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Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 67

THE GULL



BIRDING IN KENYA: A BIRDWATCHING SAFARI

On his first visit to the West Coast, GGAS is privileged to present an evening with famed ornithologist Terry Stevenson. He will talk at the new San Francisco meeting location, (see page 138), on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. His talk will be accompanied by remarkable slides of the birds of East Africa, many of them his own photographs. He will make clear why birding trips to his part of the world are becoming so popular.

For eight years he has been the naturalist-ornithologist at the Lake Baringo Lodge leading trips and expeditions in East Africa. He has been the guide for many of the prominent ornithologists visiting Kenya. In two recent birdathons conducted in East Africa to benefit a children's hospital in Nairobi, Terry Stevenson and Paul Donahue have been the most successful team of birders in a twenty-four hour effort.

With parking no problem, and with public transportation convenient, this first meeting at San Francisco's Josephine Randall Junior Museum should set a new record for attendance. See you there.

IN NOVEMBER

Back in Berkeley, again, the November membership meeting will present a report on landbird research from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The meeting will be at 7:30 on Nov. 14 at the Northbrae Community Church.

HELP NEEDED

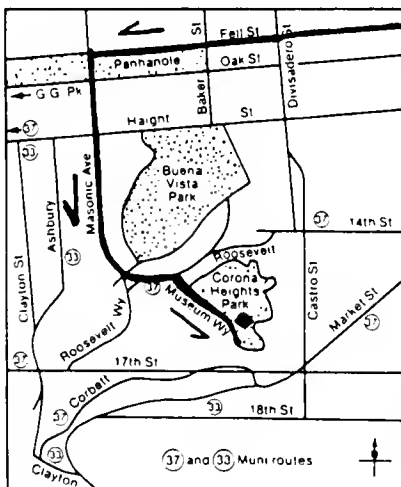
A Membership Committee Co-chairman is needed. The person should be one interested in data entry on our computer and the duties involve adding the names of new members, and running the reports which the computer provides. Please call Helen Green at 526-5943 for more information.

DEADLINE FOR BIRD SEED SALE OCTOBER 9TH

NEW MEETING SITE FOR SAN FRANCISCO

The Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum and GGAS have had a long association. All West Bay injured birds are referred to the Museum. It is appropriate, therefore, that our search for a meeting room in San Francisco should end there. We hope this location will be convenient to our membership and that we will continue to meet here for many years.

The Museum sits atop Corona Heights which is located on the north-east slope of Twin Peaks. Your first trip should be aided by the map below. The view from Corona Heights is worth the trip all by itself. By bus- the 37 Corbett stops at Museum Way; phone Muni for details. By car- take Roosevelt Way to Museum Way. From the East Bay take Hwy. 101 toward the Golden Gate Bridge and exit on Fell St. Continue on Fell until you turn left on Masonic, and again left when it ends at Roosevelt way, and turn right when you reach Museum Way: the road ends in the well-lighted parking lot. Go all the way to the end of the parking lot (the first building is maintenance).



FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, October 5 — Coastal San Francisco. Date changed to **October 19.** See details below.

Sunday, October 6 — Sunol Regional Park. See September *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, October 9 — Mini-trip to Hayward Shoreline. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** Take Hwy. 17 to Hayward. Take the Winton off-ramp. Follow Winton to its end and park. We will be looking for shorebirds and some landbirds of the area. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, October 12 — Beginners' Trip to Coyote Hill Regional Park. See September *Gull* for details.

Saturday, October 12 — Alameda and San Leandro Bay Shoreline. See September *Gull* for details.

Sunday, October 13 — San Mateo Coast. See September *Gull* for details.

Saturday, October 19 — Coastal San Francisco. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of migrants found in the area. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Saturday, October 26 — Pt. Isabel, Berkeley Marina and Emeryville Marina. Meet at **9 a.m.** at Pt. Isabel. From Hwy. 17 take the Central Ave. offramp in El Cerrito, turn towards the bay and go to the end of the street. Turn

right and go to the parking lot. Rain cancels trip. We will be looking for waterfowl and shorebirds. Lunch optional. Leader: Ruth Dement (527-7923). (✓)

Sunday, October 28 — Mt. San Bruno. From San Francisco take Hwy. 280 south to Daly City. Exit at Eastmoor Ave., Mission. Go left onto Sullivan and then turn left on Eastmoor. Take Eastmoor across Market. You will then be on East Market. Follow East Market, it will change names to Guadalupe Ave. Continue on Guadalupe Ave. to Radio Rd. Turn right on Radio Rd. and park near the San Bruno Mountain County Park sign. Meet at **9 a.m.** Bring warm clothing. Bring liquids. We will be walking about 1 ½ miles over level terrain. Trip ends at noon. Leader: John McCormick (929-9305). (✓)

Sunday, November 3 — 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 one-half 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. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during work hours). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 724-2166 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

OBSERVATIONS: JULY AND AUGUST Through August 28

PELAGICS

Following June's sightings, a **probable Cook's Petrel** was 15 miles WNW of Point Pinos July 13 (JM). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were near the Farallon Islands July 7 (KH, JM, et al.) and July 20 (TJ), and another was off Monterey July 13 (JM, SJ). The July 7 boat also found the first Bullen's Shearwater (AH, mob), which arrived early this summer. Four more unseasonal Black-vented Shearwaters were off Monterey July 13 (SFB, SJ).

Shearwater Journeys' boats now regularly explore waters 20-30 miles off Monterey, areas seldom visited a few years ago. These boats frequently find the Long-tailed Jaeger we always suspected were migrating over these outer waters. Two were identified Aug. 25 (AB, RS, SJ) and seven Aug. 28 (SJ). Single South Polar Skuas were near the Farallones July 20 (TJ) and near the Cordell Banks July 25 (RS, JW). Off Monterey, four South Polar Skuas were tallied both July 28 and Aug. 10 (SJ). Another adult Herring Gull was noted, off Monterey Aug. 25 (SFB, RS). The oiled plumage of a Sabine's Gull might explain its presence one mile east of SE Farallon Island on the late date of June 16 (PRBO). However, eight Sabine's Gulls off Monterey July 28 (SJ) were anomalous. A fall migrant Arctic Tern in breeding plumage strayed inland to Alameda South Shore July 28 (MP). Even far-

ther from pelagic waters was a Cassin's Auklet seen swimming on San Francisco Bay just south of the Dumbarton Bridge July 14 and picked up dead the same day (TG). Impressive counts of **52** Marbled Murrelets off Pescadero Beach and 17 off Pebble Beach were made on July 23 (DS). A southerly Tufted Puffin was off Monterey Aug. 28 (SJ).

WADERS AND SHOREBIRDS

An adult Little Blue Heron visited the favored Charleston Slough area July 28 - Aug. 3 (C & CW, mob). Two immature **Wood Storks** at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge July 28-Aug. 1 and reportedly most of July (WT, mob) represent one of the very few Northern California records.

A **Wood Sandpiper** was briefly seen but convincingly described by one PRBO observer on SE Farallon Island Aug. 20. If accepted this would be the first California record. The lone Solitary Sandpiper (!) was at Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds in San Rafael Aug. 28. (AG, WG). Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----|
| 3 Lodi Sewage Ponds | | |
| Aug. 12 | | DY |
| 1 Bolinas Sewage Ponds | | |
| Aug. 15 | SH, DDeS | |
| 2 Mountain View Forebay | | |
| Aug. 18-22 | DS, et al. | |
| (1 Aug. 16-23) | | |
| 3 Abbott's Lagoon | | |
| Aug. 22 | SH, mob, MS | |
| (1 to Aug. 26) | | |
| 1 Los Gallinas S. Ponds | | |
| Aug 25 | | JM |

Stilt Sandpipers waded in Limantour Estero July 19-20 (SH, LP) and Carmel River Mouth Aug. 26 (BW).

A flight of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**

late in August left singles at Salinas Sewage Ponds Aug. 23 (fide Monterey Bay Rare Bird Alert) and 27 (SH), Abbotts Lagoon Aug. 24-25 (DQ, mob), and Carmel River Mouth Aug. 25 (SF, PR) and 27 (SH et. al.).

EASTERN LANDBIRDS

An immature male hummingbird banded on SE Farallon Island Aug. 21-22 was identified by PRBO as a Ruby-throated. If this difficult identification can be confirmed it would be the second record for California.

PRBO's list of eastern vagrants on SE Farallon in late June consists of a Tennessee Warbler June 23, a Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler June 23, and a **Gray Catbird** and two Northern Parulas June 24 (arrival dates only). Another Northern Parula stopped at PRBO's headquarters beside Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 20.

Three male Summer Tanagers lived up to their name this season. First one appeared in a Berkeley yard July 19 (RM). Then another in Los Gatos Aug. 24-27 was joined by a third Aug. 27 (GMCC, et al.). A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was reported from the Mendocino Co. coast about 10 miles north of Gualala July 14 (BP). Without further information one wonders whether this pair might have nested locally. This species is so common as an early summer vagrant that it seems strange that we don't observe nesting. A female Indigo Bunting found SE Farallon July 14 (PRBO). The pair of Great-tailed Grackles still inhabited San Francisco Aquatic Park through July 25 (DW).

Corrigendum: The incredibly early date of April 17 reported for a Least Flycatcher on SE Farallon was a

typographical error; the correct date was May 17 (PRBO). This is still our earliest record, but the date is not outrageous, as erroneously listed.

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, David DeSante, Shawnee Finnigan, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Phil Gordon, Keith Hansen, Syd Harrison, David Holway, Alan Hopkins, Steve Howell, Tom Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, many observers (mob), John Mariani, Robin May, Gary McCurdy, Joseph Morlan (JM), Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jay F. Penniman and Peter Pyle), Michael Perrone, Bill Perry, Lina Prairie, David Quady, Phil Rostern, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, David Suddjian, Ron Thorn, Walter Tordhoff, Brian Weed, Virginia White, David Wimpfheimer, Jon Winter, Chris and Claire Wolf, David Yee.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY

Observations Editor
Dept. of Ornithology and Mammalogy
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco, CA 94118
(report observations to 843-2211,
Northern California Rare Bird Alert.)

CONSERVATION NOTES

BAY SEASONAL WETLANDS

In August Representative Sala Burton held a news conference to present a letter sent by her and six other Bay Area Members of Congress to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. If you've been following Conservation Notes in the *Gull* you will know of the threats to our Bay's seasonal wetlands. This congressional letter asked the

Corps and EPA to examine their ability to protect these wetlands and to develop an action plan to implement this protection.

Your Conservation Chairman presided at this press conference and has worked actively on this issue.

As always, letters to the Corps urging protection of seasonal wetlands are important and, no doubt, effective:

Lt. Colonel Andrew M. Perkins, Jr.
District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
211 Main Street
S.F., CA 94105

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Congress is back in session and many critical pieces of environmental legislation are being worked on. Your letters can make the critical difference. **The Clean Water Act** is up for renewal. Representative Sala Burton and Norm Minetta have worked for an amendment that would provide \$12 million for studying pollution in SF Bay and methods for correcting the problem. The House passed this amendment, the Senate has not. Write our Senators urging their support for this amendment and for a bill stronger in groundwater protection, non-point source runoff control and increased wetlands protection.

The Endangered Species Act is also up for reauthorization. Again, the House has worked on a pretty good bill but the Senate has not. Ask our Senators, especially Pete Wilson to support: a) protection for rare plants on private land, b) protection for the US Fish and Wildlife Service's "Category 1" list of 1,116 species identified as threatened, c) additional funding for Endangered Species work.

Forest Service Roads destroy wilderness and wildlife. New roads are basically unnecessary. Logging companies hold contracts that will meet national forest sales quotas for four years - without any new construction of major roads. In a budget cutting year we should not subsidize unnecessarily destructive uses. Urge our Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson to vote to eliminate the **Forest Service's road construction budget** for fiscal year 1986. Address them at the U.S. Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

PANOCHÉ VALLEY

When wet winter weather wears you down or you are tired of looking at gulls on the coast, there is a place not too far away where you can almost always find some sun and certainly find some uncommon birds. You will also find the peaceful serenity and beauty of California farmland and coastal mountains. The place is Panoche Valley.

Panoche Valley is located between Hollister and Interstate 5 south of Los Banos. One way to get there is to start in Paicines, approximately 12 miles south of Hollister in San Benito County. When you reach Hollister be sure you have plenty of gas as there is none available until after you reach Hwy. I-5. From Hollister, go south on State Hwy. 25 until you reach the intersection with county road J1. This is Paicines. At Paicines you will find a small grocery store where you can buy drinks and a limited supply of lunch fixings.

From Paicines first drive south on Hwy. 25 another ¼ mile until you find a large dirt turnout on the right. From here you will be able to see Paicines

Reservoir. Make sure you have a scope as there are usually Common Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks on the far shores. If you are lucky you may be visited by a Bald Eagle early in the morning. Listen for singing California Thrashers on the hill across the road. There is a chance that other unusual birds could turn up here as well. Joe Morlan found an Eastern Phoebe a few years ago.

After checking the reservoir, return to the intersection of 25 and J1 and turn right (east) on J1. (set your trip odometer at 0.0) You are now on the road to Panoche Valley. As you proceed you will find Pinos Creek on your left. Sometimes large flocks of Band-tailed Pigeons will be seen in this area. Along this first stretch the most common raptors are Red-tailed Hawks and Kestrels. Look here also for wintering swallows.

While you may wish to stop anywhere along this lightly traveled road, do not pass the Appel Ranch (9.9). Here in the mistletoe among the oaks around the house you should find Western Bluebird and Phainopepla. Listen for the soft, short whistle of this "Silky-flycatcher." This is probably its northernmost winter residence. If for some reason you don't find them here, they may also be found farther up the road as far as Panoche Pass. By now you should also have seen Yellow-billed Magpie, endemic to California, and Black-shouldered Kite.

From Appel Ranch the road winds through steeper terrain of chaparral woodlands. Shortly, you will see a large orange rock on your left (11.4). This has been a reliable place to hear, and rarely see, Roadrunner. Species common to this habitat are Acorn and Nut-

tal's Woodpeckers, California Thrasher and Fox Sparrow. You may also encounter Varied Thrush. Many of these same birds may be found in the trees near the next house on the left (13.0). Remember to check the sky above you regularly for raptors. The temptation is great to stop regularly along this road, however, you will want most of your time to explore Panoche Valley.

A stop should be made at the Antelope Fire Station (18.4). This is the most reliable place on the trip to find Lewis' Woodpecker, although these pink-breasted birds have been almost impossible to find in the last few years. Continue to look for them from here to the edge of the valley, in the orchard by the pond.

It is not far from the fire station to the Summit Ranch which marks the top of Panoche Pass, with an elevation of 2130'. As the road starts downhill it traverses an area of brush covered hillsides, particularly on the left side of the road. Check here for Rufous-crowned Sparrow which can be seen perched on some of the larger bushes. There is also a remote possibility of finding Chukar in this area.

The road begins to level out as you approach the valley. Here look for Lawrence's Goldfinch and Lark and Vesper Sparrows. The latter bird is one of the Panoche Valley specialties in winter and can be found in a number of places. This road then enters the valley and raptors may be found anywhere. Look for Rough-Legged Hawks on the telephone poles and Ferruginous Hawks in the fields. Dark phase birds are possible. Finally, you will see the only restroom on the trip when you reach the Panoche Inn (28.1), a small bar near the northern edge of the valley.

From the bar you will see spread out before you a valley over 15 miles long and almost 10 miles wide. This is an agricultural area that is only minimally inhabited but, all fences and property lines should be respected as "no trespassing" limits. With a scope there will be no difficulty in seeing any of the birds you've hoped for. By midday the valley is usually bathed in sunlight, although it will not necessarily be warm. Most appealing to city dwellers will be the absolute quiet of the valley. Perhaps it is this stillness, making it possible to hear the wind, which makes the soaring hawks and eagles seem even more majestic than usual.

Half a mile south of the Panoche Inn is the intersection of J1 and Little Panoche Road (28.6). To reach the fields of Mountain Plovers and to exit to I-5 one would turn left (east) at this intersection. First, however, you may want to continue south on Panoche Road and follow the signs toward New Idria. After a mile you will see the local elementary school. Continue bearing right at all turns and intersections.

In a few miles the road enters an area of steep, rocky hillsides. This is one of the better areas to look for Chukar, as well as Canyon and Rock Wrens. One winter a Cassin's Kingbird was found near the first farm past these hills but it's best to turn back unless you wish to see the mine at New Idria. There are several roads in this end of the valley which you may wish to explore for Vesper Sparrows and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Returning to the junction of Panoche Road and Little Panoche Road turn right this time (still east) and you will see a straight stretch of road approximately 3.5 miles long. It is along this stretch that you will find Mountain

Plovers. Less than two miles from the junction you will see large electric power lines (30.4). Shortly after this the road starts slightly uphill. The grassy fields on either side of the road are winter home to the Mountain Plover where as many as 600 or as few as 1 or 2 may be found (31.3). Sometimes these plain beige birds are right next to the road. At other times you will need your scope to pick them out in the distance. As you scan the fields for these sometimes elusive plovers look for moving rocks and check those rocks for legs!

Immediately after the plover fields, Little Panoche Road crosses Shotgun Pass (elevation 1620') which is another spot for Chukar (32.2). From here the road winds through rolling hills to Hwy. I-5. While Mountain Bluebirds may be encountered in the valley, they are more likely to be found in the area between Shotgun Pass and the access road to the BLM land (36.8). The availability of driving access to the BLM property depends on whether the gate is unlocked but it is always open to walk-in traffic. Chukar have also been found in here.

The area along Little Panoche Road within 2 miles on either side of the BLM access road is the best spot for Vesper Sparrow. Sage Thrasher has also been found here, as have Brewer's Sparrow and even Lark Bunting on a couple of occasions. Further along, there is another farmhouse where the trees should be checked (39.5). From here the grasslands continue and just before reaching the power lines (45.5) there is a small reservoir which can be worth checking. This is a good area for Roadrunners. The road then continues to I-5 (48.7) and the return to the Bay Area takes about 2½ hours.

This is a full day of birding and exploring one of the least used areas of northern California. It can be done as part of a weekend trip to the Central Valley, with an overnight stay in Los Banos and a trip through the wildlife refuges in that area the second day.

— CHRIS CARPENTER

LEAST TERN NEWS

Once again, the endangered California Least Tern has nested in the Bay Area. The estimated minimum number of breeding pairs rose from 56 last year to 65 pairs this year. Relative to the last three years, reproductive success was good, in terms of absolute and estimated minimum number of chicks fledged in the Bay Area.

The traditional site, the Naval Air Station, Alameda hosted the largest colony in northern California. Fifty-four nesting attempts by 52-54 pairs culminated in the fledging of about 50 chicks. Again, it seems the experimental fence, provided and maintained by NAS to protect the colony from cats contributed a great deal to the success of the colony.

Fourteen nests with eggs by 10-14 pairs of California Least Terns were recorded at the Oakland Airport colony. This colony fledged about 10 chicks.

The PG&E Power Plant in West Pittsburg hosted 3-4 pairs and 2-4 chicks fledged there.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory reported that none nested at the Blair Island colony site. At least two pairs of California Least terns were attracted to nests at sites not known to have been used for nesting in the past. One pair apparently attempted nesting in the area of the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza! Unfortunately, it appears that a high

tide destroyed this attempt. The other pair nested next to two of the Baumberg salt ponds in Hayward. At least one chick hatched from the two-egg nest. This attempt took place late in the season while many of the Bay Area California Least Tern adults and fledglings were consistently using the site as both a foraging and a resting place.

— LAURA COLLINS

MONO LAKE BENEFIT TRAVEL

Interested in man and nature in far away places? Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, Peru and the headwaters of the Amazon are all in the itinerary for a Mono Lake Committee sponsored trip June 24-July 10, 1986. The Alaska trip generated over \$12,000 to help save Mono Lake. The committee hopes this trip will do the same. For full details, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, (4"×9") to M. Bennett 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

CORDELL BANKS AND BEYOND

Spaces are now available on two trips, Sunday, Oct. 6 and Sunday Nov. 3 to and beyond the Cordell Banks, off Marin Co. Many unusual species of seabirds and a large variety of whales and dolphins have been seen in the area. It is currently under review for National Marine Sanctuary status. We will spend a full day aboard the very fast and beautiful 63 ft. "Stardust", a new boat to California waters. We hope to spend most of the time exploring the Banks area and adjacent continental shelf edge, as far as the 2000 fathom line, in-

stead of taking several hours both out and back, as in slower boats. We anticipate very expert leadership, with a number of California's top birders on board.

Do join us for a look at this poorly known but promising area. We will leave out of Bodega Harbor. Spaces are \$33 per person, with special rates available for groups of eight or more. For information call (707) 795-8492; for reservations and final details send check or money order to Kurt Campbell, P.O. Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. Please include your phone number.

THE AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT

The report for 1985 is the first in a series that will ultimately form a sort of encyclopedia of the conservation movement. Anyone working in the field of wildlife conservation will find the volume useful. A copy has been ordered for the GGAS office, where it should be available for review by the time this issue reaches you. Come in and see if you need to subscribe to this new service.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Ian Strange, conservationist, naturalist, artist and author will present a slide tour through the Falkland Islands on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. at Wheeler Hall Auditorium, UC Berkeley. Admission is \$2 if obtained from the Sierra Club Office, 6014 College Ave., Oakland, CA 94618. Tickets at the door will be \$3. He will discuss the Falklands' natural history, its sheep-raising economy, the effects of the war on the archipelago's wildlife and prospects for wildlife conservation.

1985 GGAS CHRISTMAS COUNT PLANS

OAKLAND

This annual birding event will take place on Sunday, December 22. The 15-mile diameter count circle, centered in Oakland, stretches from Moraga to Yerba Buena Island and north to Albany. Habitats range from open bay to redwood forest. This productive area is divided into smaller territories, each assigned to a group of counters who look for and count as many birds of as many species as they can find. Ambitious birders are out before dawn counting owls too. Those who have active bird feeders inside the circle can help by keeping a feeder tally on count day.

The count needs your help. There are 177 square miles to be covered and never enough observers. Even if you aren't an experienced birder, you can contribute your eyes and ears as part of a group with an experienced leader. So please consider joining us on the 22nd for a dawn-to-dusk field adventure and the following countdown dinner and ritual tally.

If you have participated in a recent Oakland count, we will mail you an invitation with a sign-up form to return. If you haven't heard from us by mid-November or if you would like to help for the first time, please call the GGAS office (843-2222) and leave your name, address, and phone number. You'll be welcomed with open checklists.

— NANCY CONZETT
— HELEN GREEN
— JEFF GREENHOUSE
Co-Compilers

SAN FRANCISCO

Friday, Dec. 27 is the day for the San Francisco annual Christmas Bird Count. A particular need will be for observers in the down-town area who can devote their lunch-hours or an hour before work to covering the financial and business districts of the City. There are also neighborhood parks which may require only an hour or so coverage. Of course, the count needs birders who can be in the field all day. And, reports from people with bird-feeders are important, too. Last year's participants will be notified by mail. If you missed last year, but want to participate in the 1985 Christmas Count in San Francisco, please call Dan Murphy, 564-0074, or Alan Hopkins, 585-5669, evenings or week-ends.

This third count in the recently revived San Francisco enumeration area will cover the northern part of the peninsula from the Golden Gate south to San Bruno Ave.

Later issues of the *GULL* will include details of the after-the-count dinner and tabulation.

— DAN MURPHY
ALAN HOPKINS
Co-compilers

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Meg Pauletich has been on vacation, birding in East Africa. She reports that she saw 183 species of new-to-her birds. Her column will return in the November *GULL*.

CONFERENCES

THE PEOPLE FOR OPEN SPACE

“Keeping This Place Special — Protecting the Bay Area’s Greenbelt” is the theme of the conference to be held Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Oakland Museum. The price for the conference, including a luncheon, is \$15. Luncheon speaker will be Ruth Correll, Mayor of Boulder, Colo. describing the city’s outstanding success in protecting its important surrounding lands. Registration or information is available through Jeannie Lloyd, People for Open Space, 512 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94107, 543-4291.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ECOLOGY

From Poland Professor Jan Pinowski writes that August 13, 1986 a meeting of the Working Group on Granivorous Birds will be held in Syracuse, N.Y. This will be in connection with the Fourth International Congress of Ecology, August 10-16. The theme of the symposium is tentatively “the role of granivorous birds in ecosystems” with the following topics: population dynamics, biomass and production rates, energetics, impact of granivorous birds on ecosystems, and pest management. The program will be established by Dec. 31, 1985, based on titles and one page abstracts submitted by that date. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Correspondence should be addressed to Prof. Dr. Jan Pinowski, Dept. of Vertebrate Ecology, Institute of Ecology, Polish Academy of Sciences, 05-092 Lomianki, Poland.

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS

Visalia in Tulare County is to be the site of the 1985 California Wilderness Conference Friday to Sunday, Oct. 25-27. During the three days there will be speeches by nationally known environmental leaders, major photographic displays, commercial and organization booths, entertainment, in-depth and short workshops, student art, and thousands of dollars worth of raffle and drawing prizes.

Details on the conference are available at the GGAS office. Registration is \$15 (\$20 after Oct. 15 and at the door). Make checks payable to CWC Conference. For information or registration write to Bob Barnes, California Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258, (209) 784-4477.

FREMONT BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Students will observe and learn about field identification, life style and ecology of local birds in this Fremont Adult School class taught by **Alice Hoch**. Each Tuesday morning the class will visit a different birding spot. The class is designed for both experienced and beginning birders.

It will meet on six Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Oct. 29th and ending Dec. 10th. Registration will be at the first session of the class in the Conference Room, Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Bring binoculars, and field guides and be prepared to bird-watch that morning. For information call the Adult School (791-5841) or the instructor (657-0475).

TOM ROUNDTREE PRINTS AVAILABLE

GGAS enthusiastically offers members and the public the opportunity to own a Tom Roundtree photographic print. Tom is a most talented waterbird photographer working in the Bay Area. When he gave a slide presentation at our May meeting he simply wowed us all. His photographs are amazing. We are pleased to be able to offer these prints for sale through our office. Come to the office to see the prints, or come to the October meeting in San Francisco where they will be on display.

The prints, mounted on heavy stock, 11"14" in size and individually signed by the artist, are priced at \$50 inclusive of sales tax. The prints include an incredible **Gadwall**, a **Least Tern and chick**, a **Snowy Egret** and many others. They will make exquisite gifts and will grace any wall. Your purchase will benefit GGAS in its many activities. Shop early for Christmas. A Tom Roundtree print would make an exceptional gift.

NATURE SOUNDS SOCIETY

The Nature Sounds Society, in cooperation with the East Bay Zoological Society, will meet on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Knowland Park Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. (Take the 98th/Golf Links Rd. exit off Hwy. I-580 and follow the signs.) The gate fee will be waived for those attending this meeting.

Arlyn Christopherson, NSS member and teacher (the Wildlife School) at the Zoo, will lead a "sounds" tour of the Zoo from 10:30 to 11:30. Bring a lunch or buy a hotdog at the Zoo. For information phone Paul Matzner, Oakland

Museum Natural Sciences Department.
273-3884.

AUDUBON TELEVISION

An Audubon sponsored children's television series is ready for Public Broadcasting Stations. It will premier on Sunday, Nov. 3, is called OWL/TV, and is keyed to the 7 to 11 age group. The management of KQED will have to decide whether it is interested in this excellent show for the young audience. GGAS members are urged to phone or write (KQED Programming, 500 8th St., San Francisco, CA 94103; 864-2000) expressing support for the series.

For people with access to cable television Audubon programming is carried quarterly on SuperStation WTBS. The next will be Program 5 on Yosemite, fire, big horn sheep and bluebirds, being shown Dec. 2 and repeated Dec. 11, 15, and 23. Check your listing for times.

PHOTOGRAPHICS EXHIBIT

Probably too late for entry, as the deadline is Oct. 4, the Baylands Photography Exhibition is scheduled to be shown at the S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge from February through May 1986. Subject matter is restricted to the land, marshes, sloughs, waterways and shallows of and surrounding San Francisco Bay south of the San Mateo Bridge. Photos of plants, wildlife and natural features of these areas, as well as photos depicting the relationship of people to these areas are sought. Black and white prints and color print are the only media accepted. Information can be obtained from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (329-1811) or the Peninsula Conservation Center (328-5313).

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch - Shoreline Hwy.
Stinson Beach, Ca., (415) 663-1212
Sanctuaries & Wildlife Centers under the joint
sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and
Sequoia Audubon Societies
Flora Maclise, Chairman

A new fall education program on Preparing for Winter begins this month at the Bolinas Preserve. A full schedule of 42 third through fifth grade classes were signed up by July. Created by Ray Peterson and the education committee of the Volunteers Council headed by Jane Ferguson, it will include a classroom visit with a slide show and a kit containing hands-on learning about photosynthesis, seeds, migrating birds and weather which will prepare each class for a three hour field trip to the ranch.

"Fall is a great time to observe and learn about spiders", said Mildie Whedon, who has also worked on the new program. There will be a visit under the redwoods, which is off limits to spring classes, to the pond, the weather station and to the Clem Miller Overlook to observe migrating birds on the Lagoon. Jane pointed out that the program is more properly entitled "Preparing in Winter" because in California's mild coastal climate plant and animals use the rainy months to prepare for the more difficult season of summer drought.

It is hoped all children who visit in the spring may also come in the fall and vice versa so they can observe the seasonal changes. The new program is similar to the original fall program conducted in the '70s. A trip to the ranch has been optional in the most recent fall program which included four classroom visits and a field trip within walking distance of the school.

LETTERS

HOODED ORIOLES IN EL CERRITO

A "profusion" of Hooded Orioles are feasting at my hummingbird feeder in El Cerrito this summer. Recently six females and immatures were lined up for their turns at the feeder- ahead of the Anna's Hummingbirds awaiting their turn. The male Hooded Oriole appeared and went to the head of the line!

Some "fly in place" like the hummers to sip from the feeder but most perch on the glass tube and drink from its tube.

— ART PRYOR

Dear Members,

In the last *GULL*, Dan Murphy, as outgoing President thanked a host of members for their wonderful efforts in keeping this chapter going. As incoming President, I would like to thank them too. I would also like to thank Dan, himself, for fulfilling his job so successfully that I don't seem to have too much to do. I sure hope it stays that way (I'm told that it won't).

Our Chapter, happily, is in good shape. Our membership stands at around 6,000 and our finances, while always precarious, are presently in the black. Speaking of finances, I'd like to take a moment to explain ours more fully. This years budget comes to about \$50,000. A lot of money, but it goes quickly. As you probably know, we rent our office and have one paid staff-person (Barbara Rivenes). Between the two we spend \$22,000. The office, of course, gives us public visibility. It houses our fine Library (please do take advantage of it) and our computer (essential for membership and useful for

much else). Having a staff person allows us to be readily available to the public and our membership. The phone is constantly ringing with calls ranging from how to save an injured bird to how to get rid of a pesty one (starlings and pigeons). We do provide valuable service to our community and Barbara is also there to respond to environmental emergencies as and if they occur. That accounts for almost half our budget.

The *GULL*, its printing and mailing, costs about the same, \$22,000. Rent for our General Meetings and expenses for the Christmas Count take up another \$1850. Our newly created Education Committee was given \$600.00 and the Conservation Committee \$1500. Taxes, accounting costs and the famous miscellaneous make up the rest.

It is a budget with little available for our Conservation and Education activities (a single emergency mailing to all our members on a conservation issue takes \$1200, full postal rate).

Because 4/5ths of our income derives from membership dues, a drop in membership throws our budget into chaos. The importance of fund-raising is clear. Our seed-sale last year was a life-saver and we hope for even greater success this year. Correspondingly, bequests and donations play an important role in keeping us afloat and are greatly appreciated.

If you have any desire to help us in fund-raising please don't be shy. Our phone numbers are on the back of the Gull, be brave, give us a call. Join our efforts and have some fun. And this goes for anyone interested in any of our activities. Our chapter's success rests on its members involvement. Hope to see you soon.

ARTHUR FEINSTEIN
President

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

There will be no October meeting of the Society. In November the speaker will be the eminent wildlife photographer Ian Tait.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

For GGAS	Gift of
	Wes Tollber
Adopt a Class	Anonymous
In Memory of	
Robert C. Harlan	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Haas, Jr.
Christine Blaisdell	Barbara & Jerry Schauffler
Marjorie Harris	Elaine & Arnold Grossberg
	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Phillips
For Audubon Canyon Ranch	
In Memory of	
Mena Marzluff	Marguerite & John Harrell

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Here is your chance to order your supply of seed for the season. Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address before Oct. 17.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY OCT. 9
PICK UP ON SATURDAY, OCT. 19

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED — Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings.

20 lbs. \$ 8.75

50 lbs. 18.50

GGAS SPEICAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX — Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed.

20 lbs. \$ 6.40

50 lbs. 12.30

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED — High in oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety.

10 lbs. \$ 8.25

25 lbs. 20.50

NIGER (THISTLE SEED) — This minute seed is rich in nourishing oil and will attract goldfinches, but not larger birds or squirrels, nor will it sprout in your yard. 5 lbs. \$ 8.50

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

Please indicate the location at which you prefer to pick up your order:

() San Francisco () Berkeley

ITEM	WEIGHT	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		8.75	
	50 lbs.		18.50	
GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		6.40	
	50 lbs.		12.30	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.		8.25	
	25 lbs.		20.50	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5 lbs.		8.60	
Field Guide to the Birds of North America (Nat. Geographic)			\$16.95	
ADD 6.5% TAX			_____	
CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS			_____	
TOTAL			_____	

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK,
AND STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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152

THE GULL

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George Peyton
Bruce Howard

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to 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 \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (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 \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. 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, and July 15th for September issue.