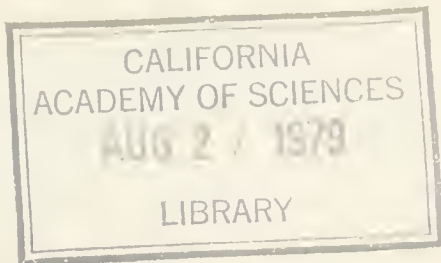


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the gull

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September 1979

Number 8

A Harpoon Away from Extinction

The Bowhead Whale is one of the ocean's most fascinating and little known creatures. It is also a whale on the very brink of extinction. This whale may fade from our oceans before we even have an opportunity to learn about it.

The species was nearly eliminated by the 18th century whalers who managed to convert most of Alaska's marine mammals (including seals) into oil to light our cities.

Today the native people hunt the Bowhead Whale for subsistence purposes— whaling has always been an important part of their culture. Equipped with the shoulder gun that implants an explosive charge into the whale they have become more successful whalers than their ancestors. They have also become the center of an international controversy. The International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee has declared that their continued whaling will complete the extinction process begun by earlier whalers; the Alaskan natives resist this conclusion.

Our September program will be about the Bowhead Whale in Alaskan waters. Our speaker is Ron Storro-Patterson, a biologist knowledgeable about the whale's life history and, as a member of the IWC's Scientific Committee, well aware of the native whaling controversy. He will show slides of the Alaskan haunts of this most mysterious of whales as well as the Eskimos living there. The program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., September 13, will be held at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Bring your friends.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

Field Trips Calendar

Wednesday, September 12—Mini trip to Alameda Shoreline. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. The shorebirds will be present in abundant numbers. Leader: Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Sunday, September 16—Bollinas Sewage Ponds and Bollinas Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the N.E. corner of Bollinas Lagoon at Hwy. 1 and Bollinas Rd. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for migrating shorebirds and we may see Peetoral and Baird's Sandpipers. Leader: Tony Briggs (282-3142). (✓)

Saturday, September 22—Point Reyes. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal (Parking Section H). For directions to the lot, please consult a map. We will carpool and caravan from there. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for vagrant birds in the islands of trees on Pt. Reyes peninsula. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay. (385-1640). (✓)

Saturday, September 29—Coastal San Francisco. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will bird Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced and Golden Gate National Recreation Area in a search for rare birds in the city. We should also see many of the birds commonly found in the area. Middle Lake is a central location so we can carpool from there. Bring lunch. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Sunday, September 30—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary and the San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline. Toward the end of the day we will look for Burrowing Owls on Bay Farm Island. Be sure to bring lunch and liquids. Waterfowl and shorebirds should be present in numbers so bring a spotting scope. Leader: Leora Feeney (522-8523).

Saturday, October 6—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Park Headquarters. Take I-680 south, turn off at the Calaveras Rd., go left and follow the signs to Sunol Park, about 5 miles. Bring lunch. We should see some winter residents and fall migrants common to the interior. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Carpooling: You can arrange carpooling for trips marked (✓). If

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you are offering a ride or need a ride call Kate Partridge at work (642-2881, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or at home before 9 p.m. (548-0779). On the recent trip to Año Nuevo State Park, July 28, thirteen people called asking for rides and two people called offering rides — a dreary fact. Carpooling is not a taxi service and we do not ask people to go out of their way to pick up passengers if this is a reason keeping you from calling. Convenient pick up points are worked out. Carpooling can benefit everyone if enough people participate. Riders share all expenses incident to the trips.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

June and July Observations - Through July 29

June failed to fulfill our recent expectations for coastal vagrants as unusually prolonged spells of clear weather dominated the month. In this respect the Farallones suffered even more than the mainland, receiving only five individual eastern vagrants that were discovered in June! Certainly, birders found some good vagrants, but not in the same proportion to effort as in recent Junes. July brought a sudden influx of **Magnificent Frigatebirds** and two species that, if accepted by the California Records Committee, will be new to the state list: **Red-tailed Tropicbird** and **Crested Auklet**.

MARINE BIRDS

What is the most numerous bird in California? The answer depends on the season, of course, but some summers it may be Sooty Shearwater. Enormous concentrations occur, such as the approximately 500,000 passing the Farallones July 3-5 (PRBO). Conversely, the **Red-tailed Tropicbird** reported from the Farallones July 3 (LS and PM of PRBO) is unprecedented in California waters although this species has been found within 300 miles of Southern California.

The first **Magnificent Frigatebird** appeared July 13, but two days later probably six or more different individuals were observed widely around the Bay Area. Thereafter we had only three reports to the end of the month! Anecdotal evidence suggests that the dense coastal fog may have cornered these birds in Berkeley and in some indentations of the outer coast. The frigatebird flying north over Alviso raises the possibility of an overland flight through the Santa Clara Valley, perhaps after being forced inland by the fog somewhere along Monterey Bay. Frigatebirds are known to arrive at the Salton Sea by flying over the Imperial Valley. With one exception, all of our birds were known or thought to be immature. Sightings may be summarized as follows:

1	Santa Cruz	July 13	RB
1	Bolinas	July 14	KH
2	Bolinas	July 15	<i>fide</i> BS, BF
1	Alviso	July 15	<i>fide</i> TC

2, later 1	Berkeley and Bay Bridge Toll Plaza	July 15	AK, GR, SFB, KLB, NC, DJ, JMcG
1	Santa Cruz	July 15	JP
adult female	Pacifica Pier	July 15	CD, JMcN
adult female	Golden Gate Bridge	July 15	
1	Golden Gate Bridge	July 18	KY
1	Farallones	July 20	PRBO
1	Cliff House, S.F.	July 28	CW, VW

A bird seen alive off Palomarin July 16 was found dead on the beach the next morning and determined to be California's first **Crested Auklet**, probably one year old (BS of PRBO). Tufted Puffins beside burrows on Arch Rock, Sonoma County, suggest nesting (JML).

SUMMERING DUCKS

Many ducks remain through the summer in their winter ranges as nonbreeders, but the frequency of this varies greatly among species, with scoters, scaups and others fairly common while some species are very rare. A Canvasback at Albany (HG, MG, NC), Bufflehead at Palo Alto (BH, mob) and Oldsquaw at Año Nuevo (June 24 - SL, *et al.*) are all unusual. A female-plumaged Blue-winged Teal at Palo Alto July 24 (SFB, *et al.*) is probably less noteworthy, but the similarity of Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teals obscures the former's status. Far rarer is the male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Palo Alto (TC, mob), the first summer record for California. Harlequin Ducks are hardly rarer in summer than in winter. One at the Farallones (PRBO), two at Año Nuevo (JZ, JM, *et al.*) and one at Arch Rock (JML) were at typical sites, but one was also found off the Oakland Airport June 11 (LF, TH).

OTHER NONPASSERINES

The lone Cattle Egret was near Carquinez Strait June 17 (DS). Palo Alto's Little Blue Heron was reported through July 14 (mob). Both Baird's Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs returned on schedule in late July to scattered locations (mob). That the first juvenal California Gull reached the Farallones on the early date of July 21 (PRBO) does not ease our fears for the breeding population at Mono Lake. Unfortunately, the Least Tern colony on Alameda Naval Air Station was virtually wiped out in early June (LF, *fide* JM). Twelve Least Terns on Oakland Airport June 11 appeared to be recolonizing (LF, TH). Away from colonies this tern frequented the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (mob) and Albany Fields (NC, HG) in small numbers. Five Common Terns at Moss Landing June 12 (DR) may have been early fall migrants, perhaps deserters from early nest failures. The first Elegant Tern was found with them (DR), but none was reported from the Bay until July 7 (1 - Bay Bridge Toll Plaza).

During May and June a Short-eared Owl was observed in Petaluma Marsh, a possible nesting site (SB). At North Point Reyes Beach a roost of Short-eared Owls was discovered June 24 (SK, MK, *et al.*) and the

maximum flushed was four adults and three or four flying juvenals (SFB). Because parent owls can move their dependents long distances, this does not establish nesting in this dune area, though it would not be surprising considering the regional population peak of California Voles.

Swifts inhabiting a chimney in Sonoma were believed on the basis of field characters to be Chimney Swifts until they were captured, measured and determined to be Vaux's (*fide* JM). This exemplifies the difficulties of separating these two species and raises the question of the strength of the evidence for many other California records of Chimney Swift, particularly the nesting in Fort Bragg, well within the normal breeding range of Vaux's Swift. Bearing this in mind, an apparent Chimney Swift flew over Nunes Ranch June 24 (EM, JML, *et al.*).

PASSERINES

An Eastern Kingbird at the Fish Docks July 1 (PW, DW, DJ, JZ) disappeared rapidly. The report of an adult male Mountain Bluebird from Grizzly Peak July 8 (RBu) is highly anomalous. A Bell's Vireo heard singing at the mouth of the Carmel River May 20 (BC, *et al.*, *fide* LP) raises the question whether the vocalist was of an eastern or a western race; either would be rare.

Only three Tennessee Warblers made appearances, but this was one of the best showings of the vagrant warblers (!): Farallones June 1-3 (PRBO), Point Reyes Lighthouse June 4 (JM, JMu) and Tilden Park June 18 (GH). A Northern Parula sang at North Lake, Golden Gate Park, June 2-4 (LCB, *et al.*). Less cooperative Northern Parulas confused and frustrated most observers at Muddy Hollow, as few could find either the female or male seen June 24-25 (PS, WS, MW, BR, JR, EM). This pair may have nested there; an apparent juvenal was reported July 28 (EM, AM). There were two Magnolia Warblers, Natural Bridges State Park, Santa Cruz, June 3, and Farallones June 10-11 (PRBO). A female Cape May Warbler visited the Fish Docks June 15 (JiM). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** delighted many as it crept along cypress trunks and house roofs at Nunes Ranch June 23 (GH) to July 3 (mob. SW). A late vagrant Chestnut-sided Warbler sang at Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, July 5-7 (GK, *et al.*). Other singing male vagrants were a Blackpoll Warbler at Drakes Beach June 5-6 (GH, *et al.*), a Palm Warbler at Point Reyes Lighthouse June 2 (JM, *et al.*) and **Hooded Warblers** at Muddy Hollow June 23 (JML) and Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park June 27 (LCB, *et al.*). June's 5 American Redstarts were all coastal: one at Drakes Beach June 1-2, with 2 there on June 3 (JM, GH, *et al.*), and Land's End, San Francisco, June 24-July 1 (AH), but the first of July found one on Mount Tamalpais (IT).

A flock of 200 Tricolored Blackbirds near Hall Ranch June 26 probably consisted of very early fall migrants (JM, *et al.*); we don't believe

their feeding flights from colonies are *that* long. The adult male "Baltimore" Northern Oriole at Point Reyes Lighthouse June 9 (FN, LN) must have been welcome despite being a "nonspecies." San Francisco's **Great-tailed Grackle** remained at least through Independence Day (DW, PW, *et al.*). Rose-breasted Grosbeak is our most reliable June vagrant; ten appeared, all in the first ten days and in two waves:

male	Twin Peaks, S.F.	June 1	AJ
2	Abandoned Ranch	June 1	GK
male	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	June 1-2	JM, BR
female	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	June 2	
male	Farallones	June 2	PRBO
male	beside Olema Marsh	June 9, July 1 (same?)	JML
male	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	June 9-10	JM, EM, <i>et al.</i>
female	Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	June 10	JM, <i>et al.</i>
male	Farallones	June 10	PRBO

Female Indigo Buntings found the Farallones June 9, July 4 and July 21 ("Indigo or Varied") (all PRBO). A male Indigo Bunting was at least briefly on territory along Mines Road, southeastern Alameda County, on June 3 (MO, JS). For the fourth consecutive year a male Indigo Bunting summered beside Olema Marsh. It was reported from June 12 (EG) to July 18 (mob). Another male was discovered with it June 24 (mob). A third male bunting in the area was identified July 22 as a hybrid Indigo X Lazuli and at least one year old (JM, *et al.*). Lazulis of both sexes occur there, so perhaps the male Indigo hybridized during at least one past year (JM). A Vesper Sparrow hit the Farallones June 13 (PRBO).

Observations may be reported to either me or Joe Morlan (654-1358).

Observers: Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Steve Balling, Laurenee C. Binford, Richard Bitstrop (RB), Roger Butler (RBu), Ted Chandik, Bill Clow, Nancy Conzett, Cliff Diekason, Leora Feeney, Bud Fry, Ed Greaves, Helen Green, Mike Green, Keith Hanson, Tom Harvey, Ray Hasey, Bob Hirt, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Anthony James, Dick Johnson, Alice Kase, Mike Kelly, Shirley Kelly, Gary Key, Jeri M. Langham, Susanne Luther, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Pamela Masterson, Joe McGee, James McNally, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan (JM), Jim Morris (JiM), Jolaine Munk (JMun), Fran Nelson, Leroy Nelson, Mark Oberle, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon reports thanks to Jerry Nusbaum), Jerry Perkins, Lina Prairie, Gib Raehut, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Don Schmoldt, Jim Shank, Paulette Smith, Wally Smith, Bruce Sorrie, Larry Spear, Irene Timossi, Charles Walker, Vickie Walker, Dolores White, Peter White, Mike Wihler, Steve Wilson, Keiko Yamane, Jon Zablaekis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

A Calendar for 1980

Hot off the press is the beautiful *1980 California Birder's Calendar and Almanac* published by GGAS. Illustrated with excellent drawings by Pedro J. Gonzalez, the 11" x 14" calendar also features notes compiled by Stephen Bailey noting all rare birds sighted in the state six times or fewer as well as suggestions for productive birding trips throughout the year. There is also a bar graph showing the annual migratory distribution of birds in the state.

Pedro Gonzalez, a GGAS member, is also a splendid wildlife artist. He was "discovered" by Martha Morrow of our Education Committee who brought his work to the attention of the Board of Directors. At our request he agreed to do the 13 drawings that illustrate the calendar. The drawing of the Great Egret reproduced here shows his ability to capture the essence of the bird in line but does not begin to show how his elaborate illustrations depict a bird in its habitat.



Gonzalez was born in Cuba in 1948 and moved to the U.S. in 1959. He attended the High School of Art and Design in New York and later the Philadelphia College of Art with a major in graphic design and minors in painting and photography. Since moving to San Francisco in 1972 he has been a freelance illustrator. About the drawings for the calendar, he says, ". . . they are scientifically correct as to species, habitat and habits as well as to the highest standards artistically and esthetically that I can achieve."

GGAS is proud to offer this calendar to our members. The graphics are beautiful and the production is equal to other fine calendars. Certainly the information in the notes is of special interest to birders. We feel that every member will want one and, once seen, others for Christmas gifts. The calendar will be available through the office for \$4.80 (tax included); if you wish to order by mail the cost will be \$5.50, postage and handling included. It will also be available in local bookstores.

Birds of Northern California Now Available

A second edition of the classic, *Birds of Northern California*, has just been published by GGAS.

Here is an up-to-date distributional analysis of all the species of birds occurring in Northern California. It presents graphically the seasonal abundance of each species according to zoogeographic districts. You can easily determine the status of any bird no matter when or where you are in the region. Bar graphs show arrival and departure times. Extensive notes on most species are included along with tips on field identification beyond what is available in the standard field guides.

It is indispensable to any birder traveling to or in Northern California. The book was written by Guy McCaskie and Paul De Benedictis. Richard Erickson and Joseph Morlan prepared this revision.

Send check or money order payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society for \$5.50 postpaid. California residents add \$.30 tax (BART county residents add \$.03 for a total of \$.33 tax). Send to the GGAS office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Suite 206, Berkeley, CA 94705. All proceeds go to support the conservation activities of GGAS.

Conservation Notes

WHALES WIN ONE. The world's great whales won a major victory in July when the International Whaling Commission voted a moratorium on the use of factory ships and decreed the Indian Ocean a sanctuary for all whale species for the next ten years.

The factory ship ban will probably effect the retirement of the Russian fleet - a move inevitable in the next few years anyway because of rapidly declining whale stock - and for the first time will protect most of the world's remaining Sperm Whales. The Japanese will continue to take the one whale exempted from the factory ship ban, the small and relatively populous Minke Whale, still a food source in Japan.

U.S. SENATE CONSIDERS ALASKA BILL. This month should see an Alaska Lands bill of some kind reported to the full Senate. S222, the Durkin-Nelson-Roth bill, is an excellent piece of legislation, similar to HR39 recently passed by the House, but its chances of reaching the

floor are said not to be good. The weaker bill, S9, sponsored by Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, is expected to be reported out. If so, please write Senators Cranston and Hayakawa urging support of strengthening amendments in the floor debate. The Alaska Lands decision is extremely important and it's far from over. Help preserve America's last great wilderness. Latest information is available from the Alaska Coalition hotline (202) 547-5550.

BLM WANTS YOU. America's largest land holder is inviting the public to help decide which of its millions of California acres will eventually become wilderness. The GGAS office has received maps and a booklet describing tracts of BLM land throughout the state and identifying those that meet the criteria for wilderness. The public is invited to comment on specific areas by using the worksheets contained in the back of the booklet or with personal letters or sketches. There are vast areas of land involved here ranging all over the state and including all variety of habitats. Please get involved; details from the GGAS office (843-2222). This project will hopefully give more priority to public support for wilderness than the U.S. Forest Service's RARE II fiasco which seems to satisfy no one but the big timber interests.

CALIFORNIA SUES FEDS OVER RARE II WILDERNESS. The state has filed a legal challenge to the U.S. Forest Service's plan to open nearly a million acres of wild lands in California to logging, mining and other development. The state claims the RARE II computerized process for designating 41 roadless areas "non-wilderness" was "grossly defective."

Meanwhile, a citizens' commission report just published concludes that the Forest Service, which manages 20 million acres in California, is emphasizing timber production at the expense of other natural resources and wildlife. The commission found that increased access to national forest wildlands by roads and recreational development is destroying some habitat for sensitive species and disturbing others at critical moments in their reproductive cycles. It charged the Forest Service ignored citizen recommendations on wilderness areas that were superior to its own findings. President Carter has proposed opening up 36 million acres of roadless areas in the national forests to development, basing his decision on Forest Service recommendations and RARE II.

PG&E COAL BURNING POWER PLANT OKAYED. The state Energy Commission has given the green light to California's first major coal burning power plant. PG&E's proposed 1600 megawatt coal fired plant would be constructed in Solano County near Collinsville and the extensive wetlands of the Suisun Marsh waterfowl refuge. The commission said the \$2.7 billion facility would be "the cleanest coal burning

plant in the world." An alternative site in Butte County would not be considered viable, however, "until the utility can demonstrate compliance with air quality requirements." PG&E plans to meet state air quality standards by cleaning up other sources of pollution in the Bay Area to compensate for emission from the coal burning plant.

ACTION ALERT. GGAS urges its members to support these bills recently introduced in the state senate: AB406 (Kapiloff) could ban the use of plastic six-pack holders. Not only do these create more plastic garbage but they have caused injury and death to birds and other wildlife that get caught in them.

SB4 (Rains) is the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling bill, or simply the "Bottle Bill." This one would save energy (70 to 80,000 barrels of oil *per day* by 1982), cut wasteful resource use by half to three-quarters for the entire beverage industry, create thousands of new jobs in recycling and of course eliminate a big percentage of "garbage" and unsightly litter. Help common sense triumph over the throwaway ethic.

For national issues, you can take advantage of National Audubon's new alert, *National Outlook*. Send your name, address and congressional district to National Audubon Society, *National Outlook*, 1511 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. It's up to us to make a difference!

For further conservation action see page 119.

Bird Classes

GGAS will sponsor the following classes this fall:

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey, *Gull* Observations Editor, will teach two evening classes through the Albany Adult School. Each meets 7-9 p.m. for ten consecutive weeks.

Avian Biology I will be taught Tuesdays beginning September 11. This is the first of several anticipated courses exploring the biology of birds from a topical, integrative approach. Lecture/discussion sessions will investigate and relate such topics as migration, ecology, behavior, reproduction, morphology, evolution and biogeography through the examination of many avian examples. By using both well-studied phenomena and unsolved problems and by posing questions to the class, the instructor intends to stimulate analytical inquisitiveness and in selected cases mimic the original scientific process. The approach should be suitable for all bird enthusiasts except advanced professionals.

Beginning/Intermediate Ornithology will be taught Thursdays beginning September 13. This class emphasizes techniques of field observation and description of birds and their behaviors while teaching

recognition of California birds and bird identification. It should stimulate the student to improve as a field observer.

The cost of each class is \$21. For more information call the school at 526-6811.

Additional field classes may be available by arrangement at the first evening sessions or by calling Steve at 548-9507.

Susanne Luther will again teach two classes through the Piedmont Adult School beginning the week of September 17. A Tuesday night class, 7-9 p.m., includes lectures on avian behavior and habitats, slides on field identification and field trips on the week end to various parts of the Bay Area and state.

A Thursday morning class, 9 a.m.-12 noon, meets at a different spot each week for an exhilarating walk in prime Bay Area birding spots. Bring binoculars to the first field trip.

For more information call the school at 653-9454.

Susanne will also teach a Wednesday morning class through the Orinda Community Center with field trips scheduled to the best local birding habitats. Birders of all levels of achievement are welcome.

For information, call the center at 254-2445.

Joe Morlan, compiler of the Rare Bird Alert and co-author of the new book, *Birds of Northern California*, will teach three classes in Field Ornithology through Galileo - Marina Community College Center. A class for beginners, starting Tuesday evening, September 11, will discuss the basic characteristics of wild birds and present a survey of birds found in different habitats around the Bay Area.

An intermediate class starts Wednesday evening, September 5. This is a systematic treatment of water birds in sequence through the field guide starting with shorebirds. (Loons through rails will be covered later.) The advanced program starts Thursday evening, September 6, and deals with landbirds beginning with larks. Both are recommended for birders who wish to sharpen their field identification skills. All classes feature illustrative wild bird slides and handouts on the identification of "problem" species.

Each class meets weekly from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in room 254 of the Marina Middle School at the corner of Fillmore and Bay streets. There is ample free parking in the lot just east of the school off Bay Street.

Classes continue for 18 weeks until the end of January. All evening classes are free to San Francisco residents. Non-residents are charged a fee of \$45 per semester. An optional program of eight half-day field trips on weekends may be arranged for an additional fee of \$24.

To register, just come to the first class for the course you wish to take. For more information call the college at 931-3595.

G.G.A.S. Sponsored Tours for 1980

Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring the following natural history and/or birding tours for 1980. Prices and exact dates will be available by mid-September. For information, call the trip leader or the GGAS office, 843-2222.

Hawaii—Natural history, early spring. Leader: Roger Harris. 553-9508

Costa Rica—Birds, April. Leaders: Steve & Karen Bailey. 548-9507

High Arctic—Bathurst Inlet Lodge. Natural History, July. Leader: Ray Hasey. 548-3546

Amazon—Natural history, midsummer. Leader to be announced.

Australia—Natural history, September-October. Leader: George Peyton. 444-3131

Panama—Birds, November or December. Leader to be announced.

Another Texas birding trip is being planned for the spring of 1981. It will be led by Kenn Kaufman. This is a popular trip, so plan early if you want to go along with us.

—EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Fall Pelagic Trips

Spaces are still available on pelagic trips leaving Monterey on September 28 and 30. See the June *Gull* for full details.

Birds Along the East Shore of San Francisco Bay

A new booklet which will be of real use to beginning birders has been published through the joint cooperation of the East Bay Regional Park District and GGAS. Titled *Birds Along the East Shore of San Francisco Bay*, it was written by GGAS member Leora Feency and illustrated by EBRPD artist Pamela Olhausen. There are brief explanations about birding the shore - e.g., the best times and tides, plumage changes during the year, a list of useful books, a discussion on migration and the part the Pacific Flyway plays in it and a section on the habitats, food and shoreline plant life that affect bird population.

The illustrations include drawings of the plants typically seen along the shore as well as panoramic drawings depicting birds one might expect to see in various habitats ranging from beach to deep water.

In the back of the booklet is a checklist of birds likely to be seen in the area and a map showing recommended birding locations.

The publication was made possible by funds donated to the Alameda-San Leandro Bay Fund (formerly called the Elsie B. Roemer Fund) by GGAS members in honor of Mrs. Roemer. It is available through the Park District at the Tilden Environmental Education Center, Coyote

Hills Education Center and at various local bookstores. The cost is \$1.50.

This is not the first time this year that GGAS and EBRPD have worked together. Dog control measures suggested by GGAS are now being successfully implemented. At Coyote Hills dogs are no longer allowed even on leash in the marsh areas or along the boardwalk. It is hoped that new signs placed at the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary in Alameda will lessen the disturbance of shorebirds there by dogs and joggers.

Mono Lake Gets a Boost

On August 8 an interagency task force comprised of representatives of the state Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, state Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Mono County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power recommended that the level of Mono Lake be set at the lake's 1970 elevation of 6,388'. This is surely a morale boosting achievement for the Mono Lake Committee which has worked so hard to save the lake from death by water diversion by the city of Los Angeles.

On Thursday, September 20 there will be a public meeting in Palo Alto at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road dealing with this recommendation. Everyone interested in the plight of Mono Lake is urged to attend this vital meeting. If you can't attend, send your comments to Jack Coe, Department of Water Resources, Southern District, 849 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90014. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m.

On September 3 members of the Mono Lake Committee will bring buckets of water from Lee Vining Creek across Highway 395 to pour into Mono Lake in a symbolic gesture stressing the importance of that water source and others including Walker and Rush Creeks to the life of the lake. If you would like to join them meet between 9 and 10:30 a.m. at Sneaker Flat on the east side of Highway 395 just north of the town of Lee Vining. For more information call the MLC at (714) 647-6386.

Request for Information on Color-marked Birds

For the last four years, we have been studying two populations of White-crowned Sparrows, one above Baker's Beach in the Presidio and one at Twin Peaks. Both populations have been banded with silver service bands and also with plastic colored bands. One of the aspects of our study is to follow the dispersal of birds during the breeding season and during winter. If you were to sight a banded White-crowned Sparrow, it would be extremely helpful to us. Please note the color

combination on each leg, including the silver service band, the location and the date sighted and send your report to Dr. Lewis Petrinovich, Department of Psychology, University of California, Riverside / or write or call Anthony James, 1538 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94118, (415) 221-1727.

Fun and Games on September 29

The Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory's Birdathon is a great thing to participate in—just ask anyone who did so last year—and it raises much needed funds for the observatory. So get yourself some sponsors, sponsor yourself or sponsor another birder who can participate that day if you're unavailable. Sponsors pay a previously agreed upon price per species seen by the participant. One can bird anywhere and for any length of time on September 29. There will be a potluck dinner at the end of the day at PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach. If you can't attend the dinner you can call in your results and pledge totals. For complete information, write PRBO at the above address (zipcode 94970) or call (415) 868-1221.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS

In memory of

Enid Austin
Mike Deluchi
Buford McAntire

Lotus Mendonca

In honor of

Gayle Ransom

General

Gift of

Mrs. J. Dang
Almira Kutzer
Mr. and Mrs. A. Pini
Frank and Donna Peralta
Mr. and Mrs. James Rancaton
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033 Courtesy Committee
(State Dept. Club.

Jack Petersen

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.

1979 - 1980 Budget Approved

The GGAS budget for the fiscal year 1979-1980 has been approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the budget is available at the GGAS office for members to read there or a copy will be sent on request.

Gull Back Issues Available

The office is doing a massive house cleaning. Among items which will be recycled are many back issues of *The Gull*. If your file is incomplete plan to visit the GGAS office as soon as possible and pick up any back issues you need.

Conservation Hotline

To make our conservation activities more effective we are re-activating our Conservation Hotline. Many times an issue comes up needing our immediate attention. We want to develop a telephone network of members willing occasionally to write letters or attend hearings and meetings - in short, to become actively involved in environmental issues.

This could entail anything from writing a letter to your state senator endorsing a specific wildlife bill to attending a hearing on preserving wetlands. Protecting the environment is becoming more difficult. The pressure is on to develop more energy regardless of wildlife and wilderness concerns. We are the largest Audubon chapter in the country; we need to combat this trend by showing our strength.

We need you. Please fill out the form below and return it to the GGAS office.

Name

Address Zip.....

Phone (day & night)

I am specifically interested in:

..... habitat preservation

..... mammals

..... birds

..... marine mammals

..... predators (incl. raptors), predator control issues (poisoning, trapping, hunting)

..... anything and everything to do with protecting wildlife and wilderness

Thank you! The GGAS Conservation Committee will contact you.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: 843-2222
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206
Berkeley, California 94705

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THE GULL

September 1979

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Gary Quien (525-7681)
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Executive Director, Ingrid Lustig (843-2222)

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 50¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.