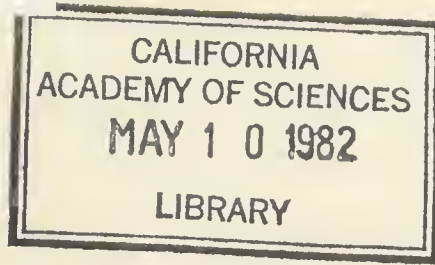


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Number 5

May Meeting - A Picnic

The seventh annual May picnic dinner and general membership meeting on **Thursday, May 13**, sponsored by the Conservation Committee, will be held at the Tilden Park Nature Center and surrounding picnic area.

Water is power in California and nowhere is this issue more focused than in the upcoming election over the Peripheral Canal. The adverse impact of the proposed canal on the Suisun Marsh will be discussed by energy and environmental analyst Dr. Ronald Ritschard in a slide-illustrated presentation. Former State Senator Peter Behr, principal author of the Environmental Bill of Rights, will present his views on the Peripheral Canal and on related water issues.

Bring your family, friends and a picnic dinner to the redwood tables and grills on the spacious lawns near the Nature Center. Botanical and birding walks with interpretive leaders are planned for 6:30 p.m., ending in time for the 7:30 program in the Nature Center.

To get to the Tilden Park Nature Center from North Berkeley drive up Spruce St. until you reach the intersection of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Spruce. Cross Grizzly Peak and travel along Wildcat Canyon Rd. (Cañon Dr., the shortest route to the Nature Center, is closed by a massive slide.) Go about one mile on Wildcat Canyon Rd., take the first left turn and follow the signs for another mile to the Nature Center.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Field Trips Calendar

See the April *Gull* for details on the following trips:

Saturday, May 1—San Andreas Lake and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Saturday, May 1—Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park.

Sunday, May 2—Bodega Bay.

Saturday, May 8—Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the North Gate. In Walnut Creek turn north on Main St. to Ygnacio Valley Rd. Go about two miles to Walnut Ave. and turn right. Follow Walnut Ave. to North Gate (fee). If Mt. Diablo State Park is not open we will caravan from the meeting point to another East Bay regional park. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Sunday, May 9—Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. We will walk through this unique area during the morning in search of birds common to the arid interior valleys of the eastern Bay Area. Due to the midday heat we will stop birding around noon so lunch is optional. Go north on Hwy. 24 to Hwy. 4 and go east to the Somersville Rd. exit (Antioch). Follow Somersville south to the park entrance where we will meet at 7 a.m. For those who decide to stay in the afternoon we suggest exploring the archeological digs of the abandoned mining town. Mines in this area can be dangerous so don't explore abandoned sites. Bring liquids and boots. Water is limited and the terrain is rough. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9—Pinnacles National Monument. Meet at the campground store both mornings at 7 a.m. On Saturday we will caravan from the store to the Monument for a four-mile hike. Bring liquids and a snack. Saturday afternoon is free for swimming in the campground pool, hiking or just relaxing. The leaders will provide details for an evening walk to look for Poorwills and owls.

On Sunday we will bird around the campground and nearby area.

From the Bay Area go south from San Jose on Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 25. Take Hwy. 25 south through Hollister and past the towns of Tres Piños and Paicines to Hwy. 146 (Pinnacles Hwy.). The campground is on the left side of this road about two miles east of the park boundary and provides the only facilities in the area. Motels are available in Hollister and King City, both about 35 miles from the Monument. Campground reservations are not available. The fee is \$6 per vehicle per night. There is a limit to the number of vehicles and persons per site.

This will be an excellent trip for beginners and should provide a fine introduction to one of Northern California's most beautiful and productive interior birding sites. Leaders: Shirley and Michael Kelly (387-8290). (✓)

Wednesday, May 12—Mini-Trip to Lake Chabot. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Lake Chabot. Take the Warren or MacArthur Fwy. Exit at Dutton. Make a left at Estudillo (second stop light). Follow Estudillo to the lake and park outside entrance (there is a fee to park inside). Bring lunch. After lunch you may take a boat ride to the heron rookery from 1-2 p.m. (\$1 fee). Call the leader if you wish to take the boat ride. Leaders: Ruth Voss (525-8032) and Delpha de Timofeev.

Sunday, May 16—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at Arlington Park at Arlington Ave. and Brewster Dr. in El Cerrito (AC Transit #7). From there we will drive to the starting point. Pack lunch and liquids for a four-mile hike. Boots are advisable. We will encounter some hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a good representation of nesting and migrating birds of the East Bay. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (841-3086). (✓)

Saturday, May 29—Five Brooks Trailhead and Inverness Ridge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H. From Hwy. 101 exit at Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and go east to the terminal. From the Richmond-San Rafael bridge go south toward San Anselmo to terminal. We will carpool from here to Five Brooks (about five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We should arrive by 9 a.m. Pack a lunch and wear hiking boots for a five-mile walk up Inverness Ridge. We should see a fine variety of spring migrants and, hopefully, purple martin. Leader: George Hugenberg (526-5289). (✓)

Friday-Sunday, June 4-6—Birding by Ear in Yosemite. The lower elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with sound in early June. Among many other species, the leaders promise seven flycatchers (including four Empidonax), three vireos and seven warblers—all in full song. Bring warm clothing, pack a lunch and expect to walk about six miles. We plan to stay at the group camp at Hodgdon Meadow Campground. To reach the camp, turn left (north) 0.1 mile past the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station. Because last minute changes in camp site may have to be made, before you leave be sure to call the leaders (prior to May 31) or the GGAS office (843-2222) after that date. Also, if you can come up early and help us occupy a group site starting Thursday, June 3, please call the leaders.

The nearest motels are 20 miles or more from the meeting place. If approaching from Merced, try the small town of El Portal (AAA book). On the north side, try the Sugar Pine Ranch Motel near Groveland along Hwy. 120 (209) 962-7823. Yosemite Valley is 30 miles from the meeting place.

Meet at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station on Friday, June 4, at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 5, at 8 a.m. On Friday, we will also meet at the same place at 10:30 p.m. to help night drivers find our camp. Hwy. 120 leads directly to the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station or approach through the Park from the south. Get a map to orient yourself. Leaders: Marie Mans (284-7681) and Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

Beginners' Trip

Saturday, May 22—Tilden Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. We will be identifying birds of the chaparral, woodland and grassland on this field trip. We should see a variety of resident and breeding species and identify them using sight and sound.

After lunch we will caravan to the Berkeley Marina to look for shorebirds. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Rain or serious threat of rain cancels trip. For more information and directions to the Nature Center, see page 65 or call the GGAS office (843-2222). Leader: Andrea Kieserman. (✓)

Summer Camping Trips

Details for these and additional trips will be in the June *Gull* or refer to the June and July/August 1981 *Gulls*.

Saturday-Sunday, June 12-13—Yuba Pass. Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199).

Friday-Sunday, June 25-27—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge (524-9817) and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

March Observations — Through March 31

Although no month ever passes without rare birds in the Bay Area, late winter through midspring is a relative lull. This effect may have been accentuated this month by the prolonged periods of rain. Nevertheless, if there was a trend in landbirds it was of early arrivals.

WATERBIRDS

The Yellow-billed Loon reported at Monterey March 4 (JS) was probably the same one seen earlier. The Pink-footed Shearwater off Monterey Feb. 27 (mob) was rare in winter. This winter's only report of a Manx Shearwater was from a Moss Landing Marine Lab boat in Monterey Bay March 6 (DC). Cattle Egrets populated three areas: Dolan Rd. near Moss Landing (4 on March 6 - KK, BS, DS, CT),

Marina Vista exit, Martinez (6 on March 25 - HW) and Durham Rd., Fremont. At the last site, 10 were found March 16 (JMS, *et al.*), 14 on March 20 (CR) and 19 on March 26 (TGA). Five White-faced Ibis were by Moss Landing Marine Lab (DS); ibis are always rare on the coast and are most often seen in the fall.

Two Ross' Geese at Crespi Pond were last seen Feb. 25 (DR). A wild Mallard duckling in Sonoma County on March 21 indicated early nesting (KVV, KaC). The Richardson Bay Tufted Duck remained through March 8 (BW, BH). The Moss Landing Harlequin Duck stayed well into March (AS, HMcG, DR). In a poor year for Oldsquaws one at Belvedere Cove March 19 (DT, FC, FH) is worth mention.

The American Golden Plover flock at Spaletta Ranch was counted at 24 or 25 on March 13 (KVV, KaC) and March 15 (AG, WG). First winter Glaucous Gulls at Monterey Feb. 11 (DR) and Pt. Piños March 23 (SH) could have been the same bird. An adult **Little Gull** at Moss Landing March 6 (HMcG) was not refound; it was likely a spring migrant.

LANDBIRDS

We frequently receive reports of the Goshawk, a species virtually unknown in the Bay Area. However, two reports this month cannot be disregarded easily. An apparent adult male Goshawk caught a sparrow in an Oakland yard March 12 (EW). The hawk was well seen, although the observer had had no previous experience with Goshawks. Most surprising was the report from a very experienced observer (KVV) of two adults circling together over Salmon Creek Rd., Sonoma County, March 27 (KVV, KaC). Continuing the many Bald Eagle sightings in the area was one at the Delta Pumping Station March 8 (BR). In coastal Sonoma County, one (age not reported) was at the Russian River mouth March 7 (DBP) and an immature (same bird?) was over Salmon Creek Rd. March 27 (KVV, KaC).

Two or three Vaux's Swifts at Pescadero Marsh March 21 (KH, DD) were probably part of a flock seen there in January (JMS, *et al.*). A hummingbird that visited a Fremont feeder ca. Jan. 1-March 9 was photographed (NMCA). Only subsequently were the photographs identified (JM) as picturing an immature male **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, the northwestmost record for the species. An immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (eastern) was noted at Athenian School in Danville ca. Feb. 15-March 1 (JB). A male Williamson's Sapsucker in Mill Valley also stayed about two weeks, Feb. 27-March 11 (DS, mob).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Monterey from March 5 (HMcG, AB) was quite early. At least two Townsend's Solitaires remained at Black

Diamond Mines through March 6 (GF, *et al*). Another visited Berkeley that day and two weeks later (TA) and yet another inhabited Bodega Head most of March (TG, *et al*). A Northern Waterthrush close to Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, March 9-19 (BY, *et al*, MLR) surely wintered locally.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported in Santa Cruz Feb. 25 (AJ). Single Evening Grosbeaks were found at nearby sites in Pacific Grove (DR, ER). A female-plumaged Cassin's Finch was carefully identified at Coyote Hills Feb. 27 (KC). Closer to home but still notable was a Lawrence's Goldfinch in Berkeley March 18 (GMC).

OBSERVERS: Tom Arny, Alan Baldrige, Dennis Bromley, Joe Broyles, Kurt Campbell (KC), Karen Cartier (KaC), Frank Christian, Gene M. Christman, Susan Collins, Dan Croll, Donna Dittmann, Leora Feeney, George Finger, Tom Gates (TGa), Albert Ghiorso Wilma Ghiorso, Steve Granholm, "Tuesday Group" (TG), Kem Hainebach, Sid Harrison, Bob Hirt, Frank Howard, Angela Jayco, Kim Kuska, Nancy McAlister, Hugh McGuinness, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Benjamin A. Parmeter, Ed Pike, Emmy Reese, Clifford Richer, Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Adrian Schueneman, Julie Seitz, Becca Serdehely, Dennis Serdehely (DS—thanks to Dennis for the Monterey area report), Dennis Shepler, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Jean Marie Spoelman, Jo Stallard (JS), Chris Tenny, David Trocki, Kent Van Vuren, Ed Vine, Bruce Walker, Hugh Winig, Elizabeth Wolverton, Bob Yutzy.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology
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(phone 548-9507 or Joseph Morlan at 524-7421)

Conservation Notes

PERIPHERAL CANAL

(Third of a series of three articles)

Water diversion is not a new concept or practice in California. The federal Central Valley Project of the 1930s provided irrigation water primarily for the San Joaquin Valley from the Sacramento, Trinity and San Joaquin rivers. In part because of the acreage limitation imposed under that project for water use, influential interests in the state supported and promoted the passage of a bond act in 1960 which authorized and financed a State Water Project without such limitations. Feather River water is now controlled by the Oroville Dam and the project also includes 15 pumping plants, 18 reservoirs, 5 power plants and the massive

California Aqueduct leading from the Delta to the lower San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles basin.

A second stage of the State Water Project is now being formally proposed. To increase the quantity of water diversion southward, Proposition 9 on the June ballot would construct a Peripheral Canal around the Delta (north to south), add large reservoirs to store Sacramento River winter runoff for shipment south in the summer and build other dams, reservoirs and canals. The GGAS Board strongly opposed Proposition 9 because of its probable irreparable damage to the Delta and the Suisun Marsh, its threat to the North Coast rivers, the unproven need for the water by Southern California consumers, the project's cost and its excessive energy requirements. The costs associated with the Peripheral Canal and its energy requirements are yet to be discussed here. The other major points were presented in the March and April issues of *The Gull*.

A major proponent of the canal, the Los Angeles basin's Metropolitan Water District, has placed the total cost of Proposition 9's projects at \$2.5 billion. Opponents estimate that the required new power plants alone would cost twice that amount. Add to that the canal itself and the proposition's new reservoirs, dams, canals, pumping plants, siphons and control structures. The total cost, including the impact of interest rates and inflation, nears \$20 billion—about \$1000 per person in California.

Because of the extensive pumping requirements to move water through the proposed canal, into offstream seasonal storage facilities, uphill in the California Aqueduct going southward and up over the Tehachapis, new energy sources would have to be created. Power requirements for the expanded State Water Project would increase tenfold to ten billion kilowatt-hours, enough to provide two million homes with light and heat. The needs of a State Water Project that has in the past been a net generator of electricity would far exceed its production capabilities.

The alternative is clear: "Conservation before exportation." Agricultural conservation measures alone would insure that the present water supply to Southern California will be ample. Lining canals, utilizing more efficient irrigation methods, reclamation processes and facilities and groundwater management programs offer a far better and less expensive solution.

The message of Mono Lake and the transformation of the Owens Valley make it imperative that Proposition 9 and future attempts to construct similar facilities be defeated. The claim is false that more destructive alternatives are already possible in the event Proposition 9 is defeated. The GGAS Board and its Conservation Committee urge a "NO" vote on Proposition 9 at the polls next month.

PAUL GREEN, *Conservation Committee*

Help Needed to Stop the Canal

Opponents of SB 200 gathered 850,000 signatures, more than twice the number needed to put the bill up for a public vote. California's next statewide election on June 8 will include on the ballot the referendum on SB 200. This was an accomplishment to be proud of, but the real task is just beginning. Everyone's help is needed to stop the Peripheral Canal. The same kind of grass roots effort that got the first referendum in 30 years on the ballot is necessary to alert all Californians to the dangers to the ecology of the Delta and Bay and to the expense of billions of dollars for the Canal.

Office work, telephoning, voter registration activities, fundraising, precinct organization—there is much to be done and it's worth the effort. In Alameda County call 763-7049, in San Francisco, 681-3800, to volunteer your time. Let's not leave this job half done! Help to get every voter to the polls on June 8 to vote NO on Proposition 9.

Help Save San Francisco Bay

Keep the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) strong. Federal funding reductions of \$145,000 will weaken BCDC unless state legislators can be persuaded to allocate state funds to replace the deficit.

A weak BCDC means the potential for more bay fill and less public access to the shoreline. Letters and/or wires should go *immediately* to any or all of the following c/o State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814:

Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, Chairman, Ways and Means Committee; Assemblyman Willie R. Brown, Speaker of the Assembly; your own Assembly representative.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Clean Air Update

The Clean Air Act provides laws which keep the quality of air healthy and breathable. For the past ten years it has controlled levels of nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, ozone and sulfur dioxide. A "Dirty Air Bill," HR 5252, introduced by Representatives Luken and Dingell, would severely cripple the Clean Air Act and result in doubled automobile emissions and unhealthy levels of air pollutants.

California State Senator Robert Presley is concerned about the strength of the Clean Air Act and has introduced SJR 36, a bill which will support an efficacious Clean Air Act and will urge Congress to oppose the "Dirty Air Bill."

Write to your State Senator (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814) and urge him/her to support the Clean Air Act and SJR 36. If you haven't already, *write* to your Representative (House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515) and urge him/her to support clean air and a strong Clean Air Act and to oppose HR 5252, the "Dirty Air Bill."

Mono Lake Campaign

The February *Gull* included a final report on the year-long GGAS fund raising effort to help save Mono Lake. But for months, several GGAS members, headed by Joyce Davis, had been quietly pursuing the possibility of a grant from the Ruth Mott Fund of Flint, Michigan, to support the litigation to preserve Mono Lake. A detailed history of the ecological importance of Mono Lake was submitted to the executive director of the Fund, along with specifics of the legal suit brought by National Audubon against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. It was the hope of the GGAS Mono Lake Subcommittee that the trustees of the Fund would find the national importance of the threatened Mono Lake environment and the uniqueness of the law suit pitting the public trust vs. water rights irresistible. (The pending litigation addresses the conflict created by case law which, on the one hand, protects the rights of the public to nonconsumptive uses of the state's navigable waters and, on the other, affords protection to consumptive uses.)

At the time of submitting GGAS' grant proposal in September, 1981, the Fund had as one of its major grant award criteria the protection of recent environmental gains through legal action.

The subcommittee followed up the request with copies of national environmental and legal publications on the Mono Lake case. It also met with the Fund's executive director. Hopes to cap the year's efforts for Mono Lake with a big splurge stayed high.

It is a great pleasure to announce that on March 4, 1982, GGAS was notified the Fund had awarded \$10,000 as requested for Mono litigation costs. It is a great conclusion to the GGAS Mono Lake Campaign, which ended up at \$36,291 gross and \$34,536 net.

The subcommittee thanks the Ruth Mott Fund and all GGAS members who helped the California Gulls, the brine shrimp, the tufa and Mono Lake itself.

—AFTON E. CROOKS, *Mono Lake Subcommittee*

From the Sidelines

The arrival, somewhat tardily, of the Supplement to *Birding*, Volume XIII No. 5, dated October, 1981, has ended a period of agonizing suspense. It's all over now and we all know where we stand.

The *Supplement* is the official compilation by the American Birding Association, Inc., of lists. There are Life Lists, State and Provincial Lists. There are Canada Lists and Mexico Lists, Central and South America Lists. There are Western Palearctic Lists and A.B.A. Area and Lower 48 Lists, Big Day Lists, Decade Lists, Back Yard Lists (by acreage)

and more. The record holders are listed in order of achievement down to what they call the Threshold: below that are the faceless birders with no rank worth mentioning.

Our own Arnold Small marches triumphantly in fifth position on World Life Lists. He would have been fourth except for a dark horse from Australia who came roaring down the stretch like Phar Lap of legend and breasted the tape with a staggering total of 6150 — 68.3 percent, says the A.B.A., of all the known species of birds on earth. The Aussie had kept his numbers secret until somebody leaked to the *Bird Bonanza Newsletter*.

A good friend of mine, Stokeley Froog, a retired screenwriter who lives in Guadalajara, has fired off a letter of protest to the A.B.A., calling them to task for leaving his list out. Stokeley claims Number One on Mexican Species Seen Through the Bottom of a Beer Glass List at 72, all of them authenticated by A.B.A. procedures.

I know how he feels, since they have ignored my list, too. It's small, but very selective — Montane Species Seen Through the Half Moon in an Outhouse Door: three, Hammond Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

The Listing Syndrome, alas, is not only alive and well; it is burgeoning. The American mind tends more often than not to be quantitative rather than qualitative. We are brought up on numbers. Our grades in college are usually based on percentiles; we understand batting and fielding averages, Nielsen ratings, golf scores and box office grosses much more readily than the *quality* of things. It is hard to quantify the grace of one athlete as compared with another or the emotional impact of a work of art. Numbers permit direct comparison, which in turn permits competition, and competition is as American as apple pie.

You can't put numbers on the simple joys of birdwatching, on the excitement of the search, the finding, the focusing, the listening and finally the naming of the darting little wraith in the twiggery or the soaring raptor hanging over a distant ridge. You can't tote up in figures the fun of it all, the rapport with wild things, the companionship of others of like heart and mind, the fresh smell of the fields or woods on a damp morning in spring.

Most important of all, you can't put numbers on the experience, the expertise, the skills involved in field identification. No quotients exist for sharpness of eye, acuity of hearing, familiarity with haunts, habits, flight patterns and the myriad bits of evidence the first rate field birder calls upon in a difficult identification.

Still, you have to find numbers. After all, without them how can you compete?

So the listers go forth and conquer and endure the muskeg of Attu and pray for a howler of a Siberian storm to blow some Asiatic vagrants into their laps so they can move a notch or two past their fellows in the 700 Club.

And I and the rest of the faceless ones will continue to watch from the sidelines.

—HAROLD SWANTON

Reprinted by permission from the April 1982 *WESTERN Tanager*, LAAS.

Back Yard Birder

Suddenly, it's spring and the yard is teeming with bird life. Spring-time is a busy season for most birds as they stake out territories, search for mates and begin the task of nesting and raising families. Singing is the main means of communication in most species, some exceptions being woodpeckers who hammer on trees and grouse who stamp their feet and rattle their feathers to attract attention.

Morning is the time when birds sing most frequently and energetically. Insect eaters usually arise earlier than seed eaters because they can find food more easily in dim light. Birds that roost in holes arise later when daylight finally reaches them. Midday seems to be a time of rest but during late afternoon and dusk birds renew their activity. There are a few species that sing at night (e.g., Mockingbirds) or by the light of the moon (owls) or even in pitch blackness (rails).

Knowing where to look for the singer is an advantage to a birder. This is dependent upon a bird's habitat. Species that sing from the ground, like the Rufous-sided Towhee, need songs that will travel past tree trunks and dense underbrush. Since low-pitched sounds have longer sound waves, ground singers have the lowest songs in pitch. Birds vocalizing from shrubs and low trees, such as the Wilson's Warbler, have songs a bit higher. The highest pitched songs are voiced by birds inhabiting the tree tops (warblers) where sound waves are unobstructed. Because pure tones like thin whistles are hard to locate, birds who frequent marshes have a repetitive buzz or rattle to communicate their whereabouts. Meadowlarks, who live in open country, prefer singing from a vantage point above ground so their pure-toned song can travel farther. Birds of the open prairie or tundra, where there are no perches, sing while in flight. Among these are Bobolinks and Lark Buntings.

Most birds have an identifiable voice and song; some similar species can be told apart *only* by their song. Although each species' song follows a set pattern there are regional and individual variations.

How are songs learned? In some species, calls or songs are entirely inherited, as discovered by researchers who placed turkeys, chickens and pigeons with foster parents where they developed their own calls uninfluenced by the sounds they heard around them. But some birds *are*

influenced by the sounds they hear as demonstrated when European Robins raised by Nightingales (another thrush) learned their foster parents' song. Song development is more complex in passerines. Meadow-larks and Cardinals raised in complete silence became poor singers. Deafened Canaries developed an altered song; therefore, hearing must improve certain birds' singing ability.

Tests of the hearing ability of birds show they hear in a range that overlaps our own, but many small birds emit and hear sounds higher than we can detect. Because most small birds cannot hear the low human voice, the real reason for stealthiness among birders is to enable *us* to hear the birds, not the reverse.

Besides their song, birds have a variety of sounds they make to communicate danger or to keep in touch with their mates or their offspring. When our resident Bewick's Wren spies the cat, he keeps up a constant warning buzz. Olivia Newton Jay, a neighborhood Scrub Jay who is quite tame, utters the softest, sweetest cooing sounds when offered food. In contrast to her usual raucous voice, I heard her talking to her babies in the same, soft manner.

Learning the sounds made by our local birds enriches the birding experience. As spring is the peak time for bird song, happy listening!

—MEG PAULETICH

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

These PRBO activities are offered at no fee:

Territoriality: Discussion of how and why landbirds choose, defend and claim territories, by Bob Yutzy, education director, 11 a.m., Saturday, May 15, at the Palomarin Research Station near Bolinas.

Bird Song Workshop: Learn skills to remember what you hear. Demonstrations with recordings, slides and a field experience with Ron Arps and Bob Yutzy, on Sunday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the PRBO headquarters near Stinson Beach.

Spring Bird Census: We will use the Christmas Count circle to attempt to census breeding birds within that area of the Point Reyes Peninsula, Sunday, May 23, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

For details phone PRBO's Education Coordinator, (415) 868-1221.

Fremont Bird-watching Class

It is not too late to join the Fremont Adult School's class, "Birding Field Trips," offered by Alice Hoch. It consists of six Tuesday morning meetings from 9:30 to 12:30 at near-by birding spots. The first was April 27. For information phone the adult school at 791-5841 or the instructor at 657-0475.

Alice says, "Some of my favorite students have heard about my class through *The Gull*."

News from the Ranch

Just prior to the opening of the Ranch Gerry Snedaker, president of the Volunteer Council, organized a pick and shovel party to rid the grounds of debris from the storm. Many thanks to Gerry and his volunteers.

Opening weekend was damp but no deterrent to the several hundred visitors who arrived. Most of the herons were in and busy with their nesting activities, while the Great Egrets, always arriving later, sought their territories.

ACR extends a warm welcome to Ray Peterson, biologist-naturalist, who has joined the staff and with his family will have quarters in Volunteer Canyon.

A new docent training program will begin in September. Applications are now being accepted. Edris Cole, secretary of ACR, can be reached at 383-1644 for pertinent information. Don't delay — the number which can be accommodated is limited and it is a worthwhile program.

—BETTY BOYD

Mono Lake Ecology Trip

The ecology and wildlife of spectacular Mono Lake is the subject of a two-day field trip on May 29-30. We will explore the varied habitats around Mono from the sagebrush plains and willow-lined mountain streams to the strange tufa groves. Emphasis will be on the bird communities, but we will also investigate the lake's aquatic life, surrounding plant communities and nearby volcanoes.

This field trip is taught by Chris Swarth through the Bay Adventures Seminar program of the S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Chris has spent three summers studying the waterbirds at Mono. To register for this class call the Seminar Coordinator at (415) 792-3271 or write: Bay Adventures, P.O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560.

Mother's Day Barbecue in Marin

The Marin Audubon Society has announced its 27th annual barbecue on May 9 at (and for the benefit of) Audubon Canyon Ranch. Members, family and friends are invited to visit the Ranch and its heronry and to enjoy a delicious old-fashioned chicken barbecue picnic or a vegetarian alternative. Coffee and lemonade are included. Wine and beer will also be available. Serving time: noon to 2 p.m. Donation: \$6 adult or \$4 child under 12. Reservations may be made by mailing a check and a note indicating preference for chicken or for vegetarian quiche. The check must reach the committee by April 30. Mail to: Phyllis E. Samson, 68 Barbaree Way, Tiburon, CA 94920.

Cooper Society Meeting

On Monday, May 3, Ray Pierotti of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories will present a talk to the Northern Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society entitled: "Polygamy and parental care: Sex and the single gull."

Ray, who has been studying the ecology and behavior of gulls for the past ten years, is one of the best-informed gull experts in the nation. He will compare the quality of parental care in the polygamously nesting Western Gulls of Santa Barbara Island with the monogamously nesting gulls of the Farallon Islands. Ray is an energetic and articulate speaker and his talk should be of interest to anyone interested in birds.

The presentation will begin at 8 p.m. and will be preceded by a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS

In honor of
Nancy Konzett

In memory of
Sam Day

In memory of
Lucile Green

In memory of
Lois Henson Fanshier

In memory of
Shayna Diane Levenberg

For GGAS Sanctuary Fund
From the estate of
Rachel Makower

For Audubon Canyon Ranch
In memory of
Virginia Lawler

For Mono Lake Project

Gift of

Josephine J. Hughes

Roxie and Clark Gleason

Jon and Andy Katten

Mrs. Philip E. Linnekin
Mrs. Harold Knopp

Suzanne V. Ortiz
Ardra Cornelius Brodale
Ilene Riethmeies
Bill and Terry De Lorbe
Friends and colleagues, Dept of
Microbiology, UC Medical Center, S.F.

Dr. C. T. Deng,
Dept. of Surgery, U.C.L.A.
Donald J. Fujita, Cancer Research
Laboratory, University of Western
Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada
Diana Sheiness, Dept. of Biochemistry,
Louisiana State University
Medical Center

Tom Waddell
George Sanders
John Adinolfi

Delpha de Timofeev
Mrs. Robert S. Nicolls

BALLOT Note: This ballot is for members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society only. If you are not a member, do not return this ballot.

For your ballot to be counted it must be returned not later than **May 30**. Please remove this ballot from *The Gull* and mail or bring it to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. You may vote for seven candidates.

Check One:

- This ballot represents one vote for each candidate marked.
- This ballot represents two votes (family membership).

Board Nominees:

- Dan Murphy, First Vice President
- Robin Pulich, Second Vice President
- Frank Lowe, Treasurer
- Helen Green, Recording Secretary
- Minnie Groshong,* Corresponding Secretary
- Hazel Houston, Director
- Nina Kelly, Director

Others:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

*A vote for Ms. Groshong constitutes approval of the nominee to retain the position for more than the maximum three-year term.

Name:..... Signature:.....

ANTS Training

The Audubon Nature Training Society (ANTS) has scheduled its Spring Nature Training for two Saturdays, May 15 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lafayette Reservoir. The 12-hour course will cover the basics of how to share nature with children or adult groups. The fee is \$15 for both days. 1½ graduate quarter units from California State University Hayward is available for an additional \$18 and a three-hour project. To register, phone 834-6666.

Designed for ANTS Volunteer trainees, teachers, youth leaders, parents and grandparents, this time-tested training is guaranteed to spark awareness, understanding and appreciation of the neighborhood world. We don't have to go to a park to enjoy nature. Natural processes support and maintain all of us right where we live. Those who have taken the training are thrilled to find out for themselves the urban ecology at work all around them.

ANTS Volunteer teams serve their own neighborhood schools. All that is required to become an ANTS Volunteer is enthusiasm for children and the outdoors, 12 hours of internship after the Basic Nature Training class and a commitment of 1½ hours a week with small groups of school children. ANTS Volunteers are well rewarded with an expanded knowledge of their world and warm relationships with new friends.



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

Return Postage Guaranteed

Library
Calif. Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA, 94118

THE GULL

May 1982

OFFICERS

President, Jon Zablackis (527-2083)*
First Vice President, Dan Murphy (564-0074)*
Second Vice President, Robin Pulich (848-3594)*
Recording Secretary, Helen Green (526-5943)*
Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong (526-8443)*

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conservation, Trudi Jackson (548-1352)*
Education, GGAS office (843-2222)
Field Trips, Shirley Kelly (387-8290)*
Extended Field Trips, GGAS office (843-2222)
Finance, Joyce Davis (524-1506)
Emeryville Crescent, Vera Paraschak (525-7681)*
Hospitality, Hazel Houston (653-7347)*
Membership, Maybelle Groshong (526-8443)*

*Member of the Board of Directors

Program, GGAS office (843-2222)
Publicity, GGAS office (843-2222)

DIRECTORS

West Bay:

Ellen Sarbone (396-3951)*
Shirley Kelly (387-8290)*

East Bay:

Joyce Davis (524-1506)*
Maybelle Groshong (526-8443)*
Hazel Houston (635-7347)*

Directors-at-large:

Robert Hirt (383-5337)*

GULL Editor, Don Sanford (527-6017)*

Observations: Stephen Bailey (548-9507)
and Joseph Morlan (524-7421)

Librarian, Christine Jones (929-0327)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211
Executive Director, Andrea Kieserman (843-2222)

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 \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (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 \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

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.**