



The Sequoia

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Volume 28, No. 7

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
March, 1979

MEETINGS:

BOARD MEETING, MARCH 6, TUESDAY, 7:30 PM in the conference room of Northern California Savings and Loan office, 1430 Chapin Avenue in Burlingame. Board members and committee chairmen should attend. Other members are welcome.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MARCH 8, THURSDAY at the San Mateo Garden Center, located on Parkside Way--between 26th and 27th avenues--just west of Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Coffee and cookies at 7:30 PM. Meeting commences at 8:00 PM.

Our own Wilma Rockman, Sequoia director and education chairman, will present our March program. The program will feature a dual screen slide presentation and will be divided into two parts. Part one will portray the events of a month long journey to England, Wales and Scotland during which she, Jean-Marie Spoelman (Ohlone Audubon) and Jean Allen traveled by van through the byways of this fascinating area. They visited the preserves of the Royal Society for Protection of Birds and the National Wildlife Trust. Part two, Wildfowl of the World, will feature more of Wilma's beautiful wildlife photography. Truly a program for enjoyment plus education.

Frank Allen and Charles Newman will present another chapter in their "See and Hear" Bird of the Month series.

FIELD TRIPS:

MARCH 10, SATURDAY - BODEGA BAY

Take 101 north, exit at Petaluma at the Bodega Bay sign. Turn left and proceed through Petaluma to the Coast. Meet at the Tides Restaurant in the town of Bodega Bay at 9:00. Driving time from San Mateo is about 2¼ hours. Bodega Bay in Sonoma County is one of the best of Northern California's coastal birding spots. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

LEADERS: Frank & Jean Allen 344-9339

MARCH 13, TUESDAY BIRDERS TO PESCADERO MARSH

Meet at 8:30 AM at the intersection of Highway 1 and Pescadero Road at the parking lot on the ocean side of the highway. We will bird along the ocean for a while and then move inland to observe Springtime changes in the marsh. Lunch optional.

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MARCH 24, 25 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY - MONTEREY AREA AND PELAGIC TRIP

Meet at the intersection of Jetty Road and Highway 1 in Moss Landing, at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 24. All are welcome to attend the birding on Saturday whether or not they are staying for the Sunday boat trip. The entire two-day session will be led by Rich Stallcup. For those wishing to spend the entire weekend but not the boat trip, Jerry Perkins will lead a group to some interesting birding areas around Monterey and Carmel. Extra spaces are still available for the boat. Each person is responsible for making his or her own lodging reservations. It will be necessary to pack a lunch for both days. We have found these reasonably priced motels in Pacific Grove: (prices quoted are for one double bed)

Sea Breeze Motel	\$18.00-\$20.00	(408)	372-7775
Butterfly Trees Lodge	24.00	"	372-0503
Pacific Grove Motel	25.00- 26.00	"	372-3218
Lighthouse Lodge	28.00	"	375-6288
Milar Motel	25.00	"	373-4921

It is advisable to make your reservations immediately as this area is very popular. The boat will be departing from Chris's Fishing Trips located on the Monterey Wharf next to Lou's Fish Grotto, on Sunday, March 25, at 8:30 AM sharp. If you have any question call: JERRY or GEORGIA PERKINS, 583-7815.

MARCH 27, TUESDAY BIRDERS ALONG SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Meet at Frank & Jean Allen's residence, 1417 Sanchez, at 9:00 AM. We will spend the morning observing migratory birds along the bay shores of Burlingame and San Mateo. Many birds should be in Spring plumages by then.

APRIL 28, 29 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY - MYSTERY TRIP

Each spring, on a Saturday morning, some 40 or so Sequoia members and friends board a chartered bus and depart for an unknown destination and two days of birding, general sightseeing and great fun. Only the leaders (and the driver, we hope) know where the bus will stop. Arrangements include Saturday night dinner--a trip highlight--and Saturday night motel accommodations. This year's Mystery Trip is being arranged by experts so it will maintain the tradition of excellence that has made this annual outing one of the most popular of the field trip schedule. Final details will be included in the April SEQUOIA. In the meantime, reservations may be made by sending your check for \$35.00 single or \$65.00 double to John Prime at P.O. Box 5492, San Mateo, CA 94402. These prices are approximate only at this time and may be adjusted in a very minor way by additional assessment or refund. They include bus fare, Saturday night dinner and motel. The first 40 reservations will be firm. Any more than that will be held for standby in event of cancellations.

LEADERS: John Prime 573-5889
John Silliman 585-2245

MAY 19, 20 SATURDAY & SUNDAY - YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Yosemite trip has been changed from April 21-22 to May 19-20. Reservations for lodging in Yosemite Valley should be made as soon as possible. The only lodging available in Yosemite Valley is the tent cabins in Curry Village at \$8.50 per night for one or two persons and \$3 for each additional person. Call (209) 373-4171 or write, Reservations Department, Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, Califor-

nis 95389. Other facilities may open up due to cancellations, but to obtain them it requires persistent calling, probably in May. We will try to stay in tent cabins that are located near each other. If you try to get a tent cabin, mention you are in the Sequoia Audubon group so that you may be near the rest of the group. For those interested in camping in Yosemite Valley, call (209) 372-4461. Outside the park in El Portal (approximately 14 miles from Curry Village) there are three motels listed in AAA. They are: Manzanita Lodge (209) 379-2222, Rapids Motel (209) 379-2411, Yosemite View Lodge (209) 379-2681. It would be preferable to start early Saturday morning, so Friday night should probably be spent in Yosemite Valley or nearby. If there is interest, Friday could also be spent birding and naturalizing. If there are any questions or any specific interests please call Craig Benkman 593-0224.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

1978 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Sequoia Audubon sponsors two bird counts each year. This 79th Christmas Bird Count period was no exception: Ano Nuevo on December 16 and Crystal Springs on December 30. Both days were beautiful though frosty in the mornings. Heavy coats and gloves covered 17 counters in eight areas who turned in 5327 individual birds to Mark Zumsteg, the compiler for Ano Nuevo. Mark reported 171 species to American Birds. Crystal Springs count day saw 84 bundled-up observers in the field covering 28 areas. 105,991 individual birds were turned in to Peter Metropulos, the compiler, at a very fine potluck dinner. Peter reported 177 species to American Birds. The numbers and species don't quite match the 1977 records; some of the birds just didn't show up. That is really why we count each year. Our bird population fluctuates from year to year, and over a long period the statistics show the trends. Some birds are on the increase while some are crowded out. New territorial limits are then established.

The preparation of counts as extensive as Sequoia's requires the help of a great many people. I would especially like to thank our compilers, Mark Zumsteg and Peter Metropulos, who made the counts possible, all of the Section Leaders who coordinated their team members so well, the San Francisco Water Department staff for access to exclusive habitats and for their Rangers' help in the field, Mr. Hadley Osborn of Filoli Center for his cooperation and use of his personal time, Burlingame Library staff for their cooperation in the use of a room for our potluck dinner, Roy Nelson for map preparation, Virginia Fleming, Marian Lockwood and Janet Morrison for staying by the telephones, all of you who braved the cold those mornings to count in the field, and especially to my wife, Jean, who was an immense help in knowing people and what had gone on before.

Birds that were exclusively seen at Ano Nuevo were: Am. bittern, cinnamon teal, com. gallinule, pomarine jaeger, Cassin's auklet, ancient murrelet, white-throated swift, pileated woodpecker, or.-cr. warbler, yellow-rumped warblers (Myrtle & Audubon's) palm warbler, tri-c. blackbird, brown-h. cowbird, pine grosbeak, lark sparrow and white-thr. sparrow.

Crystal Springs' exclusive birds were: great egret, Canada goose, wood duck, Barrow's goldeneye, old squaw, com. merganser, rough-leg. hawk, prairie falcon, clapper rail, semi-palmated plover, long-billed curlew, spotted sandpiper, red knot, Am. avocet, black-necked stilt, glaucous gull, short-eared owl, Nuttall's woodpecker, Lewis woodpecker, tree swallow, white-breasted nuthatch, black and white warbler, Nashville warbler, pine siskin and red crossbill.

The remaining species are common for both count areas and will be published in their entirety in the July 1979 issue of American Birds, along with all counts in the nation. This exclusively birders' publication can be subscribed to for \$10.00 a year. Mail your check to American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Frank Allen
Christmas Count Coordinator

February 3 and 4 - Los Banos Field Trip

The Los Banos field trip is one of the highlights of the year for Sequoia birders and this year was no exception. In anticipation of seeing the white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes, snow geese and many other wintering birds that inhabit the area, 32 birders met at the Los Banos Wildlife Area. We were not disappointed--the weather cooperated and so did the birds. An unbelievable total of 106 species were observed. We were treated to the incredible sights of literally thousands of snow geese on the ground and filling the air with their constant "talking." Their flights against a clear blue sky is unforgettable. The white faced ibis were in residence in numbers and were readily available for good viewing during feeding, preening and flight. The Sandhill Cranes were seen feeding, flying and dancing--an unexpected bonus for all! One of the unusual sightings was two blue geese. These geese are now considered a color phase of the snow goose, but nevertheless, they only occur in this area in about one per thousand--a "lifer" for all.

The following are some of the species observed that highlighted our trip: Cattle Egret, Am. Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Wh.-fronted Goose, Lesser Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Ross' Goose, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Redhead (among the many ducks) White-tailed Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Mountain Plover, Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Violet-green, Tree and Cliff Swallows, Yellow-billed Magpie, Cm. Raven, Cm. Crow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers, Yellowthroat, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged, Tricolored and Brewer's Blackbird, Am. and Lesser Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow.

The group enjoyed our Saturday night tradition of a hearty and delicious Basque dinner at the Wool Growers Hotel. Thanks to all who joined us and for contributing to such a memorable birding weekend.

Hal and Barbara Lucas, Leaders

CONSERVATION NEWS:

The most important event so far this year in the field of conservation for California Auduboners was the meeting held in Sacramento, January 26 to 28 by the National Audubon Western Regional Office, bringing together for the first time the various California Regional Councils. This gave an opportunity for chapters to discuss statewide conservation problems with each other and with state and federal agency representatives. It even more importantly provided the impetus for future concerted action by all the chapters on high priority conservation issues. Action on all possible fronts will be the watchword, made more effective by chapters working together and with other environmental groups, as was done in the Alaska Coalition.

The group gave the highest priorities to the general issues of water policy, land management with emphasis on habitat preservation, particularly riparian, preservation of endangered species, and energy conservation. Two specific issues were judged of immediate and urgent concern--the California Condor and Mono Lake.

In the condor captive breeding program which has been decided on, members can do little beyond support the Fish and Wildlife Service which will conduct it. Members' important contribution will be to see that sufficient condor habitat is saved. This will need appropriation for acquisition of an area north of the present Sespe refuge. This was once the main part of the condor range and is much less endangered by human encroachment than the Sespe area.

The preservation of Mono Lake is of even greater concern and of importance to the general issue of water conservation. National Audubon director George Peyton will be asking that it be made a national issue for NAS. This might mean legal action on the part of NAS if all other means failed. Hopefully, a solution will be found through efforts already started: first, the bill, AB 367, introduced by Assemblyman Norman Waters which by 1981 would temporarily stop water diversion from the creeks feeding Mono Lake, In the meantime, a task force under the auspices of the State Resources Agency including representatives from state and federal resource agencies and the City of Los Angeles, will be trying for a long term solution as noted in the December-January issue of Audubon Conservation Topics West. Public involvement in this process is promised. Right now SAS members can write their Assemblymen, (Robert Naylor, Louis J. Papan and Leo T. McCarthy, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814) in support of the bill, and as suggested in ACT, write the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 2764, Oakland 94602, to get the Committee's newsletter.

Of less immediate urgency but still of great importance in the state's water policy, is the new bill, SB 346, to establish the Peripheral Canal. This would be a 43-mile-long canal bypassing the Delta and ending at Tracy to send water from the Sacramento River south at a cost of \$7 billion in revenue bonds. Its size would be big enough to divert all the river water in average years, and in dry years it would still divert water south no matter how little was left. According to Senator Peter Behr, no extra water will be needed at all in the southern Valley before 2000, and the crops projected to get the water are not worth its excessive cost and could be raised much more economically in other areas with a better natural water supply.

A more local water policy issue is the Corps of Engineers' new project to study tidal and fluvial flooding problems and their solutions in the Bay shoreline areas of most of the San Francisco Bay counties, including San Mateo County. Initial public input has been solicited at three January meetings, but the first reconnaissance report is not expected till July 1980. At the January 23rd meeting in Palo Alto the request was made by San Mateo Mayor Jane Baker that a connection be dredged between San Mateo Lagoon and Belmont Slough to allow tidal action to keep the lagoon clear. The effect on Belmont Slough was not mentioned.

Alaska lands preservation remains a top NAS priority in 1979. Support of all members will be needed for the new HR 39 and particularly for Senator Jackson's bill, S 9. These are similar to the bills introduced in the last congress.

Ruth Smith, Conservation Chairman

BIRDING THROUGH MY KITCHEN WINDOW:

There has been little time today to watch my feathered friends. Frequently, it is that way before the year-end holidays. However, as I passed through the kitchen just after I fed them this afternoon, I noticed

a flurry of activity. But, shortly afterwards when I return to the kitchen to begin dinner preparations, there is nary a bird to be seen! This signals hawk activity--but where is the hawk?

Using my binoculars, I search--and search some more! No hawk! Finally I do find a bird but it is a male House Finch! He has sort of melted into the tree and nothing but a careful branch by branch search of the tree would have let me see him. He stands in an awkward position with one foot on an erect branch and the other on one which takes off from it at about 45 degrees.

Continuing my hunt for the hawk, I check often on the little statue whose life is in jeopardy. I think he hasn't moved an eyelid! It seems a long time to me that I have been looking for the whereabouts of this hawk. If it seems long to me, I wonder how long it seems to that petrified House Finch!

Thinking a different vantage point might make a difference, I try an upstairs window and then the dining room door for sight of some movement! He is in a Monterey pine back of our fence. Had he just moved to that position? Or, had he, like the House Finch, looked like part of the tree until he began moving his head around? The end of his tail looks pretty square so that tells me he is a Sharp-shinned rather than a Cooper's Hawk.

Back to the House Finch. He is still in the same position as he was a half hour ago! The only perceptible movement within the yard is that of the Hummers, carrying on as usual, sipping and sparring!

At last the Sharpie takes wing and I am relieved for my small friends. Certainly that House Finch has earned the right to live! My feelings are mixed. The hawk needs to eat, too! My moment of relief was just that--a moment! Now he is in the yard on the reed fence looking below into the Indian hawthorn which he knows is full of the makings of a good feast! He stays here only briefly before flying down into a neighbor's yard where I lose track of him. Meantime, the House Finch has disappeared, no doubt choosing his direction after the hawk had chosen his. He had really kept his cool!

Shortly, a Mourning Dove comes to the birch top. After a while, he comes down to the gravel and begins to eat. Now that a Mourning Dove is covering for them, a small flock of House Sparrows comes out of the camelias. They congregate on top of the branches to look around, then explode from the yard. When they have left, another small flock surfaces and quickly departs.

Other work takes me from the window for a while and when I return, fourteen Quail are feverishly eating to try to beat the darkness! Close to them, in fact underfoot, are Golden and White-crowned Sparrows, the Brown Towhee pair and two Fox Sparrows.

It is interesting to see the interaction which goes on between the birds in times of peril. The smaller birds use the larger ones for security. The House Sparrows had been quick to use the Mourning Dove to cover their escape and now the Quail are being used by the smaller birds. The House Finch had waited for the accipiter to make his move before making his own. It takes a pretty skillful bird to make a living as a hawk and a pretty skillful bird not to become part of a hawk's living!

ALASKA REPORT:

I was pleased and encouraged to have heard a talk by a young man named Stephen Young at the statewide National Audubon conference in Sacramento in January. Stephen is a lobbyist working in our National Audubon office in Washington D.C. and is responsible for much of the headway the Alaska Bill has gained in the past two months. So dedicated

and inspiring is this young man that he has even persuaded the United Mine Workers to co-sponsor the bill! Legislation is needed this year to permanently protect the areas that President Carter set aside as National Monuments. Legislation was presented on the first day of the 96th Congress by Congressmen Udall and Seiberling. The session started on a high note with 133 co-sponsors signing on to the new H.R. 39, more sponsors than the bill got during the two years of the 95th Congress. Under H.R.39, 42.21 million acres of wilderness will be designated in the Parks and Preserves.

On January 24 the "Conservationists" Alaska Lands Bill was introduced in the Senate. This bill is known as the Durkin-Nelson-Roth Bill, S.222. This bill has a total of 20 co-sponsors, five of which are new this year. The Senate bill varies from H.R.39 in two areas: (1) The Yukon Charlie National Monument is proposed as the Yukon Charlie National Preserve,(2) One million acres of the northern end of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Monument would become part of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, the remaining of this monument would become a National Park.

We must write our Congressmen and urge them to support and co-sponsor H.R.39 and our Senators to co-sponsor S.222. If they have already co-sponsored, urge them to support a strong bill this year. Neither Senator Cranston nor Hayakawa have co-sponsored the bill, S.222.

Write: Sen. Alan Cranston and S. I. Hayakawa
U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510

or call the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to talk with them direct.

Write your Representatives at
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515 of call (202) 224-3121

A few sentences in your own words on the value of Alaska as wilderness will help a great deal!

Georgia Perkins, Alaska Coordinator

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH is a 1000-acre wildlife sanctuary and education center located on Bolinas Lagoon three miles north of Stinson Beach on State Highway 1. It is open to the public on weekends and holidays from March 3 through July 4. Special visits may be arranged by phoning the Ranch, 383-1644. The Ranch is sponsored by Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies. In 1969 the Ranch was designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Registered Natural Landmark.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH -- from Betty Boyd

On Saturday, March 3, the Ranch will be open to the public from 10 AM to 4 PM and will remain open on weekends, holidays and during Easter week through July 4 without charge. Groups may make arrangements for guided tours during the week by calling the Ranch secretary, Edris Cole, at 383-1644. The Ranch is closed on Mondays. Parking facilities and picnic tables are available and those wishing public transportation can call the Golden Gate Transit Co. at 453-2300 for their schedule.

Volunteers from the Ranch's four sponsoring Audubon chapters will be your hosts and hostesses. Sequoia will have charge in March, Madrone in April, Golden Gate in May and Marin in June. If you would like to participate, please contact your local chapter for information. (Hal Lucas 344-3796)

Notes: A few Great Blue Herons arrived on January 25 and appeared to be looking over the territory.

The Display Hall--The Research Associates have been busy rearranging the Indian Exhibit and are delighted to have

received from Mrs. Blount Mull two small baskets, one canoe shaped, the other round with a quail on top.

Zumie (Clerin Zumwalt) has been busy at the south end of the hall creating two new exhibits, one depicting the salt marsh, the other animal life.

The Ranch has added a new name to its list of sponsors and wishes to express its appreciation to Mrs. Rosalind Watkins for her interest and support.

It is also grateful to have received as a gift from Mr and Mrs Theodore Theiss in memory of Robertson Ward, M.D., father of Mrs. Theiss, the stained glass egret by Rachel Josepher which has been hanging in the Display Hall.

The beautiful calligraphy on the Sponsor's book in the Display Hall is the work of Molly Bricca. The Ranch wishes to express its appreciation to her and to thank her.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING:

Following a short business meeting, Charles Newman presented pictures and the voice of the Black-throated Magpie. This crested bird with a 15-inch tail was photographed and recorded on Charles' annual (1979) group pilgrimage to Mexico.

Bob Paterson, Daly City wildlife lecturer and photographer, narrated his slides and sound movies which were completed on a recent trip to the Zambezi River and to the sublime Victoria Falls. We were shown some of the representative bird and animal life of those southern Africa areas. Also shown were photographs taken in the game parks of Kenya, East Africa. For several years, Mr. Paterson has been presenting educational programs in the Bay Area on the behavior of specific animals and their purpose on this planet. (C.G.)

QUOTE:

Reported in ECONEWS, newsletter of Northcoast Environmental Center, in an article expressing disappointment about the Forest Service's RARE II recommendations, Al Wilkins, a local attorney, summed up the Forest Service position as seeming to be, "What's posterity ever done for us?"

FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The board of directors of Sequoia Audubon held their regular monthly meeting on February 1.

Maryann Danielson reported on her conversations in Sacramento with representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation in connection with Pescadero Marsh. She also reported on her work at the marsh, the need for volunteers in proposed investigations, bird census, and the need for a salinity testing kit. This kit would be used to monitor the salinity in various areas of the marsh. The board agreed to purchase a kit for her use.

A proposal was made that Sequoia sponsor a workshop for field trip leaders--to be conducted by Maryann Danielson--to acquaint leaders with ecological considerations. Detailed plans will be presented at a subsequent board meeting.

Contributions were approved for Wildlife Rescue and Warm Springs Legal Defense Fund.

The board approved a subsidy for a Sequoia-sponsored nature study course. (See page 10 of February SEQUOIA - ECOLOGY EXPLORATIONS).

NEW BOOKS:

THE COMPLETE OUTFITTING AND SOURCE BOOK FOR BIRD WATCHING by

Michael Scofield, Great Outdoors Trading Co., Marshall, California - Publisher, Distributed by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

187 pages 8½" x 11" Hardcover \$12.95, Soft Cover \$6.95

Michael Scofield, now a resident of Corte Madera and a free-lance writer, was once an employee of Sunset Magazine and lived in Menlo Park. In his research for this book he consulted our Frank Allen, Ted Chandik, and has included a spectacular photo by Ken Gardiner of Menlo Park.

There are bird lists, birding site recommendations, lists of books and periodicals, discussion about binoculars, cameras, tape recorders, lists of birding clubs, lists of birding tours, a history of birding, glossary and other features of interest and help to both the beginner and the advanced birder.

BIRDING OREGON by Fred L. Ramsey, Audubon Society of Corvallis, P.O. Box 148, Corvallis, OR 97330. 175 pages 5½" x 8½" \$4.95 plus .75 shipping and handling.

Audubon Society of Corvallis is pleased to announce the September publication of a comprehensive guide to Oregon birding. BIRDING OREGON has 175 pages packed with interesting and useful information. Identification aids have been included for winter loons and gulls, scaups and empidonax flycatchers. The abundance keys in the 16 page checklist indicate probable species to be seen in each area. Each of the maps is keyed to the site guide to indicate routes and points of interest. Printed on durable paper (5½" x 8½") the book has a plastic spiral-comb binding which opens flat for easy use and durability.

The author, Fred L. Ramsey, an Oregon birder for 30 years, is a founding member of the Audubon Society of Corvallis, past editor of "The Chat," and is the compiler of the Corvallis Christmas Bird Count.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - WESTERN EDUCATION CENTER, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920, Phone: 388-2524. Open 9 AM to 5 PM Wednesday through Sunday, closed Monday, Tuesday, Holidays.

MARCH 1979 PROGRAMS

March 4 - THE BALD EAGLE: a color film on both the northern and southern populations of the Bald Eagle, our national bird. A spectacular sequence on banding young eaglets in Florida.

March 11 - PRIVATE LIFE OF THE KINGFISHER: the kingfisher's private life involves a number of rarely witnessed and complex and fascinating routines. This color film follows the bird through its daily life, and special photography techniques allow for a look into the bird's incubation chamber in the side of a stream bank.

March 12 - PRIVATE LIFE OF THE STARLING: portrays the life cycle of the starling by following a pair of birds throughout the year. Shows how the birds use ants to rid their plumage of feather lice, and describes their migratory practices and spectacular social behavior preceding roosting.

March 25 - THE LIFE OF THE HUMMINGBIRD; unusual high speed photography reveals the unique ability of this fascinating bird that can fly backward as well as forward.

NATURE WALKS; Every Sunday at 9 AM (1-2 hour walks for beginners)

LYFORD HOUSE; Guided tours, Sundays, 1-4 PM.

FILMS AND LECTURES; Sunday Afternoons at 3 PM

Admission is \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for children. AUDUBON members admitted without charge. Bring your membership card.

WILDLIFE RESCUE:

Wildlife Rescue's first fund raising event for the year is a bus trip to the fascinating Audubon Canyon Ranch at Bolinas Lagoon on Friday, April 20. At that time the Blue Heron and Egrets' nests and young will be "the sight and topic" of the day. An additional delight will be birding species indigenous to the area and observing wildflowers.

A naturalist will give an informative talk on the bus and docents will guide us at the ranch. There is a museum and a gift shop.

Tickets are \$10.00 (tax deductible). Reserve by phoning 948-9453, Tuesday thru Friday, 10--4 PM, and send check payable to Wildlife Rescue to Ginny Collins, Worlds of Wildlife, Village Corner, Los Altos, 94022, by April 1st. Bus will leave at 9:30 AM and return at 4 PM. Please brown bag lunch.

ANIMAL CARE CLASSES SCHEDULED:

Are you a relatively inactive volunteer who may have forgotten what you learned at our animal care classes? The classes can be used as a refresher as well as by new members. And remember, you must attend a class before animals can be released to you for care.

We have varied the schedule again this year, to accommodate people who would rather attend one longer class on Saturday than two shorter classes on weekday evenings. Here's the schedule:

April 17 and 24 (Tuesdays)
 April 28 (Saturday)
 May 9 and 16 (Wednesdays)
 June 9 (Saturday)

Locations and specific times will be announced in the near future. If you wish this information for your own use or because you have some prospective volunteers, mail your name, or the names and addresses of your prospects, to Ceil Breuch, 590 Spargur Drive, Los Altos, CA 94022.

SOME QUICK TOTALS FOR WILDLIFE CARE IN 1978:

Birds of prey	60	Mammals	328
Water and shore birds	212	Unusual creatures	24
All other birds	1976	GRAND TOTAL	2600

As usual, the runaway first place winner in the mammal department was the squirrel (260). Closest other categories were opossums (21) and ferrets (12). Keep in mind, ferrets are not native and these were confiscated at the airport.

Finches and sparrows ran neck-and-neck for top honors (259 and 260 respectively, including 25 goldfinches). Other large bird categories: blackbirds, doves, jays, mockingbirds, pigeons, robins and towhees (all over 100). The waterbirds included 67 ducks and the same number of gulls.

"Unusual creatures" included 5 turtles, 5 voles, 4 lizards, 4 snakes, 2 bats, and one each of the following: alligator (!) salamander, toad and turkey vulture.

Monthly totals were at a pronounced peak from April through August with the highest two months being May (509 birds, 52 mammals) and June (533 birds, 33 mammals).

"DJ" Johnson (a volunteer) reports that some of the more interesting water bird releases included a Canada goose (cackling race) a golden-eye, A Virginia rail, a willett and a northern fulmar. In addition we also received our first baby coot, all of two days old, who was later released into the coot herd at Foothill Park lake. A gadwall, a bufflehead, a great blue heron and two Bonaparte gulls were not so fortunate. She reports the most interesting bird so far in 1979 is a black-necked stilt arriving with leg problems.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY:

June 1-3, Friday-Saturday. Bird songs at Yosemite. Bob Stewart and Marie Mans. Meet at 5 PM at Hogdon Meadow Campground in Yosemite Park on Friday, June 1. Turn left at the first road after Highway 120 Park Entrance Station.

"Marie and I believe that birding is much more than naming birds-- it is a way of Being--in the natural world, fully alert to the sounds, sights, movements and behavior of the animals around us.

Awareness of bird sounds is an invaluable aid to bird watching. Each sound that is emitted from the many species that breed in the Sierra is species specific. Once you are aware of their sounds you can locate them better by hearing them first. All good birdwatchers use sounds as a key aid in looking for rare birds as well as the common ones.

This weekend we will focus on the sounds and review species that are hard to tell apart and we will also get good looks at many species that breed between 3,500 and 7,000 feet in Yosemite National Park.

Many of these species also breed on the Coast, so the Yosemite area is a really rich place to concentrate on sounds which you will hear back home as well.

So if you're just beginning to listen or if you are an old pro, come on up to Yosemite this weekend and enjoy--and help PRBO raise some much needed educational equipment.

You don't have to pay us anything to take part. Just come on up and join us. If you can afford to donate any amount to PRBO for a slide projector, please do--or give it to us up in the Sierra. Thanks.

We just want to turn you on to bird song,

Bob Stewart"

PENINSULA HUMANE SOCIETY:

Again this year the Peninsula Humane Society's Wildlife Team will offer a course in the care of orphaned baby songbirds. Hundreds of these youngsters are found and brought to our shelter in the spring and summer of each year. In order that each bird receives the best possible care, the Wildlife Team will offer a course in the care, feeding, and ultimate release of these birds (e.g. sparrows, robins California scrub jays, towhees, house finches, black birds, mockingbirds, etc.). The course will be comprised of a two hour class, the first to be presented March 7 and others to be scheduled as needed.

After completion of the course, you will be eligible to care for a nest of birds from the shelter in your home. Most babies are releasable after three to four weeks. They must be kept warm and fed on a regular basis during the daylight hours. This is an extremely educational as well as rewarding experience in which a whole family can learn about nature first hand.

If you are interested, please call Glenna Paul of the PHS Wildlife Team at 344-7643 for further information and/or registration.

TRINITY ALPS PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS:

Sequoia Audubon member, Mary Ellen Schultz, conducts photography workshops with David Cavagnaro and Ernest Braun at the Trinity Mountain Meadow Resort. Three sessions are scheduled this summer, July 7--14, August 4--11 and August 25--September 1. For details contact Mary Ellen Schultz at 593-8975.

SEQUOIA CALENDAR

- March 6 - Board Meeting
8 - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center
10 - Field Trip - Bodega Bay
13 - Tuesday Birders to Pescadero Marsh
24, 25 - Field Trip - Monterey Area and Pelagic Trip
27 - Tuesday Birders - San Francisco Bay
- April 3 - Board Meeting
12 - Monthly Meeting at Garden Center.

THE SEQUOIA March, 1979
Sequoia Audubon Society
P.O. BOX 1131
Burlingame, CA 94010

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