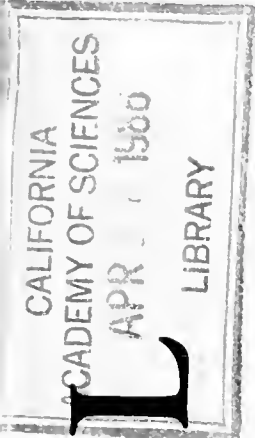


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Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 68 Number 5 May 1986

# THE GULL



## THE FARALLON ISLANDS

Twenty-three miles west of the Golden Gate lie the seven Farallon Islands. These weathered granite rocks comprise little more than 120 acres, but they host the largest seabird breeding colony south of Alaska. Our May membership meeting will feature a slide show presentation on the Farallones by GGAS member Pete White. Pete will discuss the islands' human history as well as their natural history. We will learn how the islands were occupied by New England and Russian seal hunters in the early nineteenth century, and of the commerce in seabird eggs in the 1860's when millions of eggs were gathered from the rookeries to be sold in the markets of San Francisco. The main part of the presentation will concentrate on the wildlife of the Farallones as it is today, with pictures and discussion of the islands' geology, marine mammals, plants, breeding birds, and migratory birds. The meeting will be held at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum, Corona Heights Park, in San Francisco, on Thursday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. For a stimulating educational experience, for convenient parking, for refreshments, you owe it to yourself to attend.

### JUNE WINE TASTING

Plan to attend our June wine tasting, a benefit for Audubon Canyon Ranch, now celebrating its 25th anniversary. Bring Dad, too, for a special Father's Day treat on June 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Lyford House in Tiburon.

— TOM WHITE

### FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Sunday, May 4 — Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.** See the April *Gull* for details.

**Sunday, May 11 — Mt. St. Helena.** See the April *Gull* for details.

**Wednesday, May 14 — Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park.** Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 east to the Orinda turnoff. Turn left and follow the San Pablo Dam Rd. about two miles to Bear Creek turnoff. Turn right and drive about two miles to Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Wildcat Canyon Dr. across Tilden Park from the top of Spruce St. in Berkeley will also take you to Bear Creek Rd. We should see Northern Orioles, Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Saturday, May 17 — Putah Creek.** Meet at **9 a.m.** at the top of Monticello Dam at the east end of Lake Berryessa. From Napa, go north on Hwy. 121 to Hwy. 128 and east to the dam or take Pleasant Valley Road (Pena Adobe exit) from I-80 (about 4 miles east of Fairfield) north to Hwy. 128 and west to the dam. Bring lunch. We will bird the dam and along Putah Creek. Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopeplas, Northern Orioles and a wide variety of other resident species may be expected. Rain or threat of clouds cancels trip. There is an entrance fee at Lake Solano. Leader: Bob O'Brien (526-8241). (✓)

**Sunday, May 18 — 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. and turn left into Park area. Meet at **9 a.m.** Bring warm clothing. Bring liquids. We will be walking about 1½ miles over level terrain. Trip ends at noon. Leader: John McCormick (929-9305).

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## CONGRATULATIONS, ALAN HOPKINS

As many of us may have noticed, the Dec. 1985 issue of *Birding* had as its cover photograph a picture by our own Alan Hopkins of the Short-tailed Albatross over Cordelle Banks.

**Sunday, May 25 — Five Brooks.** Meet at **9 a.m.** at Five Brooks (about 5 miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). Pack a lunch and wear hiking boots for a five to six mile walk on trails in the Five Brooks area. We should see a fine variety of spring migrants. Leader: George Hugenberg (435-6174). (✓)

**Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 1 — Birding by Ear in Yosemite.** The lower elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with singing birds in early June. A variety of habitats produce a rich diversity of birdlife, typically including 7 flycatchers (including 4 Empidonax), 3 vireos, and 7 warblers and many other species in full song and breeding plumage.

Meet at the Hodgdon Meadow Campground group campsite **Friday, May 30 at 3 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 31 at 7 a.m.** (If you arrive later on Saturday, meet the group in Hodgdon Meadow behind the group camp site.) To reach the camp, turn left (northeast) off Hwy. 120, 0.1 mile past the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and proceed to the back lower portion of the campground. Because last minute changes in campsite may have to be made, before you leave be sure to call the leader (prior to May 27) 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, May 29, please call the leader. Check at the entrance gate for a possible entry fee waiver.

The nearest motels are 20 miles or

more from the meeting place. If you are 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.

Bring warm clothing, raingear, boots (for wet meadows), pack a lunch and plan on walking about six miles. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

**Saturday/Sunday, June 7/8 — Mono Basin.** Meet at 8 a.m. at Mono County Park 5 miles north of Lee Vining and just east of Hwy. 395. To get to Mono Basin take Hwy. 120 over Tioga Pass to the town of Lee Vining and proceed north to the meeting place. An alternate route is around Lake Tahoe to Hwy. 395 and then south to Mono County Park. We will spend Saturday birding the north side of the lake looking for common residents in the cottonwoods around the park and the juniper/sage habitat north and east of the lake as well as the lake edge itself.

On **Sunday** we will meet at South Tufa at 8 a.m. Take Hwy. 395 south from Lee Vining to Hwy. 120, turn east and proceed to the entrance of South Tufa State Reserve. We will meet in the parking lot. We will bird this area and the Jeffrey Pine forest south and east of here looking for Grey Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers and other Mono Basin specialities.

Be prepared for hot bright sun and/or cold wind and rain. The elevation of the basin is 6400 ft. and the temperature may drop at night. Bring lunches for both days and be prepared to hike. On Saturday night we will have a potluck at Mono County Park.

Forest Service campgrounds are available southwest of Lee Vining in Lee Vining Canyon and north of town up Lundy Canyon. Motels in Lee Vining include: Best Western Lake View Motel (714-647-6543), Gateway Motel (714-647-6467), and Murphey's Motel

(714-647-6316). Leaders: Helen and Paul Green (526-5943). (✓)

**Sunday, June 22 — Farallon Islands.** Boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands. See details elsewhere in this issue of *The Gull*.

**Summer Camping Trips.** Details for these and additional summer trips will be in the June *Gull*.

**Saturday & Sunday, June 21-22 — Yuba Pass.** Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199).

**Saturday & Sunday, June 28-29 — Lassen Volcanic National Park.** Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

**Note from the Field Trips Committee:** Leaders are needed for local trips during the summer. If you are familiar with a location and would like to lead a trip, please call Shirley Kelly (387-8290).

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

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## BANK SWALLOW OBSERVATIONS

The Department of Fish and Game is undertaking an investigation of the status and trends of the Bank Swallow population in California. The DFG is concerned that, due to bank protection and flood control projects, a significant loss of habitat has occurred. Please report any Bank Swallow sightings to Kent Smith, (916) 445-1146 or Don Schlorff, (916) 322-1261. They will answer questions about the effort. Observations should be sent to their attention at the Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

## MARCH OBSERVATIONS through March 26

Wildly fluctuating weather — from a record-setting heat wave to an arctic storm in mid-March — stirred up weather research teams, who vied for the latest predictions (a return of El Niño, yes or no?). From the Monterey Area came reports of warm-water dolphin species and slightly higher than average water temperatures early in the month (SJ). The exciting news followed shortly after with the arrival of **Magnificent Frigatebirds**: a female seen from Pigeon Point March 8 (EI, CB); an immature female at Ano Nuevo State Reserve March 8 (CD, *fide* SJ), which was found at Santa Cruz March 9 tangled in fishing line and drowned (specimen at California Academy of Sciences); and a female at Alameda South Shore March 8 (DC), which may have been the Pigeon Point bird.

### Loons through Waterfowl

Red-throated Loons were noted at Five Brooks pond March 17 (KH), Lafayette Reservoir March 23 (MP), and Eight-Mile Road in San Joaquin County March 26 (DY), unusual inland locations for this species. A Laysan Albatross was seen off Point Pinos March 1 (RG, *fide* SJ), while another hopped a ride into the Port of Oakland aboard a freighter, rested up at the Rotary Natural Science Center March 13-15, then disappeared before it could be released beyond the Farallones (DKa). Lingering duck species included the Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal at Arrowhead Marsh through March 5 (mob, AW, HC), and the female Tufted Duck at Metson Lake in Golden Gate Park to March 4 (LE). A hybrid Tufted Duck x Scaup species was seen March 21-25 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds (DY). Harlequin Ducks at Bolinas and Rodeo Lagoons remained until at least March 20 (mob, GH); and others were well reported, with single birds at Moss Landing March 1

(DSu), Pigeon Point March 3 (PG), SE Farallon Island March 12 (PRBO), and Bodega Harbor March 15 (DH, DK). The old Oldsquaw from Moss Landing Harbor was last seen March 15 (DSu); another was reported at Marshall March 15 (DH, DK), and one in Bodega Bay during the month was last seen March 24 (JP, BDP, et al.).

### Raptors through Gulls

A wintering Broad-winged Hawk in Monterey County was last reported March 1 (EL). Considered an extremely rare winter resident at SE Farallon Island, a Rough-legged Hawk was present there Feb. 24-28 (PRBO). Lesser Golden-Plovers continued to be seen through the month: one at Albany Mudflats March 16-17, 20 (*fulva*) (DH, DK, BR), seven at Lawson's Landing to March 21 (*fulva*) (GFe, RH), and one at Doran State Park, Bodega Bay March 23 (LH). The SE Farallon Island Rock Sandpiper remained until March 2 (PRBO). Three Little Gulls were present at the Stockton Sewage Ponds to March 25, with a sighting at Woodbridge Road on March 13, probably one of the Stockton Sewage Pond birds (mob, DY). The last reported date for the Common Black-headed Gull was Feb. 23 (DY). Single first-year Glaucous Gulls were at Pomponio Beach March 7 (RT), Point Reyes Lighthouse March 23 (MGH), and Salmon Creek March 24 (JP, BDP); and SE Farallon Island had an individual present from January 28-Feb. 10 (PRBO).

### Landbirds

The adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at the Cheese Factory was last reported March 15 (DH, DK). The Red-naped Sapsucker at Strybing Arboretum remained through March 16 (mob, KT, DW), one was reported at Nicasio Feb. 27 (AG), and another from Livermore Mines Road March 9 (*fide* AE). Cassin's Kingbirds continued

to be reported from San Benito County, one on New Idria Road March 1 (MD) and March 17 (DS, BLA), and two others on Little Panoche Road March 17 (DS, BLA). A male **Mountain Bluebird** was at the Alameda Flood Control Channel near Coyote Hills March 9 (CS, SG). The last report of the **Bendire's Thrasher** was Feb. 23 (DY). An adult Northern Shrike was seen near Little Panoche Road March 15 (JS), and the immature on New Idria Road was last observed March 17 (DS, BLA). A Tennessee Warbler at Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area in Contra Costa County was discovered March 1 (JS). An immature American Redstart at North Lake in Golden Gate Park March 8 pleased the S.F. Blitzers (AH), and was last reported March 15 (JM). A bright male **Indigo Bunting** was at a feeder in Inverness March 18-19. It was banded and might be the same bird ringed as an immature male on SE Farallon Island Dec. 13, 1985 and seen in the same Inverness yard Dec. 18-20 (RS). Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows at Dry Creek Regional Park, Alameda County March 19 (BR, JL) are early compared to previously reported arrival dates, and four more were found at Bishop Ranch Open Space Reserve, Contra Costa County on March 21 (KH). A Swamp Sparrow near Modesto March 1 (EC) was at an unusual inland location. Four Lapland Longspurs remained at Menlo Park Bayfront park through March 22 (DSu); Hayward Shoreline had five through March 5 (BR, ED), and another was found at Redwood Shores Parkway March 15 (WGB).

### Observers

Stephen F. Bailey, Chris Benesh, William G. Bousman, Eric Caine, Delbert Campbell, Helen Chism, Mike Danzenbaker, Chip Deutch, Art Edwards, Al Eisner (AEi), Gary Fellers, Roger Garcia, Al Ghiorso, Phil Gordon, Steve

Granholt, Michael G. Herbert, Kevin Hints, David Holway, Leslie Hood, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Eduardo Izquierdo, Shearwater Journeys, Durrell Kapan, Dick Kaufman (DKa), Bruce LaBar, Ernie Levinger, John Luther, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Charles O'Connor, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Report thanks to Harriet Huber and Harry Carter), Bob Richmond, Ricky Rocco, Debra Love Shearwater, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, John Sterling, David Suddjian, Chris Swarth, Ken Taylor, Ron Thorn, Anna Wilcox, David Wimpfheimer, David Yee, Perry Zeithammell.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 843-2211.

— HELEN A. GREEN  
Observations Editor  
2001 Yolo Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94707

## ASILOMAR-1985

What's stimulating, informative and happens every other year? Our Western Regional Conference, of course. We're accustomed to the best from Audubon — through their excellent publications and their principled, scientifically-sound and reasoned approach to most of the conservation issues facing us today. Last month at the Western Regional Conference held in Asilomar (one of our national treasures), I had the opportunity to see the "best" in action, informing and being informed by the more than 700 participants. Start to finish, the conference ran smoothly and generated a contagious enthusiasm and positive attitude for tackling the overwhelming tasks of protecting our threatened environments. This spirit is personified in the new MAS president, Peter Berle, a young, vigorous, former environmental lawyer, who feels the

“positive” challenge of all the work to be done.

A good mix of ages was evident, from youngsters in a mini-environmental day camp, to teenagers successfully challenging the dread Sierran Forest Plans, to 88-year-old Hazel Wolfe, a tireless environmentalist from Seattle (she presented slides of a recent trip to Nicaragua). We heard from scientists, NAS staff and active Audubon members on various issues of concern in our Western communities. My only frustration was lack of time to fully interact and exchange ideas with all the dedicated and talented activists on workshop panels and in the audience. In short, it's a positive experience not to be missed next time — see you in Asilomar in 1988!

— BARBARA RIVENES

## SUCCESS AND THANKS

The Mono Lake Committee will receive a substantial contribution from the proceeds of our successful Spring Bird Seed Sale! Our net returns were about \$1225, thanks to your generous donations and participation in buying seed. We would again like to thank Merritt Anderson of California Direct Importing Co., our supplier, for his efforts and support of GGAS by supplying quality seed at reasonable prices. More thanks to Solar Graphics of Berkeley for the use of their parking lot! And lastly, our intrepid volunteers who participated cheerfully, even under soggy conditions: Ruth Vose, Kelly Torres, Barbara McAuliffe, Ken Ackerman, Alicia Garate, Diana DeMarco, Nicola Selph, Frank Whitman, Hazel Houston, John Nutt, Ross Jennings, Andy Lee, Arthur Feinstein, Mildred Bennett, Helen and Paul Green — thank you! (and especially for the donuts, Helen!)

— CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL MEETING

Expect another sun-drenched, fun-filled afternoon on the shores of Richardson Bay for our Third Annual Wine Tasting! This year the date will be June 15 at the historic Lyford House, part of the Western Education Center of NAS in Tiburon. As in the past, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. we will sample a variety of wines and cheeses donated by local wineries and GGAS members and friends. The festivities will include presentation of our annual conservation awards to honor two outstanding leaders in the Bay area. This event is our grand opportunity to raise funds for Audubon Canyon Ranch with all proceeds going directly to the Ranch and its programs. We know you'll find this a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon and benefit ACR as well! Please use the coupon on the inside back page to send in your reservations before June 10. Admission is \$15.

## THE BACK YARD BIRDER

The phone rang. “Meg, you've got to tell us what kind of bird we have using our bird bath! It's driving us crazy! It's not in any of our bird books. It arrives every morning at the same time, making a terrible racket.” There followed a very accurate description of a Hill Mynah: a large, chunky bird with a thick, orange bill, yellow legs, glossy black with white wing patches and a yellow wattle. Fortunately the National Geographic's field guide includes several species of exotic birds which have been released or have escaped, some of which have established small populations in the “wild.” This bird was most appreciative of the bath and adjacent food. Since it was the dead of winter, my friends may have saved its life.

“Exotic species” is a term used to describe birds or other animals that are not native to a given ecosystem. This

is not the same as a bird which has been blown by a fierce storm to an area unusual to its kind. That bird is termed a "vagrant" or and "accidental straggler" in birding jargon.

Neither is it an "introduced bird," that is, a bird which has established a firm foothold as a breeding species in a climate similar to its native grounds. In the past, birds have been introduced for several reasons:

(1.) A number of alien game birds have been introduced to enliven the hunting potential of a certain area. Most of the time these birds fail to establish a population because the area lacks some key characteristic of their native one. A few, however, have adapted well: the Chukar, the Black Francolin, the Gray Partridge, and the Plain Chachalaca. The Common Pheasant is another such game bird which is widely-distributed. It is also raised by the hundreds of thousands for release into heavily hunted areas.

(2.) Birds have also been introduced for supposed ecological benefit. Two prime examples are the House Sparrow, imported to save eastern shade trees from two species of ravenous moths; and the Common Starling of Europe, which was supposed to dine on crop pests such as beetle larvae. We all know the disastrous consequences of these well-intentioned introductions! The House Sparrow displaced other hole-nesting species such as House Wrens, Purple Martins and Cliff Swallows, causing their decline. By displacing these birds, which controlled another species moth, they failed to serve their original purpose and became pernicious destroyers of grain and fruit crops. Without a doubt, House Sparrows are the most widely-distributed introduced bird in the world. The Starling, as well, did not perform as advertised but became a serious vineyard and orchard pest, a major nest-site competitor of the

Eastern Bluebird and the Acorn Woodpecker. When flocking in large numbers at night, it has become a major polluter in two areas: noise and guano in abundance.

(3.) Some birds were introduced because of man's desire to bring reminders of his homeland to some hapless distant shore. What a foolish notion! Poor New Zealand now supports 13 species native to Great Britain which are far less interesting than any of the native species. In North America these birds include the Mute Swan, the Rock Dove, the Spotted Dove, and the Turtle Dove.

There are, however, two advantages of introduction. The *reintroduction* of native species such as the endangered Wild Turkey and Peregrine Falcon to areas previously populated but made inhospitable by hunting and habitat destruction may save these two species. Another possible use of introduction might be the locating of endangered species into appropriate habitats elsewhere in the world when their own habitat is not protected from hunting or destruction. Could this work for our California Condor?

A true "exotic", then, is a bird which initially arrived on our shores as a captive, survives at liberty, usually breeding in a localized area and which has a limited viability among its adoptive avifauna. The Red-whiskered Bulbul, which had been classified as a classic exotic, may be reconsidered an introduced species. It is thriving in an area of Miami which has a climate similar to its native India. Fortunately, the bulbuls seem to be "nice" birds, not displacing any native species.

The next time you spot an unusual bird, don't overlook the possibility of its being either an exotic or an introduced bird. It's still a new bird on your list, but remember to place it in its proper category.

— MEG PAULETICH

## SUMMER BIRDING CLASSES IN SF

Free evening bird classes will be offered through the John Adams Community College starting June 4-5. Students may enroll at any time during the six-week session. Just go directly to the classroom, Room 260, Arts Building, near the corner of Judson and Phelan Aves., at City College, San Francisco, on the days and hours given below. Balboa BART Station is adjacent to the college and parking is available at the North Reservoir off Phelan Ave.

Both classes stress identification, status and habits of North American birds in a two-and-a-half hour weekly slide-lecture. The text for all classes is the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society. The instructor is Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California*, and compiler of our weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert". (The "Alert" is reached by calling 843-2211.)

The classes meet both Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. starting June 4 and June 5 and continue to July 16-17 with a break July 2-3. The Wednesday class is an in-depth systematic treatment of field identification and status of woodpeckers and flycatchers. The Thursday class will cover blackbirds, orioles, tanagers and finches.

These classes are sponsored by GGAS as a public service, and all evening classes are free of charge. Optional field trips may be arranged on weekends for \$27 for six half-day trips. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the college at 561-1900. The text is available at the GGAS office.

## DESERT BIRD TRIP

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey's annual desert birding trip will be on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26. This will be a fairly rugged camping and hiking birding trip to the remote and beautiful East Mojave Desert National Scenic Area. A variety of desert canyons, open desert scrub, man-made oases of small groves and ponds and the unsurpassed Joshua Tree woodland on Cima Dome will be visited to see resident desert birds, late migrants and, we hope, rare eastern vagrants. Interesting reptiles are normally seen. The highlight will be a day in the canyon and riparian strip at Fort Piute.

The three day weekend includes driving time to and from the desert, so no extra days off work are required. The aggregate birding time will be two full days. Steve will coordinate carpooling. No reservations will be necessary for the campground. The leadership fee for the trip is \$35. For more information call Steve at 731-0847.

## FARALLON ISLAND TRIP

GGAS will sponsor a boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands on June 22. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins, shearwaters, albatross, hump-backed whales and several species of marine mammals.

Reservations can be made by mailing \$26 per person with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GGAS, 1550 Shattuck, #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. Checks should be made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society. Space for the trip is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. We plan an early morning departure from the Emeryville marina.



## **ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP: MONO LAKE**

Take part June 6-8 in an ecological exploration of Mono Lake. We will study the behavior of nesting and migrant birds, sample Mono's waters for brine shrimp, and learn about the plants and animals of the surrounding Great Basin Desert.

This field course is taught by Chris Swarth, GGAS vice-president and biology instructor, Diablo Valley College. To enroll, call DVC admissions office at 685-1230. For additional information, call Chris at 326-5832 (evenings) or 642-9635 (days).

## **EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS**

Chris Carpenter, GGAS Extended Field Trips Coordinator, reminds us that there are still available places for the Kenya trip. The price includes airfare from San Francisco, all lodging, meals and transportation. The trip details are now final and brochures are available from the office.

Kenya (with Terry Stevenson)

Oct. 27 - Nov. 19, cost \$4300. Will include the Kakamega Forest, Lake District, Masai Mara, and Mombasa Coast area. The tour will focus on birds, mammals and general African ecology.

Because of the great success of the last year's trip we will offer the Southern Mexico trip again this year. The tour covers Oaxaca, Sunnidero Canyon, San Cristobol, Montebello lakes and Palenque. The dates will be Nov. 15 to Dec. 1. The leaders will be Lina Prairie and Steve Howell, and the cost will be \$2095. Call the GGAS office for details.

## **NATURAL EXCURSIONS**

The annual brochure from Point Reyes Bird Observatory announcing its Natural Excursions calendar has ar-

rived. Copies may be obtained by phoning or writing PRBO at 868-1221, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

As examples of the offerings, Rich Stallcup will lead a trip to southwest Texas May 26-May 31, from the Rio Grande to the Chisos Mountains, a land starkly beautiful and strange, with Texas specialties to search for. John Kelly will lead a canoe and camping exploration of Riparian Jungle along the remote Sacramento River May 30-June 1. No canoeing experience is necessary, he says.

## **WEEKEND AT SALT POINT WITH ROGER RAICHE**

The Jepson Herbarium of UCB announces a weekend trip May 17-18 as a fund-raiser in behalf of the Jepson Manual Project, a complete updating of the 1925 manual which covers all California flora. The trip will be limited to 25 participants, and the minimum tax deductible contribution will be \$35 per person. The trip will stay at the Salt Point group camp. Telephone 643-7008 for information.

## **THE COOPER SOCIETY**

The featured speaker at the May meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be Pepper W. Trail. His subject is the lek mating system of the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, May 5, at 8 p.m. preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

## **OAKLAND MUSEUM OFFERINGS**

**Habitat, Identification & Bird Sounds**

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey will lead a field trip of Coastal Mountain communities 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday May

17. Reservation deadline May 13, Oakland Museum members \$15, others \$20.

### Tuning in with Nature Sounds

Dr. Michael Perrone will offer a two day workshop Saturday May 31 (1 to 4 p.m. study at the Museum) and Sunday June 1 (8 a.m. to noon class in the field). Reservation deadline May 27, Oakland Museum members \$20, others \$25.

Both instructors are GGAS members and are well known to Bay Area birders. Reservations and information may be had from the Natural Science Dept., Oakland Museum, 273-3884.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA  
(415) 383-1644  
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature  
Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate,  
Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies  
Flora Maclise, Chairman

This month is the height of the breeding season for the Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets at the Bolinas preserve. The ranch is open weekends and holidays to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until mid-July. It is closed Monday and school programs are conducted Tuesday through Friday. Should you wish to visit on a weekday please call ahead.

School programs are in full swing at both Bolinas and Bouverie preserves. Because the future of conservation depends upon today's education these programs are the heart of ACR. The following excerpt from the Bouverie Audubon Preserve publication *In A Nutshell* illustrates the enthusiasm and dedication of ACR docents. "Talk about getting your feet wet in a big way. You may remember Friday (March 7) as the day of the long term, big time downpour.

"We conferred early in the morning to determine if all were feeling like ducks. We were and fortunately so, because the teacher and class really

wanted to come.

"It was an absolutely incredible day for newts and kids in plastic garbage bags. Ever seen a newt eating an earth worm? It's amazing. It was a fine day."

Is this kind of effort appreciated? Here are a few responses from teachers about the recent fall program at Bolinas from the docent newsletter *The Heron*.

"Most of my students are latch-key children the year round. They cherish the visit to the Ranch. For many it is their first trip outside the inner city." "Fall or spring, always our best field trip." "This is the best field trip I've ever been on. The docents were not only well informed but related exceptionally well to the children."

A recent feature article in Marin County's *Independent Journal* newspaper called ACR "One of the great nature preserves of the Pacific Coast." Perhaps we should add one of the best environmental education centers also.

Recently ACR docent Debbie Ablin arranged a special April weekend outing in Volunteer Canyon for families associated with Family House. This is a residential facility in San Francisco serving those whose children are under treatment for cancer at the University of California hospital.

The Family House storyteller as well as a theatre teacher assisted Debbie with a video production staged by the group. Nature education hikes and crafts rounded out the events.

Two butterfly counts are on the calendar for June. On Saturday, June 28, butterflies will be captured, identified, tallied and released in the 11th annual count in Marin County and on Sunday, June 29, the same process will take place for the 7th Sonoma County count. These are part of the international count conducted each year within two weeks of July 4.

For a refresher or an introduction join Ray Peterson, educator/naturalist at the Bolinas Preserve on Get-to-Know the Critters night, Wednesday, June 25.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has reported its slate of nominees for officers and directors for GGAS for 1986. The slate is shown in the ballot. Those elected will begin their terms of office on June 1, 1986.

To vote you must use the ballot with the mailing label affixed to the back.

#### — BALLOT —

(Officers are elected for a one year term.)

- 1st Vice President                      Chris Swarth
- 2nd Vice President                     Lina Jane Prairie
- Recording Secretary                  Nicola Selph
- Corresponding Secretary             Ruth Dement
- Treasurer                                Jon Zablackis

(Directors' terms are for three years.)

- Director, West Bay                     Woody Kuehn
- Director, East Bay                     John Nutt

This ballot must be returned to the GGAS office no later than May 19 to be counted. You may vote for any or all of the candidates by placing and x in the box following the candidate's name.

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### A SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE LYFORD HOUSE WINE TASTING BENEFIT FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Fifteen Dollars per person

Please make my reservations for a party of \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### GIFTS and BEQUESTS

**FOR GGAS**  
**In Memory of**  
 S. Dan Brodie

**Gift of**  
 Fred & Loretta Davaly

**FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH**  
**In Memory of**  
 Robert R. Houston

Blanche Vranna

# — SECOND CLASS MATTER



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Berkeley, California 94709

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THE GULL

## OFFICERS

President, Arthur Feinstein (282-5937)\*  
First Vice President, Chris Swarth (849-2053)\*  
Second Vice President, Shirley Kelly (387-8290)\*  
Recording Secretary, Nicola Selph (526-4986)\*  
Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Dement (527-7923)\*  
Treasurer, Jon Zablackis (235-9150)\*

## DIRECTORS

West Bay: Woody Kuehn (239-7914)\*  
Tom White (821-6933)\*  
Paul Comisky (824-7080)\*  
East Bay: John Nutt (654-3336)\*  
Leora Feeney (522-8525)\*  
David Rice (527-6696)\*  
At Large: Dan Murphy (564-0074)\*  
Ross Jennings (235-4986)\*

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Conservation, Arthur Feinstein (282-5937)\*  
Education, Dan Murphy (564-0074)\*  
Field Trips, Shirley Kelly (387-8290)\*  
Extended Field Trips, GGAS Office (843-2222)  
Finance, Woody Kuehn (239-7914)\*  
Hospitality,  
Membership, Leora Feeney (522-8525)  
Program, Tom White (821-6933)  
Publicity, Hazel Houston (635-7347)\*  
GULL Editor, Don Sanford (527-6017)\*  
Observations: Helen Green (526-5943)\*  
and Joseph Morlan (524-7421)  
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Chris Carpenter (376-6341)  
Librarian, Minnie Groshong  
Office Manager, Barbara Rivenes (843-2222)  
\*Member of the Board of Directors.

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE AUDUBON CANYON RANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Art Feinstein, ex officio  
Bob Conrath  
Nicki Spillane

Jon Zablackis  
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.**