



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
March, 1987

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 35, #7

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

The Re-Introduction of the Tule Elk in California is the theme of the this month's program.

Our guest, Ms. Julie Phillips, has a Master of Science degree from the University of San Francisco and has worked extensively on projects involving the reintroduction of the Tule Elk in Santa Clara, Alameda and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Meetings are held at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside on the second Thursday of every month. The Social Mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. with the General Meeting and Program at 8:00. The public is invited.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

California State Park Ranger and nationally published photographer Frank Balthis will present "Gray Whales and Orcas", a collection of his own slides. Considering Mr. Balthis' many credits in *National Wildlife*, *Natural History*, *Sierra*, *Sunset* and *Vermont Life* we can look forward to an outstanding and informative program.

NATURE CONSERVANCY GETS NEW PRESIDENT

Frank Boren of Los Angeles assumed the Presidency of the Nature Conservancy in January. He is an attorney who has served as a Conservancy volunteer since 1969, been on the California and national Boards of Governors, served as national chairman and, most recently, as the Western Regional Director of the Nature Conservancy.

Whereas conservationists and developers are usually to be found on opposite sides of nearly every issue, Mr. Boren has managed to be both. Since 1980, he has been a partner of McNeill Enterprises, a major Southern California commercial real estate developer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON

LINDA KYPTA

In an extremely warm and generous gesture, Mrs. Bonnie McClennan hosted a luncheon for the present and past presidents of Sequoia Audubon Society on Saturday, February 7. Her husband, Jed, who passed away last year, is well remembered by many as one of SAS's first and most influential of the many leaders we have had over the years.

Four decades of leadership were represented by the guest list: Mr. and Mrs. Byron Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Al Bergeron, Oneda Dickerson, Charlie Newman, John Silliman, Rick Baird, Ruth Smith, Ed and Amy McElhany, Frank and Jean Allen and myself.

This wonderful and memorable occasion was marred however by the tragic news that Monty Montgomery would be unable to attend inasmuch as his wife Lillian had passed away that morning. Most of those in attendance had known her well and the loss was felt by everyone.

The luncheon was preceded by champagne and hors d'oeuvres at the McClennan home, after which the entire group repaired to the Sheraton Hotel in Burlingame for a splendid lunch. The highlight of the day was seeing the McClennan library, which could rival that of many museums. Included in the library is Jed's magnificent slide collection of wildflowers, soon to be donated to the Academy of Science.

All of the guests, and Bonnie herself, have given much of themselves to our Society in the past and have so much now to contribute with their experience and sense of history that I would like to think that we will now see more of them at our less prestigious and more prosaic functions.

On behalf of all of the guests, I wish to thank Bonnie for her hospitality and generosity. It was a wonderfully memorable afternoon and the friendly company was enjoyed by all.

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STATE TAX CHECK-OFF

Don't forget that your state income tax form contains a box that you can check off so that some of your tax refund can go to the Endangered Species Fund. These funds have so far been used to purchase and enhance habitat, for study of the factors in species decline and for re-introduction of some species into former habitat. THIS IS NOW TAX-DEDUCTIBLE as a contribution.

CALENDAR

March 1987

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Sears Savings THURSDAY Bank, Carlmont Shopping Center, at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and the Alameda de la Pulgas in Belmont. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

MARCH 8 COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK. A familiar and popular SUNDAY area which - in recent years - has been noted for its owls as well as its waterfowl. Barn owls are easily seen here and with luck we may have a chance to observe the great horned owl and her owlets on the nest-box. Short-eared and long-eared owls have also been seen here recently. Combine this with a stroll through the heart of a fresh-water marsh and along a salt-water slough and you have a full morning of birding close to home. We will meet at the parking lot in front of the Visitors' Center at 9:00 A.M. To get there cross the Dumbarton Bridge and continue on the freeway to the Newark Blvd. exit. Take Newark Blvd. north about one mile to Patterson Ranch Road on the left. Take a left on Patterson Ranch Road to the end. Watch for signs since this area is still under intensive industrial and residential development and detours may be required. An entrance fee is required. Trip should break up at noon. A GOOD TRIP FOR BEGINNERS.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

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 WELCOME!
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 : FIELD TRIPS AND THE GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL :
 : MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME :
 : ON ALL OF OUR FIELD TRIPS. SOME TRIPS ARE DESIGNATED AS :
 : BEGINNERS' TRIPS BECAUSE THEY ARE RELATIVELY NEARBY AND :
 : MAY BE ENJOYED WITHOUT SPECIAL CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT OR :
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 \ PRIORITY EXPERIENCE. /=====\
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MARCH 12 RE-INTRODUCING THE TULE ELK IN CALIFORNIA. SAS'S THURSDAY General Meeting, featuring Ms. Julie Phillips, who has worked extensively on projects involving the reintroduction of the Tule Elk in Santa Clara, Alameda and San Luis Obispo Counties. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. The Social Mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. with the General Meeting and Program at 8:00. The public is invited.

MARCH 18 WUNDERLICH PARK in the spring produces both good WEDNESDAY birding and a great variety of new growth. Forest wildflowers abound and the first wave of migrating birds should be upon us. To get there, take Highway 84 (Woodside Rd.) west from I-280 and follow it until you see the signs for the Park on the right. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended for use along the relatively level trails. Heavy rains will cancel the trip which should otherwise break up at noontime. We will meet in the main parking lot at 9:00 A.M.

LEADER CHUCK ECHTERNACHT 592-3099

MARCH 28 WUNDERLICH PARK in the spring. See Calendar Entry SATURDAY for March 18. All details are the same except for the leader.

LEADER WIN DYE 591-8674

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

This month marks the opening of another nesting season at the Bolinas Preserve. The Ranch welcomes visitors on weekends and holidays from 10 AM to 4 PM until mid-July. Come and bring family and friends to enjoy the scenic beauty of west Marin, and the spectacular views of the heronry and its breeding pairs of great egrets and great blue herons. There is no other place in the world like it. Bring a picnic for the tummy and spend a day at the Ranch for your soul.

This month the Bolinas Preserve graduates 33 new teachers for its fall and spring educational programs for elementary school children in the Bay Area. This brings to 103 the number of active docents for the coming season.

The ACR Board at its December meeting voted a resolution of special thanks to the *Sequoia Audubon Society* for its recent generous contribution to the Ranch.

Anne Monk, educator/naturalist at the Bolinas Preserve, has accepted the invitation of the Bolinas School to be its visiting science advisor. In taking on this volunteer position Anne augments ACR's community outreach program.

John Petersen, educator/naturalist at the Bouverie Preserve, reports in a publication, *In A Nutshell*, signs of a mountain lion at that preserve in January. He came across its scat plus huge paw scratches next to the scat. The Preserve is home to many animals, including gray fox, bobcat, raccoon, mule deer, striped skunk and long-tailed weasel.

John also offered a bit of trivia about turkey vultures. He had assumed that this bird's habit of sunning itself with wings outstretched was a way of "recharging its solar cells." Recently he heard another explanation which he passes along.

"In birds which soar extensively the primary flight feathers will begin to curve upward after a time. However, a few minutes of direct sun exposure will dry and straighten these feathers for proper aerodynamics." You can casually drop this into your next conversation with one of those know-it-all birders.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

APRIL 11-12: A weekend with the wildflowers at the Bolinas Preserve. Ray Peterson will introduce you to flower forms and evolution and explain the mysteries of the floral field guide. You can even earn extension credit for this one.

NAS ACQUIRES HABITAT LANDS

With the help of an anonymous donation of \$1,000,000 the National Audubon Society is purchasing 780 acres known as Chrisman Island at the confluence of the Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers. This is a critical wintering area for the endangered Aleutian race of the Canada goose.

David Packard (Hewlett-Packard) and Hugh Long (Long's Drugs) are donating money to acquire development rights to Faith Ranch adjacent to the Finigan Cat National Wildlife Area.

CLEAN WATER ACT PASSES

As expected Congress overrode President Reagan's veto of the Clean Water Act by overwhelming margins. Eighteen of the twenty billion dollars appropriated under the bill will go toward sewage and waste-water treatment. The remaining two billion will be divided among a large number of specific and general projects. Six estuarine and ocean inlet areas - including San Francisco Bay and the Delta - have been approved for study and will divide an estimated twelve million dollars among them. This is to be used exclusively for research and is not included in the estimated \$400 million appropriated for "hardware" projects such as treatment plants, new sewer and water lines, etc..

Representatives of the Sierra Club and Environmental Action issued statements claiming an end to the President's "Teflon coating" and "Rambo tactics" but most environmental lobbying groups were more restrained, pointing out that the vote was a foregone conclusion and expressing doubt as to whether any real damage had been done to the President's ability to sustain vetoes on closer and more controversial issues.

WILD GOOSE CHASE CONTRIBUTOR

Our apologies for having omitted the mention of Louise Fletcher as one of our Wildgoose Chase contributors.

Thank you Louise, for this and your many other contributions to SAS.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH (Continued From Page Two)

APRIL 16-18 (Easter Week): Baskets, Bunnies and Hot Cross Buns is a family weekend at Bolinas to weave baskets, color eggs and make bread climaxed by a GIANT EGG HUNT Saturday noon. Don't miss it!

To reserve a spot for these classes, call (415) 383-1644.

Don't forget, SEQUIA AUDUBON SOCIETY is hosting at the Ranch during the month of March.

PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

APRIL 18 FILOLI ESTATE FIELD TRIP. Frank and Jean Allen WEDNESDAY have made special arrangements for a weekday field trip to this very special birding spot. The trip is limited to no more than 15 participants so reservations are required. Call the Allens 344-9339 to reserve your spot.

MAY 17 PELAGIC TRIP OUT OF MONTEREY. We have a number of SUNDAY spaces reserved on Debbie Shearwater's trip for this date. These trips tend to fill up fast, particularly at this productive time of year. Peter Metropulos will be our leader. Call the office (593-7368) for additional details or to make your reservation.

MAY 22 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN DEATH VALLEY. An extended FRIDAY trip covering prime birding areas of the Sierra through passes, Mono Lake, Owens Valley, the White Mountains and Death Valley where rosy finches, great MAY 26 gray owls, sage grouse, broad-tailed hummingbirds TUESDAY and Lucy's and Virginia's warblers are resident and almost any species can be found as a vagrant. Cliff Richer will lead the tour. Advance notification is required so that motel and transportation arrangements can be made. An expression of interest at this time is requested so that some estimate can be made of the potential attendance on this trip.

JUNE 13 YUBA PASS & SIERRA VALLEY. Three areas of sharply SATURDAY contrasting habitat lie within a very few miles of each other on this scenic and bird-rich trip. We JUNE 14 will be trying to make arrangements to once again SUNDAY use the facilities of the Field Campus of the University of San Francisco so an early indication of interest is needed. Gil West will be our leader.

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (593-7368) TO MAKE RESERVATIONS OR TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN THESE TRIPS OR CALL CLIFF RICHER (355-4058) FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

WILDLIFE RESCUE ALERT

LINDA KYPTA

Sandi Stadler, Director of Wildlife Rescue, reminds us that with spring just ahead, raptors are courting and even setting up households and she would appreciate our keeping our eyes open for nesting birds.

Wildlife Rescue sees many baby and fledgling raptors. These birds are so cute and engaging that it's very difficult not to keep your eyes on them. So, even though you may touch them as little as possible imprinting still occurs. There was a problem last season with a great horned owl in particular.

In order to forestall and offset imprinting these young birds to the point where they prefer the company of humans to that of their own species, Wildlife Rescue would like to try placing raptor chicks in active nests where adult birds can take over the rearing. In order to do this, Wildlife Rescue needs to know where to find these active nests. This is where we can help. If you know of an active hawk or owl nest, please call Sandi at Wildlife Rescue, 340-8430, and please pass the word among any of your friends who spend any time in the outdoors.

BLM OPPOSES DESERT PARK BILL

CLIFF RICHER

As predicted in last month's *NEEDLES*, the Bureau of Land Management will oppose the passage of Senator Cranston's bill to designate large areas of California's deserts as a national park.

Robert R. Burford, national director for the BLM, addressed the Agriculture Education Foundation said, "the commitment to multiple use - and the understandings we have reached with the people of California - would be gone with the wind." He described the bill as a "legislative flip-flop" that "would substitute the desires of a few for the will of many."

Discussing the rationale for the new proposals, Burford noted that Senator Cranston stated clearly that the bill "implements the conservationists' proposals" and responded that "Something's obviously wrong here. If this new proposal represents only one point of view - that of conservationists - what's happened to other people's expressed desires? What's happened to the compromises hammered out in the public arena over the past 10 years? And what has happened to the commitment to balanced multiple use, so clearly required by the law?"

We believe that Senator Cranston asked himself the same questions before proposing the bill. It seems to me that the BLM is already catering to the desires of the few. The Bureau's partiality toward cattle grazers has been well documented for years. Yet, there are only 30 ranches within the designated area with most of these ranchers making their living by sub-letting grazing land which they themselves lease at bargain prices from the BLM.

Under the bill, prospecting for minerals would cease. At last report there were fewer than two dozen active and working mining claims in the entire twelve million acres covered by the bill. Provisions for off-road vehicle use would not be significantly more restrictive than at present, but the bill would provide for more enforcement of these restrictions. (At present the BLM has 21 rangers to patrol all of Southern California.)

Senator Wilson and California's representatives in the House are the key to passage of the measure. With Senator Wilson's support and the support of a majority of the state's Congressional delegation, the measure should pass as a local issue. Letters indicating your position on the issue will be crucial in determining the fate of this legislation.

(The above represents the personal views of the author. As of closing date for the *NEEDLES* neither SAS nor National Audubon had taken an official position on this bill. -- Ed.)

SAS TO OFFER CAMBERSHIP

The Board of Sequoia Audubon Society has once again authorized the sponsorship of a scholarship to the Audubon Adult Summer Camps.

Win Dye and Walter Smithy, who organized last year's scholarship search will once again be in charge of the effort and they will ask Jonathan Parsons, last year's recipient, to participate. Under the guidelines established last year, the recipient is to be a teacher or senior student from the San Mateo County Schools, whose present or future work will involve him or her in studies of the environment.

Those who attended January's meeting and saw Mr. Parson's mini-program on the Camp of the West can attest to the success of last year's campership program.

KENYA SAFARI

The Peninsula Humane Society and Explorers World Travel, Inc. sponsoring a Kenyan Safari from June to July 2, 1987.

Also available as options are a three day London "pre-tour" and a five day extension to the Kenya coast.

Price - including estimated airfare - is \$3160. with a \$245. charge for the London pre-tour and \$390 for the coastal extension. Hotels, ground transportation, meals (some exceptions) and most gratuities are included in the total price. \$150. of the tour price is tax-deductible as a contribution to the Peninsula Humane Society.

For more information, a brochure and a reservation form, contact the Humane Society or Explorers World Travel, Inc., toll-free, at (800) 672-3274.

SWISS TRIP

The Oakland Museum Natural Science Guild offers a two week Natural History trip to Switzerland's Engadine region June 19 to July 3. Native guide Marie-Louise Ardini and botanist Lee Main will lead daily hikes to spot flowers and wildlife and overnights to mountain huts. Visits to alpine wildflower garden, natural history museums and the Swiss National Park are scheduled. \$2000 includes round-trip airfare, land travel, hotel (double occupancy), huts and most meals. For more information and a brochure, leave your name and address at the message phones, 471-3263 and 937-2702.

FALSE PARADISE?

In the wake of the recent Rhine River pollution, European environmental groups and even the Common Market Parliament have taken a hard look at Swiss environmental practices and laws and found them severely wanting.

The Swiss Government is being accused of not paying its fair share in the cleanup of the chemical dumping that caused fish kills and serious environmental damage from Switzerland to the North Sea and it would appear that the responsible firm will pay a fine equivalent to a little less than \$1000.

Air pollution in Switzerland is reputed to be the worst in Europe and its water supplies and lakes are severely polluted according to spokespeople from Germany's Green Party.

Economic sanctions and direct attacks on the vital Swiss tourist industry are being considered.

LILLIAN PERRY MONTGOMERY

1899-1987

Lillian Perry Montgomery, a long-time member of Sequoia Audubon and wife of former SAS President A.E. "Monty" Montgomery died February 7 at Peninsula Hospital.

Through the years she was a consistent supporter of SAS and its causes. She was also a valued member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the Burlingame United Methodist Church.

The sympathies of the entire membership go out to Monty, to her daughter, Gail and to her sister, Fern, on their loss and ours.

GALAPAGOS TOUR

Dave and Monica Johnston of Santa Clara Valley Audubon, with the help of expert naturalists will lead a trip to the Galapagos and the Andes, including an overnight stay at Machu Pichu, July 28 to August 13.

The cost of the trip is \$1750 plus airfare and an extension to the pristine Manu in the Amazon Basin is available.

The tour directors are Gail and Doug Cheeseman of Cheeseman's Ecosafaris. For full details call them at (408) 741-5330.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Silver Wings Photography will present a weekend bird photography seminar on March 21 and 22.

Kevin Monahan, well known Santa Cruz nature photographer, will discuss styles and techniques in a classroom setting, lead group discussions and conduct field photography sessions.

A camera with a 200mm (or stronger) lens is required but no other specialized equipment will be necessary.

Enrollment is limited. Cost of the two day session is \$75., a portion of which is a donation to SCVAS and is tax-deductible.

To enroll, or for further information, call Kevin Monahan, Silver Winds Photography, (408) 425-7841, or Santa Clara Valley Audubon, (415) 329-1811.

PESCADERO MARSH NATURE WALKS

State Parks has announced that they will be holding two Sunday Nature Walks each month at Pescadero Marsh. The walks will be led by a State Parks Ranger and will begin from the marsh at 10:30 A.M.

Personnel from the Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Association will also participate. Exact dates are subject to change, so call State Parks at 879-0832 or 726-6203 for details.

San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching is Sequoia Audubon Society's guide to birding sites in San Francisco and San Mateo County. More than 30 different spots are described and accompanied by maps, directions and helpful notes about each spot. A species index directs you to habitats for the birds you want to see. Order one for yourself and several as gifts! Use this form to order your copy today. Only \$8.99! (Taxes, shipping and handling included).

- Also available by mail - including postage and tax
National Geographic Field Guides \$16.00
Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00
Birding at the Bottom of the Bay 8.25
Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.60
Birds of the Sacramento Area 4.50

Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society
720 El Camino Real #403
Belmont, Ca. 94002

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS



San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching

. . . FROM THE REAL PAPERS

It may be my imagination but it seems to me that the local papers (San Francisco and the Peninsula) are giving more space to the environment and the outdoors since the Kesterson problem first surfaced. When I first came to the area some six and a half years ago it seemed to me that the only environmental news that got into the papers involved demonstrations and placards and the only outdoors activities (except running) that received attention involved the killing of some vertebrate species.

Here are a few samples from this month's real papers...

Biggest story and one that was still developing as we went to press was the mysterious die-offs at the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge near Fallon, Nevada. This refuge is similar to those at Kesterson and at the Salton Sea in that it has no outlet and water loss is strictly by evaporation. For many reasons - including concentration of salts and depletion of oxygen - such sinks are prone to periodic large-scale fish kills. These die-offs are always matters for study but are not considered emergencies. The difference at Stillwater is that birds began dying off as well. Botulism was immediately ruled out since species other than ducks were involved. Most alarming was the death of scavenger species such as ravens and California gulls. These species, which thrive on garbage dumps and offal are, of necessity, immune to nearly every disease and poison and so their deaths - in numbers - caused immediate concern. So far no connection has been found between the deaths of the tui chub (the only fish affected) and the birds and no common denominator has been found among the bird species - ducks, egrets, herons, cormorants and pelicans, as well as the ravens and gulls. Avian cholera has been found in many dead birds but has been absent in others examined. One speculation is that some toxic substance is involved and the cholera is a by-product, killing birds already weakened by the unknown substance. The biological detective work continues. Watch this one closely since it has all the earmarks of being a precursor of more problems on other refuges.

The Nuclear Winter hypothesis does not appear to be holding up well to further study. Initial criticisms were confined to extremist doctrinaires and a few computer programmers who questioned the accuracy of the original model. More advanced and sophisticated computer models, it is now claimed, do not support the theory and - in some cases - even produce opposite results. The annual meeting of the American Association of Science in Chicago was marked by somewhat acrimonious debate on the relative probabilities of nuclear winter, nuclear fall and even nuclear summer. (Keep in mind that any computer model is based not only on fact but on assumptions which may reflect the bias of the modeler.)

Santa Rosa, which has come under fire for years because of its inadequate sewage system and its periodic release of sewage into the Russian River is now contemplating a plan to use its treated wastewater for irrigation and to drain the rest into a man-made marsh area in San Francisco Bay. This treatment method is environmentally sound and is used in some other areas of the state already. For birders, the most famous example is the marsh at Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert. Despite the basic soundness of the concept, there

are deficiencies in the EIS that need to be rectified before final approval is given.

In a strange alliance, the Sierra Club is joining Senator Ruben Ayala (D-Chino). Sen. Ayala has a long history of supporting large water users and large water projects, but in this case his Senate Bill 27 would forbid construction or enlargement of reservoirs within national parks. Since only the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir would be affected, it has all the appearances of being a "spite" bill aimed at the San Francisco area, which Ayala blames for the defeat of the Peripheral Canal legislation of a few years ago. David Nesmith of the Sierra Club was quoted as saying, "He may have the wrong reasons, but we would not oppose any bill that would further protect Yosemite National Park."

At UCLA, Dr. Jared M. Diamond maintains that primitive people were much more destructive to their habitat than has generally been believed. He is supported by Julio L. Betancourt, an archeologist from the University of Arizona who points to the Anasazi Indian culture which, he believes, used up local woodlands, destroyed top-soil and over-irrigated the land. (Doesn't that sound familiar?)

The spotted owl is at the center of a growing controversy in the Pacific Northwest. At issue is the use of Forest Service land. The Reagan Administration's plans to increase logging and more than triple the number of Forest Service Roads over the next several years has raised high hopes in the area but that would require the cutting of large tracts of old growth forest - the prime habitat of the northern races of the spotted owl. In 1984 the Forest Service and the BLM came up with an interagency agreement regarding management of the spotted owl. This immediately came under fire from both sides of the fence. Loggers and people dependent on the logging industry reviled it as being too restrictive. The National Audubon Society regarded it as too permissive and commissioned its own study, published in May of last year. The Audubon study showed up some flaws in the interagency agreement based largely on the difference in habitat requirements of the birds in the Northwest as compared to the Sierras. In Trinity County, where federal timber sales add \$5 million annually to local school and road budgets this has made the spotted owl a symbol of controversy. Local residents are very much aware that one mill came close to shutting down and putting 168 people out of work last spring when a single owl nest was discovered. Since then one local restaurant periodically features spotted owl soup (in reality, chicken noodle) on its menu. Meanwhile, National Audubon is emphasizing its commitment to retaining old growth forest land by holding its National Convention in Bellingham, Washington, August 24-29.

Tributyltin (TBT) is a substance that is sold as an additive to marine paints to prevent fouling from algae and barnacles. Unfortunately it also dissolves in sea water and even in sub-microscopic quantities is lethal to crabs and shellfish. Most European countries have already banned or severely restricted its use. Legislation barring its use is currently pending in state legislatures Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington and Congress. Although TBT is even more toxic than DDT, it has a very limited half-life and loses its toxicity in a relatively short time.

HUNTING FOR RAPTORS!

FROM THE NATIONAL

JOSEPH WILLIAM TAYLOR

was like old times, too much so - sitting at our September 6 conference about hawk and owl predation on small game and hearing the talk about possible "controls" and bounties on great horned owls and red-tailed hawks. It didn't quite seem possible in this theoretically enlightened year of 1986, but it was real and it is serious.

A relatively small but very vociferous group of hunters, calling itself the Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, has split off from the environmental and conservation-conscious Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. The new group seems to believe that its members have a God-given right to hunt, shoot and kill small game, particularly rabbits and pheasants, and that great horned owls and red-tailed hawks are interfering with the exercise of that "right". Further they claim that declines in small game populations result from the protection given hawks and owls over the past 14 years (since federal protection in 1972), and that if this protection were removed and raptor numbers were controlled, pheasants and rabbits would again become numerous.

To a degree, the anti-raptor cause is helped by some journalists, who are happy to report lurid tales of the great, evil hawks and owls carrying off all birds and mammals by the score - and of the "golden eagles carrying off the human babies" syndrome. It is far more exciting and less complicated than dealing with the real problems, such as today's agricultural practices - the use of mechanical cornpickers, which leave very little grain on the ground for pheasants to hide in, and the elimination of fences and hedgerows, which also removes needed cover. The principal ingredients of the predators' diets are such small mammals as rats, mice and opossums, not pheasants and grouse; and in the case of grouse, at least, there are normal cyclical periods of scarcity and abundance.

Soon we believe that we will have more solid information with which to evaluate the situation and to counter the pressures for an open hunting season on hawks and owls... In the meantime, keep in touch with your legislators; reply to those columnists who condemn birds of prey... and thank those columnists who recognize the value of predators in our ecosystem.

(Reprinted from *Hawk Mountain News* of December, 1986. Mr. Taylor is President of Hawk Mountain.)

Our thanks go to Nick Coiro for bringing this to our attention. The parallel between this and the attempt last year to eliminate 250 mountain lions in order to "improve" the deer herd should be apparent to all of us.

President Peter Berle continues his commendable job of communicating with the membership. In his January letter to Chapter Presidents he outlined some of the most important national conservation issues.

The Department of the Interior is recommending that 1.5 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain be opened to gas and oil drilling. To support this they are secretly trading away sub-surface lands on the coastal plain to Alaska Native corporations. Chapter leaders and members are asked to write letters stating their opposition to the opening of the coastal plain to oil and gas leasing. Letters should go to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Refuge Management, 2343 Main Interior Bldg., 18 and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20241.

Acid rain is a very high priority item and Audubon is coordinating a nationwide campaign with other organizations. You will be asked to help.

Last year, after passing the House, the Endangered Species Act bogged down in the Senate. We also intend to make this a high priority item.

Using the Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River as a rallying point, NAS has put together a comprehensive campaign to protect the threatened Platte River system, famous as a migratory stop for hundreds of thousands of cranes, and the endangered whooping crane.

Protection for old growth forests and for the spotted owl will be the subject of another ongoing campaign as will national billboard reform and small appliance energy efficiency.

NAS will be watching the development of new farm policy regulations to be sure that the laws with regard to sodbusting and swampbusting will be followed.

COYOTE POINT MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Saturday, March 21 - 1 PM to 4 PM

FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS

Games, crafts, exhibits, live birds and instruction on bird-watching, biology and flight.

Tuesday, March 24, 1987 - 7:30-9:00 PM

TRANSPORTATION PANEL

A panel of transportation experts will discuss the situation along the 101 Corridor and possible solutions.

Wednesday, April 1, 1987 - 7:30-9:00 PM

EDGEWOOD PARK

Susan Sommers will conduct a slide show on the plant communities of the Park and discuss resource management questions on the Park.

Tues./Wed., April 13-14 - 10 AM-3 PM

SEASHORE DAYS

For Grades 1-4. Two days of the school spring break will be spent exploring the coast at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach and Coyote Point.

Saturday, April 25 - 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Commemorating the 81st anniversary of the 1906 earthquake with a six-mile walking tour of the affected area.

A fee is required for most programs. Call Kathy Heffernan or Lori Mann at 342-7755 for more information.

An exhibit titled "Stop and Go: Transportation in the Bay Area" will continue through May 17. Winning photos from the Photography Contest will be on display from March 29 through May 10.

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