

SEQUOIA NEEDLES

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County
Founded 1949

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April-May 2006

PRESERVING BAYFRONT PARK IN MENLO PARK AS OPEN SPACE

BY ROBIN WINSLOW SMITH,
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Conservation Committee is spending a great deal of time working with Friends of Bayfront Park in an effort to keep that park as open space. There is a proposed project that would build an executive golf course on the open area on top and playing fields where there is now a tidal pond. There is much habitat for both resident and migratory birds in and around Bayfront Park. We are committed to keeping that available to those birds. Eventually, the park will be encircled by the National Wildlife Refuge, including restoration of the salt ponds between it and Highway 84. At that point the upland areas of the park will become even more important for passerines and raptors. Take a look at the website: www.friendsofbayfrontpark.com to see pictures of the park and development plans. You can download a petition and get it signed by other bird lovers. The petitions are advisory and are being sought from anyone who values the park. This is the only open space in Menlo Park. Help keep it as such.

Special Program: Lecture, book signing, and field trip
Richard Rhodes to Speak about Audubon Biography at Filoli
Saturday, April 22, Bird walk at 9:00 AM; Lecture at 11:00 AM

Sequoia Audubon and Filoli are proud to present a lecture by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes on his biography *James Audubon: The Making of an American*. This is the first major biography of John James Audubon in forty years and the first to illuminate fully the private and family life of the major American artist and master illustrator of birds and the natural world. Richard Rhodes is the author of twenty books. He is the recipient of many awards and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Mr. Rhodes has been host and correspondent for documentaries on public television's *Frontline* and *American Experiences* series.

(Continued on page 8)

AMERICAN KESTREL (FALCO SPARVERIUS)

BY LEE FRANKS

This colorful jay-sized falcon is commonly seen perched on the PG&E power towers on the west end of Edgewood Park, watching for unwary grass-hoppers, birds, and rodents. When not perched, they can often be seen hovering, the single most strenuous flight maneuver a bird can execute, above potential prey. All falcons are skilled hunters, and they have a unique, tooth-like projection on their hooked bills that can quickly crush the neck of small prey. The American Kestrel's species name (sparverius) is Latin for "pertaining to sparrows", an occasional prey item. It was formerly known as the Sparrow Hawk.

(Continued on page 2)



American Kestrel

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(See program details on page 2)

April

Thursday, 13th, 7:30 PM

Program: Wildlife of the Rocky Mountains

May

Thursday, 11th, 7:30 PM

Program: Why do Birds Sing and How?

June

Thursday, 8th, 6:30 PM

Program: Madagascar
Potluck Meeting

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

March

Sunday, 19th San Francisco Aquatic Park*

Saturday, 25th Palo Alto with Save the Bay

Sunday, 26th Edgewood Park

April

Saturday, 1st Filoli Estate

Saturday, 8th Yerba Buena Nursery

Saturday 15th San Pedro County Park*

Saturday, 22nd Woodside Environmental Day

Sunday, 23rd Pescadero Marsh

Sunday, 23rd Edgewood Park

Sunday, 23rd San Francisco Aquatic Park*

Sunday, 30th Mines Road

May

Sunday, 7th San Bruno Mountain*

(Continued on page 3)

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Members are encouraged to submit original or uncopyrighted material – articles, artwork, cartoons, photos – for Needles. The deadline for submission is the first day of the month preceding publication. Send comments and contributions to:

sas_editor@yahoo.com



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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

Wildlife of the Rocky Mountains

By John Cang

Thursday, April 13th, 7:30 PM

This presentation will feature birds, mammals, and scenics from Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons to Banff and Jasper. John Cang is a wildlife and nature photographer based in San Jose, CA. National Geographic, Sierra Club, and Nature Conservancy, among others, have published his photographs. John also enjoys teaching the art of nature photography through workshops, tours, and slide presentations. A sample of John's work can be seen on his website www.johncangphoto.com.

Why do Birds Sing and How?

By George Bentley, Ph.D., Asst. Prof.,
UC Berkeley

Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 PM

Do you ever wonder why some birds sing and others just call? Would you like to know how songbirds produce such melodious tunes? What about the dawn chorus? Sexual attraction?

Aggression? It's just the day-to-day life of songbirds. Come and learn about the anatomy and physiology of birdsong, from the specialized organs to highly evolved brains. Find out how birdsong can cause hormones to surge. This talk will present an overview of the hows and whys of vocal communication in birds with an emphasis on what classic and cutting-edge research has taught us. George Bentley, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. He recently moved to the Bay Area from Seattle where he studied the anatomy of birdsong at the Univ. of Washington and taught birding classes for the Seattle Audubon Society.

Madagascar 2003

By Ted Chandik

June 8th, 7:30 PM

Join Ted in reliving his travels to Madagascar where he was able to see birds from five endemic families. Ted Chandik is the former naturalist for the City of Palo Alto. He has taught birding/nature classes for many years. He now leads local birding tours and is well known and respected in birding circles.

This meeting is a "potluck" meeting. Potluck begins at 6:30; program at about 8:00. Bring your own plate and utensils. Please bring a main dish, casserole, or salad to share. Sequoia Audubon will provide coffee, tea, and dessert. Come and meet our friendly members and vote on our slate of officers and directors.

(American Kestrel, continued from page 1)

Appearance

The Kestrel is a small (10.5") falcon easily identified by its bright rusty back and tail and striking blue-gray wings. Cheeks are white with two vertical black stripes. They are whitish below with a rusty wash. When seen in flight from below, they show a distinctive row of translucent spots on the trailing edge of their wings and the characteristic falcon in-flight silhouette: long, pointed wings, deep wing beats, and long tail.

Behavior

Primarily a "sit-and-wait" hunter, this bird locates prey visually from exposed hunting perches. Most capture attempts occur within 50m of the perch. Hover-hunting usually occurs when suitable perches are absent. They hover by facing into the wind with wings in the glide posture. Wing and body posture are adjusted continuously to wind turbulence while the head remains remarkably fixed.

(Continued on page 7)



FIELD TRIPS

BY CAROL MASTERSON

San Francisco Aquatic Park

Sunday, March 19, 9:30 AM

Join National Park Service Ranger Carol Kiser on this beginners' bird walk to see shore, migratory, citified, and resident birds as we walk along Hyde Street Pier and Aquatic Park. Bring binoculars, bird books, and dress in layers. We will meet at the Hyde Street Pier entrance at Hyde and Jefferson Streets and will go for about 1½ - 2 hours. There is no charge and the walk is wheelchair accessible.

Directions: Buses 10, F, 30, 47, 49, and the cable car stop nearby. Call (415) 673-MUNI for details. As meter parking lasts only for one hour, parking is best at garages nearby for about \$2.50 per ½ hour at the Anchorage Shopping Center or at Ghirardelli Square.

Leader: Ranger Carol Kiser (415) 561-7100

Beginner/Family Trip – Wheelchair Accessible

Birding by Canoe in Palo Alto with Save the Bay

Saturday, March 25, 9:00 AM -- 2:00 PM

Did you know that over a half million birds winter in the San Francisco Bay estuaries? The great tidal fluctuations in the South Bay provide a substantial array of shorebirds and waterfowl as well as larger birds of prey. Join Save the Bay on a canoe trip in the sloughs along the Palo Alto bay wetlands. We will look for birds, such as rails, which are often hard to find when walking on land. Guests are encouraged to stay after the program for extra bird watching time at low tide. The cost for this trip is \$40; \$30 dollars for members of Save the Bay.

Reservations required for this Save the Bay sponsored trip. More information contact Jocelyn Gretz (510) 425-9261 x109 at Save the Bay or online at www.savethebay.org.

Edgewood Park

Sunday, March 26, 8:00 AM

Come and visit this unique habitat with oak woodland, grasslands, and chaparral. Spring is the best time for this beautiful San Mateo County Park. Sparrows, meadowlarks, flycatchers, bluebirds,

hawks, and more are all possible. Depending on the winter rains we will look for spring wildflowers, ferns, and fungi. Ask Lee about how you can volunteer to help the wildlife at Edgewood Park. The walk is 8 AM to 11 AM over moderately strenuous terrain.

Directions: Meet the leader in the paved parking lot at the main gate. The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City.

Leader: Lee Franks (650) 592-7733

Filoli Estate

Saturday, April 1, 8:30 AM

Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed land. In addition to birds, the wildflowers should be very plentiful at this time, especially in the shadier areas on the back roads. The grounds of Filoli have a fine garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood, and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. **Reservations required** because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum. (Sorry no children under 14.) No food or picnicking is allowed but all will be welcome after the walk to buy light food and beverages at the Café and visit the gift shop.

Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Road and drive approximately ½ mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors' Center. If you want to remain after the field trip to walk through the house and/or formal gardens, there is a \$12.00 entrance fee. Heavy rain cancels. Call Sue James at (650) 348-0315 to reserve your spot.

Leaders: Sue James and Donna Petersen

Yerba Buena Nursery – Bird Friendly Native Plants

Saturday, April 8, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Yerba Buena Nursery is a wonderful place devoted to California native plants. Yerba Buena has a 2.5-acre demonstration garden. One of the nursery experts will teach us about the different Califor-

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday & Sunday, 13th & 14th

Int'l Migratory
Bird Days*

Saturday, 20th Mount Diablo

Sunday, 21st Pescadero Marsh

Sunday, 28th Edgewood Park

June

Saturday-Sunday, 10th-11th

Yuba Pass and
Sierra Valley

Sunday, 11th Pescadero Marsh

***Beginner/Family Trip**

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, water, wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun block, a hat, and always dress in layers for hot sunny weather to cool windy conditions. While we will attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times. For the latest schedule and updates always go to the Sequoia Audubon web site, contact the trip leader, or call Carol at 650-347-1769.



(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

nia native plants that attract birds and butterflies. Afterwards we can bird around the grounds of the nursery looking for sparrows, vireos, warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, and many more. Bring your lunch and we can picnic after birding. Hot and cold beverages and cookies can be bought at the Tea Terrace. The Garden Shop has hundreds of interesting items related to gardening, nature, and country living.

Directions: From Hwy 280 go west on Woodside Road (Hwy 84) about 6 miles through the town of Woodside to Skyline Blvd. Turn left or south on Skyline Blvd. Drive about 4.5 miles. Watch for signs for Fogarty Winery on the left and on the right side of the road you will see signs for Yerba Buena Nursery. At the sign for the Nursery turn right onto a dirt road. Stay to the **right** at each fork in the road for 2 miles until you reach the nursery. We will meet in the parking lot about 9:30 AM. Dress in layers; bring lunch. Rain cancels. To say thank you for the tour why not buy a bird friendly California plant? For info call (650) 347-9358.

Leaders: Sue Cossins and Susan Peterson.

San Pedro County Park - Pacifica

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This coastal wooded park provides a variety of habitats for migrating and resident birds. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails.

Directions: Take Hwy 1 to Pacifica and turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to the end and follow the signs to the park. Meet in the parking lot just to the right (south) of the Visitor's Center. Heavy rain cancels. **Reservations are required for this trip. Please call the leader and leave your telephone number as the date may change.**

Leader: Judy Spitler (650) 355-9362

Beginner/Family Trip

Woodside Environmental Day

Saturday, April 22, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM

Celebrate Environmental Day in Woodside. Perhaps you have seen glimpses from Hwy 280 in Woodside of fabulous outdoor sculptures. That is Runnymede Sculpture Farm. After the Lecture by Richard Rhodes at Filoli come and join the festivities at Runnymede, a private estate and sculpture farm. There will be environmental activities, entertainment, booths, and displays, and beautiful outdoor sculptures placed around the 120-acre landscape. Fun for the whole family. You might even want to do some birding. Drop by the Bluebird Recovery Program, Sequoia Audubon booth and say hi.

Directions: From Woodside Road in Woodside go north on Cañada Road about 2 miles. Turn left into Runnymede Road and look for parking area near the main gate. Entry fee.

Family Friendly Event

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, April 23, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

For details, see notice on p. 8.

Environmental Restoration Activity

Edgewood Park Spring Birds and Wildflowers

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 AM

Edgewood Park has spectacular wildflowers and spring birding at its best. Over 60 species of birds have been identified here. Twenty-seven families can be found here. Beautiful wildflowers and more than 300 species of plants including rare plants are found in this rich area. Meet the leader in the paved parking lot near the Main Gate area at 8:00 AM sharp.

Directions: The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City

Leader: Lee Franks (650) 592-7733

San Francisco Aquatic Park

Sunday, April 23, 9:30 AM

For details, see trip description under March 19.

Mines Road – The Ultimate Spring Bird Trip

Sunday, April 30, 8:00 AM

A variety of habitats provides a fascinating mix of birds not found elsewhere in the Bay Area. This will be an all-day trip to this area in the Coast Range Mountains between Livermore and the Central Valley and Hwy 5. We will look for Phainopepla, Prairie Falcon, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis' Woodpecker, Golden Eagles, along with sparrows and hummingbirds. If we are very lucky we may even see a Wild Turkey or Roadrunner. Have a full tank of gas, water, and food since facilities are scarce. There are only two reliable restroom facilities, one at the lunchtime stop and another at mid-afternoon at a county park. Weather is unpredictable from cold and windy to hot and dry. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on I-580 for about 25 miles to Vasco Road; exit right. Follow Vasco to Tesla Road and turn right. Turn left on Mines Road. Follow it for about 1/4 mile to the Murietta Wells Winery turnoff on the right. We will meet in the small parking area alongside Mines Road. (Don't cross the bridge into the winery.)

Leader: Leslie Flint (650) 573-6279

San Bruno Mountain

Sunday, May 7, 9:00 AM

San Bruno Mountain stands as an island of open space on the border of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties. It is home to a wealth of wildlife, hidden pockets of woodland, and sheltered canyons. We will look for quail, nuthatch, towhees, vireos, warblers, mockingbird, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, wrens, hummingbirds, and many other migrants. Depending on the winter rains we may see spectacular wildflower displays.

Directions: Take Highway 101 north to the Bayshore Boulevard/Brisbane exit. Proceed on Bayshore Boulevard to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn west on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway toward the Mountain and proceed up the hill to the Park entrance on your right. Be prepared to pay a fee. Meet in the main parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. Dress in layers for warm to cool and windy weather. Wear sturdy walking shoes/boots and bring fluids and snacks. We have binoculars to share. Not suitable for strollers.

Leader: Leslie Flint (650) 573-6279

Beginner/Family Trip

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 4)

International Migratory Bird Days – Half Moon Bay

Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14; starts at 10:00 AM

Join the nation in celebrating and learning about migratory birds and enjoy fun and learning for the whole family. The weekend of May 13-14 is designated Migratory Bird Days. How many birds migrate to San Mateo County from Northern Canada? Which birds migrate south to Central and South America? Activities include: exhibits, arts and crafts, learning about birdhouses, guided bird walks, and activities for children. Admission to the State Park is \$6 per car.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 to Hwy 1. Go south on Hwy 1 to the first intersection – Kelly Ave. Turn right and go west to the Half Moon Bay State Beach entrance. Dress in layers for warm to cool weather; bring a picnic lunch and fluids. Be ready for a fun day.

Beginner/Family Event -- Wheelchair Accessible

Mount Diablo State Park

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Meet at the South Gate entrance to Mount Diablo State Park at 8:00 AM. We will begin by birding the road outside the South Gate and then cover several picnic areas within the park. On a clear day there are extensive views from the top of the mountain. Wear layers and be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Hats are advisable. Bring lunch, snacks, and liquids. There are restroom facilities at several locations.

Directions: To get to the East Bay, take the San Mateo Bridge (Highway 92) to I-880. Go north on I-880 about 5 miles to Hwy 237. Take Hwy 237 east to I-580 and continue east on I-580 to I-680. Go north on I-680 past Pleasanton to Diablo Road in Danville. Follow the road signs to the park. There is a park entrance fee of \$6.00.

Leader: Joe Macho (650) 692-8138

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, May 21, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon

For details, see notice on p. 8.

Environmental Restoration Activity

Edgewood Park – Spring Birds, Butterflies, and Flowers Sunday, May 28, 8:00 AM

Springtime birds, butterflies, and wildflowers abound at Edgewood Park. Talk with the leader Lee Franks about the important ongoing conservation studies and programs at the park. Starting at 8:00 AM sharp will increase our chances of seeing all the interesting resident and vagrant bird species.

Directions: Meet in the paved parking lot adjacent to the Main Gate. Take Hwy 280 to Edgewood Road. Go east on Edgewood towards Redwood City and look for the park entrance and parking on the south side of the road.

Leader: Lee Franks (650) 592-7733

Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley Weekend

Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11

Join us on this fun trip to a really great birding location. We will bird for summer residents, including Dipper, flycatchers, warblers, and Calliope Hummingbirds. We will also be on the

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA RECOVERY PROGRAM IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

BY HOWARD RATHLESBERGER

The big news for 2006 is that we've signed on with Cornell University's Nestbox Network for reporting the data that all of our monitors have collected.

Sequoia has a group subscription, so you Audubon members can go online and view what we're reporting. Go to www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse. Then go to Gateway Data and log in using WEBLS as the ID and 1bbrp as the password. (bbrp stands for Bluebird Recovery Program.)

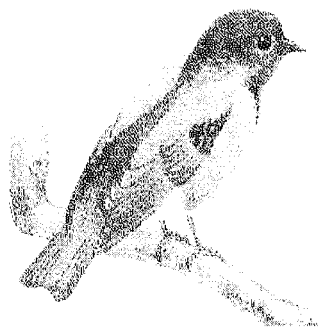
There are some new boxes ready for new residents for this coming season. Last fall we put up 11 boxes at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. Robin Smith has seen Bluebirds checking them out already. This trail will be, we hope, a bridge into Redwood City. June Flora is adding approximately 4 boxes at Encinal School. Cindy Lockhart is taking over Bluebird box maintenance at Flood Park. Previously Flood Park had Oak Titmouse and Violet Green Swallow in residence. We hope to see some Western Bluebirds (WEBLS) there too.

The Williamses on Jane Drive, Woodside (west of Cañada Road) have been host to several families of WEBLS. They feed mealworms to a family who make an evening visit to their feeder. We're looking forward to a nesting pair there.

We're also anxious to see if there will be some action again at the Woodside Library, Town Center, and Elementary School. 2005 was certainly a command performance.

Claude Reichard wasn't able to monitor the 280 East boxes between Woodside Road and Farm Hill Road last year because Caltrans locked up the entry gates. We've been working with Supervisor Gordon's office and hope the problem will be solved soon.

There is a splendid opportunity to monitor the various trails in Portola Valley, so if anyone is interested, please call me at (650) 561-9532.



Western Bluebird

(Continued on page 7)



SPRING 2006 BIRDSEED SALE ORDER FORM

All Orders, with Payment, Must Be Received by Friday, April 7

Orders received after April 7 cannot be filled.

Pick up between April 25th – 29th

Confirmation and details will be sent via e-mail or U.S. postal mail



Check preferred pickup location below:

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

		Number of Bags	Cost in \$
AUDUBON WILD BIRD MIX <i>red & white millet plus black oil sunflower</i>	20 lb @ \$14.00/bag		
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb @ \$12.50/bag		
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Sunflower Chips	25 lb @ \$28.00/bag		
Total birdseed purchases (sales tax is included in all prices above)			
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Please enclose an e-mail address or a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive your order confirmation and directions to pick-up location. Mail check and order form to:

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c/o Jeanne Scharetg, 315 Shad Court, Foster City, CA 94404

E-mail: office@sequoia-audubon.org

(650) 349-1555 (Iona Luke)

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Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Birdseed supplied by the Wild Bird Center of San Carlos

Thanks for supporting Sequoia Audubon!

(Field Trips, continued from page 5)

lookout for more rare birds such as Blue Grouse, Mountain Quail, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Williamson's Sapsucker. On Sunday, we will look for birds of the eastern Sierra, including White-faced Ibis, Black-billed Magpie, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Horned Lark, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, and Lewis's Woodpecker. This is a favorite spot for birders this time of year and many other birding groups visit this area.

Directions: Take I-80 to Truckee. Go north on Hwy 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy 49 west about 19 miles to Yuba Pass summit. On Saturday, we will meet at 8:30 AM at the Yuba Pass summit parking lot.

(American Kestrel, continued from page 2)

Most prey are captured on the ground, although some individuals become adept at capturing flying insects or small birds. They make direct flight to prey, which is seized with one or both feet. Small prey are consumed on the ground, and larger prey are typically carried back to the hunting perch. Kestrels will cache uneaten remains of prey and surplus kills, to be used during periods of unfavorable weather or to meet the needs of a growing brood. Time spent on the ground is typically only a few seconds, but occasionally they will spend several minutes on the ground when faced with difficult prey, for instance those that hide under matted vegetation.

Despite their size, kestrels successfully defend their territories against larger raptors, such as Red-tailed Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. Also, they are often successful in evicting or out-competing nest competitors such as woodpeckers and squirrels.

Sounds

American Kestrels have a fairly limited repertoire consisting of variations on 3 main vocalizations: klee (a rapid series of 3 to 6 notes which carry far), whine (may last as long as 1-2 min, and is used by both sexes during courtship), chitter (most frequently used call by both sexes in their interactions). Kestrel chicks are able to give weak but consistent peep calls at 1 day old, to beg for food. This food-begging call increases in intensity as they grow. Nestlings can whine, chitter, and klee at about 2 weeks of age.

Breeding

Males locate and inspect potential nest cavities within their established territories, then escort the female to the nest sites. The female makes a selection from those shown to her by the male. Kestrels prefer tree cavities surrounded by large open patches with short ground vegetation and with adequate hunting perches nearby.

No nesting material is brought to the nest cavity. The female simply hollows out a shallow depression in any loose material on the cavity floor. One egg is laid every other day until a clutch of 4 to 5 is achieved. Both sexes incubate the eggs for approximately 30 days. A clutch of 5 eggs takes 2 to 3 days to hatch, with each egg taking 48 to 52 hours from pip. The female helps the young out of the shell, which is either trampled into the nest or eaten by the female. Brooding by the

Make your hotel reservations early. There are campgrounds in the area and a number of hotels. Please call Joe Macho to let him know if you will attend.

Leaders: Joe Macho and Martha O'Neal Macho (650) 692-8138

Beginner/Family weekend trip.

Pescadero Marsh Work Day

Sunday, June 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

For details, see notice on p. 8.

Environmental Restoration Activity

female begins immediately at hatching and lasts 8 -10 days.

Young depart the nest at 28 to 31 days old, but are dependent on their parents for food for about 12 to 14 days after fledging. Flight agility increases noticeably during the first week after nest departure. Perch-hunting success occurs 3 to 5 weeks after nest departure.

Reference: The Birds of North America, No 602, 2002 by John A. Smallwood and David M. Bird

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON,

by Richard Rhodes,

Published by Arnold Knopf, 2004.

Book review by Howard Rathlesberger

A book about Audubon? Everyone knows about Audubon, that bird artist! His legacy inspired the National Audubon Society, but do you really know him?

The book follows Audubon's life from a sugar plantation in colonial Haiti to revolutionary France to the "making of an American" (as Rhodes has subtitled the biography).

Rhodes puts the story together from Audubon's personal journals, letters, and available records documenting the man's life and accomplishments in post-revolutionary America. Audubon knew Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark, Sam Houston, and Andrew Jackson. He was a real outdoorsman, at home in the woods, and a traveler to the Ohio River Valley when bison roamed its banks. At age 50, in 1848, he followed the trail of Lewis and Clark to Yellowstone Park. Ten years earlier he explored Labrador and Nova Scotia.

I don't want to rob you of the pleasure of discovering the joys and frustrations of this great man. Read the book and absorb the excitement of the American Frontier. After you've read the book, I'm sure you'll really appreciate and enjoy his drawings and paintings even more.

See Special Program featuring author Richard Rhodes on page 1.

Sequoia Audubon Membership Form

*Yes, please continue to send me
my copy of Needles!*

- ☐ Individual \$15
- ☐ Family \$20
- ☐ Student/Senior \$10
- ☐ Add'l donation \$_____

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address) and return this half of
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Thank you!

Sequoia Audubon Society

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(Richard Rhodes at Filoli, continued from page 1)

We will start with a short docent-led bird walk around Filoli, then attend the lecture and book signing by the author. Copies of the new paperback will be available for purchase.

This program will be free to Filoli and Sequoia Audubon members. The cost is \$10.00 for non-members. After the walk and lecture you are welcome to visit the formal gardens and house for a \$12.00 fee paid to Filoli. For information contact Carol Masterson (650) 347-1769, or carolmasterson@sbcglobal.net, or Filoli (650) 364-8300

Red-necked
Phalarope



THE BIRD BOX
RARE BIRD ALERT
415-681-7422

Mission Statement

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.

PESCADERO MARSH TRAIL CLEARING — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help keep the Sequoia Trail at Pescadero Marsh clear. Volunteer to come, once a month, to work for two hours and enjoy some birding. Bring water and whatever garden tools you like to work with. Meet at the parking lot, south of the bridge on Highway # 1 at 10:00 o'clock, or join us on the trail should you arrive after 10:00. Ranger Dave Augustine is our host for these workdays and he will bring the power tools. Most of the time, we will meet the Sunday after our monthly meetings.

April: 23rd (Due to Easter)
May: 21st (Due to Mother's Day on the 14th)
June: 11th
July: 16th
August: 13th
September 17th
October 15th
November 12th
December 17th (Weather permitting)

Call Norma 560-9740 for any further questions and
THANK YOU!!!