

0164-971X

M&O  
Serials  
QL 671  
G84

May 1987

Number 5

Volume 69

Berkeley, California

Golden Gate Audubon Society

CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
APR 30 1987  
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# THE GULL



## CONTEMPORARY FALCONRY

### A Fine Line

A fine line has always existed between man's appreciation of Nature for Herself and his use of Her for his own ends. Such a line is evident in the sport called falconry, an area of human endeavor that is both enjoyed for its tradition and aesthetics while, at the same time, it is reviled for its subjugation of wild birds to man's ego. Let us explore this delicate boundary; let us investigate this controversial issue.

To learn more about falconry, come to our meeting on May 14 at 7:30 at the Josephine Randall Jr. Museum in San Francisco. The program will begin with a brief discussion by myself, playing devil's advocate, of arguments in opposition to this sport. Next, Kevin McRae, who has practiced falconry for over six years, will offer a narrated slide show, a question-answer segment, and a live raptor exhibit as his presentation on falconry as it is currently practiced in the United States. Kevin, an Audubon member of the Sacramento County chapter, will focus on the art and science of hunting with raptors, on the conservation of birds of prey and quarry, and on the legal status of the discipline today.

—TOM WHITE

### YOU ARE INVITED

If you've been waiting as anxiously as we have, you'll be pleased to know it's already time to announce our Fourth Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting. We urge you to set aside the afternoon of **Sunday, June 14** from 2 until 4, when we expect another dazzling display of food, wine and fine weather. Every year this event has given us a splendid opportunity to applaud our outstanding members

*Continued on page 66*

### THIS YEAR'S IMPERATIVE

If you do nothing else this year to help preserve our Bay's wildlife, natural resources and open space, you **MUST NOT** let this opportunity pass! We are joined in a massive statewide effort to get on the November 1988 ballot an initiative that would allot over \$700 million for parkland and wildlife habitat acquisition. Included in this package would be the Emeryville Crescent and the entire East Bay Shoreline Park.

**WE NEED YOU!** Please turn to page 71 to see how you can help.

## YOU ARE INVITED

*Continued from page 65*

with conservation and service awards and socialize with old and new friends. And all for such a good cause—the support of our sanctuary, Audubon Canyon Ranch! This year we are asking a \$20.00 donation, however, because we have agreed to also help support the Richardson Bay Audubon Center with our proceeds. They provide another unique nature education resource in the Bay Area, as well as an idyllic spot for our annual gathering. So you may conclude that \$5.00 of your donation will benefit Richardson Bay and \$15.00 will continue to benefit the Ranch.

Please join us this year at the Lyford House in Tiburon for our annual meeting and benefit wine and cheese tasting. Send reservations to the GGAS office.

## WINE-TASTING GUIDE

For our annual wine-tasting this year, GGAS is fortunate to have Terry Marasco as our guide through the intricacies, the vintages, the bouquets, the varietals, and the subtleties that make up wine. With twenty-two years in the wine business, Terry has just the expertise that we require. Not only is he the proprietor of a select wine shop in San Francisco's Noe Valley, but in his capacity as a *negociant*, he bottles fine, reasonably priced wines under his own label. Cheers, Terry!

**ANNUAL GGAS FARALLON  
TRIP ANNOUNCED FOR  
JUNE 21—page 75.**

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, May 2—Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park.** See April *Gull* for details.

**Sunday, May 3—Mt. Diablo State Park.** See April *Gull* for details.

**Saturday, May 9—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.** Meet at 8 a.m. at the Arlington Ave. and Brewster Dr. in El Cerrito. From there we will drive to the starting point. Pack lunch and liquids for a six-mile hike. Boots are advisable. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streambanks and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants and a good representation of nesting 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). (✓)

**Sunday, May 10—Beginners' Trip to Mountain Lake, San Francisco.** Meet at the parking lot at the Army Defense Language School (the old public health hospital) just north of Lake St. on 15th Ave. at 8 a.m. We will walk about one and one-half miles on level ground looking for common water and land birds. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have one. This trip will end at 11 a.m. Leader: Janet Murphy (751-0197).

**Wednesday, May 13—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

*Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address, 1550 Shattuck Avenue, #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. Second class postage paid in Berkeley, CA.*

(THE GULL -ISSN 0164-971X)

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. 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 16—Mt. St. Helena.**

Meet at **8 a.m.** at the junction of Ida Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 128, 6.3 miles north of Calistoga. Bring lunch and liquids. Carpool if at all possible because parking is very limited and we must caravan to bird the road. Call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) and leave your name and phone number if you plan to go on this trip. Leader: Dick Johnson (530-7118). (✓)

**Sunday, May 17—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 a park area. Meet at **8 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). (✓)

**Saturday, May 23—Tomales Bay State Park.** Meet at the Heart's Desire Beach parking lot at **9 a.m.** From Inverness, continue on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the Pierce Point turnoff. Follow the signs to Tomales Bay State Park. There is a \$2 entrance fee. We will look for shorebirds and landbirds. After lunch, if the weather is favorable, we will visit the migrant traps at Point

Reyes. Leader: George Hugenberg (435-6873). (✓)

**Friday-Sunday, May 29-31—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 29 at **3 p.m.** and Saturday, May 30 at **7 a.m.** (If you arrive later on Saturday, meet the group in Hodgdon Meadow behind the group campsite.) 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. There may be a campsite fee.

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 6/7—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.

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). (✓)

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

**Saturday & Sunday, June 20-21—Yuba Pass.** Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199).

**Saturday & Sunday, June 27-28—**

**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



## NATURE ART FOR THE GULL

A special thanks to Sophie W. Webb whose drawings decorated the Extended Field Trips announcement in the *Gull* for April, and one of which appears above. A reminder to others: we always appreciate art work from our members. Please send contributions to the editor in care of GGAS office. Art work returned if requested.

## MARCH OBSERVATIONS

### February 24 through March 31

Strong winds and generally fair skies at the Farallon Islands kept early migrants from reaching the islands, but this same weather pattern may be good news for the breeding species there. (SE Farallon Islands reports cover the period January 29-March 24. Our thanks to PRBO.) Most of our reports here on the mainland concern lingering winter specialties, with a few migrants and breeding behavior in local populations to stir the blood of local birders.

#### Loons through Ducks

The Bodega Harbor "Yellow-billed Loon" remained through March 7 (mob), with many observers finding only an anomalous Common Loon (two different birds?); and one was found on a Monterey pelagic trip March 28 (DQ, SJ). Three Laysan Albatrosses were seen on a whaling trip out of Princeton Harbor March 14 (TJ), and another was seen from Davenport Landing March 24 (DLSu). A petrel species, possibly **Mottled Petrel**, was viewed off Pigeon Pt. March 20 (BS, *fide* GW). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen off New Brighton State Beach March 4, during strong winds (DLSu).

Only two Cattle Egrets were reported during the period: the Berkeley Marina bird on Feb. 28 (JSL), and the Lake Merritt one on March 23 (DKa). Yes, the blue form of the Snow Goose stayed at the San Lorenzo River, Santa Cruz through the end of the period (DLSu). A Eurasian Green-winged Teal was near Johnson's Landing, Hayward Regional Shoreline Park March 4-16 (RJR). A Ring-necked/Scaup hybrid appeared on the Laney Estuary March 14 (JM). Four Tufted Ducks were present during the report period: the female on the San Francisco Zoo pond last seen on Feb. 28 (BB), a female found on Schultz

Slough in Sonoma Co. just north of the Marin Co. line Feb. 28 (JA), a male on Lake Merritt March 19-29 (SM, mob), and a female at Elkhorn Slough March 25 (BrM, *fide* DLSu) and March 27 (DLSu). Three male Harlequin Ducks lingered at Bolinas and Rodeo Lagoons, and Moss Landing through the period (mob). Two Oldsquaws which remained in Moss Landing Harbor through Feb. 28 were considered to be males, one in basic and the other in alternate plumage (DLSu, RG). Rare coastally were three Common Mergansers which strayed to Salmon Creek Beach Feb. 28 (KB).

#### Grouse through Gulls

In northern Sonoma Co. Blue Grouse were starting to hoot by the end of the period, and up to nine were seen along Houser Bridge Road and six along Rock Pile Road March 28 (SS, BDP, JEP). The greatest concentration of Lesser Golden-Plovers was 11 at Lawson's Landing Feb. 28 (DAH); others remained at Spaletta Plateau, and singles were found at Albany Mudflats (DDK, DC) and at Half Moon Bay (SF<sub>i</sub>) during the period. Sixty Mountain Plovers were in Panoche Valley March 7 (KLH). The Rock Sandpiper on SE Farallon Jan. 29 remained throughout the period. One was found at Bodega Head Feb. 27-March 8 (RoM, et. al. ), the first there since the winter of 1983-84. The Rock Sandpiper at Princeton Harbor was present at least through March 22 (JMD).

Small numbers of Pomarine Jaegers were seen from Pigeon Pt. and Davenport Landing throughout the period, with up to eight off Davenport Landing March 24-25 (DLSu). Three Parasitic Jaegers, uncommon in spring, were off Davenport Landing: one March 6 and two March 22 (DLSu). A first winter Glaucous Gull at SE Farallon was seen on and off to March 18. Another was at

Princeton Harbor Feb. 26 (PJM), and a third was at Mountain View Forebay March 11 (SFi). Small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen coastally from Marin to Monterey Cos. during the period (mob), and 144 were migrating north past Davenport Landing March 6 (DLSu).

### Landbirds

A Northern Pygmy-Owl was found at Tomales Bay State Park March 27 (*fide* CCr). The immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Nicasio was last seen March 9 (WG, AG). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was near the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz March 23-29 (BrM, DLSu), and a Red-naped Sapsucker in the same location was found March 11 (BrM, *fide* DLSu). Another Red-naped Sapsucker visited Pinto Lake Feb. 27 (DLSu). A Western Flycatcher at Bethany Curve Greenbelt near Neary's Lagoon was last seen February 27 (MB, *fide* DLSu). The Tropical Kingbird at the Monterey Bay Academy was last observed March 1 (JMHu).

A very early migrant Bank Swallow flew over Pescadero Marsh March 28 (DLSu). A pair of Rock Wrens were carrying nesting material on SE Farallon, the first indication of nesting since the 1970s. A **Brown Thrasher** was reported from Lincoln Park, San Francisco March 1 (GL, EL), but could not be refound. The **Brown Shrike** remained in the vicinity of White House Pool at least through March 29 (mob). It was beginning to acquire spring plumage, leading some to speculate that it is of the *confusus/cristatus* sub-species. The Northern Shrike at Merced National Wildlife Refuge was still present to March 3 (SP).

Orange-crowned Warblers arrived "right on time" in San Mateo Co. March 1 (PJM). The **Blackburnian**

**Warbler** in Pacific Grove was present to March 22 (DR). The Prairie Warbler at Princeton was last seen Feb. 25 (BWk). The Palm Warbler at SE Farallon, the first to winter on the Island, has remained throughout the period and was in breeding plumage by March 24. Three other Palm Warblers wintered coastally (DLSu, LSi). Three Black-and-white Warblers spent the winter: one at Corralitos Creek near Watsonville Com. Hospital to March 15 (DLSu, MCM), one in Soquel to Feb. 27 (DLSu), and one at the San Francisco Zoo to March 8 (BB, TC). The Summer Tanager at Corralitos Creek was last found March 7, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at that location Feb. 27 (DLSu). A singing Grasshopper Sparrow was in Garin Regional Park March 30 (RJR). Lapland Longspurs, which usually depart late February, continued to be seen through March 27: three at Spaletta Plateau and two at Hayward Regional Shoreline Park (DAH, BDP, JEP, RJR). Even more unusual in March were two Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Spaletta Plateau Feb. 24-March 24 (DAs, mob). The Rusty Blackbird in the town of Pescadero remained through March 21 (SFi, PhR).

**Erratum:** In the *April Gull*, p. 53, only one Western Flycatcher was present, along Corralitos Creek, near the Watsonville Community Hospital. Scratch the San Lorenzo River mouth bird.

### Observers

Janice Anderson, Dick Ashford (DAs), Bruce Barrett, Tom Bassitt, Mary Brunet, Ken Burton, Chris Carpenter (CCr), Tom Condit, Nancy T. Conzett, Debby Cotter, J. Mike Danzenbaker, Carter L. Faust, George Finger, Shawneen Finnegan, Bud Fry, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Robert Grimes, Kem L. Hainebach, David A. Holway, George Hugenberg, Joan M. Humphrey,

Tom Johnson, Durrell D. Kapan, Dick Kaufmann (DKa), Eve Lance, Greg Leo, John S. Luther, many observers (mob), Roger Marlowe (RoM), Peter J. Metropulos, Ellis Meyers, Mark C. Miller, Brian Mori (BrM), Joseph Morlan, Sean Morris, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Steve Perry, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, Dave Quady, Jean Richmond, Richard J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron (PhR), Barry Saupe, Steve Schaeffer, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Larry Silver (LSi), David L. Suddjian, Bruce Walker (BWk), Gil West, Dennis Wolff.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN

Observations Editor

2001 Yolo Ave.

Berkeley, CA 94707

## CONSERVATION NOTES

### MAKE YOUR TIME REALLY COUNT

Help Golden Gate Audubon meet our commitment to put the *California Parks and Wildlife Initiative* on the ballot. Help us honor our promise to recruit a volunteer corps of environmentalists to join in this important signature gathering effort.

Why did we make such a commitment? Because, as part of a joint agreement made by Citizens for the Eastshore Park, of which we are a member organization, this bond act will provide \$25 million for acquisition of lands for the shoreline park which will stretch from Emeryville to Richmond, and will include the Emeryville Crescent. *We finally have the opportunity to do something positive to protect and preserve the Crescent!*

Creation of the Eastshore State Park is a major GGAS goal. We have worked hard to retain the shoreline as open

space and to convince the landowners, the Santa Fe Pacific Realty Corporation, to sell their property for a park rather than develop a series of high rise office buildings and hotels along the waterfront from Emeryville through Albany. However, nothing positive can happen without the necessary funds. The \$25 million from the *California Parks and Wildlife Initiative* would represent a giant step forward.

Many other Bay Area projects are included in this bond act which will benefit wildlife and provide for our continued enjoyment of scarce remaining open space. Funds for Mt. Tamalpais, the Marin Land Trust, expansion of the East Bay Regional Park District, Walpert Ridge and open space preservation in San Mateo County, as well as projects in Big Sur and the Santa Cruz Mountains would be included with many others statewide, for a total of approximately \$700 million. It also provides \$10 million for purchase of bay wetlands and \$25 million for other California wetland areas, both of which are high priority Audubon projects.

Polls have indicated a high probability that such a bond act will win voter approval. However, we need to put the measure on the ballot, and we need 374,000 valid registered voter signatures statewide to do it. That means the collection of about 600,000 signatures overall. Citizens for the Eastshore State Park has committed, through its member organizations such as GGAS, to gather 50,000 signatures within the Bay Area. This effort is separate from one which National Audubon will be launching in exchange for funds from the same bond act for Central Valley wetlands. While we applaud National's participation, we urge you to support your local chapter's volunteer effort. Only participation arranged through GGAS will count toward our goal for the

Eastshore State Park and the Emeryville Crescent. Please help us show that Golden Gate Audubon is a Chapter of doers. This bond act presents us with the opportunity to place our stamp of conservation and environmental concern on the twenty-first century.

The signatures are out there, but we need to collect them. One signature will equal \$500 of shoreline acquisition money and 2000 signatures will equal \$1 million. We plan to begin the signature drive on June 15th. Working in cooperation with other conservationists, we will be collecting signatures at pre-arranged locations such as shopping centers. The petition organizers will provide short training sessions for our volunteers who would like more information and signature gathering pointers. All we need is three hours of your time to make this effort work. We will schedule you whenever you are available between June 15 and September 30, 1987. But the sooner the better. We need to know that we can count on you. So please fill out the enclosed postcard today and send us your reply. If you have any questions, call Barbara Rivenes at 843-2222.

If you cannot commit your time but are willing to support the effort by circulating a GGAS petition among friends or by sending a donation for the campaign, your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Donations should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office but should be made directly payable to the *California Park and Wildlife Initiative*.

All of us know the tremendous population and development pressures we face in California. This is our chance to save some of the remaining open space and wildlife areas before it is too late. Please return the enclosed postcard today and make three hours of your time really count.

—NIKKI SPILLANE

## BACK YARD BIRDER

There has been a lot of courting going on among the neighborhood birds. The twinkling song of the Plain Titmouse rings from the oak trees as he bounces about, his crest raised. The Hutton's Vireo has an amazingly loud, but rather monotonous, song with which he announces his presence to all. Although common, the House Finch's melody is so cheerful and bubbly that it makes me as happy as he that spring is here at last.

Courtship among birds takes many forms, among them the male's territorial song. He generally arrives on the breeding ground earlier than the female and sets about establishing boundary lines by singing from a prominent perch. He chases away males of the same species and when the female arrives he may attack her first. Finally he notices that she keeps returning and is non-threatening. (We are talking about the songbirds found in your yard and won't get into the more exceptional birds.)

Other courtship rituals include displays of plumage, such as the Red-winged Blackbird's bright epaulets or the crown tufts on the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Hummingbirds perform displays of physical agility, some birds offer nesting materials or food during courtship. In fact, the diversity of these rituals is as great as the number of species—probably more, since many species use several acts in their repertoire. Plumage, bills, legs, eyes, flight and voice are all parts of the act.

Flight displays take many forms, some with descriptive names:

- "Butterflying" is a slow, shallow wing beat used by American Goldfinches, N.A. plovers and some flycatchers.
- "Sky dances" perfectly describes the



distinctive patterns made by hummingbirds, accompanied by buzzing and feather noises.

- *Chasing* is common among waterfowl.
- *Hovering* is a method used by open country birds (there are few prominent perches) such as larks, pipits, and tundra-breeding waterfowl.
- *Plummeting* is very dramatic. The bird descends from the top of his aerial display in erratic swoops. Characteristic sounds accompany this show performed by woodcocks, snipe and nighthawks.
- "*Volplaning*" is used by loons, sand-piper and Mourning Doves. It is a gliding down from a height with the wings held outstretched and motionless, truly impressive to a female.
- *Aerobatics* performed by hawks and eagles are the most thrilling of all aerial displays. Some species fold their wings and drop like a rock from as high as 1000 feet before pulling out sharply to repeat the dive. The Bald Eagle pairs "tumble": the male flies above the female, she turns on her back and presents her talons, which the male grasps and they then fall through the air in a tumbling roll. I once saw a pair of Red-tailed Hawks do the same thing, but they miscalculated and landed on a steep, grassy slope where they continued to tumble down the hill!

There's not space to go into all the types of courtship display but I will mention some: dancing is done by cranes, herons, and prairie birds who perform for the ladies in special dancing grounds called leks; water displays are especially lovely among loons and grebes; there is also a great deal of bill-fencing, bowing, bobbing and stretching done.

Depending upon the species, there are a variety of breeding territorial sizes ranging from very large (hawks and eagles) to quite restricted (colonial birds

such as puffins and murre).

If you can take the time, observation of courtship, nesting and rearing of the young is most rewarding.

—MEG PAULETICH

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## LIFE AFTER MAN

At the California Academy of Sciences Natural History Museum in Golden Gate Park beginning June 1 and running through August is an unusual exhibit. A futuristic and somewhat chilling vision of creatures as they might evolve over the next fifty million years is presented. The missing animal? Man. Based on the creative imagination of Dougal Dixon, Scottish geologist, writer and artist, one travels through a time tunnel to view scenes from the future. These include such fanciful beasts as the Desert Shark, the Gigantelope, the Flower-faced Potoo, and the vicious Night Stalker.

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## PCL BENEFIT AUCTION

The Planning and Conservation League Foundation's May 13th "Environmental Stampede Benefit Auction" will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn's Grand Ballroom.

Scores of exciting items including vacations, weekend getaways, camping and rafting equipment, bicycle supplies, framed wildlife posters, and more. You get a \$10 bidding coupon, food, wine, fun and a chance to bid on countless items at below rock bottom prices. For all this you pay only \$15 per person. Tickets available at the door or in advance from PCL, 909 12th St. #203, Sacramento, CA 95814.

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## PCL BENEFIT CRUISE

A twelve day cruise to Alaska aboard Sitmar's TSS Fairsky is being offered by PCL. It begins at San Francisco on Aug. 18 and returns Aug. 30, 1987. It will visit

Juneau, Vancouver, Victoria and four other Canadian and Alaskan ports. It will include a full day exploring Glacier Bay. By purchasing the cruise through PCL Foundation you receive a discount and a portion of the cost is a tax-deductible donation. This contribution helps with research and public education programs to protect the environment. Write PCL at the above address.

## OAKLAND MUSEUM LECTURE

Andrew Hoyem, director of the fine printing firm Action Press, publisher of *Birds of the Pacific Slope*, which focuses on the life and work of painter-naturalist Andrew Jackson Grayson, will give a slide illustrated lecture at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3 in the James Moore Theatre.

He will discuss Grayson and his paintings, which will be on exhibit in the Great Hall through June 14. He will also describe his project of reproducing Grayson's work in the new limited edition portfolio, as well as discuss the process of fine printing, quality control in producing limited editions, other works he has published, and more. The talk will be followed by a reception in the museum restaurant.

The events and reception are sponsored by the History and Natural Science Guilds. Tickets may be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope with a check for \$5 (\$4 for Friends of the Bancroft Library or OMA members) to Hoyem Lecture, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak St. Oakland, CA 94607.

## GGAS "SPECIAL MIX" SEED

Purchasers of the GGAS Special Mix at the April Bird Seed Sale were surprised with an upgraded version. No rape or milo seed was in the present (and future) offering. Thanks to our supplier, Merritt Anderson, the change came sooner than we had expected. The sale was again a success.

## 1987 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

### National Audubon Society

Ancient Forests . . . Priceless Treasures is the theme of the gathering August 24 through August 29 in Bellingham, Wash. for the Pacific Northwest Biennial Convention. Brochures have been mailed, but if yours has not come you may request one from the regional office, 4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303.

The program's emphasis will be on the old growth forests of the Northwest, as well as tropical rain forests around the world. Other topics include the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, endangered species, Platte River, radioactive waste disposal, acid rain wetlands and fishery resources. Both pre- and post-convention field trips of considerable interest are included in the brochure.

## ARTISTS—NOTE

The LA Audubon Society will hold a Wildlife and Environmental Art Show Sept. 11 to 18, 1987 at the Wilshire Ebell Art Salon. It is open to all US artists in all fine arts media except sculpture and photography. Show selections will be juried by 35mm slides. Awards will be juried from actual art works. Four categories are specified: landscape, seascape, animals and birds. Entry fee, \$5.00 per slide, minimum of three slides, but no maximum. Cash awards of \$5000 and Purchase and Merit awards, cash and merchandise. Commission on sales 20% to LAAS. Deadline July 15. Phone (213) 931-6692 or write D.R. Kendig, 603 South McCadden Place, LA, CA 90005.

### Travelers—Note

If you will be in LA in September mark your calendar for the show.

## GGAS PUBLISHES CHECK LIST

Available at the GGAS office for \$3.50 is *A CHECK-LIST TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO* by Steve N.G. Howell. It is illustrated by Sophie W. Webb. Superior to previously available check-lists in its coverage, this answers a need for travelers to the Republic of Mexico.

## THE GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

The handsome brochure announcing the annual Golden Trout Workshop has been received at the GGAS office, and a few are available for those interested. It lists three one-week outings in the southern Sierra August 2 through 22. Sponsored by Audubon groups in the area, it presents an informal field natural history program. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, at an altitude of 10,000 feet. For details write Cindi McKernan, 40 Sherril Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, or phone (714) 973-7897.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have been a member of the North American Bluebird Society for a couple of years and presently have a Bluebird Trail of nesting boxes of over fifty units.

Am wondering if your files might indicate other trail operators in the Bay Area.

Thanks for any help you can give.

Donald E. Yoder  
2021 Ptarmigan Drive #1  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
937-5974

(We told Mr. Yoder about the Trail at Tilden Park, but don't know of others. If you are interested you might give him a call. Editor.)

## FARALLON ISLAND TRIP

GGAS will sponsor a boat trip to circle the Farallon Islands on June 21. Past trips have produced sightings of Tufted Puffins, shearwaters, albatross, hump-backed whales, as well as several other species of marine mammals.

Reservations can be made by mailing \$27.00 per person with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GGAS, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #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 Emeryville Marina.

## AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION Annual Meeting in San Francisco

The 1987 meeting will be held August 9-14 at San Francisco State University. Professor Robert I. Bowman invites persons who wish to know more about the meetings or who would like to volunteer their services in support of this event to get in touch with him (469-2440 or Dept. of Biology, SFSU, San Francisco, CA 94132).

He writes "although many of the papers being presented over the three days of paper sessions (Aug. 11, 12 and 13) may be highly technical, there will be, nevertheless, many presentations of considerable interest to non-professional ornithologists." In addition there will be symposia and a continuous film theatre. A festive banquet on Thursday night will be followed on Friday with field trips to Bay Area points of birding interest.

**THOSE BEAUTIFUL CAR  
SHADES** are available at the office again for \$5 and benefit the wetlands fund.

## FREMONT BIRDING CLASSES

The Fremont Adult School and instructor Alice Hoch will offer two series of six sessions birding classes covering field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 with registration at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the series in room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Classes are limited to fifteen members.

Tuesday, April 28 and Wednesday, April 29 are the first classes. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

## NESTING BIRDS FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, May 16, Alice Hoch will lead a field trip to watch and listen to local birds as they go about their territorial, courtship and nesting activities.

The trip requires preregistration, and a fee of \$14.50. Send your check with a stamped, addressed envelope, to the Adult School.

The trip will be leaving from the flagpole at the school at 8:30 a.m. Students should bring field guides, binoculars, scopes, snacks, lunch, and beverages. For information phone 791-5841.

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## AGAIN IN STOCK

The National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America, unavailable since December, is now in its second printing and is expected at the GGAS office. Phone before you make a special trip.

## PUBLIC LANDS ROUNDTABLE

The US Bureau of Land Management's state director in California, Ed Haste, has begun a series of meetings to discuss public land policy. The meetings are open to all and the topics to be addressed are selected by those attending each session. The Bay Area session will be at 7 p.m. on July 15 at the Holiday Inn, Civic Center, 50 Eighth St., San Francisco.

The future of 17 million acres of public lands in California is at stake. Do you care how these lands are used?

In announcing the series Haste remarked "Last year's meetings were attended by hundreds of people. . . (who) care deeply about their public lands, want to know about them, and want to be involved in decisions about their future. Although there are many differing opinions, there was a consensus that we all share responsibility in seeing these lands wisely managed."

Information about the meetings can be obtained from the BLM, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, or (916) 978-4746.

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## MUSEUM REOPENS

In Walnut Creek the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, which has been closed for refurbishing, has reopened to the public. Admission is free, and hours are Wednesday to Friday 1-5 p.m. and weekends noon to 4 p.m. It is in Larkey Park, 1901 First Ave., (phone 935-1978).

The Museum is, of course, our resource for sick and injured wildlife in the East Bay, and an organization worthy of our support and interest. Literally hundreds of volunteers are involved in its docent, education, field trip and wildlife rescue operations.

# Yes, I want to help get the *California Parks and Wildlife Initiative* on the ballot.

- I'll collect signatures. Please call me to arrange.
- I'll donate money: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- I endorse the initiative. You may use my name as a supporter.

\_\_\_\_\_

name

\_\_\_\_\_

address

\_\_\_\_\_

city/zip

\_\_\_\_\_

phone (day/eve.)

\_\_\_\_\_

signature



**Cal P.A.W.**

Make checks payable to: **Californians for Parks and Wildlife,**  
c/o Golden Gate Audubon Society Office.

(415) 843-2222

## Audubon Camps and Ecology Workshops

**Come join us in a celebration of nature . . .**

. . . as we embark on Audubon's 50th year of excellence in environmental education and field natural history studies.

In superb natural settings, in the company of distinguished naturalists and fellow students who share your interest in nature, you'll search a pond for whirligig beetles and damselfly nymphs. Or dredge the ocean floor for starfish and sea urchins. Or investigate the riparian grotto home of the nocturnal oilbird. Or follow paths blazed by mountain sheep.

Field studies range from geology and marine life to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, and renewable energy. For recreation you may explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. In Trinidad your studies will focus on such subjects as sea turtles, manakin leks, and tropical forest ecology.

Camp sessions for adults run for one or two weeks. College credit is available. There is also a session for children in Maine; introductory field ecology for educators in Connecticut; field ornithology in Maine; wilderness research and nature photography in Wyoming.

You'll learn to better understand and protect the wild creatures and wild places that we love. As it has done for so many others, this Audubon experience will enrich the rest of your life.

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## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach (415) 383-1644  
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature  
Education Under Joint Sponsorship of  
Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia  
Audubon Societies  
Rick Baird, Chairman

This month is the prime time to pay a visit to the Bolinas Preserve's heronry. All kinds of nesting activity is going on from the mating display of the Great Egrets to the feeding of Great Blue Heron chicks. Don't miss it!

The Marin Audubon Society is holding its 32nd annual Mother's Day Barbecue in Volunteer Canyon on May 10, profits from which will as usual be donated to ACR. This is always a sell-out.

Kit Lee, chairman of the Volunteer Council at the Bolinas Preserve, reports 97 docents this season are working two weeks longer than in the past. School groups have been scheduled for 12 weeks, four days a week, 60 pupils a day, with no Easter vacation and an extra week in June. Kit said the schools

scheduled this season are a third each from the East Bay, San Francisco and Marin/Sonoma.

After only the first two weeks of the season Manager Skip Schwartz was already reporting an attendance of 1000 visitors including school groups, thanks to good advance publicity.

There are still a couple of great classes for your consideration before ACR closes for the summer:

Brush up on your storytelling for those long summer evenings. "Once Upon a Time" is a weekend class on June 27 and 28 at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Extension semester credit is available for this one.

On Saturday, July 11 in Marin and Sunday, July 12 in Sonoma the 12th Annual Butterfly Count will be held. Help to capture, identify and release these beautiful mysterious insects. A Get-to-Know-the-Critters night will be held Wednesday, July 8.

To sign up for or for further information on either of these events call the ranch at (415) 383-1644.

## GIFTS and BEQUESTS

### FOR GGAS

#### In Memory of

Herbert Ellern

Muriel B. Cunningham

Jay Meikle

Dr. Minton B. Evans

#### Gift of

Friends & Co-Workers of  
Elizabeth Olson (His Daughter)

Lois & Jamie Pearson

Sally Hayward  
Edward & Doris Jensen

Alan Kirkham Smith

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of 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 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.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has reported its slate of nominees for officers and directors for GGAS for 1987-88. The slate is shown below in the ballot. Those elected will begin their terms of office on June 1, 1987.

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

Under the By-laws of GGAS the 1st Vice President is also the President-elect. Chris Swarth made a career change requiring his move to

Washington, D.C. The unwillingness of the 2nd Vice President to serve at this time led the Board to agree with the recommendation of the nominating committee that the term of the president, Arthur Feinstein, be extended one year. This is submitted to the membership for ratification. You may indicate your approval by marking your ballot. The by-laws provide that the President-elect for the term of 1988-90 be selected at this time, as the 1st Vice President.

### BALLOT

#### President for an additional one year term:

President	Art Feinstein	<input type="checkbox"/>
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#### Officers for a term of one year:

1st Vice President	Tom White	<input type="checkbox"/>
2nd Vice President	Lina Jane Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary	Leslie Lethridge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Dement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Nicola Selph	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Directors for three years:

West Bay	Paul Comiskey	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Bay	David Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Director for two years:

West Bay	Jan Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
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This ballot must be returned to the GGAS office no later than May 21 to be counted. You may vote for any or all of the candidates by placing an X in the box following the candidate's name.

# — SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
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THE GULL

## GGAS ROSTER OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### OFFICERS

President, Arthur Feinstein (282-5937)\*  
Second Vice President, Lina Jane Prairle, (549-3187)\*  
Recording Secretary, Leslie Lethridge (655-0418)\*  
Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Dement (527-7923)\*  
Treasurer, Nicola Selph (536-4986)\*

### DIRECTORS

West Bay: Woody Kuehn (239-7914)\*  
Tom White (821-6933)\*  
Paul Comiskey (824-1070)\*  
East Bay: John Nutt (654-3336)\*  
Leora Feeney (522-8525)\*  
David Rice (527-6696)\*  
At-Large: Peter Watkins

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Conservation, Arthur Feinstein (282-5937)\*  
Field Trips, Shirley Kelly (387-8290)\*  
Finance, Woody Kuehn (239-7914)\*  
Hospitality,  
Membership, Leora Feeney (522-8525)\*  
Program, Tom White (821-6933)\*  
Publicity,  
GULL Editor, Don Sanford (527-6017)\*  
Observations: Helen Green (526-5943)  
and Joseph Morlan (524-7421)  
Extended Field Trips Co-ordinator,  
Chris Carpenter (376-6341)  
Librarian, Minnie Groshong  
Office Manager, Barbara Rivenes (843-2222)

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

Art Feinstein, ex officio  
Nicki Spillane

Bruce Howard  
Dan Murphy

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288

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.