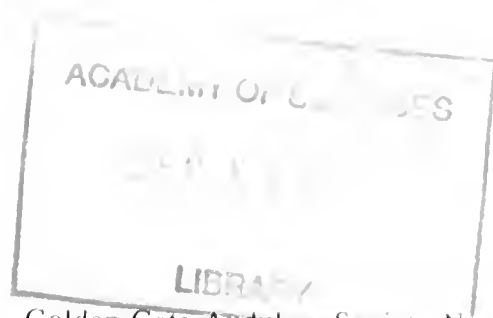




The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter
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GGAS Presents Elsie Roemer Conservation Awards

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society is proud to present the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award, named to commemorate one of our chapter's most ardent battlers for wildlife conservation, to three most deserving defenders of our natural world.

Chapter Member Dan Murphy

Our chapter recipient is Dan Murphy. Most of us know Dan as the ultimate field trip leader and birder: he probably has the biggest backyard bird list in San Francisco, and he also writes *The Gull's* monthly "News from the Ranch" column about the current events at Audubon Canyon Ranch. But Dan is also an avowed conservationist, particularly for two areas dear to his heart: San Francisco and Lassen National Park.

Tree cutting in Golden Gate Park during the breeding season? Call Dan. Slashing habitat at Lake Merced? Call Dan. The S.F. Recreation and Parks Department knows, respects, and undoubtedly fears Dan.

Dan can take credit for preserving the Bank Swallow colony at Fort Funston. A declining species in California, the swallows were suffering from too much public access and from an overexuberance of Fourth of July fireworks. Dan took the National Park Service, managers of Fort Funston, to task and after years of Dan's efforts, the Park Service has now restricted fireworks in the colony area.

Build a dam in a scenic mountain paradise? We thought the dam era was over,

but no, there was a plan afoot to put an unnecessary dam in Lassen National Park. Dan took action and the dam has been put off, if not totally abandoned.

Next in line for Dan is the Klamath Basin. A critical migratory waterfowl staging area, the basin is facing severe drought conditions in part because of competing agricultural uses for the water. The refuges are rapidly becoming dust bowls instead of oases. The birds that depend on Klamath are the same birds we see in the Bay Area; lose their refuge and we lose our wonderful waterfowl. We can sleep a little easier knowing that Dan has set his sights on this disaster-in-the-making.

GGAS is honored to present Dan Murphy with the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award, and we're grateful to have him as an active GGAS member.

We are also presenting the Elsie Roemer Award to two non-chapter members: U. S. Congressman Don Edwards and journalist Glen Martin.

Congressman Don Edwards

Congressman Edwards has shown a decades-long dedication to the preservation of San Francisco Bay's wildlife resources, particularly its wetlands. When the subject of a San Francisco Bay wildlife refuge was first proposed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the concept was mocked. "A refuge in the midst of this urban center? Ridiculous!" the Service said, ignoring the tremendous numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds dependent upon the Bay's rapidly disappearing wetlands.

September Meeting: Michael Ellis in Berkeley

Conservation Awards (cont.)

Don Edwards had the vision to see beyond bureaucratic rhetoric. He looked at the Bay, saw its problems, talked and listened to his constituency, and in 1968 submitted and saw enacted into law a bill that established the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR), the first urban National Wildlife Refuge in the country, and particularly unusual since most all National Wildlife Refuges are established by administrative, not legislative, means. SFBNWR has proved a complete success: it is visited by over 300,000 people annually, more than any other NWR; and it has played an important role in providing habitat for the California Clapper Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, both endangered species..

In the 1980's, concerned citizens saw the East Bay's seasonal wetlands disappearing. These lands were not included in the original SFBNWR boundaries because no one knew their value and they did not appear to be threatened. Development pressures soon started reducing that seasonal wetland acreage, and studies determined that those wetlands provided critical habitat for the million or so shorebirds that migrate through the Bay Area every year and for the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and other endangered species. When it was proposed that the refuge boundaries be expanded to include these rapidly disappearing wetlands, Congressman Edwards stepped forward and, in the face of intense opposition from developers and Cargill Salt, owners of many acres of these seasonal wetlands, he oversaw the 1988 passage and signing into law of the expansion bill. The expansion is by no means complete: less than 1,000 acres of the 7,000 acres of wetlands proposed for acquisition has been purchased, but at least the opportunity exists to acquire these critically important wetland habitats, thanks to Don Edwards.

In 1992 when the Clean Water Act was due to be reauthorized by Congress and anti-environmental forces were working overtime to weaken the act's wetland protection components, the Jimmy Hayes Bill (HR 1330), which would have gutted wetlands protection

and put at risk half of California's remaining wetlands, was introduced in the 454-seat House of Representatives with 100 co-sponsors. Very scary. Don Edwards once more stepped forward. He told the environmental community that he would carry a bill that would save our nation's wetlands and blunt the Jimmy Hayes attack. The fight still goes on. Two years later the Clean Water Act has not yet been reauthorized and neither side has prevailed, but for now at least our wetlands laws remain intact.

Don Edwards, 79 years old, has announced that he will retire from Congress at the end of this term. We are greatly saddened to see this hero of the environment leave that institution. We are deeply grateful for his commitment and support over the years and are proud to present him with the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award, small recompense for his great career.

Journalist Glen Martin

The third recipient of the Elsie Roemer award is journalist Glen Martin. Glen is known to most of us as the award-winning writer of the wonderful series of articles about his kayak trip down the Sacramento River, environmental writing at its finest. Over the years, Glen, also a contributor to *Audubon* magazine, has taken on some of the most contentious wildlife conservation issues in his articles in the San Francisco *Chronicle's* outdoor section, addressing such issues as poaching, fishery declines, and troubles within the State Department of Fish and Game.

Glen is always willing to take on controversial subjects. Of particular interest to our chapter was his article on the feral cat problem that brought this serious issue to public attention. Most writers have chosen to treat the subject humorously. Glen, with his great understanding of wildlife issues, recognized the problem as one of utmost seriousness and helped educate many on the dreadful toll feral cats are taking on our songbird population.

A recent article detailing the failure of the Wilson administration to advance natural resource conservation was noteworthy for its accuracy and its courage, again illustrating that Glen is

willing to write controversial stories in defense of our wildlife resources when the facts are there.

Environmental reporting in the Bay Area has become increasingly disappointing. Glen is one of the very few writers continuing to explore and defend our natural world and educating the general public on the values and needs of that world. We need Glen and many more like him. We are truly pleased to present Glen Martin with the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award.

Arthur Feinstein

**Seed Sale in October
Look for order form in
next month's *Gull***

Next Generation Lends Hope For the Future

Sometimes it's difficult to keep a cheerful outlook on life in a world filled with ethnic genocides and species extinctions. But take heart, there is hope for the future and our most recent example of this comes from the Lakeshore Elementary School in San Francisco.

Wanting to celebrate Earth Day in a way that would have some real meaning, the students at Lakeshore School raised \$203.76 and donated all of it to Golden Gate Audubon's efforts to preserve the endangered California Least Tern.

GGAS sends a heartfelt thank-you to all the students at Lakeshore. We also send our thanks to their teachers and to Melinda Dart, mother of one of the Lakeshore students, who helped organize the event, and to GGAS member Ruth Gravanis who directed Melinda to our Least Tern project.

We hope that when these children grow up the California Least Tern will have recovered from the brink of extinction and the western end of the Alameda Naval Air Station will be a National Wildlife Refuge hosting a thriving Least Tern colony.

Alameda Naval Air Station: There's Still Time to Help

Decisions are still being made over the fate of the Alameda Naval Air Station (ANAS). The U.S. Navy has told us that it will make a decision on whether to grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for approximately six hundred acres of ANAS land for wildlife preservation.

Your letter to the Secretary of the Navy can help shape his decision. Below is a copy of the letter we wrote to the Secretary. Please use the information included in this letter to write one of your own. The Navy will listen if enough of us write. Join in and help shape the fate of the Least Tern, the Brown Pelican and all the other species using the Alameda Naval Air Station.

The Honorable John H. Dalton
Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Dalton:

The Golden Gate Audubon Society urges you to accede to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for 970 acres of land, 375 acres of which are submerged lands and 595 acres uplands, as a transfer from the Alameda Naval Air Station (ANAS) as authorized under the Act of May 19, 1948 (16 USC sections 677b-d) and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.

On March 12, 1994, in conjunction with the College of Alameda, the Golden Gate Audubon Society hosted a Scientific Symposium on the Alameda Naval Air Station. Twelve eminent scientists made presentations at this event, and their reports revealed that the Alameda Naval Air Station is one of the richest wildlife habitats in San Francisco Bay, in the state of California, and even on the entire West Coast of North America. In sum, the western third of the ANAS is a wildlife

habitat of national significance.

Facts of particular significance revealed at this Symposium include:

- 1) The ANAS hosts the only successful California Least Tern colony to be found north of Santa Barbara. The Least Tern is a federally-listed endangered species.
- 2) This colony consistently produces about 10% of the state's Least Tern fledgling population each year.
- 3) In El Nino years, such as 1992, when southern California Least Tern colonies are affected by low food supplies (fish resources decrease with El Nino and terns eat fish), the ANAS colony produces up to 16% of the state's fledgling population because El Nino has a lesser impact on northern fish species.
- 4) The ANAS breakwater provides the only known night-roosting site for the Brown Pelican (federally listed as threatened). Up to 409 Brown Pelicans have been seen there at one time. Such roosting sites are essential habitat for the pelican and are necessary for the continued presence of the pelican in San Francisco Bay.
- 5) The ANAS hosts the largest breeding colony of Caspian Terns on the entire West Coast of North America (75% of all breeding Caspian Terns in central California).
- 6) The breakwater provides habitat for the second largest Western Gull breeding colony in central California.
- 7) The eelgrass bed located within a kilometer of ANAS (the only successful eelgrass bed in the Bay) hosts ten times the density of fish and invertebrates as any other Bay waters and has a higher density of fish than any other bay on the West Coast. Correspondingly, central San Francisco Bay, where ANAS is located, has the highest density of fish in the San Francisco Estuary. The close

proximity of this very rich fish habitat to ANAS provides the necessary food resources for the Least Tern, the Brown Pelican and all the other waterbirds found at ANAS.

8) The ANAS has been an occasional nesting site for the Western Snowy Plover, federally listed as a threatened species.

9) The ANAS breakwater provides an important haul-out site for the Harbor Seal.

10) Over 73 species of waterbirds are to be found on the ANAS.

Clearly the Air Station is a staggeringly-rich wildlife habitat. For this reason it is entirely appropriate and essential that you grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request that you transfer to the Service 970 acres of the Alameda Naval Air Station, 375 acres of which are submerged lands. This action on your part is essential for the preservation of these invaluable natural resources.

Failure to comply with this request will in all probability lead to the extirpation of the California Least Tern in northern California and the extirpation of the Brown Pelican in San Francisco Bay. Additionally, failure to comply may well lead to the listing of the Caspian Tern as a threatened or endangered species since over 75% of the central California breeding population is to be found at the Air Station. Your action now can avert these disasters. We again urge you to grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request for 970 acres of the Alameda Naval Air Station, 375 acres of which are submerged lands.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We will be glad to send you documentation from the Symposium for any of the data cited above.

Sincerely yours

Education

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

It's time once again for GGAS to enroll teachers in our Audubon Adventures program, one of the most successful of all environmental education programs.. Enrollment now brings a classroom the *Audubon Adventures* newsletter for the 1994-95 school year. Each student in an enrolled class receives a bimonthly newsletter generally on a single subject of environmental issue; topics range from newts and salamanders to wetlands to endangered species to plants and flowers, with articles written by education specialists and scientists and accompanied by wonderful illustrations. Teachers receive a detailed lesson plan with suggestions for activities and educational games and events.

Teachers love this program. We've already sent out postcards to all our presently participating teachers asking if they wish to continue next year, and the responses have been exciting:

"It's been great, we learn so much from them!"

"My class (4th grade) loves *Audubon Adventures*."

"Great material. Students loved it!"

"Thank you for providing this for us!"

Our budgets have been cut to the bone & your paper has been a fantastic supplement to our science/language arts programs. The students enjoy the [news]paper. I use it to teach science as well as study and research skills since each student has a paper to underline, etc. It's been great! Thank you so much!"

"Your program is a major part of my science and reading tools."

GGAS is once again hoping to sponsor about 100 Audubon Adventures classes. If you know of a class that would like to get *Audubon Adventures* please let us know. Unfortunately, after five years of keeping the costs constant, National Audubon has had to face the reality of inflation and has increased the cost of

Audubon Adventures from \$30 per class to \$35 per class.

We truly need your financial support to keep this program going. So please consider sponsoring a class yourself, or with a group of fellow parents if your child is in an Audubon Adventures class. Please send us \$35 for each class you wish to sponsor. If it is for a specific class please identify the teacher (full name), school, school address, telephone number (if possible -- this is not essential), and grade.

If your donation is for *Audubon Adventures* in general, please identify it as such. All checks should be made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society. Thanks so much for your support of this wonderful educational program!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is gathering together an active and dedicated group that believes the future of the environmental movement lies in educating both our young and our old, making them aware of the wonders of the natural world and the dangers that confront it and building on that awareness to find ways of preserving that natural world.

People are attracted to Audubon for many reasons, but underlying them all generally is a love of birds and all that they epitomize. Our feeling is that birds are accessible to everyone and if we can increase people's knowledge and appreciation of birds of all kinds, we have built a strong base.

We have a slide show (several, in fact) that we would like to fine-tune for various audiences so we can take it to classrooms as well as community groups. We need help with the fine-tuning; we also need people to take the show to the community.

We'd like to put together Bird Boxes: feathers, bones, beaks, pellets, anything that can be taken into classrooms to demonstrate what makes birds birds and what makes them all unique.

We have a request from John Poole for volunteers to take young birders on field trips (see p. 66). Likely he is not the only educator who would appreciate this kind of assistance.

The possibilities are infinite. The Education Committee will meet on Monday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the GGAS office. Call Debey Zito at (415) 648-6861, if you have questions. Please join us.

OUR ABSENT BIRDS

National Audubon's *Birds in the Balance* program seeks to protect nesting areas in North America, but many of our migratory birds travel south of our borders to even less hospitable lands during the non-nesting season.

From Mexico to Venezuela there are groups that are working against great odds in their own countries to protect habitat from further destruction. We would like to establish a relationship with one of these groups and support them in some way that will maximize their efforts.

National Audubon has provided some suggestions, but we need ideas and help.

An organizing meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., at 76 Hillcrest Rd., Berkeley. Come with your questions and ideas and a helping hand. For further information, phone Miles McKey, (510) 652-5854.

BIRD CLASSES IN S.F.

Joe Morlan's bird classes begin again on September 7 at Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore St. (at Bay), Room 222., 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. **Field Ornithology I**, Tuesdays starting 9/13, is an introduction to birds and birding; **Field Ornithology II and III**, Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively, starting 9/7 and 8, provide continuing study of the identification and status of North American birds. Cost is \$70 per 7-week session. For further information, call S.F. City College Continuing Education Office at (415) 561-1840 or (415) 267-6545.

Observations

Daniel Singer

Clear skies during much of the second half of spring contributed to generally low numbers of migrant and vagrant reports. Vagrants, in particular, seemed few and far between though there were several good finds.

Other than the expected flocks of Sooty Shearwaters visible from shore, Procellariiformes went unreported during June. Rough seas during the spring and early summer tend to discourage the scheduling of pelagic trips in these months, and those that are scheduled are often forced to cancel. Nevertheless, there was some interesting news for those yearning to get offshore. On 6/13, a dark-morph **Red-footed Booby** was found sitting on a beach in Daly City, SM (KCb, RBd). It was found dead the next day, and the specimen is now at the California Academy of Sciences (JM). This is the only specimen for California.

Waterbirds and Shorebirds

An adult Little Blue Heron continued in Alviso, SCL, through 6/17 (SCR), and Cattle Egrets were there through at least 6/18 (m.ob.). Two Greater White-fronted Geese reported from Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), MRN, on 7/4 (CCn) may be only the region's second summer coastal record. A female Harlequin Duck at Bodega Head, SON, on 6/30 (LSf) appears to be summering, and an Oldsquaw in Richmond, CC, on 6/8 may be, too. A female Bufflehead with three young was seen at Plumas-Eureka State Park, PLU, on 7/3 (PEG) for a rare Sierran nesting record. This species' breeding range in California is generally thought to be restricted to the Cascade range.

Numerous southbound shorebirds were reported during the first several days of July; but, an adult Semipalmated Sandpiper in alternate plumage on 6/12 reported from the Salinas River mouth, MTY, (CHo) is best considered a tardy spring migrant. On the other hand, an alternate-plumaged Dunlin reported from Abbott's Lagoon, MRN, (CCn, JiD) on 7/4 is remarkably early assuming it didn't summer locally. A single South Polar Skua on 6/27 was seen off MTY and two or three on 6/29 were off SCZ (both SCR). Most

amazing was the discovery of an adult Glaucous-winged Gull paired with a Western Gull and tending a nest at the Point Reyes headlands, MRN, on 6/13 (CCn). This is, in all likelihood, the first Glaucous-winged Gull nesting record in California. A summering Arctic Tern, first observed on 6/3 at Hayward, ALA, was still present as of 7/6 (RJR, FGB, BRe). Another incredible nesting record was established by a pair of **Black Skimmers** raising three or four chicks at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, 6/3-7/6 (RJR, m.ob.). This represents one of very few breeding records for the region as well as a probable most-northerly nesting site in western North America. The birds are in a restricted area to which *birders are never permitted access*. Please stay behind fences and obey all signs.

Landbirds

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo present at Andrew Molera State Park (AMSP), MTY, from 6/16-6/18 (CHo) is exceptional as there have been few records in the county since 1950. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was present near Lee Vining, MON, 6/10-13 (JMHu/PJM). An eastern Swainson's Thrush was reported from Southeast Farallon Island (SEFI), on 6/20 (PP fide KH). Two Red-eyed Vireos put in brief appearances this month: one at PRNS on 6/10 (DDeS, RS) and a second at SEFI, on 6/20 (PP fide KH).

Vagrant warblers, though not lacking for variety, were generally scarce. Up to ten Northern Parulas were reported between 6/18 and 6/29, with all but two from MRN (m.ob.). As many as five were seen in the vicinity of the Devil's Gulch trailhead at Samuel P. Taylor Park, MRN, during this time (RS/BDP). This species bred successfully in this park last year. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was present from 6/30 - 7/4 at Bodega Bay, SON (m.ob.). Clear skies didn't prevent a **Black-throated Green Warbler** from stopping at the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, on 6/10 (DDeS, RS). Two Palm Warblers were reported from AMSP on 6/18 and 7/6 (CHo, DHe). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Mono Lake, MON, on 6/7 (RS). A female Black-poll Warbler was reported from PRNS on 6/10 (DDeS), and a female Black-and-White

Warbler was banded by the Big Sur Ornithology Lab (BSOL) in MTY on 6/5 and re-trapped on 6/12 (CHo). Five American Redstarts were reported, all coastally: on 6/6 from SM (BS fide RSTh), two at Pt. Reyes on 6/10 (DDeS), and two from the Big Sur coast, MTY, on 7/6 (CHo). A **Prothonotary Warbler**, variously reported as a male/female, was at Bodega Bay on 6/6 - 6/7 (m.ob.). Sexing warblers is often easier said than done. SEFI hosted the spring's only Ovenbird on 6/20 (PP fide KH). Three Hooded Warblers, all females, were reported between 6/12 and 6/16. One was from SM (SBT), and two were banded by BSOL (CHo).

An immature male Summer Tanager lingered at the Carmel River mouth, MTY, from 6/9 - 6/12 (fide CHo). Eleven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported between 6/7 and 6/29. The great majority of these were along the coast between MRN and MTY or "inland" at ALA, CC, or SCL (m.ob.). Two were truly inland: one at Lundy Canyon, MON (RS), and another at Sardine Lakes, PLU (MCM). A male Indigo Bunting was near Sonoma State College, SON, between 6/5 and 6/14 (m.ob.) It was reportedly paired with a female bunting of uncertain identity. An additional three male Indigo Buntings were reported from the Big Sur River mouth/AMSP between 6/12 and 7/6. A Green-tailed Towhee was at PRNS on 6/18 (CCn), and a Brewer's Sparrow was reported from SEFI on 6/20 (PP fide KH). Widespread reports of Black-chinned Sparrow suggest this species may be more numerous than usual this spring. Of note are up to eleven at the Loma Prieta summit, SCL, on 6/11 (SCR) and along the San Mateo Coast in El Granada, with one on 6/12 and another on 6/20 (BS fide RSTh). A female Lark Bunting was at Yuba Pass, PLU, on 6/19 (SGI). Coastal Lawrence's Goldfinch included up to three at Bodega Bay between 6/6 and 6/17 and up to two at the Fish Docks, PRNS, 6/9 - 10 (RS).

Observers: R. Bandon, Florence G. Bennett, Jim Booker, Ken Burton, Karen Cebra, Les Chivana, Nancy T. Conzett, Chris Corben, J. Scott Cox, Tony Cermack, James Danzenbaker, David DeSante, Al Eisner, Mike Feighner, Steve Glover, Philip E. Gordon, Keith Hansen.

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Observations (cont.)

Donna Heim, Kevin G. Hints, Bob Hirt, David Hofmann, Craig Hohenberger, Alan S. Hopkins, Joan Humphrey, Richard Jeffers, Nick Lethaby, Cindy Lieurance, J. Lucken, Michael J. Mammoser, Peter J. Metropulos, Mark C. Miller, Joe Morlan, Ellis Myers, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Peter Pyle, Bob Reiling, Robert J. Richmond, Mike M. Rogers, Mary Louise Rosegay, Steve C. Rottenborn, Barry Sauppe, Doug Shaw, Lynn Stafford, Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Daniel Stoebel, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Walter Tordoff, Denise Wight, R. Woods.

Data thanks to Joe Morlan and the Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

Abbreviations for counties: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; MON, Mono; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; PLU, Plumas; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SON, Sonoma

RARE BIRD ETHICS

We're indebted to Kay Loughman who found the following on the computer bulletin board and thought that it was appropriate food for thought for the coming fall migrant season. It was pointed out that we rarely have the great hordes turning out for a rare bird that you sometimes hear of in Britain, but there are times and places where even six people can be considered a crowd, and we always need to be thoughtful, both of the well-being of the

The finder should feel no obligation to spread the news of a rarity, whatever the circumstances.

bird and the wants and needs of local citizens and property owners. Hostile backlash affects all of us.

Many of these points are particularly well-taken now that we have moved from a "vetted" rare bird alert to the self-announced Bird Box. Finders of rarities must be extremely scrupulous in providing information.

Excerpted from: Lewington, Alstrom, and Colston: *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe*. Originally published in *British Birds*

Code for rarity finders:

1. The finder should feel no obligation to spread the news of a rarity, whatever the circumstances.

2. Even if inclined to tell others, the finder should first assess the likely number of interested observers and consider whether the site can cope with such an influx without risk of trespass, disturbance, or harm to bird, habitat, or people's privacy.

3. The landowner, tenant, local people, and other birdwatchers should be consulted as appropriate. An explanation of the situation will often prompt an interested and helpful reaction and allay the understandable concern which may be caused by an unexplained invasion of the area. If highway obstruction is a potential problem, the police may welcome prior warning. On a refuge, the ranger or manager should always be among the first to be told.

4. News should not be spread until appropriate arrangements have been made; these may include special oversight, roping-off of the viewing site, posting an advisory or directional signs, and arrangements for parking.

5. Once the decision has been made to spread the news and preparations made, the message should contain clear instructions for reaching the site and any special arrangements which have been made.

Code for twitchers (chasers):

1. If you are among the first to hear of a rare bird, satisfy yourself that the site can cope with the likely influx of observers before spreading the news.

2. Respect confidential information.

3. If you have previous experience visiting rare bird sites, offer advice on any special arrangements which may need to be made, and offer on-site assistance if you are able.

4. Before setting out, ensure that you are fully informed as to how to reach the site and any special arrangements which have been made.

5. If you pass on the message, do so carefully and in full.

6. At the site, park sensibly and safely, follow any instructions responsibly, and always put the welfare of the bird first.

7. Never turn a blind eye to any misdemeanors committed by others.

8. Do not try to get closer than anyone else to view or -especially- to photograph the bird: let binoculars, telescopes, and telephoto lenses cover the distance.

9. Be tactful, informative, and friendly towards non-birdwatching onlookers or local people; they will probably be interested to know what is going on.

10. Be patient and restrained, especially if the bird moves suddenly to a new site nearby; give time for a new plan to be devised to cope with the situation.

BIRD BOX UPDATE

The Northern California Rare Bird Alert as we've known it for twenty years no longer exists. To the delight of a few and the consternation of many, we have in its place the Northern California Bird Box, which records and plays back the messages of those calling in to report rare or unusual bird sightings.

As might be expected, the new system is not universally popular. It takes longer to navigate through the messages, there is no way of knowing how reliable the reporter is, the instructions are sometimes garbled, and people report silly birds. Or so the complaints go. We would like to offer some suggestions for dealing with the new system, as well as some assurance that we are trying to be responsive to complaints.

1. There have been 5 species of loons seen in California. Remember that fact and pass it along to your friends. The purpose of the "passkey" is to eliminate silly phone calls that tie up the tape and perhaps fill it with garbage.

2. Organize your message before you call. There is no need to give the date and time of your call - the computer appends that information automatically. If you've seen a number of birds, list the birds that you're going to talk about at the beginning of your message and then

(continued on page 63)

Bird Box (cont.)

describe when and where for each one. That way, if someone is not interested in any of the species, they can move along immediately to the next call.

3. List the birds in descending order of interest. It may be cute to sneak in a special sighting at the very end of your message, but those calling long distance will certainly not appreciate it.

4. Make sure that your directions are complete and accurate.

5. Give some thought as to whether it is appropriate to broadcast the presence of a bird -- many sites are sensitive and are not open to birders. Read the "Code for Rarity Finders" above.

The single biggest complaint has been the difficulty of getting through to the Bird Box. New technology is always popular, but we also realize that the fall migration is not yet upon us, and things could get far worse. We plan to purchase a second computer card and add a second phone line, so theoretically twice as many people will be able to call (so far, the Bird Box has been averaging 150 calls a day). In addition, we plan to reinstate the weekly update which should bring joy to more than a few hearts.

If you have suggestions for other changes or improvements, please follow the instructions for leaving a message for the system operator on the Bird Box or call the Golden Gate Audubon office at (510) 843-2222.

Finally a plea for more than just patience. The changeover has been a moderately costly endeavor, and adding a second phone line will double, or more, the cost to-date (we got a discount on the first computer card; there's no assurance it will be repeated for the second card). Your contributions in support of this service would be greatly appreciated. And you might pass this word along to friends out of the area who use the Bird Box -- it turns out that more than half the calls come from outside the 415 and 510 area codes.

Ann Dewart

Our Apologies

Many of you have wondered why *The Gull* has been arriving later and later the last couple of months. Last month, to our great chagrin, we had to cancel a scheduled field trip because *The Gull* did not get mailed out in time. Many factors are operating to cause this lateness. As you may know, we have changed the size of *The Gull* and have switched the production to desktop computer. This was done in an effort to reduce production costs -- *The Gull* represents nearly half of our total annual budget -- and at the same time to provide ourselves with additional flexibility in layout and presentation. All of this has been a learning process undergone by a dedicated volunteer. (Remember: GGAS is an **all-volunteer** organization and most of these volunteers have full-time jobs in addition to their volunteer responsibilities. We have only one part-time paid staff person in the office.)

One of the things we have learned is how fast the deadline sneaks up. We are working steadfastly on cutting down this lateness.

There are a number of stages where *The Gull* can be delayed and one that we have no control over is at the post office. Mysteriously, San Francisco members regularly receive their *Gull* four or five days later than East Bay members. If anyone has ideas how we can rectify this glitch, we would appreciate them.

Meanwhile, we sincerely apologize for any distress this lateness has caused our members, and we hope to be back on schedule with this issue -- in time for fall migration.

Jan Anderson,
President, GGAS

Gifts and Bequests

For GGAS Nancy & William Dutcher

For California Least Tern Fund
The Lakeshore Elementary School

In Memory of Mary MacPherson
Spencer & Ilene Horowitz

In Memory of Bruce Walker
Renee & Stevin Margolin
Louise Miller, M.D.
Barbara & Don Rivenes

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 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, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. 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.

Calendar

Thursday, September 8: General Meeting - Michael Ellis on Tidepools, Northbrae Community Church, 942 The Alameda, Berkeley. 7:30 p.m. (see backpage)

Monday, September 12: East Bay Conservation Committee, GGAS Office. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14: Birds-in-the-Balance south-of-the-border -- organizational meeting to discuss establishing a relationship with an environmental group in Mexico. Central or South America. 76 Hillcrest Rd., Berkeley. 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Call Miles McKey at (510) 652-5854 with questions. (see p. 60)

Monday, September 19: Education Committee, GGAS Office. 7:30 p.m. (see p. 60)

Thursday, September 22: Luis Baptista, Josephine Randall Junior Museum, 99 Museum Way, San Francisco. 7:30 p.m. (see p. 64)

News from Around the Bay

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH/ BOUVERIE PRESERVE

The public season is over at the Ranch, and things are pretty quiet, but we do have some fall activities planned:

Saturday, October 1: guided nature walk at Bouverie Audubon Preserve. The fall colors will be starting, and the half-day walk will surely be a beautiful one. Free. Call (707) 938-4554 to register.

Saturday, October 29: biologist Ray Peterson will conduct a special program called "Under the Heronry." Arrive at the ranch around 9:30 a.m. and at 10:00 Ray will help us discover just what's behind the gate at the end of the ranch yard. The program is scheduled to last about 2 hours, and it promises to be lots of fun. Bring a picnic lunch and do a little birding around Bolinas Lagoon or Point Reyes during the afternoon.

Sunday, November 6: a work day to help us batten down the hatches for winter. We need help with gardening, trail maintenance, and a bunch of other stuff known only to the staff. A poorly kept secret about this seasonal event is that you do get a FREE LUNCH.

FALL SEMINARS

10th Annual Downhill Hike, Saturday, October 1

Wow! Four miles, all downhill, and Ray Peterson to lead the way. You can't go wrong with this incredible guided walk from the tip of the toe to Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. (\$15)

Colored Pastels in the Autumn Glow, Saturday-Sunday, October 8-9

Explore the use of colored chalk pastels to capture your own natural impressions. Vesta Kirby will teach this very special program. Appropriate for beginners and experienced artists, it will combine morning classroom sessions with field sessions each afternoon. (\$85)

NOTE: Please call to register for seminars and other activities. (415) 868-9244

PROBLEMS WITH OWL PELLETS

Hold that special science project. Here's unpleasant news from ACR biologist John

Petersen that traditional means of steilization of owl pellets - freezing or microwaving - may not work in killing psittacosis. That's the pathogen which causes the chronic upper respiratory problem called "parrot fever." ACR staff and docents have stopped using owl pellets with students for the time being. Subsequent investigation by John indicates the potential problem may not be as serious as he was led to believe. The Centers for Disease Control and the state health department indicate the potential for transmission is remote at best. I guess if you're planning to use owl pellets for a science project or experiment, you certainly will want to freeze or microwave them. Then you will want to dissect them outdoors rather than in an enclosed area. When we learn more, we'll let you know about it in this column.

Dan Murphy

OAKLAND MUSEUM DOCENT CLASSES

The Natural Sciences Division of the Oakland Museum will offer Docent Training Classes on Tuesdays, from 1 to 3 p.m. beginning September 13, 1994 and running until June 6, 1995. These classes, which include lectures, films, field trips, gallery walks with curators and training in gallery-tour techniques, provide a complete background in California ecology. Graduates become part of the team of volunteer experts who present the distinctive heritage of California's natural history to school-age children, adult groups and individual visitors to the Gallery of California Ecology at the Museum. For further information, call the Docent Council at (510) 238-3514.

CALIFORNIA EXOTIC PEST PLANT SYMPOSIUM

Problems and practical solutions related to the threat of exotic plants in natural-area ecosystems. Talks on biocontrol, planning for control of

exotics, herbicide science, success stories. Keynote speaker: Peter Vitousek, Ph.D. September 30 - October 1, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento. To register, contact Sally Davis, 448 Bello Street, Pismo Beach CA 93449. Sponsored by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council.

GREEN EDGES FOR HEALTHY CITIES: CONFERENCE ON URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES

Urban growth boundaries, the latest tool to protect greenbelts, promote eco-efficient cities, and enable local communities to take control of their future, are starting to spring up around the Bay Area and Northern California. Learn the latest about this powerful tool for the environment and sustainable communities at a special working conference. Greenbelt Alliance, the Association of Bay Area Governments, Sierra Club, Planning and Conservation League, and many others are sponsoring this conference on Saturday, October 1, at Laney College in Oakland. Key features include planning experts from around California and Oregon, local case studies, and in-depth working groups on how to make UGBs work for your community. For further information, contact Greenbelt Alliance at (415) 543-4291 or (408) 983-0539.

LUIS BAPTISTA AT THE RANDALL JUNIOR MUSEUM

California Academy of Sciences' ornithologist Luis Baptista, one of the most interesting and entertaining speakers around, will be addressing the Natural History Group of the Josephine Randall Junior Museum at 99 Museum Way, San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22. Dr. Baptista's specialty is local dialects of the White-crowned Sparrow, but his talks can be wide-ranging and are always informative.

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, September 10

Coastal San Francisco

Meet at 8 a.m. in 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 warblers, flycatchers, and vagrants (the feathered kind). Bring a lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074 (*)

Wednesday, September 14

Mini-trip to Alameda South Shore and surrounding areas

Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Last year our observations included Clapper Rails, Least Terns, and a Parasitic Jaeger. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Sunday, September 18

San Mateo Coast

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach (near the junction of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 84). We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and at Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants and check the mudflats for shorebirds such as Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers and tattlers and knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Bring lunch and a light jacket. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (\$) (*)

Saturday, September 24

Point Reyes National Seashore

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Bovine Bakery (a change from prior years) on Rte. 1 in downtown Pt. Reyes Station, two miles north of Olema. We will concentrate on shorebird identification at Abbott's Lagoon. Bring a scope if you have one, lunch and liquids, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. (If in doubt, call.) Leaders: Lina Jane Prairie and Neil Whitehouse (510) 526-7025. (*)

Sunday, September 25

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County

Meet at 10 a.m. at the top of Hill 129 where we will watch for migrating hawks and landbirds until 2 p.m. (Fog will cancel.) From San Francisco drive north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take the Alexander Ave. exit (Sausalito). Turn left as if returning to San Francisco, drive under the freeway and bear to the right. Go up to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; continue past the intersection with the road coming up from Rodeo Valley to the large tunnels on the right and park, observing posted restrictions, before the road becomes one-way heading downhill. Walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the observation point at the north end of the hilltop. Bring lunch and liquids. Sunscreen, a hat, and a

windbreaker may be advisable. Co-leaders: Carter Faust (415) 453-2899, and Herb Brandt (415) 239-2711. (*)

Wednesday, October 12

Mini-trip to East Bay Shoreline

Meet at 9:15 a.m. From Hwy. 80 in Emeryville, take Powell St. exit and go west. Meet at the north end of the parking lot by the Holiday Inn. We will be looking for shorebirds and whatever else shows up. Last year our observations included Brown Pelicans, Pelagic Cormorants and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (*).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chair (510) 524-2399.

A Report from Snag Lake

On July 7, 1994, these nine hardy but giddy souls braved the rigors of backpacking and wilderness camping to join David Rice and Robin Pulich's trip to Snag Lake in Lassen Volcanic National Park: Adela Bishop, Pat Donato, Jim Hand, Mia Hershiser, Kay and Bill Loughman, Sohail Malik, Carroll Stephens, and Janet Stock.

This year's trip was exceptional for the nesting birds. Nineteen species were confirmed to be nesting near and around Snag Lake, and a total of 71 species was observed, including a rare find by David: a pair of Sandhill Cranes at the edge of a meadow. Great spotting by Janet gave us the treat of a Bald Eagle on its nest. We had searched for it in previous years, but unsuccessfully. More great spotting, this time by Jim, provided a family of Pygmy Owls. (Jim, by the way, set a record for the most miles hiked on this trip -- over 25!) One of the best finds was a tree with several nest holes, each occupied by a different family: Mountain Chickadee, Tree Swallow, and Redbreasted Sapsucker. A nearby tree was home to a nesting Williamson's Sapsucker. Further along the trail we marveled at a family of Brown Creepers, noting that the fledglings had much shorter beaks than the adults, leading Robin to dub them "beaklings."

Near our campsite was a meadow where we went early each morning. One day on our way back, our favorite creekside "bird bath" yielded a beautiful male Western Tanager that came in to bathe. We walked very carefully along the edges of the streams and meadows, as there were Spotted Sandpipers nesting there. One startled us as it flew off its nest and proceeded to act out the "injured wing" trick to lead us away from her four spotted eggs.

(continued on page 65)

Snag Lake (cont.)

We also witnessed an unusual event: a Marten robbing a chickadee's nest of two of its young. The Marten ignored us and the bombing and pecking of the adult chickadees and just continued working away single-mindedly at his task. After eating one youngster, he took the second off through the woods, perhaps returning home to feed his own young.

After all the hiking and bird and nest watching (Oh, my stiff neck!), it was time for one last swim in the lake and then to head home. As we scratch our last mosquito bites, we are already planning our trip next year!

Adela Bishop and Pat Donato

Elementary School Field Trips: Volunteers Needed

A birding club is being organized at the Jefferson Primary School on Ada St. in Berkeley (near Hopkins and Gilman Streets) for students in kindergarten through third grade. The "early birders," known as the Chickadee Club, will have three levels of membership: **Chickadees** will have to be able to identify five local species and draw a picture of one; **Robins** will identify ten species and draw pictures of at least three; **Egrets** will identify fifteen species, draw color pictures of at least five, and choose one or more to research and describe in writing.

Egrets, and a related adult, will take one or more trips with me to nearby areas to find, photograph, and study birds.

While it doesn't seem like much of a challenge to identify five species of wild birds in Berkeley, for many children, especially those without strong adult support at home, it appears to be a daunting task. For this reason I would like to invite interested GGAS members to volunteer to take small groups of six to eight children who appear especially motivated on bird walks on school property during school hours. There may also be opportunities to take small groups of children, accompanied by adults, on walks after school or on



On July 17, Rich Stallcup, leading a pelagic trip to the Cordell Bank, an underwater seamount about 25 miles west of Point Reyes, spotted and identified this adult Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. The elegant, long-tailed bird, dark chocolate-brown at both ends and lighter gray-brown in the middle with a distinctive white crescent framing the back of the eye and a blue line on the bill, is at home in the cold waters around Antarctica, but is regularly found as far north as the offshore waters of Peru. This is the first time the species has been seen and identified in the Northern Hemisphere. Although there always will be questions about how this long-winged glider managed to make it through the relatively windless doldrums around the equator, this particular species is an inveterate ship-follower and it is not impossible to imagine it slip-streaming and feeding in the wake of a garbage-tossing ship heading north along the west coast of South and Central America. The albatross was first seen in flight, but it landed on the water and allowed the boat to approach within fifty feet, rendering the up-till-then garrulous passengers speechless with wonder and excitement. Trips to the same area over the next four days failed to turn-up the bird again.

photo by Rich Stallcup

weekends. The walks will be designed to help children discover how to identify the most common local birds.

I anticipate an ongoing need for volunteers throughout the year, with a most pressing need in the fall and winter.

If you're interested in helping to create these future ornithologists, the GGAS Education Committee is interested in hearing from you. To volunteer for this rewarding experience please call the GGAS office at (510) 843-2222.

*John Poole
Instructional Specialist
Jefferson Primary School*

Northern California Pelagic Trip

On Sunday, September 18, Mendocino Coast Audubon Society is sponsoring a pelagic trip to Vizcaino Knoll, 30 miles WNW of Fort Bragg. A trip in May to the same spot turned up thirty-two species of birds and ten species of mammals, including Sperm Whale. That area is not well-known to pelagic birders so there's tremendous potential for exciting discoveries.

To reserve a place on the trip, send a check for \$55, payable to "Mendocino Coast Audubon Society," to Dorothy Tobkin, 159 Jewett Street, Fort Bragg 95437.

Back Yard Birder

Meg Pauletich

Pardon the expression, but I'm "killing two birds with one stone," i.e., I needed a subject for this column at the same time my garden club asked me to prepare a program on gardening "for the birds." It was a coincidence that I had just re-landscaped an area next to our entry steps. Despite my husband's horror, I felt the juniper-clogged slope was dated and I hoped to neaten it as well as create an attractive, but deer- and drought-resistant entry. It looks lovely. We retained the mature trees and some large shrubs, but the area under the bird feeder is too exposed so I don't have the variety of species I formerly had. I'm quickly putting in some added cover. Not that I don't like doves, jays and pigeons -- I miss the towhees, four kinds of sparrows, the thrasher, wrens, juncos, chickadees, etc.

When landscaping for birds, you need to provide food (soft fruit and berries, nuts, seeds, and insects), water, cover from both predators and from the elements, areas in which to nest, and nesting materials. Planning for birds is much simpler than trying to replicate the gardens of Versailles. (Who needs a bed of 5000 tulips?) Birds actually prefer less formal and less tidy surroundings. If they could choose, they would prefer a variety of plants, both evergreen and deciduous, large and small, and trees as well as shrubs. E.g., in its nesting territory, a Chipping Sparrow needs an area on the ground to feed, shrubs in which to nest, and high treetops from which to sing. Bird tastes vary with the species, so to provide a banquet for all, you should have plants which produce fruit, berries, nuts, or seeds. Insect-eaters like plants that attract their favorites and ground feeders appreciate an area strewn with leaves. You could rake some leaves under some shrubs and by next spring you would have created a decomposed litter rich with worms and insects. So, don't be TOO neat. Forget about a garden with straight lines -- hedges and shrubs should meander along lawns and paths. Different birds like different perches. If you have vines, let them climb fences or your house -- birds love them.

Within the Bay Area, we have many mini-climatic conditions so your specific plants will vary, but here are a few general suggestions.

--Bluebirds, thrushes and waxwings enjoy holly, pyracantha, salal, sumac and mahonia for their berries

--Goldfinches, House Finches, and sparrows galore throng to birch trees, liquidamber, juniper and rosemary.

--Woodpeckers, White-breasted nuthatches, chickadees, titmice and warblers are attracted to hazels and oaks.

--Both warblers and hummingbirds find the blossoms and the attendant insects of eucalyptus irresistible. But this may be a mixed blessing as the sticky resin from the blossoms may clog the nasal openings on the bill, causing the birds to suffocate.

--Pigeons and many others like both the blossoms and the berries of the elderberry tree. It's a messy type, so locate it in the "back forty."

--Kinglets, chickadees, wrens, finches and Downy Woodpeckers will cling to sunflowers and thistles for food and fluffy nesting material

--Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets plus a host of other birds enjoy pine trees.

--Flickers adore ants and grubs on the ground and the lawn.

When landscaping for birds you need to provide food . . . , water, cover from both predators and from the elements, areas in which to nest, and nesting materials.

If you have a brush pile, a tree snag with cavities (oaks, maples, and sycamores), pine trees, cedars, and evergreen shrubs, your bird life will be glad for the cover they provide for nesting and for protection from weather. Among the grateful will be kinglets, vireos, wren-tits, thrushes, and all kinds of sparrows and finches.

Water for drinking and bathing is a must. It need not be an elaborate bird bath; an inverted garbage can lid full of water will do. Too bad our drought prevents leaving a slow drip from a hose -- birds are attracted to the sound of water. Birds also like dust bathing, so if you have a dry area, create a dust bathing spot.

Bird boxes for all sorts of species can be hung as suggested by the maker. You could house wrens, nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, swallows, bluebirds, woodpeckers, or kestrels . . . maybe even bats! They will snap up mosquitoes and other insects for you.

To attract those jeweled beauties, hummingbirds, try these flowers: bottlebrush, fuschia, honeysuckle, nasturtium, columbine, penstemon, salvia, and other bright flowers. Once you've attracted the hummers to your yard, you could hang a feeder where you can see it. Boil for 2 minutes 1/4 cup sugar and 1 cup water. Cool and fill feeder. Clean feeder and freshen weekly.

Check your library, The Nature Company, Avenue Books in Berkeley or Birds Unlimited for further reading. Then, plant, water, sit back and observe your very own nature preserve.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: MICHAEL ELLIS ON LIFE IN THE TIDEPPOOL

Thursday, September 8 7:30 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda
Berkeley

You've been waiting all summer for our program series to begin again, and we're off to a great start. Explore northern California's intertidal riches with marine biologist Michael Ellis at our September program in Berkeley.

In our tidepool journey, made possible through the magic of Kodak, we will visit one of the richest marine areas in the world, our very own coastline. The central California coast is home to whales; to harbor seals, elephant seals, and sea lions that haul up along the shore; and to over 47 species of seabirds in the offshore waters. But the tidepools are the real jewels . . . brittle stars, chitons, leather stars, red urchins, moon snails, sea palms, nudibranchs, octopuses, sponges, tunicates, crabs, bull kelp, and tubeworms. We'll discover the remarkable adaptations these organisms have evolved in order to live in that dynamic and demanding interface of land and sea.

Michael Ellis leads natural history trips and is a regular contributor to KQED-FM's Perspective Series. One description of him goes: "Start with an encyclopedic knowledge of all the sciences, especially botany, biology, and entomology; add the ability to articulate this knowledge rapid-fire in lay terms, laced with humorous anecdotes; add an endless energy supply; add rapport with young and old; add genuine love of nature and teaching ... Michael combines all these ingredients to enthuse people about nature."

GGAS will also present Conservation Awards to chapter member Dan Murphy, reporter Glen Martin and U. S. Congressman Don Edwards at this meeting (see article on cover).

This should be a convivial and entertaining evening. Please join us!

ROSTER

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5 species of loon have been seen in California

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Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue
Suite G
Berkeley, California 94702
Phone: (510) 843-2222
Fax: (510) 843-5351

Office Hours:
Tues.- Fri. 9-12, 1-4

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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