



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

November, 1987

Vol. 36, #3

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

THE BIRDS, MAMMALS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF BRAZIL

Former President John Silliman has said that Doug Cheeseman exposes more film on a single trip than most people do in a lifetime. This month you will once more be able to view the results as world traveler, nature tour leader and local educator Doug Cheeseman takes us to the jungles, plains and parks of Brazil and shows us the natural wonders of a nation whose rapid development endangers those very wonders.

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.

CLEAN UP FOR SAS

Sequoia Audubon Society will do its bit for re-cycling by acting as a clearing house for all of your used aluminum cans. In addition to helping clean up the environment, Sequoia will be able to generate some needed income from resale of the aluminum. Just bring your used cans - preferably flattened out and in plastic bags - to the office, to the meetings or on local field trips.

Linda Kypta is coordinating the effort.

LAST CHANCE FOR SACRAMENTO BIRDING GUIDE

We have been successful in obtaining what may be the last ten copies of the now out-of-print *Birds of the Sacramento Area* published by the Sacramento Audubon Society. This small but excellent guide has some of the best maps to be found in this type of guide and includes not only Arcade Creek and the American River Parkway within the city limits but such outlying sites as the sandhill crane area of Thornton, Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, Putah Creek and the Crystal Basin Area in the Sierra foothills.

This book is available from the office for \$5.50 including tax and mailing or at meetings for \$5.00, tax included.

THE WILD GOOSE CHASE

Audubon Canyon Ranch, Committee for Green Foothills, the National Audubon Society, the Mono Lake Committee, the Mono Lake Defense Fund, Point Reyes Bird Observatory and many other environmental organizations seem to have one thing in common. They are all asking for (and in need of) money.

We are no different - except in one respect. Each year a portion of our budget is set aside to support these and other groups. These are not surplus funds. These are part of our commitment to the environment. We contribute to those organizations that are more specialized and better equipped than we to attain certain specific objectives of the Audubon Cause.

Your contribution to the WILD GOOSE CHASE goes well beyond just supporting Sequoia Audubon and its activities. It goes back into the environment, re-cycled into outdoor education, scientific research land acquisition, habitat preservation and other worth-while ends. In some cases, such as Pescadero Marsh or the Parks and Wildlife Initiative, these funds have the potential to multiply well beyond our investment.

Unfortunately, budgets don't always match reality and when they fall short, the only discretionary funds that we have are those in the contributions area. If we have over-estimated our income or under-estimated our expenses, then it is the contributions that have to be cut. For this reason the WILD GOOSE CHASE and the Birdathon are important not only to us but to many environmental groups.

So, please support not only Sequoia Audubon, but the environment in general by making a pledge to the WILD GOOSE CHASE. Use the pledge form on Page Six or your imagination but please pledge and earn the thanks of Sequoia Audubon and the other conservation causes we support.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

It's also time to start thinking about the Annual Christmas Bird Counts. This year the dates are Saturday, December 19 for the Crystal Springs Count and Saturday, December 26, for Año Nuevo. Peter Metropulos who did an outstanding job in his first year of coordinating the counts will once again do the organizational work and Barry Sauppe will continue as Compiler. Both of them have set the goal of surpassing 200 species in at least one of the two counts.

Please sign up as early as possible to help out on this vital annual survey. Call the office (593-7368) or send in the form on Page Four if you are going to participate.

OTHER COUNTS

For those of you who may want to participate in other Christmas Counts these dates had been announced as of press time:

December 20: Golden Gate (Oakland), Ohlone and Santa Clara Audubon Societies;

December 27: Madrone Audubon Society;

December 28: Golden Gate Audubon Society (San Francisco).

CALENDAR

November 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

NOV. 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Sears Savings THURSDAY Bank, Carlmont Shopping Center, Belmont.

NOV. 7 FIELD TRIP TO THE PALO ALTO BAYLANDS. The Baylands SATURDAY is one of the few remaining and best preserved of the once numerous bay salt marshes. We will meet at the farther end of the duck pond at 9:00 AM. Take Hwy 101 south to the Embarcadero exit. Follow the Embarcadero east to its end and take a left. The duck pond is a short way up on the left opposite the Sea Scout and Yacht Club buildings.

LEADER: JOHN SILLIMAN 585-3232

NOV. 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING. THE BIRDS, MAMMALS AND THURSDAY NATIONAL PARKS OF BRAZIL with DOUG CHEESEMAN. Doug Cheeseman once again will entertain and enlighten us with accounts of his travels to exotic lands. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00. See the article on Page One for further details.

WELCOME!
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 PRIOR EXPERIENCE.

NOV. 14 "HOW TO BIRD". A SPECIAL BEGINNER'S FIELD TRIP SATURDAY TO THE PALO ALTO BAYLANDS. This trip is especially designed for the person who is interested in birds but wants to know where to go, what to do and how to do it. The leaders will concentrate on these aspects of the sport, rather than on finding the maximum number of species. Bring binoculars if you have them. Call the leaders if you don't have binoculars so they can be sure to have enough on hand for everyone. The group will meet at the farther end of the duck pond at 9:00 A.M. To get there, take Hwy. 101 south to the Embarcadero exit. Follow the Embarcadero east to its end and take a left. The duck pond is a short way up on the left opposite the Sea Scout and Yacht Club buildings.

LEADERS: STEVE SCHAFER 689-0788
NICK COIRO 349-1834

NOV. 18 FIELD TRIP TO THE PALO ALTO BAYLANDS. Meeting time WEDNESDAY and directions are the same as above

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

AT BOLINAS - Dr. Rudolph Becking, Professor Emeritus, Humboldt State University is continuing his study of the Redwood Grove in Picher Canyon. The first stage of charting and mapping each of the nesting trees is almost completed.

AT BOUVERIE - The new training class is one of the largest to date with thirty-five docents learning about the Sonoma Preserve and how to introduce children to its endless round of life cycles.

AT CYPRESS POINT - The ACR Board has hired a part-time biologist to live on this preserve beginning the first of the year. His presence will provide a focus for the work of the Research Associates, while he conducts an assessment of all ACR's Tomales Bay properties, including Tom's Point, Hog and Duck Islands, the Walker Creek Delta and Cypress Point and its marshes. He will also begin to collate information already gathered to form the foundation for future education programs on Tomales Bay.

In appreciation of the support of donors in the \$1000+ category, ACR hosted a hike and picnic on Tom's Point in late September. The day ended with coffee and dessert at Cypress Point for the more than 50 guests who attended.

If you would like to visit Tom's Point and Cypress Grove don't forget the opportunity to do so scheduled for Nov. 14. It will be a day of history, hiking and naturalizing along Tomales Bay. To make a reservation call the Ranch at 868-9244.

The monarch butterfly is the subject of a class at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on November 21. Come and learn about and see hundreds of these fascinating creatures: the incredible, inedible monarch butterfly.

Remember there will be two Bouverie Community Hikes in November on the 14th and 28th and one on December 19th. Each hike begins at 9:30 AM. To make your reservation, call 707-938-4554.

AUDUBON CALENDARS

We have a small number of 1988 Audubon Calendars for sale. These beautiful calendars come in several different styles and feature birds, wildlife and spectacular natural wonders.

They will be available for sale at the meetings for \$7.95 plus tax, or by mail for \$9.00, with tax and shipping included.

These are an ideal gift for anyone who enjoys the outdoors or appreciates beautiful photography.

GETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

In last month's NEEDLES the Bureau of Land Management defended its policy on off-road vehicle use by flatly denying that there was still evidence of World War II tank maneuvers in the desert.

This month, in a separate release soliciting donations for the Desert Training Center Project the BLM says, "Today, more than 40 years after the Desert Training Center was closed, the tracks of Patton's Tank Corps are still visible in the desert."

**SANDHILL CRANES
PROGRAM**

CALENDAR
(Continued from Page Two)

Ken Strom, Manager of National Audubon Society's Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River near Gibbon, Nebraska, is presenting a special and spectacular slide show on this vital sandhill crane staging area.

The Platte River hosts the largest concentration of cranes to be found anywhere in the world. 80% of the total United States population of these birds (500,000) visits the Big Bend of the Platte in March and April of each year.

Ken's program features stunning slides of sandhill and whooping cranes feeding, resting and courting on the Platte's wetlands and includes scenes of quiet pastoral beauty as well as spectacular shots of other wildlife.

The Platte has become critical to the migratory passage of cranes other birds because of the loss or degradation of other suitable habitat along the flyway. But now the Platte itself is under extreme pressure. So many water projects have been proposed for the river that if all were built as planned the Platte would run dry. National Audubon has organized a major campaign to save the Platte, and has made this fight one of its five high priority issues for the next two years.

The slide show was presented at the National Audubon Convention in August and received rave reviews. The evening promises to be a unique opportunity to view a world class wildlife event. This presentation is sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the City of Palo Alto and will be presented at the Baylands Interpretive Center at the end of Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto on Monday, November 23 at 8:00 PM. Refreshments will be available at 7:30.
Admission is FREE.

SAS PATCHES

Work is well underway on developing a unique embroidered patch for the Sequoia Audubon Society. Gail Smithson's design, featuring a Townsend's Warbler among the sequoia needles was approved by the Board and proposals are now being obtained.

We expect the patches to be ready for sale at a nominal cost sometime before Christmas Day, when they will make a perfect stocking-stuffer.

After the final design is completed and adopted, the Board will investigate the possibility of incorporating the Townsend's warbler into our letterhead and newsletter logotypes, while keeping our traditional sequoia design.

November 1987							December 1987						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

NOV. 19 THE THIRD ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE THURSDAY See Pages One and Six for more details.

NOV. 21-22 GRAY LODGE AND THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WILDLIFE SATURDAY REFUGES. Clouds of geese and enormous rafts of & SUNDAY ducks are typical of the sights that greet the birder at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges or at the state's Gray Lodge refuge nearby. We will meet at 6:30 AM Saturday morning in the parking lot of the Blue Gum Motel. The motel is just off I-5 3 miles beyond Willows. Take the next off-ramp after the motel's sign and turn right onto Blue Gum Road. At the end of the road turn left. The motel is approximately 1/4 mile on the left. For those who wish to sleep in or are traveling from the Bay area in the morning, there will be an alternate meeting place and time - 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the Sacramento NWR on Norman Road south of Willows. The exit is Norman Rd./Princeton. Coming from the Bay Area note that there are no gas stations along I-5 between Williams and the Refuge and we may be driving along back roads for most of the day. Bring lunch. There are other motels in Willows and along I-5 and camping at the state park in Colusa. Reservations are advised at this time of year. The Blue Gum Motel's telephone number is (916) 934-5401. In order for us to know how many birders to expect and plan our itinerary, we ask all attendees to call the Office (593-7368) and let us know the number in your party and when you plan to arrive. Carpooling may also be available. The trip will be held rain or shine.

LEADERS: CLIFF RICHER 355-4058
JOHN SILLIMAN 585-3232

NOV. 26 HAPPY THURSDAY THANKSGIVING!

DEC. 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Bank of America THURSDAY Bank Building, 400 El Camino Real, Burlingame. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

DEC. 5 FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and WEDNESDAY shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater and lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. Meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon.

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

DEC. 10 SAS GENERAL MEETING. OUR ANNUAL DECEMBER POT-LUCK THURSDAY At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Potluck begins at 6:30. See next month's NEEDLES for further details.

DEC. 16 MIDWEEK FIELD TRIP TO FOSTER CITY. Details are WEDNESDAY the same as for the December 5 trip. See above.

LEADER: NICK COIRO 349-1834

DEC. 19 THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT. SATURDAY AND
DEC. 26 THE AÑO NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT. SEE PAGE FOUR FOR SATURDAY DETAILS AND THE SIGN-UP SHEET. Please note that our tight budget necessitates our asking for a **voluntary** \$3.00 fee from all counters. Keep in mind that all other local counts require the payment of this fee. Call the Audubon office (593-7368) now to sign up.

BIRDING HOTSPOT #2

NICK COIRO

ANZA-BORREGA STATE PARK

Anza-Borrega State Park in Southern California southeast of Palm Springs (a few miles from Borrega Springs) is an excellent place to observe many species of birds - particularly desert varieties. It is on the western edge of the Colorado Desert and is about 600,000 acres in area. There are several campgrounds with a modern developed one at Polar Canyon (utility hook-ups and hot showers.) Modern motels are available in Borrego Springs.

Most months are good (except the extremely hot summer months). However, mid-March is excellent as the desert will be in bloom with a bonus of many wild flowers particularly if the preceding winter has been wet.

The checklist includes 224 species, although, as usual, some are quite rare and not to be expected.

Some of the more interesting species are Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, Gambel's quail, ladderback woodpecker, greater roadrunner, Costa's hummingbird, (black-chinned hummers are regular but not common), verdin, cactus wren, canyon wren, phainopepla, hooded and Scott's orioles, Lawrence's goldfinch and black-throated sparrow.

A checklist and information on the best birding spots can be obtained at the Visitors' Center. A guided birding walk is usually offered on weekends by naturalist Nancy Foley, an avid birder and good guide.

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 19.00
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 5.50

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
Allow 14-18 days 720 El Camino Real #403
for delivery Belmont, Ca. 94002

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

A trip to the Salton Sea (only about 60 miles away) can be combined with a trip to Anza-Borrega.

(Readers are encouraged to submit reports of their favorite or "stumbled across" birding spots. Some which have been promised for the future include the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Utah locations, Sand Canyon and Mil Potrero Park in Kern County.)

MOUNTAIN LION HUNT DELAYED

The Mountain Lion Coalition obtained a temporary victory when a state judge issued an injunction delaying the start of the mountain lion hunting season.

Unfortunately the September 28 injunction was issued on the basis of a technical point. The State Department of Fish and Game failed to file an Environmental Impact Statement and defended this action by maintaining that there was no environmental impact.

While taking no position as to whether there was or was not an environmental impact, the judge decided that the statement was required by law and gave the DFG 45 days to make such a filing.

Sources at the Mountain Lion Foundation indicate that DFG had its statement prepared within ten days. The two page document supported the original premise that there was no environmental impact. The Coalition's attorneys are expected to attack this as inadequate but are uncertain as to how the court may decide. The hearing date has been set for November 15.



San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching

FICA:
A BIRDING NEWSLETTER

Kurt Campbell, an expert birder, and a regional editor for American Birds has "gone public". For the past year or so, Ken has published a private newsletter for other experts, Audubon leaders and American Birds subscribers. The reception has been sufficiently favorable so that Ken is now continuing this as a public venture.

Pica, as the newsletter is called, will be published five times each year and will emphasize birding news - new checklists and books, cooperative and ongoing projects and sources of information and equipment. Input is from readers and regional experts. It will be by and for Northern California birders.

The next several issues will include articles on good birding spots, how-to items on birding technique and note-taking and a continuation of Joe Morlan's analysis of the second edition of the National Geographic Field Guide. Ongoing discussions of new field marks and controversial issues of concern to birders will also be featured.

Kurt writes, "I have had some concern that Pica is too oriented to expert birders... This is likely to mellow somewhat... it is only natural that the most expert and enthusiastic birders will get involved first (but) Pica will serve the community best by also serving the needs of intermediate birders".

Pica is named for the Yellow-billed Magpie (Pica nuttalli), the only bird which has never been found outside of California. For more information, call Kurt at 707-664-0104.

A sample newsletter can be obtained by sending \$1 to him. A year's subscription is \$8.00. Make all checks payable to Kurt Campbell-Pica, at P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928.

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THE FOURTH ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY WILD GOOSE CHASE - NOVEMBER 19, 1987

Barry Sauppe will lead a team of crack(?) Sequoia Audubon Society birders on a **WILD GOOSE CHASE** through all the prime birding sites of San Mateo County (with forays to Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Alameda counties) trying to identify as many different species as possible.

The objective of this **WILD GOOSE CHASE** is to raise funds for our public service activities for the next year.

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

You can show your commitment to SAS and your confidence in the team's goal of 150+ species by "pre-paying" your pledge for 150 (or 100) 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.

THANKS, NADINE

We're sorry to report that Nadine Holmberg, our office coordinator for the last 11 months has succumbed to economic pressures and been forced to seek another position. We are both sympathetic to her needs and appreciative of the work she has performed for us during this past year.

Her talent for organization and her quiet competence will be sorely missed.

ERRATUM

Last month's masthead showed Nick Coiro as Mid-week Field Trip Chairman. Even though Nick has volunteered to be active in this area, he feels he will be away too often for extended periods of time to be in charge. We apologize for the error.

ACR USE OF SAS MEMBERSHIP LIST APPROVED

In a minor departure from general policy, the Board of Directors of Sequoia Audubon Society voted to allow Audubon Canyon Ranch to obtain our membership list from National Audubon and use it to augment their existing mailing list.

The Board emphasizes that this does not constitute any change in the basic policy that our mailing list will not be sold, traded or otherwise made available to any other organization. Although occasional worthwhile environmental causes may be supported through a general mailing, such mailings have been and will continue to be prepared and controlled by Sequoia Audubon.

An exception has been made for ACR because of the special relationship between the Ranch and the Bay Area Audubon Societies. This procedure is in line with the policy of the other eight area chapters and is subject to stringent controls and guarantees made by ACR.



YES, I will support SAS's **WILD GOOSE CHASE** with a pledge of \_\_\_\_\_ per species.

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge based on an estimate of at least 150 different birds being identified.

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

YES, I will pre-pay my pledge but I don't think you'll do better than 100 species. My check for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

BIRDING SAN MATEO COUNTY

PETER METROPULOS

SPECIAL SEABIRD REPORT: Our offshore waters are rarely visited by birders, so the report by Joe Morlan from a pelagic boat trip, September 6, to Pioneer Canyon, located 30 miles west of San Gregorio, is of very special interest. Birds logged on the voyage included 4500 ASHY STORM-PETRELS, 500 BLACK STORM-PETRELS, 2 WILSON'S STORM PETRELS (our first County record!), 500 BULLER'S SHEARWATERS, an amazing 15 LONG-TAILED JAEGERS, 20 POMARINE JAEGERS, 2 PARASITIC JAEGERS, 2 SOUTH POLAR SKUAS, 50 ARCTIC TERNS, 20 COMMON TERNS AND 15 SABINE'S GULLS. Needless to say, in view of these impressive discoveries, more visits to this intriguing off-shore locality would be highly desirable for local birders.

PLEASE REPORT RARE, UNUSUAL OR MYSTERIOUS BIRDS -- PHONE 592-2417 --

BULLER'S SHEARWATERS: Seven were spotted close to shore at spotted close to shore at Pomponio Beach on September 17 (RT).

GREEN-BACKED HERON: Strange was one flying east over Hillsdale High School, San Mateo, September 5 (PM); another was more normal at Pescadero Marsh, September 13-17 (RT) and September 25 (CR).

OSPREY: One at the east end of Whipple Avenue, Redwood City, September 18 (CB) was the only one reported.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: One reported from El Granada, September 14 (JB) was the earliest of ten County records. This species is a very rare, but regular, fall migrant along the coast.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: The first to appear this season was at Año Nuevo Point, September 29 (GS).

GOLDEN EAGLE: One was found along Sandhill Road, Menlo Park, during mid-September (JBe).

HERLIN: One at Pescadero, September 19 & 26 (RT), was the only one reported.

PEREGRINE: One was keeping shorebirds "on their toes" at Pescadero Marsh September 21 (PM) and another was flying south along Skyline at Highway 92 on September 30 (PM).

COMMON MOORHEN: Very rare, but probably resident, one was skulking in Pescadero Marsh, Sept. 13(RT).

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: Single birds were noted at Año Nuevo Point, September 21 (PM) and Pescadero Marsh, September 30 (PM).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: These continued to be seen in good numbers at Pescadero Marsh. A flock of 18 was flying on September 11 and 27 were counted in the marsh on September 25 (CR) although numbers were down to four on September 30 (PM).

WANDERING TATTLER: Quite rare inside San Francisco Bay, two migrants were observed on the Foster City shoreline on September 6 (NC).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Three were on the Foster City shoreline on September 12 (NC), one at Pescadero Marsh, September 11 (CR) and two on a ranch pond south of Half Moon Bay on September 17 (RT).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: 25 on a ranch pond south of Half Moon Bay on September 26 (RT) increased to 27 on September 30 (PM) when the pond dried up and all the birds left! Elsewhere, up to 14 were in Pescadero Marsh on September 11 (CR) and a few were reported from Año Nuevo Point.

STILT SANDPIPER: An immature discovered in Pescadero Marsh on September 13 (RT) gave us our second county record. The bird stayed until Sept. 21(PM).

POMARINE JAEGER: Unusually close to shore were seven at Pomponio Beach, September 17 (RT).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Rarely venturing inside San Francisco Bay, a pair were harassing terns at the mouth of Steinberger Slough in Redwood City on September 22 (PM).

COMMON TERN: One was identified at Pomponio Beach on September 17 (RT).

BLACK TERN: Ever an extreme rarity along the coast, an immature was on the pond at Año Nuevo Point on September 25 (GS).

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL: Even though they are locally fairly common, they are seldom reported, making the observation of birds in the Emerald Lakes Area of Redwood City noteworthy (JBe).

SPOTTED OWL: One calling at Año Nuevo Point on September 8 (GS) was the first from this location. However, a few exist very locally in dense, mature forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

SHORT-EARED OWL: Two were in open fields in Half Moon Bay on September 27 (BS).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: A migrant was at Año Nuevo Pt. on September 17 (BS).

PURPLE MARTIN: One at Pescadero Marsh on September 17 (BS) was the latest reported.

BANK SWALLOW: A migrant was at Año Nuevo Point, September 21 (PM).

SCRUB JAY: First observed stashing acorns in Belmont on September 1 (PM).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One at Moss Beach on September 13 (DK) was one of very few county records.

PALM WARBLER: Regular in small numbers each fall, four were in the Pigeon Point cypresses on September 28 (GS).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: Also regular in tiny numbers each Autumn, one was at Año Nuevo Point on Sept. 13 (GS), another at Moss Beach on Sept. 17 (DK), two more near Pescadero High School on Sept. 26 (RT) and one at Pigeon Point on September 28 (GS).

AMERICAN REDSTART: Single birds, all different, were in the Moss Beach willows on Sept. 4 (DK,PM), September 7 (DK,PM) and September 19 (SF).

SAGE SPARROW: Highly unusual was a coastal stray at Año Nuevo Point on September 27 (GS).

BOBOLINK: Another of the rarer vagrants to reach our shores, one was flushed from a weedy field in Half Moon Bay, September 9 (BS).

RED CROSSBILL: A female was discovered coming to a feeder in Foster City on September 26-27 (JMi), a most unusual place indeed.

REPORTING OBSERVERS: Carl Beck (CB), Jim Behnke (JBe), John Boring (JB), Nick Coiro (NC), Shawn Finnegan (SF), Dan Keller (DK), Peter Metropulos (PM), June Miller (JMi), Joe Morlan (JM), Cliff Richer (CR), Barry Sauppe (BS), Gary Strachan (GS) and Ron Thorn (RT).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDES

Joe Morlan, writing in Fica, points out that the new Second Edition of the National Geographic Field Guide contains many new field marks and "despite a few shortcomings", he regards "this book as the finest field guide available for both beginners and advanced birders."

This guide is not available through commercial sources and can be obtained only through non-profit organizations such as the Sequoia Audubon Society or the Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Association.

PMIA DOCENT GUIDE READY

Rick Baird, President of the Pescadero Marsh Interpretive Association, has announced that the Docent Guide to Pescadero Marsh, authored by Sheri Howe is ready and the PMIA is proceeding with its plans to institute docent training classes early in March. The guide was funded by a grant from the Pescadero Marsh Fund of Sequoia Audubon Society.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Sequoia Audubon Society welcomes gifts in general or on behalf of, or in memory of relatives or friends. Such gifts may be designated for education, for conservation or for any other specific purpose. All others will be used for the advancement of the objectives of Sequoia Audubon Society

at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All gifts are tax-deductible. Please send your gift in the form of a check to the Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in Sequoia Needles and personally on behalf of Sequoia Audubon Society.

From

FLOYD AND SHIRLEY SAMPSON

In Memory Of

WILLIAM SAIN

|                                    |                                   |                          |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| OFFICERS:                          | DIRECTORS:                        | Elected for Term Ending: | STANDING COMMITTEES:                              |
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