

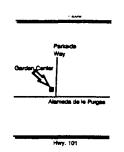
This Month's Program Beds, Bawd & Breakfast The Private Lives of Birds

Dr. Adrian Del Nevo has spent 25 years re-



searching the ecology and conservation of birds. In this talk, Adrian takes a sideways look at the stranger aspects of bird behavior. Why are their eggs and their nests

so different? Why do Barn Swallows kill their young? How proud is a peacock? These and many other questions you never knew enough to ask will be answered. Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 PM, with the meeting and program following immedi-



ely thereafter.

January's Program Jennifer Boyce, a wildlife biologist with the US

Jennifer Boyce, a wildlife biologist with the US Fish And Wildlife Service, will tell

us with slides and exhibits about the Common Murre Breeding Colony Restoration Project on Devil's Slide Rock in Pacifica.



Your editor has seen this tale of trickery, mimicry, rock-climbing and guano-cleaning once before and promises you an evening of education, edification and amusement. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social get-together at 7:30 PM, followed by the meeting and program at 8:00.

December Potluck Time

Bring your own utensils and plates and a bag in which to take them home. Those people whose last name begins with the letters A-F should bring a SALAD; those whose names begin with the letters G-L, CASSE-

ROLES or other hot dishes; and M through Z should provide DESSERT. Be sure your offering will feed at least 5 people.

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society
San Mateo County Volume 49, No. 4

December, 1998

From the President



Reading accounts of Crystal Springs Christmas Count reports from years past is enlightening. In many cases the story is the same: an intrepid band of faithful birders brave the elements, counting birds for fun and science; common species missed, rare ones found, a record high, a record low, and on to next year. Sometimes, however, it can be quite different.

An account of the December 30, 1961 Christmas Count lamented the drop from 164 species seen in 1959 to a mere 139 species. It cited the problem of too few volunteers, a familiar complaint to readers of my President's messages! The account also reported one cause of a reduced count that thankfully we don't have to worry about these days — gunplay!

"A distressing observation is that the coast from Pillar Point southward throughout our territory is one big rifle range during a mild weekend. One character and son roamed the beach at Pillar Point firing a 22 caliber rifle more or less indiscriminately oceanward, but out among the rocks where ricochets or deflections could easily have smashed through one of the myriad of fishermen. And the birds were "spooky" and remained well off shore."

"Three men with a new expensive station wagon, repeating rifles, and shotguns, and a pair of dogs combed a patch of brush after our miniature cottontails. No luck, I think."

"A pair of boys had set up a rifle range further down the coast, firing across a road. Here even the house finches took off in alarm if one so much as checked the car speed."

Another fascinating element is the changing avifauna. The January 1960 (Año Nuevo?) account noted that "Les and Nell Sleeper observed some 12 Starlings near Pescadero down the coast below our area on the Thursday preceding our count. However, no starlings were noted by us on January 2."

Other tidbits from various counts through the years show a changing picture in our perceptions of "common" or "unexpected":

- —"Snow Geese are often seen now at Crystal Springs." (1965)
- —"Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teals strayed into our area for the first time." (1960)

(Continued on Page Three)

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



The S A S Calendar

December

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 - MID-WEEK

FIELD TRIP TO REDWOOD SHORES — Despite intensive development, this area still affords some marvelous birding opportunities. To get there take Hwy.101 to the Redwood Shores Parkway exits. Follow Redwood Shores Parkway to the Water Pollution Control Plant at its end. We will meet there at 9:00 AM. The trip breaks up at noon. Heavy rain cancels the trip.

LEADER

NICK COIRO

349-1834

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at the Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 - GENERAL MEETING — Dr. Adrian Del Nevo takes a unique look at the stranger aspects of bird behavior. Potluck dinner begins at 6:30 PM, with the meeting and program following immediately thereafter at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 -- THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- Our annual Christmas Count of the northern part of the county is always one of the top counts in the nation and could be even better with your help. Birders, spotters, drivers and scorekeepers are needed. Call co-compiler Robin Smith to sign up or for details.

COMPILERS BERT McKEE and ROBIN SMITH 325-3306 or e-mail RWinslowS@aol.com

January

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 — THE AÑO NUEVO CHRIST-MAS BIRD COUNT -- Our annual Christmas Count of the southern part of the county only lacks more observers to also be one of the top counts in the nation. Birders, drivers and score-keepers are needed. Call co-compiler Robin Smith to sign up or for details.

COMPILERS BERT McKEE and ROBIN SMITH 325-3306 or e-mail RWinslowS@aol.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 – FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater from lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. Heavy rain cancels the trip, which should break up at noon.

LEADER

NICK COIRO

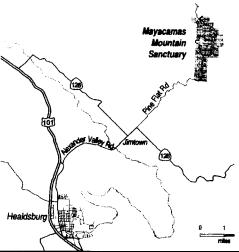
349-1834

"Geysers" Suit Settled

A suit by Madrone Audubon Society against the city of Santa Rosa has been settled satisfactorily.

The Suit was filed by National and the Madrone Chapter over the City's proposal to run a pipeline through the Mayacamas Mountain Sanctuary. This pipeline would carry treated wastewater from Santa Rosa up Pine Flat Road to "recharge" the Geysers energy fields.

Title to the Sanctuary is held by National Audubon, but it is used and monitored largely by members of the Madrone Chapter. When the pipeline issue surfaced, just over a year ago, Madrone and National Audubon brought the suit.



The compelling concern was a "Forever Wild" 1994 conservation easement that was intended to protect the property from development. As Dan Taylor, Executive Director of Audubon-California, has pointed out, much needs to be done to make such "Forever Wild" protected properties less susceptible to encroachment by public bodies.

The settlement is not a 100% guarantee to the "Forever Wild" concept as it will allow the pipeline construction to go forward, but it provides that the City of Santa Rosa will participate in a Task Force to develop recommendations on this matter.

Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the City has agreed to the following measures designed to minimize impacts to the Sanctuary:

A full-time mitigation monitor, approved by Audubon, will oversee all construction activity to assure compliance with the terms of the settlement.

Visual and noise disturbances will be eliminated or minimized.

Audubon will receive \$15,000 immediately to cover costs of surveying, mapping and restoration planning.

Audubon will receive \$260,000, if and when the City awards the contract.

The City will avoid construction activities during the nesting season and will conduct a biological survey of the route to avoid or mitigate any impacts.

See Page Four for Christmas Count Details



From the President

(Continued from Page One)

- —"A gratifying development is the great increase in stilt in recent years... About 1945, when I first started observing Bay birds, the stilt was a rarity now it is quite common." (1965).
- —conservation aside: "Moves are underway to preserve the Pescadero Marsh as a sanctuary." (1967)
- —"The count of one thousand knots was made by Al Bergeron on a single long but narrow shell bar near Foster City." (1968).

In last month's Needles Cliff Richer mused on Neil Dickinson's Semipalmated Sandpiper records in a series of Christmas Counts. While looking through old records for material for this President's Message I came upon some discussion of this subject. Apparently Neil felt that the smaller-billed Calidris sandpipers he clearly noticed had to be Semipalmated. There were some within the National Audubon scientific group that seem to have agreed. This was laid to rest a few years later, when it was established that while there were indeed shorter billed Calidris sandpipers awaiting the sharp-eyed observer's discovery, they were more likely male Westerns, not Semis. Female Westerns tend to have longer bills with a more noticeable droop at the tip. In fact, virtually all the winter Semipalmated Sandpiper records for North America outside of South Florida are incorrect. An interesting discussion of this appears in Terry Root's Atlas of Wintering North American Birds.

The search for the longest-standing (I didn't say "oldest!") member is still ongoing. Let me know if you've been a member for a while. I would particularly like to hear any stories from anyone remembering "the olden days." I would be delighted to reprint or retell old tales in these pages. Don't be shy!

SEEKING OLD BIRD BOOKS. Many of us have extensive collections of old bird books, some in active, current use, others just gathering dust. If you find that you have old bird books that you no longer use, please consider donating them to Sequoia Audubon. Some we can keep in the Sequoia library so that they can continue to be used by a new generation of birders. Others can be sold to raise money for Sequoia (and be used and appreciated again by the new owner). Sadly, many "helpful" friends and relatives have no idea how important these old volumes are. Many a copy of Dawson, Hoffman or other early field guides have ended up in rummage sales or the landfill. If you no longer have use for them, let your old bird books live again!

BIRD BOOKS FOR SALE. We will be offering a limited supply of some fine old bird books at the December General Meeting. Among the titles are a number of special editions by bird artist John Gould and Lansdowne's Birds of the West Coast. The prices will be substantially less than the price you would pay in quality used-book store.

- Francis Toldi

The S A S Calendar

January (Continued From Page Two)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at the Audubon Office at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14 — GENERAL MEETING — at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Jennifer Boyce, of the US Fish And Wildlife Service, will tell us about the Common Murre Breeding Colony Restoration Project on Devil's Slide Rock in Pacifica. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social get-together at 7:30 PM, followed by the meeting and program at 8:00.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 — THE RAPTORS OF ALTA-MONT PASS — This area east of Livermore is best known for its windmill farms — except to birders. For birders, Altamont Pass is noted as the winter home of a great number and variety of hawks and eagles. Every winter the resident Red-tails, Prairie Falcons and Golden Eagles are joined by their cousins fleeing the snows and cold of the north. Peregrines, Bald Eagles, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks are only some of the visitors to these rolling grasslands and rocky outcrops. This trip normally extends into the afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. We'll begin our caravan of the area at 9:00 AM,. To get there take I-580 past Livermore to Vasco Road. Take the Vasco Road exit south. We'll meet just beyond the first gas station on the right a short distance down Vasco Road. Rain cancels the trip.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 873-1754

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 — COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP — It has been several years since we visited this popular area which has often produced unusual and unusually cooperative owls. Barn Owls. Great Horned Owls, and Short-eared Owls can often be seen here even during the day. Combine this with a stroll through the heart of a freshwater marsh and you have a full morning of birding close to home. We will meet in the first parking lot after the entrance at 9:00 A.M. To get there cross the Dumbarton Bridge and continue on the freeway to the Newark Blvd. exit. Take Newark Blvd. north about one mile to Patterson Ranch Road on the left. Take a left on Patterson Ranch Road to the end. An entrance fee is required. Trip should break up at noon. A GOOD TRIP FOR BEGINNERS.

LEADER MERRY HAVEMAN 344-2146

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Cheetahs have black tear-drop lines for the same reason that athletes wear eye-black — to reduce sun-glare.

The 1998 Christmas Counts

New Compiler — Bert Mckee

Sequoia Audubon will hold two Christmas Bird Counts

Crystal Springs
Saturday, December 19, 1998

Año Nuevo Saturday, January 2, 1999

For more than a hundred years Audubon members have censused wintering birds across the United States and beyond. We are blessed with a very productive area in which to count. Our participants find enough species for us to rank both of our counts in the top dozen or so in the nation.

The Crystal Springs Count will be followed by a compilation dinner at the San Mateo Garden Center where you can enjoy a good meal, meet the other birders who've been tromping around the county since before the first light, and put together a preliminary species list. (We are working to have a similar get-together for the Año Nuevo Count and will let you know if we were successful when you sign up for that count.)

ALL OF YOU are needed to make the counts a success. Count in the field or at your feeder. Drive a car, keep records or help with the dinner. We need you no matter what your level of expertise.

Welcome a new compiler, Bert McKee, who will be in charge of field operations. Short in years, but long in birding expertise, Bert is well known in the birding community and is respected by all who have had the opportunity of birding with him. Robin Smith remains on board in charge of communications and the paper chase.

Call Robin to sign up or if you have any questions or concerns. She can be reached at:

650-325-3306 or by e-mail at RWinslowS@aol.com

or sign up by using the form below.

Registration Form I would like to participate in:		1998 Christmas Counts I would prefer to count in the following areas or under the following special conditions:	
	The Crystal Springs Count (\$5) — December 19, 1998		
	The Año Nuevo Count (\$5) — January 2, 1999		
	I am willing to serve as an area leader.		
	I will monitor and report on my feeder or back yard on: December 19 January 2	Name:	
	I will be at the compilation dinner on December 19 (\$5) at the San Mateo Garden Center.	City: Zip: Telephone:	
Please cut out or copy and send with your check to:		Christmas Counts, Sequoia Audubon Society 30 West 39th Avenue, Suite 202 San Mateo, CA 94403	

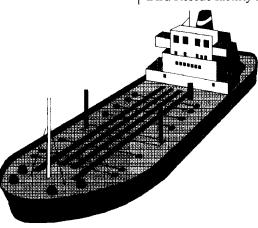
September Oil Spill

Survival Rate Low For Birds Marilyn Noah

San Mateo County's beaches were polluted with oil and tar balls discharged from a Liberian tank ship cruising toward South America in late September. A five mile stretch of the coast from San Gregorio to Pescadero required clean up. 178 oiled birds were washed ashore. 102 of the birds were dead. Of the 76 found alive, only 30 survived to be released back into the wild.

the general public during the oil spill. The birds were recovered from the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve, Half Moon Bay, and Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica. Seven of the birds, all Common Murres, were alive.

Peninsula Humane Society professionals gave the oiled birds physical examinations and blood tests. Toxiban, a liquid charcoal, was fed to the birds through a tube in order to offset the poisonous effects of the oil. Washing did not take place until after the birds were stabilized and had arrived at the International Bird Rescue facility several days after be-



Staff veterinarian Flo Tseng of International Bird Rescue in Berkeley described the oiled birds' survival rate as lower than average. "The high diesel content made this spill unusual," Dr. Tseng commented. "The birds were subjected to highly volatile fumes, resulting in skin and cornea burns, as well as inhalant injuries. Many of the birds were molting, so their feather quality was poor and made the problems of being oiled worse."

The birds found alive included 6 Brown Pelicans, 65 Common Murres, 2 Western Gulls, 1 Sooty Shearwater and a White-fronted Goose. The Sooty Shearwater was wearing a leg band from New Zealand. It did not survive.

Oiled birds are treated under the umbrella of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, part of the Department of Fish & Game's Office of Spill Protection and Response. The network is administered through the University of California at Davis. The Peninsula Humane Society is one of the network's collection points. Humane Society officers picked up eight birds rescued or discovered by members of

ing picked up from the beach.

It takes two people working together for a full hour to clean a single oiled bird. Oily tar of the type that washed up onto San Mateo County's beaches must be softened with warmed canola oil before detergent can be applied. Washing is followed by warm water therapy and one to two weeks rehabilitation before release.

A Coast Guard C-130 on patrol out of Sacramento located the Liberian flagged tanker *Command* on October 2, approximately 200 nautical miles off the coast of Guatemala. It was trailing an oil sheen. The *Command* complied with the Coast Guard's order to stop for pollution violation inspection. Oil samples were taken and found to match those taken from the spill. Oil continued to be discharged into the ocean during the Coast Guard's inspection.

The Command subsequently docked in Panama where, at press time, the Liberian government intended to take over the investigation with Coast Guard Marine Safety personnel.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

January 15 - 18, 1999

The Morro Coast Audubon Society is co-sponsoring the MORRO BAY WIN-TER BIRD FESTIVAL featuring over 40 field trips and workshops, natural history programs, a nature art exhibit and birding-related vendors. The Festival takes place January 15 to 18, and is head-quartered at the beautiful Bayside Inn at Morro Bay. This area, always in the top ten during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, is the winter home for thousands of water birds.

Field trips will include "Big Day", Rarities, pelagic trips, birding by kayak, gull identification, birding by song and calls, plus inland van trips to view Sandhill Cranes and a visit to condor country. Workshops will emphasize skills in bird identification and the featured speaker, Dr. Kevin Padian, a U.C. Berkeley professor, will address the hot topic of the dinosaur link in the evolution of birds.

For more information, visit the Web Site at http://www.morro-bay.net/birds, contact the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 876, Morro Bay, CA 93443, or phone them at (800) 231-0592.

The Gray Ghosts

The release of 14 gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park in January, 1995 was well publicized. Less known, but possibly more significant, was the release of 15 more wolves onto National Forest lands west of Yellowstone in Central Idaho. While the Yellowstone releases were almost unanimously condemned by Yellowstone's neighbors, the central Idaho release was warmly received by at least one local group -- the 2000 members of the Nez Perce on their adjoining 760,000 acre reservation.

When the state of Idaho refused to participate in management of the released wolves, the Nez Perce stepped forward. Although they have hired professionals from outside the tribe to run the program, the Nez Perce are heavily involved and the success of the program may result in future partnerships between Native Americans and endangered species.

Bushtits at Work

Tom Vanden-Bosch

A pair of Bushtits decided to set up housekeeping in our yard this year. I first noticed them moving about a nearby tree and behaving differently from what I was used to seeing in Bushtits. They stayed close together ignoring the usual bird need for space around themselves. Several times they perched together, deliberately touching and occasionally fluttering their wings. I also noticed them going to an overhanging branch and figured out that they had selected a limb about 9½ feet above the ground as a nest site.

Nesting material consisted of lichens, plant fibers, parts of dead leaves, spider webs, and yarn which we supplied. The yarn was provided as whole strands and as shorter 2-3 inch long pieces of fibers separated from the original strand. The birds used both, but the whole strand seemed more of a decoration than fully incorporated into the nest. The construction started with an anchor on a branch. From there the construction developed downward and across to a second branch. The birds always worked together and foraged for nesting materials together. They never were than about 20 feet apart. When one decided to extend the foraging range, the second bird rapidly followed to the new area. Most of the foraging for nesting material was done within at most 50 feet.

Materials brought to the nest were added by vigorous pushing and pecking. The whole nest would shake as materials were added. At about day three, the birds began pulling material from the anchor point to another hanging branch about 3-4 inches away. This formed the top of the nest anchored to the two branches. From there the nest building proceeded downward and around. The finished nest was 10 inches long, 2 inches round at the top and expanded to about 3 inches in diameter at the bottom when finished. The entrance hole was just below the top of the nest and faced approximately South. The nest building process took 10 days.

Sadly, a few days later we found the male dead. He had become entangled in some of the nest material near the nest opening and apparently died of exposure. The female gave up and abandoned the nest a few days later.

Birdsource — An Audubon & Cornell Lab Effort

The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are collaborating to create BirdSource, an interactive web site in which birders and ornithologists will be able to share information on bird sightings, movements, populations, online data submission and retrieval from Project FeederWatch and

the Christmas Bird Count, among others. Creating a web site capable of processing both historic data and continuously updated reports stretches the capabilities of present applications: still, programmers at the Cornell Theory Center who designed the system had BirdSource operational in late February for the first Nationwide backyard bird count.

"When it's completed, you'll be able to go to BirdSource and ask, 'Where were Dark-eyed Juncos in December 1934?' and instantly see a map displaying reported sightings of that species," says Lab Director John Fitzpatrick. "Eventually, you'II be able to watch as millions of migrating hawks from North America funnel through Central America on their way to South America. You'll also be able to come home from a day of birding, log on to BirdSource, and share your checklist with thousands of other birders and professional ornithologists who need your data." Ultimately, BirdSource will also provide detailed pictures, recorded songs and calls, and information for hundreds of bird species to help birders identify and learn more about the birds they see.

According to John Flicker, president of Audubon, BirdSource will provide the most current and comprehensive data available on the distribution, migratory pathways, and population trends of North American birds. "This partnership is a perfect marriage of Cornell's high-tech computer capabilities, the Lab of Ornithology's citizen-science team, and Audubon's thousands of volunteer birders collecting data at the grassroots level," he says. In addition to archiving data from Project FeederWatch and other Lab citizen-science projects, BirdSource will include data from long-running national projects, including all the Christmas Bird Counts since 1900. These counts, managed by the National Audubon Society,

collect data from more than 45,000 volunteer participants each year.

BirdSource will also offer an array of new opportunities for citizen science participation in birding. "An estimated 30 to 60 million people in North America watch and feed

watch and feed birds," says Fitzpatrick. "At this moment. thousands of people are jotting down their observations. If they would 'jot' their notes into BirdSource, we'd have their data recorded in an immediately usable form. We will eventually have up-to-theminute accounts on where birds are at any given moment, and so will anyone who opens BirdSource."

Both Flicker and Fitzpatrick emphasize how valuable this data collected from thousands of birders from across North America will be to bird conservation. "If we could have had something like Bird-Source in the 1890s, when there were still Passenger Pigeons and Carolina Parakeets, perhaps we could have seen their declines early enough to save those birds. Now, we'll be able to get information about diminishing species in a form that we can understand and use while there is still time to help them." You can check into BirdSource on the World Wide Web at: http://birdsource.cornell.edu

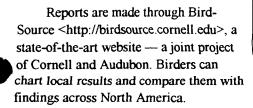


Log on and be Counted!

Bird Enthusiasts Needed for Second Backyard Bird Count

Bird enthusiasts all over North America are being asked to join the 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, February 19-22, the first Internet-based bird

census. Cosponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, supported by Wild Birds Unlimited and sponsored locally by SAS, the Great Backyard Bird Count asks birders everywhere to count birds they see at their feeders, parks, or other areas.



"We need the help of people every-where - children, parents and grandparents - who enjoy birdwatching," says Audubon Senior Vice President of Science Frank Gill. "Bird watching is the fastest-growing pastime in the country, enjoyed by over 54 million people every year. Combined with the cutting-edge Internet technology of BirdSource, this observing power will allow us to immediately begin assessing the status of North American wintering birds."

BirdSource makes it possible to examine the distribution, population and health of our birds.

Last year's first-ever Great '98
Backyard Bird Count attracted 14,000
participants who reported more than half
a million birds — and some important El
Nino-related finds. Species like the
American Robin, which typically winters
in southerly regions, were reported in

high numbers across New England and the Canadian provinces. "This year's post-El Nino reports will be essential for comparisons," continued Gill.

Like last year, participants will be able to quickly see for themselves how their reports fit into the continent-wide perspective, as animated maps illustrate which birds are reported where in real-

time. This
year, however, participants will be
able to ask
the database
their own
questions,
such as which
species were
reported in a
particular zip
code, or how
many of a

certain species were seen. In addition, BirdSource will supply novices with help in identifying birds by sight and by their distinctive calls.

"Our most important goal right now is to get as many people as possible to participate," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We're in the process of creating a vast database that will allow us to look at long-term population trends of North American birds. The more information we have, the better we'll be able to help ensure our common birds will remain common and take measures to protect species already in decline. This is why it's so important to get as many people as possible to tell us what they're seeing."

To participate, go to the BirdSource website at http://birdsource.cornell.edu, click on the 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count button and fill in the easy-to-use form. In addition to animated maps, visitors to the site can view colorful bird images, hear examples of songs and calls, read about the conservation status of key species, compare maps with other Bird-Source projects, and more.

Full Water Delivery Guaranteed to Refuges



On April 17, on his final day in office, Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi gave environmentalists the decision they've been lobbying for since 1992: full delivery of water supplies to state, federal and private wildlife refuges in the Central Valley.

Under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, signed by President Bush in 1992, the Interior Department is required to provide adequate water for 15 refuges located in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Since then the project's agricultural contractors have delayed implementation by arguing over the definition of adequate.

Garamendi's ruling directs the Bureau of Reclamation to deliver full water supplies to refuges in all but the driest years. and never to reduce those supplies by more than 25 percent.

Previously the refuges received full supplies only in the wettest years and received no water allocations at all during some drought years.

Letter to the Editor

My wife and I have been members for several years but so far have been unable to attend. There are just too many other things going on. We enjoy birding at Mountain View, particularly watching the hundreds of pelicans which are in from July to September. In the meantime we have snowy egrets, blue herons, hawks and eagles, mallards, cormorants, terns, stilts, avocets, etc.

We enjoy the newsletter and found your article on the border collies very interesting. Close to home, the golf course at Shoreline has had a border collie to chase the coots and Canada geese for several years. They recently obtained the services of a second collie. In addition they have two swans that are very territorial and keep the other birds in line. They came from a man in Kentucky of Tennessee who specializes in this line of work.

Bob Muggs, Menlo Park

Gifts and Bequests

Our thanks to

Melvin Brown Mitsuko Duerr David Foley Evelyn Landes Carol Miller Lisa Wang Miriam Webber

Robin Smith for her support of Audubon Adventures

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 form other sources. Items dealing with conservation issues must be submitted to the Conservation Committee prior to publication.

Information for all officers and chairnessons should be mailed to 30 West 39th Ave. Suite 202. San Mateo. CA 94403-4561. Please send RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS

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.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S WEB PAGE'S URL is /http://www.belmont.gov/orgs/sas/

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