



# sequoia needles

Bulletin of the  
April 1988

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, CA.  
Vol. 36, #8

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### THE BIRDS OF TAIWAN

LEE HUNG, a native of Taiwan, will present her slide show entitled "Birds of Taiwan".

Although Lee has been in the United States for thirteen years, she returns on a regular basis to her homeland, where she updates her presentation and presents programs on California birds!

She comes to us charged with enthusiasm, new slides and fresh insights from the latest of these cultural exchange visits to her mother country.

Come to the meeting and experience the thrill of seeing the birds and habitats of this rapidly changing neighbor nation of the Pacific Rim.

## NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Our May program will feature Ms. Kathryn A. Smith-Penner, last year's recipient of the Sequoia Audubon Campership Award. Ms. Smith-Penner, a biology teacher at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, will tell us about and illustrate her experiences as an Audubon camper.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Kypta has appointed and the SAS Board has approved the members of the 1988 Nominating Committee.

Rick Baird, Chairman	574-1067
Nick Coiro	349-1834
Janet Duerr	689-0788

Those who wish to place the names of any members in nomination for the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer or for the Board of Directors are asked to contact any of the members of the Committee.

## CIRCULATION EDITOR

Sequoia Audubon Society needs a volunteer to serve as Circulation Editor. The duties are: assembling the circulation staff, and then collating, folding and addressing the *NEEDLES* on one day each month.

Contact President Linda Kypta (591-9053) for details or to volunteer.

## PESCADERO MARSH PRESERVATION

### KIMBERLY RICHER

The 1976 Coastal Act established policies for preservation of ecosystems that have not already been destroyed. This has affected many local areas, including Pescadero Marsh, located halfway between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay on Highway One. Efforts are being made to stop the destruction of the ecosystem resulting from a lack of drainage caused by agriculture, grazing and logging.

Marshes provide sustenance for many different species. The lack of drainage in the marsh has caused a decrease in population for many of these. Most strongly affected are king salmon and the birds that feed upon them. The salmon are hatched in the freshwater stream and migrate to the sea once they have reached a size which enable them to avoid many predators. Once mature, 2 to 8 years later, they return to the same stream to spawn and die. The lack of drainage has caused the salmon population to fall by not allowing the fish to travel upstream from the ocean to spawn and not allowing the immature fish to travel downstream to the ocean which they need to survive. As the population of salmon falls, so do the populations of grebes and herons which feed on the salmon. Many other fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and insects have also suffered a reduction in survival due to loss of habitat and food sources.

(Continued on Page Four)

## PESCADERO MARSH DOCENT PROGRAM IN TROUBLE

In an unexpected unilateral action the California Department of Parks and Recreation announced it was taking sole charge of the Pescadero Marsh docent program. After thanking the Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Association (PMIA) for its efforts in developing and creating the program, State Parks ordered the Association to cease any further efforts in this area and called for major changes in the by-laws of the Association.

The announcement, given at PMIA's February meeting, came with no indication of dissatisfaction on the part of the Department, and caught the PMIA board by surprise.

Board Members who could be reached for comment expressed various degrees of outrage and violation over the move by the state and the manner in which the action was taken.

One PMIA board member commented, "I think we've been caught in some kind of power struggle which we don't fully understand. It would appear that we are victims of a much larger battle that is being fought for control of the highly successful Año Nuevo program."

The Association which had devoted most of its efforts in the last two years to the creation of the program had - with the assistance of a grant from Sequoia Audubon - commissioned and assembled training materials and arranged for a full

(Continued on Page Four)

CALENDAR

APRIL 1988

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

ARIZONA TRIP

Maryann Danielson & Jean-Marie Spoelman will lead a ten day birding trip to Southeastern Arizona. In this famous birding area, mountain ranges rise above the surrounding grasslands and desert, resulting in an outstanding diversity of birds. Birding areas will include the Chiricahua and Huachuca Mountains, Madera Canyon and Patagonia.

In 1986, this trip produced 161 species including such birds as the Mississippi kite, elf and whiskered owls, rose-throated becard, thick-billed kingbird, buff-breasted flycatcher, olive, red-faced & Grace's warblers, eight species of hummingbirds and the elegant trogon.

The trip fee of \$600 includes 9 nights in motels. Food and air fares to Tucson are not included. Ground transportation expenses by van will be shared. For a detailed itinerary or for additional information, call Maryann Danielson at (415) 325-9349. The trip is limited to 10 participants.

NEW MONTEREY RARE BIRD ALERT NUMBER

The Monterey Rare Bird Alert has a new telephone number -- (408) 375-9122.

SUMMER CLASSES AT YUBA PASS

The Sierra Nevada Field Campus of San Francisco State University is located on the North Fork of the Yuba River just east of Sierra City in Yuba Pass in the foothills of the Sierra Buttes. A full schedule of college credit courses in anthropology, astronomy, biology, education and geology courses is available from June 6 through August 13. Two of particular interest to Audubon members are:

BIO 315B: BEHAVIOR OF BIRDS - June 6-10: How are birds adapted to be waders, divers, tree-trunk and aerial foragers? How do birds communicate visually and acoustically? A tremendous variety of birds, playback experiments in the field and slide lectures provide exceptional opportunities to examine these questions with Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Science.

BIO 315C: BIRDS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA - June 13-17: Become intimate with the diverse avifauna of the Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley area -- from nesting sand-hilled cranes to black-backed woodpeckers. Dave Shuford, Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist and naturalist will teach this course on the identification, natural history and ecology of Sierran, marsh and Great Basin birds.

For further information please write:  
Sierra Nevada Field Campus  
San Francisco State University  
School of Science  
1600 Holloway Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94132-9987

APRIL 10 WADDELL CREEK FIELD TRIP. This area lying south and east of Año Nuevo State Reserve has a variety of habitat that should be attractive to migrating species. Our leader is acquainted with the area as a birder and a surfer and patrols it regularly as part of his duties with State Parks. We will meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of Año Nuevo State Reserve. The trip breaks up at noon.

LEADER GARY STRACHAN

APRIL 14 SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING. Ms. Lee Hung, a native of Taiwan, will present a slide show entitled "BIRDS OF TAIWAN". See Page One for further details. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 P.M., with the General Meeting beginning at 8:00.

APRIL 16 BAY AREA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING at the Hayward Regional Shoreline Interpretive Center. Sponsored and hosted by Sequoia Audubon. The meetings begin at 10 AM with refreshments at 9:30. ALL AUDUBON MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. To get there take the first exit after crossing the San Mateo Bridge, turn north and follow the signs back to the Interpretive Center.

APRIL 17 MINES ROAD FIELD TRIP. An auto caravan through an isolated valley where relict populations of birds linger on. Phainopepla, Lewis' woodpecker, Lawrence's goldfinch, golden eagle and prairie falcon are near certainty while roadrunner, wood duck, wild turkey, Costa's hummingbirds, rufous-crowned, sage and grasshopper sparrows are likely. Yet, despite its seeming isolation, you will never be more than 45 minutes away from either Livermore or Interstate 5. This is an all-day trip, ending at dusk, so bring lunch and liquids. Dress in layers as temperature is highly variable. Service stations and restroom facilities are limited so be prepared. To get there, cross the San Mateo Bridge and follow the signs to I-580. Stay on 580 about 23 miles to the N. Livermore Ave. exit. Turn right at the exit and follow Livermore Ave. through the center of town. We'll meet at the Nob Hill shopping center on the left approximately 1/2 mile beyond the center of town and leave there promptly at 8:30 A.M. Late-comers will catch up if they continue on S. Livermore Ave. until it becomes Tesla Rd. and take a right on Mines Road less than a mile from the meeting place.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

May 1988

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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MAY 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M., Meeting place to be THURSDAY announced. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

MAY 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING at the San Mateo Garden Center THURSDAY on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 P.M. General Meeting begins at 8:00. See next month's NEEDLES for further details.

(Continued on Page Three)

THE BIRDATHON

CALENDAR

From National Audubon

The 1988 Audubon Birdathon is scheduled for April 1 to May 15. The Birdathon is Audubon's way of raising money while doing what we enjoy most - watching birds. Participants seek pledges from contributors for every bird species they find in a 24-hour period. For example, if you had promises from 20 people to contribute a quarter per species, and you sighted 64 species, you would raise a total of \$320, which would be used to support Audubon programs.

Participating chapters that raise the most money can win terrific prizes and can designate the recipient by whatever criteria they deem appropriate. These prizes include optics from Nikon, Swift, Minolta, Swarovski and Zeiss; videotapes; outdoor clothing; cameras from Polaroid, Canon and Minolta; travel; scholarships; books; luggage; etc. But regardless of who wins the prizes, the real winner will be the environment.

*(Why not participate? Do your own Birdathon for Sequoia, for Mono Lake and for Audubon. If you can't participate, then support our local "official" team which will be going out to break their 1986 record of 189 species. Use the form on Page Six to sign up.)*

**FIRE DAMAGE RECOVERY**

"Seeds of many native plants are adapted to fire," says Susan Cochrane of the California Department of Fish and Game. "They may actually need fire to help them germinate. This fire-dependent relationship describes much of California's unique, specialized vegetation."

This helps explain why - except in erosion-prone areas - state and federal agencies have not reseeded the most recently burned over areas in the state.

In past years, ryegrass - a non-native species - was used extensively because of its fast growing qualities. However it also crowds out other species and strips the soil of nutrients. It also forms a highly flammable understory which could lead to a second and more disastrous fire. In some areas it was even found to contribute to rather than halt erosion. Gophers, attracted to the ryegrass caused more erosion damage than was done to unseeded control areas!

The experience of the US Forest Service, the US Park Service and many state agencies with controlled fires has shown that native plants will react favorably to the conditions following most burns. In a short time they produce a hardy ground cover and a sometimes spectacular proliferation of wildflowers. So this year, only 25% of the burned out areas will be reseeded, and wherever possible, the reseeded will involve natural plants, not ryegrass.

May 1988						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MAY 14 JASPER RIDGE AND SEARSVILLE LAKE. The Field trip SATURDAY to this unique Biological Preserve at Jasper Ridge should coincide with the height of the migration and the peak of the wildflower displays. We will meet at the Stanford University Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve Main Gate (not the Whiskey Hill Gate) at 8:00 AM. From I-280 take the Sandhill Road exit west about two miles to a gate on the left side of the road. Meet promptly at 8:00 AM as the gate will be open only from 8:00-8:30. We will go rain or shine. Bring lunch. A user fee of \$3.00 per person is required. The size of the group is limited to 30 so please call the office (593-7368) for this RESERVATIONS ONLY field trip.

LEADER LOUISE FLETCHER

MAY 14 CALIFORNIA NATURE CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING at SATURDAY ELKHORN SLOUGH PRESERVE. Birding trips and lunch are included in the \$15.00 per person registration fee. Call the Conservancy at 777-0487 or write them at 785 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 before April 10.

MAY 15 PELAGIC TRIP FROM PRINCETON HARBOR. At this time SUNDAY this trip is still tentative. Anyone who has interest in this trip is requested to call the office. We need a certain minimum number in order to hold the fee to a reasonable level (\$40-\$45). Barry Sauppe and Peter Metropulos both feel that the Northern San Mateo coast can produce more bird species than Monterey Bay at this time of year. Call the office (593-7358) to show your interest.

LEADER BARRY SAUPPE

MAY 21 SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK FIELD TRIP. This SATURDAY wooded park provides a variety of habitat for migrating forest and grassland birds and the park has been a rest stop for a number of rare warblers and vireos in previous spring migrations. Our leader is one of our most skilled birders and knows the park well. He will scout it intensively prior to the trip to assure the maximum enjoyment for all of us. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails and should break up at noon. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park. Take Hwy. One to Pacifica and turn inland at Linda Mar Blvd. Follow Linda Mar to its end and follow the signs to the park.

LEADER SCOTT SMITHSON

MAY 27 MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS FIELD TRIP. This is a short FRIDAY version of our Death Valley trip of the past two years. Barring news of some extreme rarity we will not actually enter Death Valley National Monument. MAY 30 MONDAY Our trip will cover prime birding areas of the Sierra passes, Mono Lake, Owens Valley and the White Mountains where rosy finches, great gray owls, sage grouse, broad-tailed hummingbirds, chimney swifts and Lucy's and Virginia's warblers are resident and almost any species can be found as a vagrant. Advance notification is required for motel and transport arrangements. Timing is subject to opening dates of the Sierra passes but we anticipate Friday and Sunday nights at a motel in Lee Vining and primitive camping at Cottonwood Canyon on Saturday. With a small group the itinerary will be flexible to accommodate individual schedules. To do this, we must have firm reservations by May 7. Call the leader for details, to make your reservations or for an itinerary and checklist.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

## PESCADERO MARSH

(Continued from Page One)

The loss is due to a decrease in the depth of the lagoon by more than 15 feet since 1900. The tidal exchange necessary for proper flushing of the lagoon is naturally prevented most of the year due to the presence of bedrock directly under the beach. According to a 1985 hydrology report by UCSC Environmental Geologist Dr. Robert Curry the lack of flushing has increased due to the construction of levees and dikes around the marsh and logging of the watershed. The local farmers have for many years attributed this problem to the incomplete removal of a coffer dam used during construction of Highway One. Doctor Curry believed this to be a negligible factor and felt that the major step in the restoration of the marsh is the destruction of the levees and dikes which were used to turn the marsh into farm land.

The state has succeeded in buying all but 20 acres of the original marshland, enabling them to begin restoration. Unfortunately the destruction of dikes and levees may cause problems in the maintenance of neighboring farm land. At present the state and the farmers are attempting to work out a compromise, one which will help preserve the ecosystem without destroying the livelihood of the farmers.

If and when a compromise is reached, the conservation effort at Pescadero Marsh will hopefully succeed in restoring what is left of the ecosystem. It may even be able to enhance it, making it more habitable for the dwindling populations of the many species the marsh supports.

*(Reprinted from Biology News, volume 9, number 2, newsletter of the Board of Studies in Biology, UC Santa Cruz where Miss Richer is a senior in the Department of Biology.)*

## AUDUBON IS SERIOUS FUN

PETER A. A. BERLE

President, National Audubon Society

### VOLUNTEERS

There are outstanding people and programs throughout the National Audubon Society, and it is our ability to tie these strengths together that makes us such an effective conservation organization. The 504 local chapters are a key component of this network. Your Audubon chapter gives you an opportunity to meet with others in your community who share your interest in wildlife and your concern about the environment.

Can you devote an hour a month to the Audubon Cause? An hour a week? Some part of every day? Chapters are flexible and welcome any level of commitment. Audubon also adapts to many different kinds of involvement. Would you like to help arrange field trips? Write for the newsletter? Analyze forest management plans? Survey local wetlands? Lobby in the state capital? Or participate in the Birdathon?

Sequoia Audubon will appreciate whatever time, interests and skills you have to offer. Your contribution will be amplified by the entire National Audubon Society. And, while you are helping protect wildlife, you will enjoy the camaraderie that characterizes Audubon chapters.

## TROUBLED DOCENT PROGRAM

(Continued from Page One)

schedule of lecturers and meeting halls. State Parks had expressed satisfaction with the program and memos from D.P.R. implied that the program would be continued with no changes in content.

Meetings between representatives of both groups failed to clarify the situation although some hope was expressed by both parties that a mutually acceptable arrangement could be worked out. Rick Baird, President of the P.M.I.A. and Carol Nelson, the District Supervisor for D.P.R., were named to continue meetings towards this end. However, the Association, which had been responsible for clearing copyrights on the teaching materials and had contracted for the teaching facilities, felt constrained to suspend its program since they would not be in a position to fulfill any legal obligations they had incurred.

At issue is the degree of control that State Parks wishes to have over the program, the manner in which that control is to be exercised and the interpretation which is to be given to the guidelines under which interpretive programs are to be utilized.

In another, related development it was learned that the Año Nuevo Interpretive Association had received a letter from D.P.R. ordering the Association to remove its office trailer from the Reserve or turn it over to the state.

## SHOREBIRD CENSUS

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory is holding its first census of shorebirds using the Bay's tidal flats. The census will be conducted on the third weekend in April in order to coincide with the peak of shorebird migration.

PRBO needs volunteers in order to make this a success. Experienced observers are needed to conduct counts of specific sites and novices are needed to assist the counters. Dave Shuford and Lynne Stenzel are coordinating the effort for PRBO. For more information contact them at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (868-1221).

## BI-COLORED NEEDLES

In case your wondering why last month's NEEDLES came to you with white outer pages and a green insert...

No, we're not trying to replace the now extinct "sporting green" pages of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. No, it wasn't a half-hearted tribute to Saint Patrick. And no, it wasn't a mistake (well not entirely).

When Cron's finished printing the NEEDLES (all on green paper) they found that the last page hadn't reproduced well. Since they would not turn out a second-rate printing job they called the SAS office to advise us that there would be a delay as they were all out of green paper. Rather than hold up the already late newsletter or mail out an illegible copy, Linda Kypta told them to print on white paper.

*(The Editor congratulates Linda on a wise decision...but that's why we pay her the big bucks to be our President.)*

SEQUOIA PATCHES



The new Sequoia Audubon Society shoulder patches designed by Board Member Gail Smithson have become a popular seller both at meetings and field trips.

The handsome design of a Townsend's warbler against a background of sequoia needles and a dark sky is eye-catching without being garish.

Patches are available at meetings, on most field trips and at our office at 720 El Camino Real in Belmont. The cost is \$4.00 for each by mail.

PCL ADVISES DFG

Jerry Meral, Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League was named to a panel to advise the Departments of Fish & Game and Water Resources on how to reduce fish losses from State Water Project pumps in the Delta.

DON'T FORGET THE VIDEO TAPES

We have birding video tapes available for rental by the week.

*TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING* by Arnold Small is a primer of birding fundamentals, especially good for the beginner, but also useful for the more experienced birder. Small discusses binoculars and wildlife photography as well as the "how to" aspects of birding. Available for rental at \$2.00 per week.

*VIDEO GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* by the National Audubon Society covers the first third of your field guide. It includes narrative, still photographs, the songs and calls and motion pictures of the most common and most important species to be found in North America. This is Volume I of an anticipated three volume videotape collection. It contains some songs and many views of birds that cannot be found elsewhere. It is a valuable identification guide and refresher course for birders ranging in skill from novice to expert. Available for rental at \$5.00 per week.

Call the SAS office (593-7368) for details as to availability and how and when to pick up the tapes.

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One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the March thaw is the spring.

A chipmunk, emerging for a sunbath but finding a blizzard, has only to go back to bed. But a migrating goose, staking 200 miles of black night on the chance of finding a hole in the lake, has no easy chance for retreat. His arrival carries the conviction of a prophet who has burned his bridges. --- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY PATCHES ---- \$4.00 BY MAIL  
 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! Only \$6.00!  
 (Taxes, shipping and handling included).

Also available by mail - including postage and tax  
 National Geographic Field Guides-New Edition 16.00  
 Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00  
 Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.60  
 Pacific Coast Checklist-in pads of 25 3.50  
 Wings Over Our Gardens 2.00

BIRDING VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL  
*TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING* by Arnold Small - \$2/wk.  
*VIDEO GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* - \$5/wk.  
 Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society  
 720 El Camino Real #403  
 Belmont, Ca. 94002



**San Francisco  
 Peninsula  
 Birdwatching**

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

McCLENNAN SURGERY

Bonnie McCleNNan, an SAS Board Member, underwent back surgery on February 1, and at this writing is still recovering at home.

Bonnie has been an active member of Sequoia Audubon for many years, both on her own and as the wife of "Jed" McCleNNan, an outstanding ex-President of the Chapter. She was first stricken with her current back problems before Christmas. In a gesture typical of her consideration and sense of responsibility, Bonnie called from the bed to which the doctor had confined her to apologize for not being able to participate in the Christmas Count.

May the good wishes of all her friends at Sequoia Audubon speed her recovery!

NEW PARK PROPOSED

February 23, the San Mateo City Council decided to create a new 187 acre community park at Sugarloaf Mountain.

The opportunity for a Sugarloaf Park comes through the Trust for Public Land -- a non-profit land conservation organization headquartered in San Francisco. The Trust offered Sugarloaf to the City of San Mateo for \$310,000, just over half of the appraised value of \$600,000.

The Trust for Public Land is best known locally for its role in the acquisition of the Cascade Ranch property for State Parks. Some of its most recent actions include preserving San Francisco's Alioto Mini-park, adding to China Camp State Park in Marin County, creating Hop Magee Creekside Park in Danville, expanding Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County and adding the 1400 acre Simon Springs lands to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

Both the Trust for Public Land and the San Mateo City Council deserve our admiration and thanks for this latest addition to our open space resources.

BIRDATHON '88! BIRDATHON '88! ! ! !

Once again a team of Sequoia Audubon Society birders will embark on a BIRDATHON fund-raiser. As has become traditional, the team will start early in the morning, well before dawn and assumedly end sometime around dusk. In between they will try to identify as many different species as possible.

You can help out by pledging a nominal amount (from 5 cents on up) for each species identified by the team.

This year half of the proceeds will be donated to the Mono Lake Committee as a memorial to the late David Gaines. Your contribution will keep his crusade alive and help preserve this invaluable and unique resource.

You can show your committment to SAS and your confidence in the leader's estimate of more than 150 different birds by "pre-paying" your pledge for 150 species.

Make all checks payable to Sequoia Audubon Society and mail to: 720 El Camino Real #403 Belmont, CA 94002

All honored pledges are tax-deductible.

CAMPERSHIP AWARD

The competition for Sequoia Audubon's 1988 Audubon Ecology Camp scholarship is underway. Teachers from any of the San Mateo County school systems are eligible for a two week session at the camp on Hog Island in Maine, at the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut or at the Audubon Camp of the West in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. Although the Greenwich program is especially designed for educators, the winner may select the camp of his or her choice. SAS will pay all camp expenses, but the winners must provide their own transportation.

The camps are also open to all members and to the general public for sessions of one or two weeks. College credit is available. In Maine there are special sessions on field ornithology; on the maritime environment; and a special session for children ages 10-15. Wyoming's specialties are photography and wilderness research. For a booklet with more information contact the SAS office, (593-7368), or Walter Smithey, (591-2501), the chairman of SAS's Education Committee.

\*\*\*\*\* There is no scavenger that eats tin cans, and no wild thing leaves a like disfigurement on the forest floor. ---Mary Austin, The Land of Little Rain, 1903 \*\*\*\*\*

SHEARWATER TRIPS

No pelagic trips are scheduled for April. The following are on the calendar for May.

Sunday, May 8 Monterey Bay - \$42

Sunday, May 15 Cordell Bank & Bodega Canyon - \$49

For reservations or more information, contact Debi Shearwater at Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073. (408) 688-1990.

YES, I will support Sequoia Audubon Society and the fight to save Mono Lake with a pledge of \_\_\_\_\_ per species.

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 100 different birds being identified.

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

The BIRDATHON is - after the Christmas Count - the largest participation event sponsored by the Natl. Audubon Society. I wish to join in. I will sign up pledges and conduct my Birdathon on \_\_\_\_\_

## GARDEN WINGS

JUANITA HEINEMANN

### MAN-MADE HAZARDS

Last month we warned that some man-made nesting materials such as clothes dryer lint, fine hair-like string, cellophane Easter basket grass, Christmas tree tinsel or nesting string sold in pet shops or bird supply catalogs could be harmful or even lethal to birds.

Routine gardening chores can also be a hazard to nesting birds. Before raking leaves, mowing, pruning or spraying, carefully check the garden for occupied nests. Ground nesters have been injured or killed by lawn mowers or rakes. Nests with nestling birds have been accidentally pruned down.

Before performing these gardening chores, observe the bird activity near the work area. Are the adult birds frequently visiting a bush or tree? Is an adult bird trying to chase you away from a particular tree or area? Can you hear peeping sounds? Have the birds built nests in that bush or tree in past years? These are all clues to an active nest site.

Before painting or washing a building, check for swallows.

### EMERGENCY CARE FOR WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

If despite all these precautions, accidents happen or if you should find a foundling or injured bird there are steps you should take.

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#####
#                               #
#          FOUNDLING:          #
# Any bird or mammal obviously too young for self- #
# survival OBSERVED on the ground for 1 hour      #
# (birds) or two or three hours (mammals)         #
# NOT BEING FED by parents.                        #
#          INJURED            #
# Any age bird or mammal found on the ground unable #
# to flee due to injury, illness, exhaustion,     #
# poison or gunshot.                               #
#####

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CALL the Humane Society's Wildlife Care Center at 340-8430.

PLACE the infant or injured bird or animal in a well-ventilated cardboard box with a lid. If the infant bird is in a nest, leave it in the nest. Birds can also be placed in a brown paper bag. Wire cages are NOT recommended for birds. For birds, line the box or bag with paper towels; and for mammals, line the box or pet carrier with string-free towelling. Tape shut the lid of the box or the rolled top of the bag containing the animal or bird.

WASH HANDS thoroughly. Good hygienic practice is advisable after handling any wild creature.

DO NOT FEED any wild animal ANY FOOD OR LIQUID. A cold, frightened or injured animal cannot assimilate the food and may drown in the liquid.

NEVER place an animal in any type of oven to warm.

TRANSPORT WITHOUT DELAY the infant or injured animal to the Peninsula Humane Society at 12 South Airport Boulevard in San Mateo or to any other location they may have directed you to.

CAUTION: Before handling any adult wild mammal or bird of prey, phone the Humane Society for instructions. Deer have very sharp hooves, other mammals have sharp teeth and claws, birds of prey (hawks, owls, etc.) have very sharp talons and many water birds (herons, egrets, grebes, gulls, etc.) have sharp and powerful beaks.

Extracted from *Wings Over Our Gardens* by Juanita Heinemann, publ. 1985, by California Garden Clubs, Inc.)

## THE BREEDING SEASON

STEVE SCHAEFER

In birds, the urge to breed is driven by the changing seasons. For some western birds, the breeding season is already well underway, as owls and hummingbirds often begin nesting in February. Other species are just now returning from their South American wintering grounds, & won't lay eggs until May or even June. By that time, the hummingbirds will be hard at work on their second brood.

In late winter, as the weather warms, the birds begin to sing. Male birds sing to advertise their presence. Their song lets females know that they are available, & tells other males to stay away. The males of most species establish breeding territories before finding a mate. But in other species, such as downy woodpeckers, a male and female will pair early, then set up and defend a territory together.

In most songbirds, each male has several favorite perches from which he likes to sing. These are usually located near the boundaries of his territory. A suburban mockingbird maps out its territory several times a day, flying from one perch to the next, singing constantly. A half-hour of observation will usually reveal the territory's extents.

The territorial and courtship displays of birds are often visual as well as vocal: A mourning dove bows and coos in front of a prospective mate. A Brewer's blackbird slowly fluffs up its feathers, expanding like a balloon, then delivers its wheezy, metallic call as it shrinks back to normal size. An Anna's hummingbird flies high into the sky, then plummets straight down, nearly to the ground, emitting a piercing whistle as it drops. But even this daredevil display can't top the pompous strutting of a sage grouse, or the spiralling, twittering flight of a woodcock.

As the season progresses, the signs of breeding become more obvious. A bird carrying a twig or a clump of grass in its bill is a good sign that a nest is under construction nearby. (But not always; some birds use nesting material as part of their courtship display.) A bird carrying food is an even surer sign that breeding is under way.

Next month's column: Techniques for locating breeding birds and their nests.

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If you want to see the ultimate in vertebrate flexibility, you must examine a bird's neck. More pliant than a snake, it enables the beak to reach any part of the body with ease & balances the whole bird in flight. Even the stocky little sparrow has twice as many vertebrae in its neck as the tallest giraffe: 14 for the sparrow, 7 for the giraffe.

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--- Guy Murchie, Jr., *Song of the Sky*

**SAS LENDS SUPPORT TO FRIENDS OF FOSTER CITY**

By unanimous vote, the Sequoia Board of Directors extended its official support to the efforts of the Friends of Foster City in the organization's efforts to preserve the wetlands of Belmont Slough from development as a marina.

The Board also agreed to serve as an agency for the collection of donations to the Friends' cause.

To contribute to the Friends of Foster City, make your check out to Sequoia Audubon Society but clearly indicate somewhere on its face that it is intended for the Friends of Foster City. Donations made in this manner will be tax-deductible.

**BYRON SHER DINNER**

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club will honor Assemblyman Byron Sher, the Chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee at their awards dinner on Saturday, Apr. 9 at the Radisson Inn, 1085 East El Camino Real in Sunnyvale. Tickets are \$19.00. Contact Jules Eichorn, 6 Atherwood Place, Redwood City to make your reservations or get more information.

**NATURE CONCERT**

The Nature Sounds Society and the California Library of Natural Sounds is presenting "New Music with Birds, Frogs and Other Creatures", a concert of music and nature sounds on Saturday, April 9, at 1:00 PM in the James Moore Theatre of the Oakland Museum. Admission is \$5.00.

This innovative presentation combines sounds from nature with instrumental music in original works.

For more information contact Paul Matzner at the Oakland Museum (451-3322)

**MONO LAKE COMMITTEE TOURS**

The Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring trips to Bhutan in October, 1988 (\$3055 /23 days) and to Antarctica in January, 1989 (\$5000/15 days). All expenses except air fare to the starting points are included and a portion of the cost is tax-deductible.

For full information on the tours write to "Bhutan" or "Antarctica" c/o Mildred Bennett, 2719 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708. Please include a business size self-addressed stamped envelope.

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