

This Month's Program

Birds of the Far South

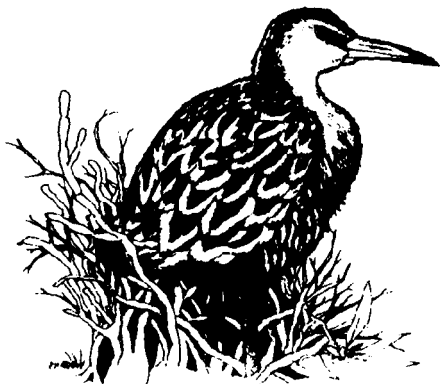
Al Jaramillo, Senior Biologist at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will talk on the birds of Antarctica and the far southern tip of South America.

Al is a former director of Sequoia Audubon, a professional tour leader and the author of

Birds of Chile and New

World Blackbirds.

Meetings are held at 8 PM the second Thursday of the month at the San Mateo Garden Center on Parkside off the Alameda. The meeting is preceded by an informal get-together beginning at 7:30.



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From the President

What a Hoot!

Robin Smith



Owling is an inexact science. If you do it enough, you learn a lot by trial and error. Here's my version of how to find owls while on the Christmas Bird Count.

It always sounds so easy. Just go to a likely spot, play a tape of an owl call and listen for the owl's answering call. Cliff Richer somehow manages to do his owling from the car, a skill I've yet to master. *(Not from the car — but from an area I can reach by car, without any additional walking. You can't really hear everything from inside the car. —Ed.)*

Owling sounds absurdly easy, but this is how it really goes. First, you make an owl tape. You'd think once in a lifetime would be enough — not so! Since owling takes place in the dark, it's not unusual to push the record button at some point and erase an owl call or two from the tape, so it's just easier to make a new one. *(I did this about five times before learning to remove the "record" tab from the cassette. —Ed.)* Record the owls in the order of ascending size, at loud volume. For me, this worked like a charm until the deep rumble of the great gray owl jolted the dog out of a sound sleep and sent him running to me for protection. When finished, check the recorder, tape, batteries, extra batteries and small flashlight, as though this were foolproof preparation. Go to bed. **Early!!!** Get up. **Early!!!** Gather all your gear. Dress warmly, drive an hour to an obscure location, meet your fellow owlers, divide into teams, plan a rendezvous time and proceed to a likely spot, often near a creek flowing through one of our mountain parks to play a Pygmy Owl call. Strain to hear an answer over the burbling of the creek. *(I avoid any owling site near running water like the plague. —Ed.)* Play a saw-whet owl call. Get an answer that could be either pygmy or saw-whet. Repeat until you figure it out. Even though you are not in an oak forest, play a Western Screech Owl call just for fun. Hear a faint answer mingled with the yapping of coyotes. Wonder if what you heard was really an owl or the other team playing their tape in another part of the deserted campground. Note the time. Now for the most unlikely owl! Play the Spotted Owl call. Try to figure out why it sounds so wavery and strange. Realize that your tape recorder is the problem. Put in new batteries and try it again. The same distorted sound wafting from the tape recorder makes you realize that its useful life is over. What next? Get in the car, roll down the windows, open the sunroof and cleverly play the tape on the car tape deck. Be sure to turn it up as high as it will go. Get no response. Check the time. Almost rendezvous time! Have we really been standing here in the dark for almost two hours? Head to the meeting place. Stop on the last bridge and play the Spotted Owl call one more time for good measure. Hear a Spotted Owl answer the tape. Ask your team member, incredulously, "Did you hear that?" Listen to the agitated calls of the marbled murrelets in the trees as they flee to the ocean. Hear your owling

(Continued on Page Six)

The mission of Sequoia Audubon Society is to participate 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



THURSDAY, MARCH 2 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — 7:30 PM —

At the Sequoia Audubon office. All members are welcome. Call ahead to make sure that there will be enough room.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 — SAN MATEO COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK — This will be a moderate, half-day walk in the redwoods to see some of the local specialties. Varied Thrush and Winter Wren are likely, American Dipper, Wood Duck and Common Merganser are possible and Pileated Woodpecker is unlikely but not impossible. Meet at the main entrance on Pescadero Road at 9:30 a.m. From Hwy. 280 take Woodside Road (84) west. At Skyline (35) it will become La Honda Road continue west past the town of La Honda, make a left turn on Pescadero Road and make a right to stay on Pescadero Road where it meets Alpine Road. From Hwy. one take Pescadero Road east to the park entrance on the south. **Heavy rain cancels.**

LEADER

GARTH HARWOOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 - PRINCETON HARBOR & PILLAR POINT —

This is the only sheltered harbor between Santa Cruz and San Francisco. The harbor is winter home to a good variety of bay ducks, loons, cormorants and other divers as well as gulls and shorebirds. To get there from



Hwy. 92, proceed north on Hwy. 1 to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the light. Make another left on Prospect, right on Broadway, left on Harvard and right on West Point to the west side of the marsh. Meet at the parking lot at 8:30 AM. **Heavy rain cancels.**

LEADER

AL JAMARRILLO

THURSDAY, MARCH 9 — GENERAL MEETING —

Al Jaramillo, Senior Biologist at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will talk on the **Birds of Antarctica and the Far Southern Tip of South America**. Al is a former director of Sequoia Audubon, a professional tour leader and the author of *Birds of Chile* and *New World Blackbirds*. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Informal get-together at 7:30 PM with the meeting beginning at 8 PM.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 — SEA CLOUD PARK — BEGINNERS TRIP — This is our monthly beginners' field trip. Information on use of binoculars and field guides will be given and there will be opportunity to ask questions. Sea Cloud Park in Foster City is reached by taking Hillsdale Ave. East from 101 and making a right turn on Edgewater Blvd. Go 1.3 miles and turn left on Pitcairn Drive. Look for the park entrance on the right and meet at the far end of the parking lot at 9:00 AM. **Heavy rain cancels.**

LEADER

ROBIN SMITH

325-3306

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - OWLING SAN MATEO COUNTY — This is an owl *listening* trip. We will try to locate and identify owl species by their calls. We will **NOT** spotlight the owls and the chance of actually seeing one is remote. Most likely species are Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-What Owl, Western Screech Owl and Northern Pygmy Owl. We will try for, but do not expect to see or hear Spotted Owl and Long-eared Owl. The trip will start at **5:00 AM (possibly earlier)** and will end at dawn. There will be minimal walking. Patience is the most important skill needed. The trip is limited and preference will be given to Sequoia Audubon members. For further details and to reserve a space call the leader.

LEADER

FRANCIS TOLDI

344-1919

Redwood Shores Levee Project Update

Robin Smith

At the end of November, Sequoia Audubon Society filed a sixty day notice of intent to sue directed at both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Redwood City.

Your Board took this action because in April, 1997, the US Army Corps of Engineers granted Redwood City a permit to raise the levees in portions of Redwood Shores to a height above the 100 year flood level. The 1700 homes to be built in this area, the Lido development, would then be

protected from flooding and would qualify for federal flood insurance and FEMA funds if there should be a flood that topped the levees.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, in its accompanying Biological Opinion issued in September 1996, stated the terms and conditions to be met through mitigations designed to protect the two federally Endangered Species affected by this levee project, the Clapper Rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse. Mitigations included public use restrictions through the use of fencing and gates on approximately 1.5 miles of the 6 miles of levees in Redwood Shores and a predator management plan to be conducted after the fencing was in place. Both these conditions are designed to

reduce disturbance to the two Endangered Species living in the area. The levees have been raised, most of the 1700 homes have been built in the Lido area, but the terms and conditions of the mitigations for the Endangered Species have *not* been put in place. They were to be initiated as soon as the levee work in the area was finished. The permit time limit for completing the work is February 28, 2000.

The Board of Directors, with the 60 day notice of intent to sue, is encouraging Redwood City to come into compliance with the permit conditions and asking the Corps to enforce the permit, reduce disturbance to the two Endangered Species and aid their recovery.

On My Own in Hong Kong

Francis Toldi

From time to time I have to travel overseas on business, usually to Asia. My birding friends are usually envious -- "Wow! They are actually *paying* you to go to places where you can see all these great new birds!" But usually I am stuck in some dumb conference room and my birding is limited to counting whatever the equivalent of House Sparrows is in the exotic locale and craning my neck longingly as we pass great looking habitat on the way to the airport.

In early December I received word from my boss that I was leaving in one week for a short trip to Taiwan and Hong Kong. The way the schedule played out I would have a free day (a Sunday) in Hong Kong Oh joy! I have birded before in Hong Kong, but each time with an expert local showing me around, and in any case, not within the last five years.

Fortunately, since my last trip we now have the internet and the ability to contact birders around the world with the push of a button. Alas, due to the short lead time and conflicting schedules, all of my local contacts failed, and I found myself in Hong Kong late on Saturday night contemplating a day alone and afield in Hong Kong. The negatives: I speak no Chinese and did not have access to a car. Since I was there primarily for business I didn't have a scope or rubber boots. I hadn't really prepared, and it had been long enough since I had been there that I had forgotten all of the common birds. It was the "wrong" season for the most sought-after species (especially the shorebirds).

Sounds bleak? Let's consider the positives: I have birded in foreign countries before, and am not easily intimidated. There are many helpful materials on birding in Hong Kong. The subway, train and other major transportation devices are marked in English as well as Chinese. People are busy, but friendly. Virtually any bird I would see would be interesting. It would be an adventure!

I chose to visit two of the more well known areas so I didn't get myself into trouble in some obscure location. I set out from my hotel on Hong Kong Island

before dawn, caught the first subway to Kowloon, transferred to the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR), then took a cab from the Tai Po Market KCR Station to the entrance to the Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve. I was proud of myself for getting this far without any mishaps.

Tai Po Kau is a park set in a healthy native broadleaf forest, with somewhat drier scrub higher up on the hillside. There are a series of well-marked trails and service roads. I was mindful that the park would probably fill up with happy, noisy hikers as the day wore on, since this was a Sunday. As I walked up the entrance road at first light, though, I was alone. All around me I heard the chips and chirps of unknown birds, and an occasional bird-shape went flitting by. How exciting! After a good half an hour I had not identified a single bird and was starting to get frustrated! Finally a larger shape worked its way down from high up in the canopy and settled on a branch in reasonable view, and I saw my first identifiable bird: a spectacular Grey-throated Minivet, a gorgeous oriole-like bird!

A little further up the road I passed the remains of an old orchard, and the birds started to pop out. I was frantically trying to keep up with them, scribbling field marks in my notepad, and enjoying the wonderful views. Soon I was up to about a dozen species including Koel, Scarlet and Grey-throated Minivet, Orange-bellied Leafbird, various bulbuls, Yellow-checked Tit, Grey-headed Flycatcher and Common Tailorbird.

At this point I emerged into a riparian area where a number of trails into the forest began. A few local birders were gathering here. They responded to my friendly greeting and we spent some time talking about the area, birds, Hong Kong generally. From time to time we would stop and chase after some species or another. They were all extremely friendly and helpful. Most spoke very good English. Some were even more of a beginner than I while others had considerable expertise.

I wandered off on one of the trails, and found a busy feeding flock that had some of the birds I had seen below, plus others including Chestnut Bulbul, Pallas's Warbler, Yellowbrowed Warbler, Great Tit, the lovely Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

and many others that eluded identification. Nothing rare, but all exciting and many new for me! On my way back down the trail I passed by a group of 50 birders from Taiwan being guided up the trail by local birders. They were on an extended birding tour of Hong Kong, and were equally friendly as the locals.

Back down at the central area I spoke to a couple of my new friends for a while, then heard some commotion down by the little stream. The Bird of the Day appeared then, a stunning Slaty-backed Forktail, looking somewhat like a White Wagtail on steroids. It pumped and flitted along the creek allowing extended close-up views. As much as I enjoyed the company of the locals, solitude in the forest was one of my secret goals, so I headed high up on a trail to the farthest reaches of the park. The lower area was starting to fill up anyway, as it was -- now about 10:00 a.m. and the hikers and picnickers were arriving in numbers.

Hong Kong is a very hilly place, with steep hillsides dropping straight off into the coastal strip. I puffed my way up the trail and service road, hearing and seeing a few good birds along the way (Greater-necklaced Laughing-Thrush, Gray-backed Thrush, White's Thrush), a family of Macaques (feral monkeys), and very few people. Finally I reached a fork in the road, and had to make a difficult decision: hike on over the hill and down to another park, which would take up the rest of the day (and offer little in the way of new birds), or head back down to the KCR and get over to Mai Po for some marsh birds. Tempted as I was, the birds won out over the hiking and I headed back down the hill to the park entrance, now filled with happy, noisy picnickers.

I flagged a cab, made it back to the KCR, and headed up a few stops to Sheung Shui Station. On the train I sorted out my sightings and made sense of my ID notes. So far so good: 26 species, of which 7 were lifers and an additional 3 new for me in Hong Kong. I also felt very comfortable with the basic set of forest birds -- including those pesky leaf warblers and as a proud four-year old might say, "I did it all by myself (well, almost).

(Continued next month)

CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

AN: Ano Nuevo CS: Crystal Springs

SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN	SPECIES	CS	AN
Red-throated Loon	21	80	Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	6	Glaucous Gull	0	1	Hermit Thrush	56	57
Pacific Loon	125	70	Cooper's Hawk	12	4	Black-legged Kittiwake	1	0	American Robin	1631	394
Common Loon	16	2	Accipiter species	1	0	Gull species	700	1411	Varied Thrush	231	333
Pied-billed Grebe	205	24	Red-shouldered Hawk	31	24	Forster's Tern	47	0	Wrenlit	139	114
Horned Grebe	25	0	Red-tailed Hawk	79	153	Common Murre	470	25	Northern Mockingbird	9	1
Eared Grebe	44	19	Ferruginous Hawk	0	1	Marbled Murrelet	0	27	California Thrasher	2	1
Western Grebe	186	1001	Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	Rock Dove	677	76	American Pipit	24	173
Clark's Grebe	25	67	Buteo species	1	0	Band-tailed Pigeon	39	17	Cedar Waxwing	362	26
<i>Aechmophoeus</i> species	18	0	Golden Eagle	2	1	Mourning Dove	481	12	Loggerhead Shrike	7	7
Northern Fulmar	17	11	American Kestrel	42	35	Barn Owl	5	5	European Starling	2489	769
Sooty/S.T. Shearwater	0	1	Merlin	6	3	Western Screech-Owl	2	9	Hutton's Vireo	38	32
Brown Pelican	250	1628	Peregrine Falcon	8	2	Great Horned Owl	15	6	Orange-crowned Warbler	13	7
Double-crested Cormorant	266	34	California Quail	167	425	Northern Pygmy-Owl	4	3	Nashville Warbler	3	1
Brandt's Cormorant	19	331	Clapper Rail	1	0	Burrowing Owl	2	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler species	204	496
Pelagic Cormorant	49	47	Virginia Rail	9	0	Spotted Owl	0	1	Myrtle	43	85
American Bittern	0	3	Sora	3	0	Long-eared Owl	1	1	Audubon's	244	43
Great Blue Heron	32	12	American Coot	3679	350	Short-eared Owl	5	2	Total Yellow-rumped warblers	491	624
Great Egret	53	2	Black-bellied Plover	665	8	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	6	Townsend's Warbler	141	100
Snowy Egret	127	4	Snowy Plover	23	14	White-throated Swift	7	0	Hermit Warbler	1	2
Green Heron	2	0	Semipalmated Plover	56	1	Anna's Hummingbird	242	76	Palm Warbler	1	0
Black-crowned Night Heron	28	1	Killdeer	324	291	Belted Kingfisher	12	8	Black and White Warbler	2	1
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	0	Black Oystercatcher	21	31	Acorn Woodpecker	34	92	American Redstart	0	1
Brant	2	2	Black-necked Stilt	128	2	Red-breasted Sapsucker	4	8	Common Yellowthroat	15	23
Canada Goose	660	0	American Avocet	1050	0	Nuttall's Woodpecker	7	1	Spotted Towhee	55	35
Wood Duck	26	50	Greater Yellowlegs	23	12	Downy Woodpecker	24	22	California Towhee	146	92
Green-winged Teal	494	61	Willet	1343	40	Hairy Woodpecker	18	16	Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1
Mallard	1417	82	Wandering Tattler	1	0	Northern Flicker	73	48	Savannah Sparrow	94	73
Northern Pintail	95	25	Spotted Sandpiper	9	0	Pileated Woodpecker	0	4	Fox Sparrow	33	61
Cinnamon Teal	7	3	Whimbrel	63	16	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	0	1	Song Sparrow	180	192
Northern Shoveler	324	150	Long-billed Curlew	138	0	Black Phoebe	85	76	Lincoln's Sparrow	71	19
Gadwall	343	36	Marbled Godwit	1095	15	Say's Phoebe	17	24	Swamp Sparrow	0	1
Eurasian Wigeon	4	0	Ruddy Turnstone	23	0	Thick-billed Kingbird	1	0	White-throated Sparrow	2	0
American Wigeon	876	62	Black Turnstone	63	45	Barn Swallow	1	0	Golden-crowned Sparrow	555	435
Canvasback	2239	1	Surf-bird	37	29	Swallow, species	0	1	White-crowned Sparrow	724	442
Redhead	19	0	Red Knot	72	0	Steller's Jay	103	206	Harris' Sparrow	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	143	95	Sanderling	434	37	Western Scrub Jay	260	109	Dark-eyed Junco	344	240
Tufted Duck	1	0	Western Sandpiper	1638	0	American Crow	138	1	Dark-eyed Junco (slate-clrd)	1	0
Greater Scaup	8235	6	Least Sandpiper	404	7	Common Raven	342	139	Sparrow, species	38	0
Lesser Scaup	225	33	Dunlin	3707	0	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	565	395	Red-winged Blackbird	625	839
Scaup, species:	1249	0	Peep, species:	10	0	Oak Titmouse	22	3	Tricolored Blackbird	150	455
Black Scoter	0	12	Short-billed Dowitcher	234	0	Bush-tit	497	120	Western Meadowlark	266	153
White-winged Scoter	4	9	Long-billed Dowitcher	279	0	Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	2	Brewer's Blackbird	785	825
Surf Scoter	1003	69	Dowitcher, species:	30	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	34	21
Common Goldeneye	1708	3	Common Snipe	16	13	Pygmy Nuthatch	105	93	Purple Finch	84	38
Barrow's Goldeneye	7	0	Red Phalarope	2	0	Brown Creeper	27	31	House Finch	378	133
Bufflehead	1029	130	Bonaparte's Gull	4	0	Bewick's Wren	42	38	Pine Siskin	10	71
Hooded Merganser	65	4	Heermann's Gull	22	19	House Wren	1	2	Lesser Goldfinch	28	14
Red-breasted Merganser	7	10	Mew Gull	348	415	Winter Wren	22	41	American Goldfinch	30	7
Ruddy Duck	1533	141	Ring-billed Gull	1220	0	Marsh Wren	12	10	House Sparrow	156	95
Turkey Vulture	40	90	California Gull	5651	1172	American Dipper	0	2			
Osprey	1	0	Herring Gull	67	188	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	27			
White-tailed Kite	31	44	Thayer's Gull	3	11	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	285	229	Total birds identified	64871	4498
Bald Eagle	1	0	Western Gull	1638	1459	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1	Total Species identified	184	163
Northern Harrier	26	43	Glaucous-winged Gull	799	501	Western Bluebird	15	26	Number of participants	51	29
									Compilers	AD/RS	AD/RS

Species in Bold = Unusual or Rare Species

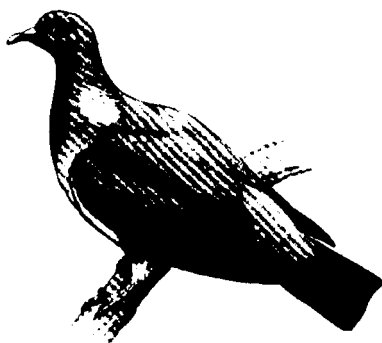
Numbers in Bold = Significantly higher than average numbers

Numbers italicized and underlined = Significantly lower than normal numbers

Participants: Both Counts: J.R. Blair, Nat Bowditch, Gary Deghi, Leslie Flint, Jim Hully, Rick Johnson, Peter Metropulos, Gary Nunn, Doug Ohlberg, Pete Popin, Cliff Richer, Robin Smith, Maria Straatman, Gary Strachan, Francis Toldi Bill & Barbara Vanderwerf, Adam Winer

Crystal Springs Count: Julie Anderson, Rick Baird, Fred Berghout, Geri Brown, Ted Chandik, Joyce Chang, Sue Cossins, Al DeMartini, Clara Diaz, Al Eisner, Larry English, Jean Halford, Merry Haveman, Gloria Heller, Marilyn Hemmeyer, Sharon Hom, Grant & Karen Hoyt, Jim & Sue James, Noel Johnson, Andy Kratter, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Iona Luke, Kevin Lynch, Chris MacIntosh, Carol Miller, Steve Miller, Pat Pauch, Judy Spittler, Ron Thorn, Bettina Toft, Tom Vandenbosch, Al Wofchuck, Nick Yatsko

Ano Nuevo Count: Laurie Bechtler, Ed Brennan, Steve Chance, Barbara Costa, Garth Harwood, Al Jaramillo, Don Keller, Vanessa Leadbetter, Dave Powell, John Toldi



SPRING 2000 BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

ALL ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDS., APRIL 19

Proceeds support local Audubon conservation and education programs

Check preferred pickup location. Pickup dates will be April 27-30, 2000

Confirmation and details will be sent via mail.

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Once again you have made an outstanding response to our December Fund-raising letter. Our thanks go out to:

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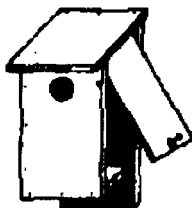
President's Report

(Continued from Page One)
partner say, "Yeah, did you get it?" Get really excited, but remember to note the time. At the rendezvous, ascertain what the others were doing at the time you heard the owls. Breathe a huge sigh of relief when you discover that they were out at the park entrance listening for murmurets. GET REALLY EXCITED!

The Bluebird Journal

Howard Rathlesberger

Like gardeners we've planted our seeds and now we must wait for things to happen. But, there's still a kind of a rush to get a new trail or trails established.



Looking in boxes, one finds some interesting things — hibernating lady bugs, bumble bees in old Chickadee nests, (a good reason to remove old nests early), evidence of Nuttall's Woodpecker roosting and excavating insides of boxes, droppings and blue feathers (presumably evidence of Bluebird roosting).

Sara Timby, who lives in San Carlos, noticed 8 Bluebirds frequenting the Stanford Quad. She's looking into some hanging boxes there.

George and Marty Oetzel, in Menlo Park, hung 7 boxes in Burgess Park, so gradually we're penetrating urban San Mateo County.

The Woodside Elementary School project has built and placed 7 boxes around the lawn area adjacent to the Werder picnic area at Huddert Park and also 5 backyard houses with 1.25" diameter entry holes for student residences. More is yet to come.

Don and Lillian Stokes, the bird behavior experts, have produced a 15 minute tape on Bluebirds for NABS, \$10.95. They also have a Web site:

StokesBirdsatHome.com.

It lists the time schedules and episodes for their 13 segment half hour TV series.

If you'd like to participate in our Filoli Bluebird Recovery Program we now have a special entity. First of all, you must be a Friend of Filoli. We are now registered as Bluebird Recovery Garden Docents. This gives us most of the perks of full fledged garden docents who also have monitoring responsibilities for the bird boxes. This will permit the organization to grow and develop continuity.

Baylands Vision 2020

The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary has been described as the most modified estuary in the United States. With nearly 7 million people living along its shores and in its immediate watersheds, that's no surprise. But in spite of urbanization, the Bay-Delta is still the largest and most important estuary on the west coast of North America. Consider that the Bay Delta estuary contains *90 percent of California's remaining coastal wetlands*. Three-quarters of all Pacific flyway shorebirds feed or breed here. Species such as Pacific herring, chinook salmon, harbor seals and California sea lions all rely on these habitats for survival. It's easy to see why the Bay Area Audubon chapters have made conservation and restoration of bayland ecosystems a priority for decades.

This year, supported by new scientific information and a changing political landscape, the Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC) and the National Audubon Society-California (Audubon-CA) have launched a major conservation campaign to restore 100,000 acres of Bay Area tidal wetland, seasonal wetland, and associated upland habitats. Audubon will provide the grassroots support for a public outreach effort to educate Bay Area citizens and decision-makers about the economic and ecological benefits of restoring the baylands. In addition, Audubon will lead the effort to secure the public and private funding needed for acquisition and restoration of these critical habitats.

Following publication of the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project's "Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals" Report (hereinafter "Goals Repon") in 1999, the chapters of the Bay Area Audubon Council proposed a Bay wide conservation campaign focused on tidal wetlands. In the best Audubon tradition, the Bay Area chapters proposed that this significant conservation campaign be based on the sound scientific recommendations put forward in the "Goals Report". The "Goals Report" represents the findings of a group of 50 Bay Area scientists and resource managers. It gives us a blueprint detailing the types, amounts and distribution of wetlands and related habitats needed to sustain a healthy ecosystem, and sets restoration goals for 124

sites.

During the second half of 1999, using the "Goals Report" as its habitat restoration blueprint, BAAC began to organize a coherent campaign. After BAAC chapters raised sufficient campaign seed money, BAAC sent a resolution to Audubon-CA requesting that the state office endorse the Baylands Campaign. Audubon-California's Board of Directors enthusiastically endorsed the Campaign. BAAC and the state office have now dedicated significant financial and personnel resources to the Baylands Campaign. We have once again retained the media consulting services of William L. Rukeyser, who was instrumental in all aspects of BAAC's successful 1996-97 Campaign to save Bair Island. And Audubon-CA staff member Mike Sellors has moved to the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary in order to work on the Baylands Campaign. BAAC and Audubon-CA have formed a Campaign steering committee (composed of one representative from each BAAC chapter and one Audubon-CA representative) to develop Campaign strategy and oversee Campaign operations.

Now, with the Baylands Campaign infrastructure in place, we have the opportunity to achieve substantial regional habitat gains. Over the course of the year, Sequoia Audubon Society members can contribute to Audubon's Baylands Campaign's public education and grassroots advocacy efforts in a variety of ways. If you can lead folks through your favorite wetland, photograph birds, write a letter, make a phone call, visit with your local elected official(s), stuff envelopes, drive a vehicle, pilot a boat, edit copy, design layout, sign a petition, or talk to your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors, you can help realize the goal of 100,000 acres of restored baylands. To get involved, contact Bob Wilkinson, our chapter Representative to the Baylands steering committee, or Mike Sellors at Richardsdon Bay. Watch for frequent Baylands Campaign updates throughout the year in the pages of the *Needles*.

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Difficulties mastered are opportunities won.
—Winston Churchill

Gifts and Bequests

A Complete List of Our Christmas Fund Donors Can Be Found on Page Six.

Thank You All!

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.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S WEB PAGE'S URL is <http://Sequoia.ca.audubon.org/>

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