

sequoia needles

SAS GENERAL MEETING

FROM THE PRESIDENT

IT'S POTLUCK TIME AGAIN! This has always been our traditional way to end the official year. As in past years, this is also the time when we hold our annual ELECTIONS and select our officers for the coming year. AND this will also be the inauguration of what we anticipate will become a new tradition - The Sequoia Audubon Society AWARDS DINNER - wherein we will honor those individuals and groups that have been instrumental in furthering the Audubon Cause.

Please remember to bring your own utensils and plates and a paper bag in which to take them home. Those people whose last names begin with the letters A through E should bring a casserole or other hot dish, those whose names begin with the letters F through L, the salads and M through Z should provide the desserts.

As if the elections, the awards and the potluck dinner were not enough we will also have an outstanding program on the FILOLI CENTER AND FILOLI GARDENS presented by Hadley Osborne, Executive Director of the Center, and an SAS member. Hadley will review the history of the center, describe its facilities and outline its future. It promises to be a fascinating and rewarding evening and we look forward to seeing you there.

ELECTIONS

The nominees for the Officers and Board of Directors of Sequoia Audubon Society for the 1984-1985 year are:

RICK BAIRD	PRESIDENT
ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER	VICE-PRESIDENT
MARY BRESLER	SECRETARY
NICK COIRO	TREASURER

ELGIN JURI (3 Years)	BOARD
LINDA KIPTA (3 Years)	OF
CLIFF RICHER (2 Years)	DIRECTORS

(Filling the unexpired term of former Director and present staff administrative assistant Donna Kirsacko.)

Names may also be proposed from the floor - with the previous consent of the nominee.

SEQUOIA AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

We are extremely pleased in the quality and quantity of nominations our First Annual Sequoia Awards Program received. Our thanks go out to all those who participated in the nomination process. Through the many nominations received, Sequoia learned of many, many individuals and groups who are involved in very worthwhile projects which directly affect and improve the environmental quality of San Mateo County.

The purpose of this program is to recognize, commend, and thank those who have:

- A. Significantly contributed to the advancement of one or more goals of the Audubon Cause.
- B. Explained Audubon to the general public and promoted the goals of Audubon.
- C. Contributed outstanding service to the Sequoia Chapter and the National Audubon Society.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the award recipients for this year are:

CHAPTER AWARDS for

LEADERSHIP - WILMA ROCKMAN

ACTIVITIES - FRANK & JEAN ALLEN (how can you separate them), and
CLIFF RICHER

COMMUNITY AWARDS - Individuals

BETSY WARNER in the category of "Environmental Education" for her work with the Environmental Volunteers.

LENORE "Lennie" ROBERTS in the category of "Solutions to Urban Problems" for her untiring efforts as one of the major activists and spokesperson on environmental affairs in San Mateo County.

SUSAN SOMMERS in the category of "Open Space/Unique Ecosystem Preservation" for her efforts in the drive to preserve Edgewood Park.

JACQUELINE SCHOENWALD in the category of "Research" for her investigations into the effect of gillnetting on marine mammals.

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CALENDAR



JUNE 2 BEHIND THE SCENES AT STEINHART AQUARIUM - SEQUOIA
SATURDAY NATURAL HISTORY FIELD TRIP. See last month's
NEEDLES for details.

CLASS COORDINATOR: KATHY GRAVES 368-0087

JUNE 3 A TIDEPool WALK WITH THE JOHNSONS - FITZGERALD
SUNDAY MARINE RESERVE. The Reserve is among the best in
the world for richness and diversity of marine
life. the unusually low tide of -1.2 at 8:00 A.M.
will offer an opportunity to learn much about the
seashore ecology. Wear non-slip shoes and dress
for possible cool and foggy weather. Meet at 8:00
A.M. sharp at the Information Center at the end of
California Ave. & Lake St. in Moss Beach off of
Hwy. 1. Following the 1 1/2 to 2 hour walk we
will retire for a tailgate breakfast. Bring your
own makings. The leaders will provide a portable
stove.

LEADERS: BILL AND MYRTLE JOHNSON 728-7916

JUNE 7 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Sears Savings
THURSDAY Bank Building, 1820 S. Grant St., San Mateo. ALL
MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

JUNE 10 POINT REYES FIELD TRIP. A search through the
SUNDAY "warbler traps" of Point Reyes can yield almost
anything at this time of year. We'll be looking
for inland and eastern vagrants but can expect a
few late migrants in breeding plumage as well.
Walking will be minimal but sturdy shoes are
recommended. Clothing should be layered since the
weather on Pt. Reyes is extremely changeable and
it has the coolest average summer temperature in
the continental US. We will meet at the new Point
Reyes National Seashore Headquarters building at
9:00 AM. To get there take Hwy 101 or I-280 north
to Hwy 1. Take Hwy. 1 across the Golden Gate to
where it once again joins 101. Follow 101 north
to the San Anselmo-San Quentin exit and take a
left at the bottom of the ramp. You will now be
on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Follow this all
the way to Olema. At Olema, take a right at the
stop sign and within a hundred yards take a left.
In about half a mile, you will come to the
Headquarters complex. The trip will take place
rain or shine. Bring lunch. The trip normally
lasts until 2 PM. Anyone interested in car-
pooling should call the Audubon office (593-7368)
or the leader.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

JUNE 14 SAS GENERAL MEETING. ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER AND
THURSDAY FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER. One of our most
popular meetings will be given even more
significance than usual by the inauguration of the
Sequoia Audubon Awards. See related articles
elsewhere in this month's NEEDLES.

JUNE 16 YUBA PASS - "THE CALL OF THE HIGH SIERRA" - This
SATURDAY trip affords a chance to see birds rarely seen on
SUNDAY any of our other field trips. The trip features
easy trail walking through lovely mountain and
Sierra Valley habitats. On Saturday we will meet
at 9 AM at Wild Plum Campground just out of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

THE ENDANGERED WOOD STORK

Although there are more than 10,000 resident wood storks in the United States they have undergone a steady decline largely as a result of habitat destruction and manipulation of Florida's water resources. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service estimates there were four times that number in the 1930s and has therefore added the only North American stork to the endangered species list.

The largest stork rookery in the US is Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary where nesting success has been wildly variable but steadily declining. Recently, however, there is reason for hope as both Florida and national legislators have begun to take a more enlightened - if belated - attitude towards Everglades water management.

This new attitude and the Fish and Wildlife Service's declaration should help preserve the storks' nesting sites in the southeastern United States.

Here, in California, the wood stork does not breed, but is a regular summer visitor to the Salton Sea. This is generally assumed to be the result of post-breeding dispersal to expand the food supply available to the expanded stork population. Rarely, a confused (or wind-blown) fledgling will overfly the Salton Sea and spend a few days in northern California before finding his way back.

Like the California condor, the wood stork is a remarkably ugly bird on the ground but a glorious creature in the air. Let us hope that this step taken by the Fish and Wildlife Service will help prevent its following the fate of the condor.



UNLIKELY ALLIES

The Tlingit Indians have joined in the protest against plans by Sea World to capture and examine 100 killer whales over the next 5 years. Ten of the orcas would be held for display and the remainder tested and released.

Bill Sheffield, governor of Alaska, and the state legislature are also protesting the plan. In the past, the governor, the Tlingits and the Alaskan lawmakers have all been criticized by the Sierra Club which is leading the battle against Sea World's capture plan.



CALENDAR



NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Posters are appearing on Bay Area bulletin boards announcing "Audubon Canyon Ranch depends on volunteers - join us one day this spring and begin enriching your lives through a variety of courses in nature history and to help encourage young people to learn the environment...(Call 415 383-1644 and sign up now)".

Thus the Volunteer Council of Audubon Canyon Ranch announces the start of another biennial training program as it has for the past 15 years. This program arranges school visits to the Ranch, provides educational enrichment for the docents and offers opportunities to work with special groups of seniors, handicapped and shut-ins.

The Board of ACR has thanked all of these past and present workers with a reunion and lunch on May 21 at Picher Canyon.

In the meantime, the great blue herons at the rookery are raising their young and many pairs of egrets are arriving and settling into nests.

Ray Peterson's final classes at Volunteer Canyon are:

JUNE 16 Photography & Build It Yourself
JUNE 17 Workshop with Joe Hall and Ray Peterson

JULY 14 Butterfly Count with R. Peterson

Golden Gate Audubon Society is providing hosting during June and July.

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(Special thanks to Pete and Donna Petersen who supervised SAS' hosting stint in April. --- Editor)

SUMMER EXHIBITS AT COYOTE POINT MUSEUM

Coyote Point Museum is opening four new exhibits on June 6. The "Future Scientists' Fair" will feature high school and junior high school students projects in the North Gallery.

An exhibit of alternative energy sources will fill the Museum Concourse. You can vote for your favorite animal, vegetable and mineral - and, tying in to the Summer Olympics is a panel of photographs showing great animal athletic feats.

On June 6, the Museum, in connection with the Hillsborough Garden Club will hold a program entitled "Wet and Wild" focusing on local marshlands and their protection. Call the Museum at 342-7755 for details.

YUBA PASS AND SIERRA VALLEY (Cont'd from Page 2)

Sierra City and bird the mountain areas for dipper, black-backed woodpecker, evening grosbeak summer warblers, flycatchers, etc. On Sunday we'll meet at the Summit Campground at 8 AM. From there we will caravan to Sierra Valley to see the birds of the Eastern Slope and Modoc Plateau. Bring lunch and liquids for two days. Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman Campgrounds on Hwy 49. Motels are available in Sierra City and reservations are advisable since there may be several other birding groups in the area at the same time. Some of the motels are:

- HARRINGTON'S SIERRA PINES (916) 862-1151
- SIERRA CHALET (916) 862-1110
- BUTTES MOTEL (916) 862-1170
- SIERRA BUTTES INN (916) 862-1122

So that they can scout the area and set up their itinerary, the leaders must know approximately how many participants to expect so please call to advise them and to get further information and directions.

LEADERS: PETE AND DONNA PETERSEN 344-5582

JUNE 24
SUNDAY

PIGEON POINT AND ANO NUEVO STATE RESERVE. Access policy for the reserve is still being formulated, but we should be able to find black swifts and bank swallows and look for harlequin ducks which have been known to "summer over" in the past. We will begin our trip at the Pigeon Point lighthouse where we will scope for alcids and other waterfowl. Meet outside the gate to the lighthouse premises at 9 AM. To get there take Hwy 1 south and take a right at the first lighthouse (approximately 22 miles south of Half Moon Bay).

LEADER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

JULY 15
SUNDAY

LAKE MERCED - BEGINNER'S SPECIAL. Despite its urban setting, Lake Merced offers a wide variety of birdlife at any time of year. In July we see very few of the waterbirds but we have a good variety of waders and passerines. You can get "up close and personal" with house sparrows, Brewer's blackbirds and brown-headed cowbirds and see six species of swallows. Although beginners are welcomed on any of our trips, this one will be structured more on educational lines and will include comments on binoculars, telescopes, field guides, birding ethics and field trip etiquette. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the large parking lot at the north of the lake opposite Sunset Avenue. Lake Merced can be reached by taking Skyline Boulevard north or by taking I-280 north to the 19th Ave. (Rte.1) exit and taking a left from 19th Ave. onto Brotherhood Way. Take a right at the end of Brotherhood Way and follow Lake Merced Drive to the meeting place. We expect the trip to last until noon. There will be some walking and sturdy shoes or boots are recommended.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

CALENDAR



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

AUG. 18 CONDOR WATCH AND THRASHER CHASE. Join your leader
 SATURDAY on his annual pilgrimage to the famous Los Padres
 AUG. 19 National Forest Sign, the current habitat of the
 SUNDAY California condor watcher. (On any weekend in
 August and September the birdwatchers at the
 sign outnumber the known number of condors in the
 world.) On the way, we will look for Crissal's
 and LeConte's thrashers among the oil wells in the
 San Joaquin Desert and Cassin's kingbirds in
 Klipstein Canyon. If we are fortunate enough to
 get good views of the condors with time to spare,
 we will bird the road to the top of Mt. Pinos for
 high altitude birds and on the way home we will
 bird the grassland refuges for indigo buntings,
 blue grosbeaks and lesser nighthawks. THIS WILL
 BE A VAN POOLING TRIP and participants will be
 asked to share the costs of renting a suitable
 size van or making a similar contribution to any
 participant who provides a van. We plan on
 leaving the Bay Area on Friday - either late in
 the afternoon or early in the evening and
 returning before dark on Sunday. Reservations are
 an absolute necessity and must be made no later
 than August 1. If you are not sure but want
 further information please call as soon as
 possible so we can assess the extent of the
 interest in this trip. Interest from vanowners is
 particularly desired.

LEADER: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

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MYRTLE'S SONG

Myrtle had come to mourn for the man Mac Gillivray.
 She had long been in love with the hermit from Cape May.
 In a dress of blackburnian, Myrtle gracefully laid
 Palms and magnolias at the hermit's shallow grave.

She then spied Lucy Wilson in a red velvet cap
 And feared she was in for a long-winded chat.
 Miss Lucy had been born in Nashville, Tennessee
 and showed off her refinements for everyone to see.

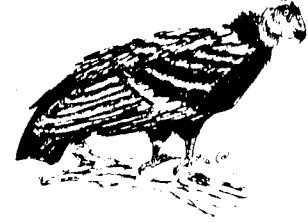
Still golden-cheeked with long yellow hair
 Lucy made Myrtle feel as if she wasn't there.
 They had both met Mac just before the war
 And competed for his affection though he was quite poor.

But Miss Lucy couldn't wait and married someone rich.
 Everyone in Virginia thought she had become quite a witch
 And after the war when Mac returned home,
 He decided after all that he liked being alone.

Myrtle's life became black and white with no relief,
 And here as she stood on her black poll of grief,
 Her old rival for the love of the man called Mac,
 The demure Miss Lucy, simply crinked up her nose and turned
 her olive back.

--- Donna Kirsacko

(Editor's Note: There are 20 warblers hiding in the poem above. See if you can find all of them on your first try.)



CONDOR UPDATE

Another California Condor, the second in six months, was found dead in March. The five year old male was one of the radio-tagged birds and was found shortly after succumbing. Biologists at the San Diego Zoo believe that the cause of death was lead poisoning from a bullet ingested by the bird while scavenging.

On the good news side, however, another nesting pair has been found in the southern Sierra Nevada and the captive breeding program is right on schedule with the first releases of young condors into the wild being planned for next year.



THE UNLIKELY ENVIRONMENTALIST

On her return from her visit to Texas, Gladys Booher brought us an article from the Dallas News. The article was written by Stanley Marcus (of the Neiman-Marcus Marcuses). Some excerpts and quotes from the article are worth passing on.

"I was a slow convert to the ecological movement," Mr. Marcus writes. "At first I regarded the leaders ... as busybodies. In retrospect, I find it difficult to comprehend my earlier antagonism to a movement whose objectives now seem clearly in the public interest."

"The environment is one in which we all have equal rights... they who pollute the atmosphere or the seas or damage the ecology are common enemies of society and are deserving of swift... punishment."

"Just lately have I become aware of other kinds of pollution... I refer to the pollution of sound by overly loud music played in public areas and the pollution of the street atmosphere by emissions of... odors."

"We need to develop a form of social censure toward those who blithely continue to misuse our joint natural resources...(and)...give encouragement to those...who believe pollution is...(an).. issue that is worth a fight."



SACRAMENTO-BOBELAINE RESERVE. This trip was attended by a small but enthusiastic group who met at Goethe Park in Sacramento after having missed the original rendezvous point. It is unknown at this time how many would-be participants changed their minds after showing up at the Black Oak Restaurant and finding out that it had been destroyed by fire. If you were in this category, Cliff Richer (355-4058) would appreciate hearing from you. Over the two days 69 species were seen including Lawrence's goldfinches at Bobelaine, and Bobelaine Preserve was explored under the guidance of Willie and Ben Eizenger from Sacramento Audubon. The weather was extremely cooperative with clear skies throughout and warm spring temperatures.

Twenty-one dedicated birders arrived at **JASPER RIDGE** despite your **NEEDLES'** editor's proclivity to confuse east and west. (Even after 3 1/2 years out here I haven't been able to get used to the fact that the ocean is to the west and the land is to the east -- Ed.) Splitting into two groups, one led by Bill Clark of Santa Clara Audubon and the other by the Havens, we explored all of the varied habitats of this diversified preserve and compiled a combined total of 67 species between the two groups. The hoped for wood ducks had apparently headed north and there were no truly unusual species but the group did get good looks at blue-gray gnatcatcher and was able to conduct a lively debate on the identification of olive-sided flycatchers vs western wood pewees.

BIRDING HOTLINES

- LOS ANGELES (213) 874-1318
- MONTEREY (408) 899-3030
- SAN BERNADINO (714) 793-5599
- SAN DIEGO (619) 435-6761
- SAN FRANCISCO (415) 843-2211
- SANTA BARBARA (805) 964-8240

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Mark Jones of San Mateo called to report that he had been observing a young yellow-headed blackbird just north of the Bay Meadows Race Track.

NATURE CONSERVANCY BEGINS NATIONAL WETLANDS PROGRAM

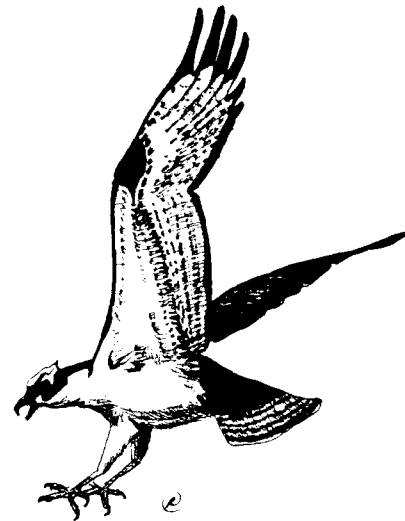
The Nature Conservancy is beginning a national program to identify and protect our nation's wetlands. In California they have already identified the following as priority areas:

The Cosumnes River, just south of Sacramento is the last free-flowing river in the Central Valley. Its dense riparian growth surrounded by marshes provides a winter home for waterfowl and sandhill cranes.

The Coachella Valley Preserve retains the entire cycle of a wind-and-water driven desert system centered about the spring at Thousand Palms Oasis.

Elkhorn Slough is the second largest undisturbed coastal marsh in California. Already partially protected by the Conservancy, substantial additions are needed to protect the complete estuarine system.

In order to fund these projects, the Nature Conservancy is presently engaged in a program to raise \$100,000 for research and acquisition negotiation.



ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER

Anne Scanlan-Rohrer, our vice-president and editor of our forthcoming Peninsula Site Guide, has once again been mentioned in the Nature Conservancy's newsletter as the author and researcher of the Nature Conservancy's Past Project Fact Sheets.

These can be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope with 37 cents postage to the California Field Office, 156 2d Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105.

From Page One - **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

COMMUNITY AWARDS - GROUP CATEGORY

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM DOCENT COUNCIL in the category of "Environmental Education" for their outstanding work in providing public environmental education opportunities in many locations throughout San Mateo County.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY in the category of "Energy and Resource Conservation" for their successful and continuing Energy Management and Conservation Activities Program.

ANO NUEVO RESEARCH PROJECTS in the category of "Research". These research programs, coordinated principally through the U.C.-Santa Cruz, are a model for other areas to follow.

MID PENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT in the category of "Open Space/Unique Ecosystem Preservation" for their outstanding success in the acquisition and preservation for future generations, of many acres of sensitive habitat in both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Sequoia Audubon is extremely proud of the above group of individuals and organizations who have been chosen to receive awards this year. Each has made a significant contribution to the environmental quality of life in San Mateo County. Our THANKS go to each. Formal awards will be presented after the potluck at our June General Meeting. Please come and join us at this festive and fun filled meeting.

PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU

June is the traditional ending of our Chapter's year. This past year has been a very good one for our chapter. The principal reason for this is the level of participation and leadership of so many of our fine members.

The ALLENS, WILMA ROCKMAN, CLIFF RICHER, ANNE SCANLAN-ROHRER, MARY BRESLER, ELGIN JURI, RICK JOHNSON, CHIP HAVEN, TOM TABER, PETER METROPULOS, KATHY GRAVES, CHARLIE & MARY BETH SINGLETON, BOB & MAY BLOSSOM, DONNA & PETE PETERSEN, DR. RUTH SMITH, NICK COIRO, JERRY & GEORGIA PERKINS, as well as others too numerous to mention, all put in a great deal of time and effort in our Chapter's activities this past year.

My sincere thanks go to this group which has made not only my job as President a rewarding personal experience, but more importantly they have made it possible for our entire membership to participate in and enjoy an Audubon experience. My special thanks go to our super Administrative Assistant, DONNA KIRSACKO, who has had such a positive impact on chapter activities during her first year.

Rick Baird

NEW BIRD TAPES AVAILABLE

SAS has obtained 20 copies of volume one of Tom Sanders' new tape of the calls and songs of the birds of the San Francisco Bay area. These tapes are now selling at prices varying from \$7.95 to \$9.95 in local retail outlets but we are offering them to the first 20 persons to donate \$7.50 or more to our chapter.



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KESTERSON REFUGE - SELENIUM UPDATE

After birth defects were noted in the birds nesting at the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge north of Los Banos, selenium was suspected of being the causative agent and the U.S. Geological Survey was asked to investigate.

One of the problems is that the Kesterson Refuge was not originally intended to be a refuge at all but was overlaid on the Bureau of Reclamation's San Luis Wastewater Sump. This sump collects irrigation water from the entire San Luis Reclamation District through an 87 mile long network of concrete-lined canals and prevents this salt and chemical laden soup from draining into the San Joaquin River. It was only years later that the management of the area was turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service for operation as a refuge.

Research by two scientists from the USGS have confirmed that it is not agricultural chemicals that have caused the problems at Kesterson, but the naturally occurring selenium which is leached out of the soil on the western part of the valley and finds its way through the canals to the refuge where it accumulates in amounts far beyond the accepted safe levels.

These preliminary surveys have triggered a more intensive research effort by seven more teams from the US Geological Survey. Their findings are being awaited by state health officials and by the State Water Resources Board.

State health officials are not seriously concerned as yet since the drinking water for the valley is drawn from deep wells which are separated from the selenium by a layer of impermeable clay and the heavy metal does not appear to have entered the human food chain as yet.

The Water Resources Board however is heavily and immediately concerned with the problem since the federal Bureau of Reclamation has filed for a permit to construct a system of canals and pumping stations that would carry the wastewater north to drain into San Francisco Bay!

Obviously this situation is one which all of us should be watching closely.

AUDUBON YOUTH PROGRAM

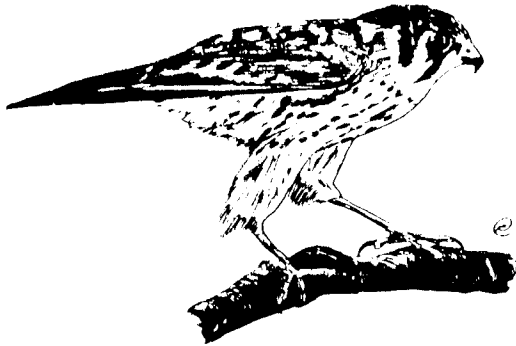
The SAS Board of Directors voted to commit the sum of \$100 to sponsorship of the Audubon Youth Program. Actual expenditure of the sum will be left in the hands of Kathy Graves and Wilma Rockman who will receive samples of the lesson materials from National Audubon and make the final decision as to whether to proceed with the sponsorship.

HOMECOMING FOR ALICE STEELE JOHNSON

Alice Steele Johnson was one of our most active members until 1972. She took part in all General Meetings, Board Meetings, Christmas Counts, field trips and everything pertaining to Sequoia Audubon Society. In 1972 she moved to Neosha, Missouri with her new husband but she continued to keep in touch with Sequoia Audubon. Three weeks ago her husband suffered a heart attack and passed away and Alice is now moving back to be with her family. Sequoia members may visit her or send cards to her at the;

Palo Alto Nursing Center
911 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301

--- Jean Allen



CLOSET BIRDWATCHERS?

In his May 14 column, Herb Caen reported that the workers at Bird&Son (honestly), a Martinez roofing factory, had adopted a sandpiper (?) which was nesting in the middle of the gravel parking lot.

He also reported that an Ocean Avenue doctor noted that two male chickadees were courting a female with offerings of bugs in the tree outside his window and decided that he was witnessing a menage a trees.

While these types of behaviors are unusual there is ample precedence for them. The Bird & Son "sandpiper" is probably a killdeer, which is well known for its choice of unusual nesting places. We know of a lady who took cabs for two months to avoid disturbing a killdeer nesting in her gravel driveway. As to the chickadees, they may be exhibiting communal activity. This behavior, long associated with acorn woodpeckers and a few other species has now been documented to occur among other birds when the food supply is too limited to support a full breeding population. In such cases the first year birds stay with the parents and help raise the next generation before going out on their own.

SURVEYS - A PERSONAL VIEW

There's a certain kind of survey that I regularly receive from various sources including the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the ADA, the NRA, the ACLU, etc.

Despite their obviously different viewpoints, all of these surveys have one thing in common. They are all worded in such a way as to make it almost impossible to answer in any way except in a way that will produce an overwhelmingly favorable result for the organization conducting the survey.

I have come to expect (and ignore) these obviously self-seeking questionnaires from such highly polarized organizations but I was extremely disappointed to receive one in a very similar vein from National Audubon. Three of the six questions fell into the "Are you in favor of motherhood, apple pie and the American flag, or do you support the views of the _____ Party?" category.

Not only do I find such surveys insulting to my intelligence, but I seriously question their usefulness. Although politicians are impressed by numbers, they are extremely sophisticated in the ways of pollsters and are far more likely to be impressed by smaller numbers which represent a true depth of feeling than by a large number of "correct" answers to semantically loaded inquiries.

With an apology to National Audubon, to those of you who may have faithfully filled it out and returned it and to my slightly guilty conscience, I'm afraid that I relegated this survey to the same file that I use for chain letters and "free" trips to Tahoe condominiums.

--- Cliff Richer

ERRATA

Your editor and field trip chairman apologizes for the following errors which appeared in the May NEEDLES.

Unbeknownst to the charirman or the trip leader, the meeting place for the Sacramento field trip had recently suffered a severe fire and the planned rendezvous never came off. Our apologies to any who missed connections as a result.

Linda Kupta's name was misspelled. OOPS!

Your editor reversed one of the directions for Jasper Ridge, causing a number of participants to go east (instead of west) on Sandhill Rd. SORRY!

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS 18 & 19

Last month's NEEDLES featured two articles on Propositions 18 and 19 encouraging you to vote YES on both of them. This position has now been endorsed by the SAS Conservation Committee and represents the official position of the Sequoia Audubon Society.

Proposition 18 is the Parklands Bond Act which provides \$370 million for restoring and maintaining state parks, for acquiring additional lands for existing parks and for local government's park needs.

Proposition 19 is the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Act which provides \$85 million through the sale of bonds to be used for coastal marshland acquisition and improvement, habitat restoration and land development for rare and endangered species.

These bond acts are relatively painless ways in which we can invest in the future. So, whatever you may think of the candidates in this month's primary election, go out and VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS 18 & 19!

OFFICERS:
 President: Richard A. Baird 574-1067
 Vice-Pres.: Anne Scanlan-Rohrer 571-7972
 Secretary: Mary Brealear 994-3587
 Treasurer: Nick Colito 349-1834

DIRECTORS:
 Past President: Wilma Rockman 366-3434
 Elected for 1 Year Term Ending:
 June '84: Frank Allen 344-9139
 June '85: Dr. Ruth Smith 322-5279
 Tom Taber 571-8685
 June '86: Kathy Graves 368-0087
 Appointed for Term Ending June '84:
 Elgin Juri 325-7970
 Cliff Richer 355-4058

STANDING COMMITTEES:
 Audubon Canyon: Donna and Pete Petersen 344-5592
 Ranch Hosts:
 Christmas: Frank Allen 344-9139
 Bird Count: Rick Johnson 349-4046
 Conservation: Charles Newman 697-5601
 Development:
 Field Trips: Cliff Richer 355-4058
 Jean Allen 344-9139
 Frank Allen 344-9139
 Weekends:
 Mid-Week:
 Finance:

Hospitality:
 Potlucks: Rob and May-Blossom Wilkinson 347-8367
 General: Charles and Mary-Beth Singleton 341-7602
 Jean Allen 344-9339
Membership:
 Program:
 Publicity: Anne Scanlan-Rohrer 571-7972
IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
 Sequoia Audubon Society Office 591-7368
 Rare Bird Alert 843-2211
SEQUOIA NEEDLES EDITOR:
 Cliff Richer 355-4058

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