mountain View Forebay	Robin Smith
Tuesday	10/21/97	Coyote Point	Nick Coiro
Tuesday	11/4/97	Redwood Shores	Nick Coiro
Saturday	11/8/97	Sharp Park - Shore and Golf Course	Judi Spitler
Saturday	11/15/97	The Sacramento Wildlife Refuges	Cliff Richer
Sunday	11/16/97	Gray Lodge and the Buttes	
Sunday	12/7/97	Altamont Pass	TBA
Tuesday	12/18/97	Foster City	Nick Coiro
Saturday	12/20/97	Crystal Springs Christmas Count	Robin Smith
Saturday	1/3/98	Ano Nuevo Christmas Count	Robin Smith
Saturday	1/10/98	Foster City	Nick Coiro
Sunday	1/18/98	Grizzly Island	Cliff Richer
Saturday	2/21/98	Los Banos - The Grassland Refuges	Cliff Richer
Sunday	2/22/98	and Panoche Valley	
Saturday	2/28/98	Princeton Harbor	TBA
Saturday	3/7/98	Filoli	Donna Peterson
Saturday	3/28/98	Beginners' Trip - Stanford University Campus	TBA
Saturday	4/4/98	Ed Levin County Park	Bob Reiling
Sunday	4/18/98	Mines Road	Cliff Richer
Sunday	4/25/98	Williams Sisters' Ranch*	Francis Toldi
Thursday	5/16/98	San Pedro Valley County Park	Judi Spitler
Saturday	5/23/98	Piper Slough	Merry Haveman
Saturday	6/6/98	Kern River Preserve	Francis Toldi
Sunday	6/7/98		
Saturday	6/20/98	Yuba Pass	Cliff Richer
Sunday	6/21/98	and Sierra Valley	

* Indicates that reservations are needed because numbers are limited

Trips outlined by a dark border are multi-day trips requiring reservations. Although numbers are not limited, meeting places and itineraries are highly dependent on weather and other variables, so the leader must have the names of the participants in order to keep them advised of any changes.

All trips are open and suitable for beginners.

Trips specifically called "Beginner's Trips" also include advice on binoculars and telescopes and a short discussion on birding and the environment.

While this schedule will be adhered to whenever possible, readers should recognize that it is subject to change.

Trips may be added, cancelled or dates may be changed.

All changes will be announced in the *Needles* as far in advance as possible.

Birding Classes

Maryann Danielson.

Two classes for birders will be offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations at Little House, 800 Middle Avenue in Menlo Park. There will be 9 slide-lecture sessions for each class. Instructor: **Maryann Danielson.**

Birding Basics — for beginning and less skilled intermediate birders. The classes will begin with easily viewable backyard birds and then add other local fall birds. "Hands on" identification aids will be used in the classroom and in the field. Visual identification skills will be augmented with information on where and how to find the birds. Two half day field trips are included in the class fee of \$72. Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:30PM, starting September 10, 1997. Register at the first class.

Following Birds Through The Fall Season — for intermediate and more advanced birders. This series of classes will focus on migration patterns, habitat preference and field identification skills to identify Bay Area birds. Vocalizations, time of year, habitat and foraging strategy information will aid visual bird identification. Fee: \$55. Four field trips will be offered at an additional fee. Monday evenings, 7:30-9:30PM, starting September 8, 1997. Register at the first class.

Joe Morlan

Evening bird classes taught by **Joe Morlan** through San Francisco City College will be starting September 3 and 4. All classes meet from 7-9:30 PM in room 222 of Marina Middle School. 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking in the lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area* and *Birds of Northern California* and has been compiler of the Rare Bird Alert sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, second edition, by the National Geographic Society.

- Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts September 2 and ends October

14. Part B (EA105) starts October 21 and ends December 9.

- Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including warblers, buntings and sparrows. Part A (EA110) starts September 3 and ends October 15. Part B (EA115) starts October 22 and ends December 10.
- Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of terns, alcid, and hawks. Part A (EA120) starts September 4 and ends October 16. Part B (EA125) starts October 23 and ends December 11.

These classes are endorsed by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$90 for each seven week course. For enrollment and information call (415) 561-1860.

Coyote Point Museum



Coyote Point Museum has been awarded a grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This will enable the museum to evaluate its practices, establish priorities and plan how to serve the community.

Museum Joins ASTC

Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education (CPMEE) was approved as a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). CPMEE members now receive free admission at 211 museums and science centers across the United States and in over a dozen international locations. CPMEE memberships cost \$25 for individuals, \$45 for families. A complete list of ASTC institutions can be obtained by contacting CPMEE.

Admission to the Coyote Point County Park is \$4 per car. For directions or more information, call (415) 342-7755.

Launching Partnerships

The fourth Bay Area Volunteer Monitoring Conference will be held on Saturday, September 13, 1997 from 9 AM to 5 PM at the San Francisco Theological

Seminary, Kensington Road, San Anselmo.

Following keynote speaker Robert Hass during the morning, the group will explore recent developments in Bay Area watershed management, the Watershed Management Initiative and the Watersheds Science Plan. A panel will also discuss the resources and needs that volunteer groups and agencies bring to volunteer monitoring.

The afternoon will be filled with smaller concurrent sessions on topics such as historic data collection, the role of watershed assessment, successful partnerships in action, and overcoming barriers to partnerships. We will conclude the conference by drafting a blueprint for partnership development.

Launching Partnerships is presented by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Bay Area Regional Watershed Network.

There is a \$15 registration fee which includes lunch. If you have any questions, or would like a registration form, please contact Adrienne Yang at the San Francisco Estuary Institute at (510) 231-5714, or e-mail adrienne@sfci.org.

(My apologies for this article. I believe this conference is important, but the bureaucratic non-communication from their press report is a bunch of nonsense. I would translate, but I don't know what their saying. —Ed.)

Thanks

Barbara Arrais has agreed to become our proofreader. This meaningful and unsung work had been undertaken informally by **Anne Moser, Terry Simpson, Rich Kuehn** and the word-processor's built in spell-checker. Unfortunately, there were a few months when none of the human beings were available. Those were the months when those unfortunate errors in dates or days slipped through. Now, by formalizing the process we hope to catch these "boo-boos" before we go to press.

A long-overdue thanks is also due to Circulation Editor **Sue Cossins** and her volunteers — Zoe Kendall and John and Nena Padley — who do the dirty work of addressing, sorting and mailing out the *Needles* every month.

Audubon Adventures

Robin Smith

Audubon Adventures is the National Audubon Society education program for children in grades 4 to 6. Its also the name of the environmental newspaper that is distributed to students in the program. The materials present basic scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, their habitats and needs

Audubon Adventures teaches children to observe, understand, and appreciate birds, other wildlife, and the relationship of humans to the natural world. By placing Audubon Adventures in schools in our community, we can help young people develop an appreciation, awareness and understanding of birds and other wildlife. This awareness leads to a sense of stewardship for the natural world.

The children are encouraged to take the newspaper home and share it with their families. This is a way to encourage parents to share a sense of the importance of the natural world with their children.

Audubon Adventures is currently in 15,700 classrooms around the US. Some 500,000 students are in the program. It has been used widely in all fifty states as well as in South America, Mexico, Canada, Central America and Russia.

Although we budget funds for the program, we welcome and need additional sponsors. The cost is \$35 a year per class for the English edition, \$40 for the Spanish or Spanish/English one. **SPONSOR AUDUBON ADVENTURES IN A CLASSROOM THIS YEAR. YOUR MONEY WILL BE WELL SPENT!!!**

Help Us Recruit Teachers

We need your help in identifying 4th-6th grade teachers and enrolling them in Audubon Adventures. Do you have a child or grandchild in a San Mateo County school? Do you volunteer in a classroom? Do you live around the corner from a school? Please let us know the names of teachers you know. We'll get in touch and offer to sponsor them in the Audubon Adventures program.

One of the goals this year is to introduce the Spanish or Spanish/English edition to some classes. Do you know some

likely candidates??? Individual kits for home schoolers are available, too.

Call Robin Smith at 325-3306 with the name of the teacher and the school.

The Fall Challenge Sept. 19-28, 1997

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's is inviting all birders to participate in their first annual Fall Challenge. This event will challenge all birders to show others what their favorite California county has to offer. The Challenge format is the same as that of a Bird-A-Thon, but with a twist.

Winners will be determined by who sees the highest percentage of their county's species list and who sees the highest number of rare birds within their county. The event will take place at the height of California's spectacular fall migration. The winners in various categories will be published in a special edition of *The Stilt*, SFBBO's newsletter.

The geographic area will be the State of California but teams will be restricted to birding within a single county.

There will be a \$25 participation fee charged to each team member. Participants will become members of SFBBO for a year and receive an event T-shirt. An additional \$10 fee will be requested for each additional county bird-a-thon that an individual does.

All participants are asked to solicit pledges from friends, family and associates. These pledges can be set amounts, or \$ per species seen. There are endless variations on fundraising possibilities, such as additional money for vagrants or county records etc. We request that each participant raise at least \$100. If you would like to have another non-profit organization sponsor you, funds raised from these pledges will be split 50-50 with that organization.

The event will take place between 12:01 Friday morning, September 19 and Saturday, September 27. You may choose any 24 hour period during this 10 days to complete your bird-a-thon. Participants who wish to compete for prizes and participate in the closing barbecue will be requested to call in their results by 10:00 AM, Sunday, September 28. Results will be tallied and announced at a Picnic

Reception held Sunday afternoon from 3 to 6 PM. The total money raised will be announced and prizes donated by corporate sponsors, including Swift Instruments, will be handed out. After this picnic, the new members are invited to join in the annual meeting which will last from 6 to 9 pm.

ABA Big Day Rules and Birding Code of Conduct will be in effect. Any violations of these rules will lead to the disqualification from prizes and awards. Awards will be given in these categories:

1. Most money raised;
2. Highest percentage of the county list seen
3. Most rare species seen.
4. Most shorebird species
5. Most geographically distant team.
6. Most miles driven
7. Best "tall tale" of the day.

All these will be determined by the results turned into SFBBO by 10 AM on the 28th. To sign up or for more details call SFBBO at 408-946-6548.

First Annual Egret Camp

Audubon California is holding its first Egret Camp on Saturday, September 13th at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon. The "camp" is a leadership workshop covering strategic planning and conservation intended to provide tools and information to accomplish chapter conservation and education goals in the coming year.

The day ends with birding, a potluck and barbecue at Lyford House. You should bring a dish to share and something to barbecue. Audubon California will provide soft drinks and charcoal.

Chapters that bring at least five representatives will be eligible to win free registration, meals and accommodations for two to next year's Western Regional Conference (value of over \$450)

On Sunday, September 14 volunteers can attend a half-day of hands-on bird monitoring training led by biologists from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory at their facility in Palomar. For further information, phone Mini Nagendran at (916) 481-5332 or fax at (916) 481-6228.

FALL 1997 BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY OCT. 8TH!!

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Please check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be Oct. 16-19, 1997 with details to be advised later.

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

			# BAGS	\$-COST-\$
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX.....	20 lb @ \$ 9.00 /bag		_____	= _____
red & white millet plus black oil sunflower				
RED/WHITE MILLET MIX	20 lb @ \$ 8.50 /bag		_____	= _____
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER.....	25 lb @ \$12.50 /bag		_____	= _____
WHITE PROSO MILLET	25 lb @ \$ 8.50 /bag		_____	= _____
THISTLE	5 lb @ \$ 7.50 /bag		_____	= _____
SUNFLOWER CHIPS.....	25 lb @ \$24.50 /bag		_____	= _____

**THE NEXT SEED SALE WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY '98!
LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE FEBRUARY NEEDLES**

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
 345-3724

Murres Breeding at Devil's Slide



Four common Murre chicks have hatched in the restored breeding colony near Devil's Slide according to Michael Parker, biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who pronounced the success of the restoration project begun in January 1996

Biologists "baited" the rock with 388 murre decoys, mirror boxes and CD players with amplified murre calls. The original murre colony was depleted by an oil spill in 1986 and the survivors were wiped out by gill-netting.

USFWS biologists and scientists from the National Audubon Society, Humboldt State University and the US Geological Survey have all been involved in the project.

Results have been greater than expected. In 1996 six pairs of murres bred on the rock, resulting in three chicks with as many as 29 murres on the rock at any one time. The murres returned to the rock in January, 1997 and showed signs of courtship and breeding. The first egg was spotted from Hwy. 1 on May 9, 1997, with a total of nine eggs by June 16 when the first chick was seen. By late June four chicks had been spotted. Spotters included students recruited from the Pacifica schools.

While four chicks may seem to be low for the 39 murres observed on the rock, this is beyond the anticipated progress. Murres do not breed until they are at least 4 years old. By then they have developed "site loyalty" and it is the immature birds that are most easily swayed to join a new colony. The ultimate goal of the project is to establish 100 breeding pairs of common murres at Devil's Slide.

The project is funded by a court-approved settlement with the Apex Oil Company, following the 1986 oil spill which killed approximately 9,000 birds.

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕
You can be sincere and still be stupid.

—Charles F. Kettering

Display, Spotting Scope on I-5

Colorful interpretive panels and a high-powered spotting scope have been placed at a popular San Joaquin Valley rest stop along Interstate 5, to give north bound passersby information and a look into the southern portion of the Grasslands, the state's largest contiguous wetlands.

Located at the Dos Amigos Overlook, about 10 miles south of Los Banos, the off-road area offers a panoramic view of the historic wetlands, accented by the California Aqueduct in the foreground.

The interpretive display is funded by the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, a cooperative enterprise of both private and government entities.

It is hoped that people traveling on Interstate 5 can have a chance to enjoy a spectacular view and learn about the rich wildlife that inhabit the Grasslands.

(On the other hand, some of us believe that the spotting scope will probably end up on some rooftop in San Francisco or L.A. Ed.)



Breakin' Through

A minor breakthrough of sorts was achieved last spring at San Pedro Valley Park. After months of exposing his fellow volunteers to the birds of the park, Cliff Richer was rewarded when one of the non-birding volunteers came up to him and stated that he had heard a "Spring Tit" singing.

After some diligent questioning the bird was positively identified as a *Winter Wren*. Close enough!

1000 Birds per Hour

That's how many passerine birds you can see at the Kern River Preserve at the peak of the spring migration. Some 322 birds (roughly half of California's total species) have been observed and more than 200 occur there 60 miles east of Bakersfield.

The preserve, now operated by Audubon on a lease-purchase arrangement with The Nature Conservancy, is a melting pot of southwestern and northern bird species.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (STATE-LISTED). Largest population in California.
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (STATE-LISTED). 2nd largest in California

OTHER NOTABLES

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER
CACTUS WREN
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW
LAZULI BUNTING
PEREGRINE AND PRAIRIE FALCONS
SUMMER TANAGER
VERMILION FLYCATCHER

Mono Lake Update

Some highlights and updates from Mono Lake:

- The BLM and the Trust for Public Land have joined the parties involved in the restoration of the lake. Mono County is objecting to part of the waterfowl habitat plan since three supervisors feared it would interfere with the county's plan for a fish hatchery.
- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is not participating in waterfowl restoration. Instead it is offering \$3.6 million to fund the project.
- The land bridge to Negit Island which allowed coyotes to prey on nesting gulls has been submerged by the lake's rising waters.
- The lakeshore is littered with dead vegetation killed by the rising alkaline waters.
- The lake level is predicted to reach 6382 feet above sea level this year. The last time it was at this level was in 1974.
- The bases of many tufa towers are now underwater.



It's yesterday once more!

—Tufa State Reserve Ranger Dave Carle
Sequoia Audubon Society

GGNRA Expanding in SM County?

Owners of at least 16 land tracts in Pacifica have been advised of a feasibility study underway to determine if the Golden Gate National Recreation Area should purchase additional land parcels.

In a process that will require "years" to complete, the National Park Service will seek to determine what areas could benefit the GGNRA and which owners might be willing to sell.

The official list of properties to be studied includes those on a list submitted originally by the Pacifica Open Space Task Force in 1980, but the eventual decision will be made by the National Park Service for submission to Congress.

Special funds were provided for the survey through the efforts of Rep. Tom Lantos. Acquisitions to provide a direct link to the ocean probably would be considered beneficial to the park.

Devil's Slide Funding Lost

The Federal funding for the Devil's Slide tunnel approved by the voters last fall has been lost.

The original funding was for the bypass and neither Congress or the White House approved a new appropriation for the tunnel project.

Attempting to put the best face on his rebuff by both branches of government, Congressman Lantos said the funds were "included" in the federal highway funds granted to California.

Allocation of the funds will now depend on a state legislature dominated by southern California delegates clamoring for more freeways and on a governor who owes nothing to the Bay Area. The best hope for the tunnel now rests with State Senator Quentin Kopp's chairmanship of the Transportation Committee.

"I am reminded of the great joke, 'You don't have an inferiority complex, you are inferior'. Where are the good old days when such an idea could be expressed?"

—John Simon

Wildlife Recreation Survey Results



Wildlife recreation continues to be a powerful economic force, with participants spending a record \$96.9 billion in pursuit of these pastimes, reports a survey conducted by the

Census Bureau.

The "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Related Recreation," commis-

sioned every five years by the Fish and Wildlife Service, revealed a whopping 59 percent increase in spending since 1991, accounting for about 1.3% of the nation's gross domestic product.

The survey showed the number of hunters and anglers stayed relatively constant since 1991.



However, surprisingly, the survey showed that the number of bird watchers, wildlife photographers and other non-consumptive users *dropped* by 17 percent to 63 million. Even so, their expenditures rose 39 percent to \$29 billion.

The total number of hunters and anglers is still 33 percent less than the number of non-consumptive users but the decline in wildlife friendly types is apparently a reversal of a long-term trend.

(Have I been wrong in blaming Berle for the decline in Audubon membership? On the other hand, maybe I can blame him for the decline in all non-consumptive wildlife recreation. —Ed.)

PCL Wins Suit

The Planning and Conservation League has won a major lawsuit filed against the governor and Department of Fish and Game. The PCL was joined by the Audubon Society and several other conservation groups in challenging the governor's use of emergency powers to grant permits to kill endangered species.

Not only did the Superior and Appellate Court deny the use of these emergency powers but they went further, ruling that the DFG has no right to give

out *any* permits to destroy species. Only scientific permits or those to improve management of a species may be given.

One drawback to the ruling is that it might impede the creation of Habitat Conservation Plans — which have shown their value in Southern California. PCL and the Audubon Society are drawing up legislation to address this issue.

All of the attorneys in this case donated their services.

Citizens Guide To CEQA

The Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) has published a new Citizens Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an updated, easy-to-read layperson's guide to California's premier environmental protection law.

CEQA offers citizens a way to participate in governmental decisions that will affect a community or region's quality of life. When used correctly, CEQA gives citizens a real and powerful impact on public agency decision-making.

Written by environmental attorney J. William Yeates, the 35-page guide explains how to take advantage of CEQA's mandatory public review and comment process. It provides an overview of the law and outlines how citizens have a right to comment on the environmental consequences of a proposed project.

The guide is offered for sale at \$15, with quantity discounts (over 20) available. To purchase the guide, contact PCLF at 926 J Street, Suite 612 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-8726.

The guide also may be ordered via the publications section of the PCL Web Page at <http://www.pci.org/pcl>.

Louise Fletcher

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of Louise Fletcher last May. Louise was an active member for more than 20 years, being one of our most regular meeting and field trip participants. Several times she assumed the responsibility of serving on our Nominating and Field Trip Committees and in recent years had organized and conducted our Jasper Ridge field trips. Her cheerful mien and vivacious personality will be missed.

—Cliff Richer

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.

John and Nena Padley in memory of Louise A. Fletcher

Ms. S.Y. Green

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.

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