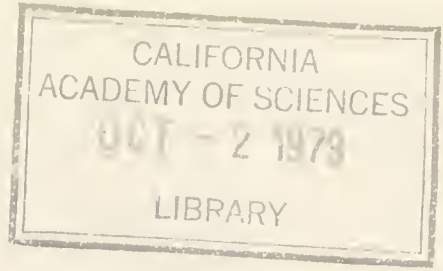


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the gull

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October 1979

Number 9

The Wind in Our Future

Wind powered energy for California is the subject for the October general membership program. Professor Marshal Merriam of University of California Berkeley's Department of Engineering will share his slides of operating wind powered electrical generators in California and the world. Dr. Merriam has visited most of the world's wind powered plants and will present his views as to their importance in our future. He will also touch on solar energy and other alternatives to our current expensive and polluting power plants.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Travelodge at the Wharf, 250 Beach Street, San Francisco. This is very near Fishermans Wharf and is adjacent to Pier 39. Free parking is available in the Travelodge lot.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, October 6—Sunol Regional Park. See September *Gull*.

Wednesday, October 10—Mini trip to **Aquatic Park**, Berkeley and other nearby shoreline areas. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the northwest corner of Spenger's parking lot to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional; rain cancels trip. Leaders: Ruth Voss (525-8032) and Delpha de Timofev (632-5176).

Saturday, October 13—**Land's End, San Francisco**. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the parking lot just above Sutro Baths on Point Lobos Ave. We will walk along the road that parallels the cliffs to Lincoln

Park and return by another route (about 3 miles). Migrants, vagrants and birds common to the San Francisco coast may be expected. Park on or near the street and leave nothing of value in your car since auto burglary is very high in this area. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes and a warm jacket in case of fog. Leader: Alan Hopkins (668-4840). (✓)

Sunday, October 14—Tomales Point. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H of the parking lot. From there we will form carpools and caravan to McClure's Beach at Point Reyes. We will leave McClure's Beach at 9 a.m. and hike about 9 miles to Tomales Point through the newly established elk refuge. We should see some pelagic species, shorebirds and landbirds. We will check a few isolated cypress groves for migrants. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes. Leader: George Hugenberg (526-5289). (✓)

Sunday, October 21—Walk and Listen. a 7 mile walk on East Bay trails to listen for sounds of resident and wintering birds in a variety of habitats. Bring lunch and liquids. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the corner of University Ave. and Oxford St., Berkeley, just west of the UC campus. We will caravan by car to the trail head. Leader: Marie Mans (284-7681). (✓)

Saturday, October 27—Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot by the visitors' center. From Hwy. 17 take the Jarvis Ave. exit in Newark and continue to Newark Blvd. Follow the signs from there to the park. We should see common shore and landbirds. Lunch is optional. Leader: David Rice (865-7826). (✓)

Sunday, November 4—Tennessee Valley. Meet at 9 a.m. and bring lunch. Going north across the Golden Gate Bridge take the Mill Valley exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge and in ½ mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign. Drive to the end of the road. We will walk on the flat trail looking for land and sea birds. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during work hours). (✓)

Carpooling: You can arrange carpooling for trips marked (✓). If you can offer a ride or need one call Kate Partridge at work (642-2881, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.) or at home before 9 p.m. (548-0779). If you cannot make up your mind until the night before, that's all right — neither can the rest of us. Riders share all expenses incident to the trips.

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1980 Birders' Calendar and Almanac

The quality of the 1980 *California Birders' Calendar and Almanac*, published by GGAS, has surpassed our expectations. As the Anna's Hummingbirds reproduced here show, Pedro Gonzalez' drawings have impressively captured the essence of each of the thirteen bird species he chose to illustrate the calendar. The attention to scientific accuracy and habitat detail that has earned Gonzalez his fine reputation is beautifully displayed in these works; they are certainly among the best he has produced to date.

This beautiful 11" x 14" calendar is available from our office or at membership meetings. Featuring birding notes by Stephen Bailey, it will prove useful for those who enjoy following the seasonal movement of birds. The best high tides are noted for those planning trips to the marshes and all birds sighted six times or fewer in California are listed on the date sighted, though ample room is left to jot down your personal schedule as well.

The supply is limited so act promptly to obtain your copy and those that you will want to give for Christmas gifts. Drop by the GGAS office or use the convenient order form to be found in this issue of *The Gull*.

August Observations - Through August 29

WATERBIRDS

Again this August many Red-necked Grebes appeared around Drakes Bay (mob), now an expected pattern. A five minute tally of Sooty Shearwaters streaming past the Farallones on Aug. 12 indicated a rate of 28,000 per hour (PRBO). Only twice did birders spot **Magnificent Frigatebirds**: one at Arch Rock, Sonoma County Aug. 9 (JP) and two soaring over the Marin County Civic Center Aug. 19 (SM, AM). Exciting herons summered (apparently since June) on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Alviso, close to a major colony of Snowy Egrets and other ardeids. Aug. 16-18 two adult Little Blue Herons were in the company of a similar heron in the gray-and-white "calico" plumage typical of one-year-old Little Blues (SFB, JG, KLB, VD). Close examination of this pied heron proved it to be a **hybrid Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret**, apparently the third known to ornithologists (SFB, KLB, VD). Interestingly, the second was an immature that spent the winter of 1972-73 a few miles away at Palo Alto. I believe that the Alviso colony has been the focal point for Little Blue Herons in recent years and that both hybrids were locally produced.

The **Eurasian Wigeon** remained at Palo Alto at least through Aug. 4 (TC). The Farallon Harlequin Duck was resighted July 27 and Aug. 8 (PRBO). The earliest American Golden Plover Aug. 25 was a surprise flying southeast over Fremont (DE, SFB). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Moss Landing Aug. 8 was luckily in breeding plumage (DR). Reports of non-breeding plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers, while quite possibly correct, cannot be accepted for the record without benefit of their distinctive calls. The adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Monterey Bay Aug. 26 (DL, *et al.*) was a prize. Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce this summer; the only report was from the Farallones Aug. 16 (immature-PRBO). An adult Arctic Tern at Año Nuevo Point Aug. 19 (DMcC, KY) deserves mention although the species is common offshore in August and September. On the late date of August 13 one of three pairs of Least Terns near Coyote Hills was still hatching eggs (the other pairs had flying young - SFB). Black Terns are rare eastward from the Central Valley. This month singles were observed at Skaggs Island Road, Solano County Aug. 4 (LCB, BDP, JP), Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Aug. 4-11 (JiM, *et al.*) and Aug. 28 (JiM), while two were on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Alviso Aug. 18 (SFB, VD, KLB). Two **Craveri's Murrelets** in Monterey Bay Aug. 26 (DL, *et al.*) hopefully foretell a good fall for this Mexican aleid.

LANDBIRDS

As usual I wonder whether the Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the Farallones July 27-28 (PRBO) was of eastern or western origin. This question could almost equally be asked of the Eastern Kingbird there Aug. 3-4 (PRBO); the species breeds west nearly to the Pacific. Unquestionably the most excitement surrounded the adult **White Wagtail** at the Watsonville Sewage Pond Aug. 7 to at least Aug. 28 (CF, SA, mob). This striking bird constituted the second documented record for Northern California of this vagrant from Siberia or western Alaska, and a lifer for almost all who saw it.

A Black-and-white Warbler in the Delta at Brannan Island State Recreation Area (RH) occurred on the same day, Aug. 27, as three others at Land's End, San Francisco (AH, BF). These came in the middle of a pulse of one-day vagrants at Land's End that also included a Tennessee Warbler and a female Indigo Bunting Aug. 26 and an adult male Summer Tanager Aug. 29 (all AH). Initial confusion of this bird with Hepatic Tanager emphasizes the difficulties of distinguishing them; indeed not all of the four previously-accepted Northern California records of Hepatic are necessarily correct. Other Indigo Buntings (all males) on the Farallones Aug. 3-10 (PRBO), at Santa Cruz Aug. 16 (*vide* DS), and at Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park Aug. 21 (DEd, JH). Lawrence's Goldfinches feeding young near Bodega Aug. 9 (JP) provided a very rare coastal breeding record, especially unusual in the absence of drought. A Brewer's Sparrow at Butte Slough, Sutter County Aug. 4 (LCB, BDP, JP) was quite anomalous. Our July Tree Sparrow was of course on the Farallones (July 23-24 - PRBO).

Observers: Steve Allison, Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Ted Chandik, Eva De Becker, Vickie Dziadosz, David Edwards (DEd), Dick Erickson (DE), Carolyn Fredriksen, Bud Fry, Doug Gomke, Jane Gull, John Hall, Ray Hascy, Alan Hopkins, Debi Love, many observers (mob), Dianne McClung, Allan Mollison, Sarah Mollison, Joe Morlan, Jim Morris (JiM), Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Joe McGee), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Don Roberson, Don Starks, Keiko Yamane.

—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.)

Conservation Notes

CALIFORNIA COASTAL OIL. The U.S. Department of the Interior continues its plans to lease California ocean tracts for oil drilling despite widespread opposition from the public and elected representatives of all political persuasions from local officials to Senator Cranston. Such genuine popular concern cannot be long ignored and as election year approaches more "marine sanctuaries" and other minor concessions will be invoked, but all indications now are that the federal government, along with big oil companies, will go ahead with offshore oil development plans. The impact on the coastal environment will be enormous; the likely event of a major oil spill will make the designation "marine sanctuary" meaningless. The question at this time is whether "energy independence for America" is best accomplished by destroying very valuable marine and other resources for the recovery of, at best estimates, about 40 days' worth of oil (at present rates of consumption).

CORPS PROPOSES EROSION CONTROL FOR ALAMEDA. The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed creation of an 180-acre marsh, 8000 feet long, to protect the rapidly eroding beach along Alameda's bay shoreline. Built in 1959 of artificial fill, the beach has been eroding rapidly ever since — a full 250 feet in the period 1958 to 1979. Little or no beach now remains along Shoreline Drive and the drive itself is in danger of eroding. The Corps' proposal (called Alternative M in their plan) would deposit material offshore paralleling the beach. The seaward edge of the marsh would be 1000 feet offshore protected by graded riprap. The marsh would drain into the cove near Bay Farm Island and into San Leandro Channel. It would be planted to cordgrass to enhance habitat development and a 50 foot wide beach fill of medium sand would absorb most of the wave energy, reducing erosion along Shoreline Drive, and could also provide habitat for waterfowl.

East Bay Regional Park District, which manages the area, supports a plan providing a combination of marsh, groins (breakwaters) and beach replenishment to halt the erosion and enhance wildlife and recreational benefits. The City of Alameda favors a system of groins to provide two small beaches with the remaining shoreline to be protected by a rubble-mound seawall. This is a much less desirable — but also less expensive — alternative.

An outline of the proposed project and the 15 alternatives are included

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<i>Birds of Northern California, an Annotated field list</i>	\$5.00	X	= \$
1980 Birders' Calendar and Almanac	\$4.80	X	= \$
Golden Gate Audubon Society shoulder/hat patch	\$1.50	X	= \$
"Save Mono Lake" bumper sticker	\$1.00	X	= \$

TOTAL ORDER \$.....

Sales Tax - 6% (BART Counties 6.5%)

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in the Corps' public brochure, "Study of Beach Erosion Control for the City of Alameda," available in the GGAS office or by calling (415) 556-5839. Proposals and comments may be submitted to the Study Manager at 211 Main St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Oakland Christmas Count

This year's GGAS-sponsored Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 16. We welcome all newcomers as well as the continued support of past participants. Head compiler this year will be David Rice (865-7826), the co-compiler is Helen Green (526-5943). Last year's team leaders should notify either David or Helen as to their availability and count area preferences.

Next month's *Gull* will contain full details on the count.

Birding Annadel State Park

Annadel State Park is located east of Santa Rosa in the Sonoma Mountains. It is most easily approached by driving to the parking lot at the end of Channel Drive in eastern Santa Rosa. As the park is undeveloped, any further access to the park must be on foot. A good network of trails through this large park will make the birding easy if you don't mind hiking. The highest point in the park is Bennett Mountain with an elevation of 1887 feet.

The area is mainly mixed evergreen forest, oak woodland, grassland and scrub. There are some fairly extensive stands of pure Douglas fir. This diversity of habitat presents a great diversity of bird life. A number of scarce (or hard to find) birds have been recorded in the park, including: Common Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl and Spotted Owl. Poorwills occur here during the summer. Pileated Woodpeckers are usually recorded by an observer familiar with the bird's call and, with some luck, one can see the bird. Golden Eagles have been seen on a number of occasions.

Lake Ilsanjo, during wet weather when it has water, is a good spot for watching waterfowl. All the common ducks have been noted here, along with Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser and Common Merganser.

Regular land birds, depending on the time of year, are: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, California Quail, Mountain Quail, Band-tailed

Pigeon (numbers vary from year to year), White-throated Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wrentit, Rock Wren, Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Northern Oriole, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Fox Sparrow.

Carry a map with you while hiking in the park. It will require considerable walking to visit all of the habitats represented in the park, so plan to carry your own food and water.

Birding Salmon Creek

Salmon Creek crosses State Hwy. 1 about two miles north of the town of Bodega Bay. This is an excellent spot to look for shorebirds of various types. Park in the parking lot at the beach or in the pullouts just north of the park headquarters. From either of these spots you have a good view of the creek as it empties into the ocean. All regular gulls and sandpipers have been seen in this area. Northern Phalaropes sometimes number in the hundreds here during migration. Unusual birds which have been noted here include Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger and Common Tern.

The area around the bridge is also good. Check the streamside growth and the area around the headquarters for land birds. A number of species of wintering ducks use the creek for feeding. The pond to the east of the road should be checked for shorebirds and dabbling ducks. Cinnamon Teal are regular here in the fall. Virginia Rail and Sora can sometimes be noted in the rushes between the pond and the road. Whistling Swans have been seen here several times. This is a regular spot, in the fall, for Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. The farm pond a little farther south on the east side of the road is excellent for wintering ducks, especially Canvasbacks.

The two preceding birding articles were reprinted from *Birds of Sonoma County* by Gordon L. Bolander and Benjamin D. Parmeter. Available through the Redwood Regional Ornithological Society, 199 Calistoga Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, for \$4 plus \$.50 postage and handling and \$.24 sales tax.

An Arizona Birding Guide

Birds in Southeastern Arizona. — W. A. Davis and S. M. Russell. 1979. Tucson Audubon Society (P.O. Box 40115, Tucson, AZ 85717). vii + 126 pp. Paperback. \$6.50 postpaid.

This book includes a concise introduction to life zones and habitats. Bar graphs indicate relative abundance and there are notes for each species. It is well designed with graphs facing the notes. Brackets show periods of nesting. This easy to use presentation will encourage birders to fill gaps in knowledge for this rich area.

Unfortunately the notes are much too brief and repeat relative abundance which is already in the graphs. Habitats could have been letter coded to save valuable space for more meaningful annotations; e.g., the note for Gray-cheeked Thrush, "Casual visitant," seems a waste as there is only one dot on the graph. Much better would be "Specimen, Cave Creek, Sept. 11, 1932." But hard facts are missing for the vast majority of records.

There are a great many errors, inconsistencies and ambiguities; e.g., there are now valid November 7 and November 9 records for Swainson's Thrush but these are unaccountably missing. Unconfirmed reports from December, January and March are included uncritically. It is equally sad to see five winter records of Swainson's Hawk included.

The hypothetical sightings of Frigatebird were not *Fregata magnificens*, but were actually thought to be *F. minor*. The occurrence of White-tailed Hawks is very doubtful and most reports are misidentified Ferruginous Hawks.

Although the authors follow the ABA Checklist, they include the San Blas Jay which was deleted by ABA. Other obvious escapes include Yellow-headed Parrot, Budgerigar and Elegant Quail. Kiskadee Flycatcher is included without mention that the origin of the bird is doubtful.

I am aware of at least eight records of Clay-colored Sparrow from September 1 to September 10 but only two are shown on the graph. Thus the important pattern of occurrence is lost.

It is unclear what the cut-off date is. The May 30, 1978 Aztec Thrush is included but there is no mention that it stayed until June 4. There was another Aztec Thrush on May 28, 1978 but it is not mentioned. Also the Rufous-eared Warbler and Slate-throated Redstart in April and early May 1978 are missing.

These are only examples of many errors and omissions.

There is an invaluable bird finding guide to 43 hot spots, many of

which are not included in other birding guides for the area; e.g., directions to Aravaipa Canyon and San Pedro Valley will lead you to Black Hawks and Mississippi Kites, birds very local and hard to find.

There is a section on finding special birds which would be better if there were more on sought-after species such as Cactus Wren and Curve-billed Thrasher. I cannot agree that Rustler Park is an easy place to find Brown-throated Wren. All I have seen there were House Wrens. Brown-throateds occur at lower elevations.

There are far too many uninformative annotations and errors to recommend this book, but the visiting birder will buy it for the excellent bird finding information.

—JOSEPH MORLAN

Russell Peterson to Attend GGAS Board Meeting

Russell Peterson, president of National Audubon Society, will be visiting the Bay Area on his west coast tour and will talk with the GGAS Board of Directors at their October meeting.

Volunteer Training Program Scheduled

Volunteers are needed to participate in a six session training program to begin about the middle of January. This program is designed to prepare volunteers to teach in the Bay Shore Study Program that is sponsored by GGAS. The program provides students from the fourth through the eighth grades with field experiences in the ecology of San Francisco Bay and has been operating very successfully at the study site in San Francisco for the past four years.

After training, volunteers are asked to give two half days a month to work in the tidepool area with small groups of children in scheduled classes. Call 751-4293 for further information.

In the East Bay area, volunteers are needed to help in a program designed to bring topics concerning natural history, ecology and conservation to schools and youth groups. Call 832-7141 for information.

Cooper Society's First Fall Meeting

The first meeting of the Northern Section of the Cooper Ornithological Society for the fall season will be held on Monday, October 8 at 8 p.m. in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Michael Frye, UC Davis, will present a talk, "Assessing the hormonal conditions of California Condors and other live birds in the field." The meeting is open to anyone with a strong interest in the biology of birds.

Native Plant Sale October 6

The 13th annual native plant sale of the San Francisco Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, is scheduled for Saturday, October 6 at Merritt College, Oakland from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a large and varied supply of California natives including rooted plants, seeds and bulbs as well as books, pamphlets and other materials related to the native flora of the state. All are invited and there is no admission charge.

Greenpeace Skateathon

The Greenpeace Foundation's 1979 Skateathon will take place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, October 6. Participants get fun and exercise and the money goes toward Greenpeace's continuing efforts to save the whales. For full information call (415) 474-6767.

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October 1979

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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.**