



The Avocet

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

June 1990

A Quilt to Save the Ancient Forest

Legal costs for trying to save the fast-disappearing, irreplaceable, old-growth forests in northern California and the Northwest are staggering. National Audubon and Sierra Club have made saving old growth forests a top priority issue. A group of ten quilters have spent a year designing and making a 6' x 8' quilt that depicts the big trees, and other flora and fauna in this ecosystem. The quilt is the top prize in a drawing to be held June 23 in Mendocino County. Other prizes are available too. To support this effort, send a check made payable to SC Quilt Project and ask to have the tickets sent to you or made out in your name. Suggested donation for tickets is \$2 each. For more information, call (415) 843-2222 or write Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #1078, Berkeley, CA 94702.

June Membership Meeting & Annual Potluck Dinner

Please join us on Wednesday, June 20 for the annual potluck dinner, to be held at the home of Lynn and Martha Hunton, 25600 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills. Beginning at 6 pm, meet for hors d'oeuvres, dinner and a short program. Birdathon winners will be announced, and prizes awarded to all Birdathon counters.

All SCVAS members are encouraged to attend. If you have never been to an annual dinner, it is VERY informal and a fun way to meet and mingle with fellow SCVAS members.

We will have a feast, to which you may contribute:

A-G Main Dish	M-Q Hors D'oeuvres
H-L Salad	R-Z Dessert

Please bring serving utensils. SCVAS will provide liquid refreshments, plates, flatware, etc. If you have questions, or need directions, please call the office at (415) 329-1811.

Protect Nesting and Migrating Birds

Please help with the problem of unleashed dogs in marshes. The problem is evident at all marshes where there is public access: loose dogs flushing birds, disrupting feeding and resting activities. The impact is a particular concern in spring, because it is both nesting season and migratory season for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Migration is a critical time for migrants. They must have adequate feeding and resting habitats along the route, if they are to reach their northern breeding grounds in optimum condition to breed successfully. Shorebirds are particularly vulnerable. Because of their high rate of metabolism, shorebirds must feed at every opportunity, and their opportunities are limited when mudflats are exposed at low tide. Every time a bird is flushed it has to use up energy - energy that is important to its survival and the survival of the species.

Contact your local Humane Society whenever you see dogs running loose in a marsh, mudflat, or other water habitat, especially if the dogs are harassing wildlife.
--Excerpted from The Redwood Log of Marin

Chapter News

Birdathon a Success (Again!)

This year's NAS/SCVAS Birdathon fundraiser was a big success, thanks to the chapter's 10 teams and the hundreds of sponsors who pledged their support. The final total of funds raised was not available at press time, but it looks like we'll hit the \$7000 mark again, with proceeds to be split among NAS Old Growth Forest campaign, Coyote Creek Riparian Station, the Santa Clara County Burrowing Owl Census, and our own chapter projects. Thanks to all who participated as counters and sponsors. SCVAS would like to pay special recognition to the those individuals who made contributions of \$50 or more for their generous patronage. The following individuals' names were available at press time.

Joyce Bartlett, Lorraine Bazan, Chip and Jane Becker-Haven, David and Debby Beatty, Roy and Jean Cameron, Eve Case, John Delevoryas, Harriet Gerson, Pat Grange, H.T. Harvey, Tott Heffelfinger, Grant and Karen Hoyt, Dorothy Hunt, Linda Johnson, Pete LaTourrette, Dick Lee, Jim and Sue Liskovec, Esther and Martin Litton, Mike Mammoser, Catharine Maxwell, Becca and Jim McCracken, Dick and Fran Mewaldt, Trish and Jim Mulvey, Arlys and Bill Oesterling, Julie Phillips, Armin Ramel, Mike Rigney, Lyle and Irv Schump, Theresa Serafini, Mary Smith, Genny and Ward Smith.

Staff Fundraiser Onboard

SCVAS has hired Trish Mulvey on a part-time basis to work on fundraising for the chapter. Trish is a former Board member who is actively involved with several conservation-oriented

groups, both locally and nationally. She brings an extensive knowledge of environmental issues and a great deal of enthusiasm to this newly-created staff position, and hopes to use her skills to significantly increase gifts and donations to the chapter in the coming year. Volunteers interested in assisting Trish are welcome, and are encouraged to call the SCVAS office for further information.

Welcome to The New Avocet Editor

Jim Schwertman is stepping down as editor of the *Avocet* as of this issue. In the past year Jim has used his considerable expertise on the Macintosh computer to streamline the publication of our newsletter and has done an outstanding job. Jim and his wife are leaving the Bay Area for the Sierra foothills to pursue new career opportunities. Best of luck to the Schwertmans and thanks, Jim, for a job well done!

Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers will be the new *Avocet* editor in the fall. She has vast experience as an editor. She currently produces the NASA Ames Research Center Central Computer Facility Newsletter. Aside from desktop publishing, she also has experience designing and producing brochures and manuals. We're very lucky to have her.—Grant Hoyt

Science Fair Award Winners

Each year, SCAVS presents awards for outstanding displays at the Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair. This year's winners are: Mark Lepori, Bernal Intermediate School for "What Types Of Food Do Birds of Prey

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General meetings are open to the public. Board of Directors meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (415) 329-1811 for times and directions.

The Avocet is published monthly (except for July and August) by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Deadline is the first Monday of each month. Send contributions to the editor, Marilyn Kjellen-Rogers, c/o SCVAS at the above address.

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Eat?", Kimberly Roth, Live Oak High School for "Rainforest Moisture Cycle". Winner's receive copies of the Field Guide of their choice, and a years subscription to the *Avocet*. Congratulations!

Seasonal Wetlands Discovery Program

Last summer, SCVAS hired Carol Verbeck, a teacher, writer and illustrator to design and imple-

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June 1990 Calendar

On all field trips CARPOOL and share expenses. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothing, lunch (optional on half-day trips) and liquids. If you can provide or need transportation, call Gail Cheeseman (408) 741-5330.

**** Denotes Field Trip**

****Sun, June 3, 8 AM**

Smith Creek

Leader: Alan Thomas (408) 265-9286
Directions: Meet at the Smith Creek Fire Station on Mt. Hamilton Rd 4.5 miles past Grant Ranch. Lunch opt., no facilities. Bring munchies and water. Beginners welcome. Moderate hiking 3-4 miles. Highlights: A good variety of woodland and riparian species.

Wed, June 6, 7:30 PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Baylands Interpretive Center @ the East end of Embarcadero, Palo Alto, Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto, Open Spaces & Sciences Division. Louis Tam and Doug Cheeseman will present a combined program on natural history of Indonesia and Malaysia.

****Sat, June 9, 8 AM**

Rancho Del Oso

Leader: Lion Baumgartner (408) 423-6381
Directions: Meet at the Nature Center 1/4 mile east of Hwy 1 at Waddell Creek, 2 miles S. of Ano Nuevo State Reserve. Bring lunch and water. Easy walking of 3 miles. Full day. Highlights: Breeding birds of coastal and redwood habitats.

****Sun, June 10, 9AM**

Beginners Trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. Half-day. Emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds.

Tues., June 12, 9:30 am.

Bird Discussion Group

At the home of Steve and Elwyn Dorman, 15086 Becky Lane, Los Gatos. (408) 395-5309. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. All members are invited to attend these monthly meetings. This month will feature birding instead of a discussion. Call for details and directions.

****Wed., June 13, 9:30 AM**

South Co. Field Trip, S half of Stevens Creek Park

Leader: Gail Cheeseman (408) 867-1371
Directions: Meet at the picnic area near Camp Costanoan, at 13851 Stevens Canyon Rd. just past the intersection with Mt. Eden Rd.

Wed, June 20, 6 PM

General membership meeting

Annual potluck dinner. All members welcome! Please see article on page 1.

****Sat-Mon, June 23-25 (Mon. opt.)**

Mono Basin and Yosemite National Park

Leaders: Paul Noble (408) 949-1743 & Grant Hoyt (415) 969-7892
Meet Saturday morning at South Tufa Reserve on Mono Lake at 8 AM.
Directions: To reach Mono Lake, take Hwy 120 east from Manteca through Yosemite NP. At Hwy. 395 head south and then continue east on 120. 6 miles east of 395 turn left to South Tufa Reserve. Suggest participants arrive on Friday because it is 6 1/2 hours from the Bay Area. Highlights: Black-billed Magpie, Gray Flycatcher, Pinon Jay, and Common Poorwill in Lee Vining Canyon and possibly Lundy Lake. On Sunday, will see Rosy Finch, Blue Grouse, Clark's Nutcracker and other High Sierra Birds. On Monday, at Bridalveil, will see Great Gray Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker and Pine Grosbeak. Camping available in Lee Vining and Lundy. Motels available in Lee Vining.

****Sun., July 1, 8 AM**

Alum Rock Park

Leader: Dave Johnston (408) 867-7278
Directions: Meet at YSI. \$3 entrance fee. Bring water. Half-day. Beginners welcome. Will see Grosbeaks, Orioles, etc.

****Sun., July 8, 9AM**

Beginners trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: Rod Norden (408) 255-3033
Directions: Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. Half-day. Emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds.

****Sun., August 12, 9 AM**

Beginners trip to Charleston Slough

Leader: Dick Stovel (415) 856-6105
Directions: Meet at the east end of San Antonio Rd. Half-day. Emphasis on waterfowl and shorebirds.

****Sat., August 25, 8AM**

San Mateo County Coast

Leader: Audrey Stoye (408) 249-2108 & Betty Wyatt (408) 255-6091
Directions: Take Hwy 84 W to Hwy 1 then S to Pescadero. Or take Hwy 1 N 30 miles from Santa Cruz. Meet at parking area at NW corner of Hwy 1 and Pescadero Rd. Bring lunch. Will see migrant shorebirds.

Non-Audubon Events

- Doug and Gail Cheeseman with the expert help of Rod Norden and Allen Royer will lead a pelagic trip in Monterey Bay, Sat. Sept. 15, a great time for Blue Whales and migrant seabirds, as well as resident marine mammals and birds, 7:45 am - 3 pm., \$40. Please make reservations early. Call Doug and Gail at 408-741-5330.

- The Youth Science Institute is offering Science Camp in Sanborn-Skyline Park, Saratoga (just 3 miles from downtown Saratoga). Camp begins June 18. To sign up or for more information call (408) 867-6940. Sign-ups are due May 9.

- The Sixth Annual Field Recording Workshop by the Nature Sounds Society, June 15-17 at the San Francisco State University Field Station at Yuba Pass. \$120 NSS members. \$130 non-members.

- July 7. Burrowing Owl Walk @ Mission College in Santa Clara. There should be many adults and chicks to see. The College is just off Hwy 101, take the Great America exit to Mission College Blvd. Will meet at flagpole at 9 am. Call the SCVAS at (415) 329-1811 or Janice Taylor at (408) 336-3289. Everyone is welcome.

- Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops, sponsored by several Audubon chapters, will be held in the Sierra from July 29 through August 18. These are informal natural history programs with naturalist-led hikes. The camp is in the Golden Trout Wilderness, which is on the east side of the High Sierra at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Cost for the sessions are \$195

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Field Notes

By Bill Bousman

Waterfowl

American White Pelicans have been in the vicinity of Charleston Slough and Crittenden Marsh in April with numbers up to about 40 (m.ob.). This repeats the pattern of a small, overwintering flock of recent years. **Green-backed Heron** records away from Los Gatos Creek include singles east of San Antone Jct. 20

Apr (CB), in the Mountain View Forebay 22 Apr (MJM), and in the middle of Milpitas 25 Apr (KP). Nesting is suspected for

all of these birds. Wintering **Canada Geese** have left the area so four birds at Grant Lake 20-21 Apr (CB, WGB) and two over the San Antonio Valley 27 Apr (WGB) are apparently part of an expanding residential population. **Wood Duck** have been found in many areas of past occurrence with four along Coyote Creek on Gilroy Hot Springs Road 30 Mar (JAC), a male at Chesbro Res. 18 Apr (MFe), four birds in a pond east of San Antone Jct. 20-21 Apr (CB, WGB) and another four further south in San Antonio Valley 27 Apr (WGB). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** along lower Coyote Creek 19 Apr (EG et al.) are in an area where they may nest. **Common Merganser** is a rare breeding species in the county so 15 at Calero Res. 30 Mar (JAC) and 3 over Monte Bello OSP 29 Apr (MJM, GHt, DS) are of interest.

Raptors

An **Osprey** at Charleston Slough 14 Apr (JW) was the only report this month. Four **Red-shouldered Hawks** in Halls Valley

21 Apr (JAC, EF) are at the eastern edge of their breeding range in the county. West-side **Golden Eagles** include a sub-adult at Monte Bello OSP 18 Mar (MJM), one on the Pajaro River at Hwy 101 1 Apr (GHt), and a bird at Santa Teresa CP 28-29 Apr (MJM, PLN). Late **Merlin** include a male richardsoni in Mountain View 9 and 17 Apr, a different male richardsoni at

Moffett Field 12 Apr, and a very late bird at Shoreline Lake 29 Apr (all MRO). The last record is the latest winter record I have for the county.

A **Peregrine Falcon** at Charleston Slough 20 Apr (JW) is also of interest.

Plovers to Swifts

Four **Snowy Plover** on a census on the Knapp property north of Alviso 22 Apr (MJM) were in an area where they are found regularly. A **Greater Roadrunner** calling at the south end of Anderson Res. 26 Apr (EC) was a good find. **Northern Pygmy-Owl** heard in Mt. Madonna CP 18 Apr and in two areas near Los Gatos 22 Apr (all MFe) were all from areas where we expect this rare owl. A **Long-eared Owl** was found again at Monte Bello OSP 29 Apr (MJM, GHt, DS). Three early **Vaux's Swifts** were over the San Antonio Valley 20 Apr (CB, WGB) and Los Gatos 26 Apr (MFe).

Hummingbirds to Phoebe

The spring movements of hummingbirds continue to be of interest. A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen at CCRS 29 Apr (MJM, GHt, DS) and one

was banded there 2 May. A **Calliope Hummingbird** was banded there on 30 Apr as well. Thirty-five **Rufous Hummingbirds** have been banded at CCRS from 16 Mar-24 Apr and this is a close match with observer reports from Los Gatos to the San Antonio Valley. Six **Lewis' Woodpeckers** in five hours of atlasing in the San Antonio Valley 27 Apr (WGB) suggests that breeding birds have returned following their winter absence. Two nests of **Say's Phoebe** were found there the same day. This species is a rare breeder in the Diablo Range.

Nuthatches to Phainopepla

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** along San Francisquito Creek above Middlefield 25 Apr (MFe et al.) was one of the few winter movements noted this year. A bird at Skyline Ridge OSP 29 Apr (MJM, GHt, DS) was in a known breeding location. **Rock Wren** have been found in scattered locations throughout the Diablo Range (m.ob.), but two noted in Santa Teresa CP 28 Apr (MJM, PLN) were on the edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. **Canyon Wren** found in Alum Rock Park in March were still there 14-29 Apr (MRO, CB, WGB, MJM, GHt, DS). A **Winter Wren** banded at CCRS 4 Apr is from the wintering population. A male **Phainopepla** in San Antonio Valley 27 Apr was in expected location, but two males and two females in a flock(?) flying over Bell Station Road south of Coe Park 1 May are hard to explain (all WGB).

Warblers to Finches

The leafing of oaks and hatch of insect larvae in the Diablo Range sometimes favor large concentrations of migrating warblers. Although much smaller than the exceptional concentration noted last year, mixed-species flocks on the west side of Mt. Hamilton 21 Apr (CB et al.) contained seven species

**Mixed-species
Migrant Flocks Again
Clothe the Slopes of
Mt. Hamilton**

of warblers, two vireos, and lazuli buntings. The flocks were dominated by *Townsend's* and *Yellow-rumped Warblers*, but contained at least two *Nashville Warblers* and an estimated 10-20 *Hermit Warblers*. Other reports of rare migrant warblers include two Nashvilles at the Dowdy Ranch in Henry Coe SP 19 Apr (CB), one banded at CCRS 22 Apr, a singing male Hermit on Felter Road 21 Apr (MRo), and a *MacGillivray's Warbler* banded at CCRS 1 May.

A Grasshopper Sparrow south of Henry Coe SP 1 May (WGB) was the first report of the year for this rare grassland sparrow. Spring movement of *White-throated Sparrows* was noted with one at a Los Altos feeder 24 Mar-5 Apr (GHt) and one banded at CCRS 4 Apr. *Lawrence's Goldfinches* have been widely reported in the Diablo Range (m.ob) with two nests found in the San Antonio Valley 27 Apr (WGB).

Observers: Clark Blake (CB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jack Cole (JAC), Emelie Curtis (EC), Mike Feighner (MFe), Ed Frost (EF), Ed Gustafson (EG), Grant Hoyt (GHt), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Paul Noble (PLN), Kay Portillo (KP), Mike Rogers (MRo), Dick Stovel (DS), Jim White (JW)

The breeding season is in full swing now. If you find any species nesting locally call Roy Cameron (408-867-6632) or myself so we can record your observation for the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas. For rarities in the county please drop a note or call: Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 415-322-5282.

Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count

The Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count will be held on Saturday, June 9th this year. The same count circle (divided into eight regions) is used as on the Christmas bird

Count, but there are no fees as the results are not published in American Birds.

If you wish to participate in a particular region, contact the Region Leader directly. Otherwise, contact Clark Blake or Bill Bousman.

Region Leaders are: One and Two-Bill Bousman 415-322-5282; Three-Clark Blake 415-747-0601; Four-Phyllis Browning 415-494-6360; Five Jane Becker-Haven 415-321-0776; Six-Ruth Troetschler 415-948-4142; Seven-Gloria Heller 415-851-2356; Eight-Clark Blake 415-747-0601.

Computers Used To Track Rare Critters

The Natural Diversity data Base(NDDDB), a program within the Department of Fish and Game's Natural Heritage Division, has been keeping track of California's most uncommon and threatened plants and animals. It is about to become one of the most powerful such programs in the Western United States.

Information collected on these "species-at-risk" is used by the DFG to help find California's most significant natural areas-so that these lands can be properly recognized and protected.

Developers use the information to avoid or minimize damage to these sensitive areas. Counties use the data in their planning efforts. The NDDDB program also works closely with conservation organizations in both the private and public sectors. The data is very useful to these groups when planning land acquisition and area management.

A new on-line system known as Geographic Information System(GIS), brings many new capabilities to the NDDDB. It is composed of "GENAMAP" and "ORACLE" software operating on

a Hewlett-Packard Series 9000 mini-computer.

The acquisition and implementation of this powerful GIS brings the department to the forefront of the conservation community in California and the western United States.

San Francisco Bay Part of WHSRN

San Francisco Bay received worldwide ecological recognition today as the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Calif Dept. of Fish and Game, Calif. Dept. of Parks and Wildlife, East Bay Regional Park District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, City of Mountain View and the National Audubon Society joined for dedication of the San Francisco Estuary as a Hemispheric Site, part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) provides voluntary recognition of important shorebird habitat. It is composed of sites spread across the hemisphere that are identified by researchers as critical to shorebird migration.

Migrating shorebirds concentrate in great numbers in a few essential and irreplaceable locations along their flyways, at times with large percentages of the entire populations at a single place. The San Francisco Estuary is one of these sites. According to Point Reyes Bird Observatory Bay Census data, gathered by more than four hundred Bay area volunteers over the last 3 years, San Francisco Estuary provides critical habitat for more than one million shorebirds.

The S.F. Estuary joins Delaware Bay, the Bay of Fundy, the entire coast of Suriname, Stillwater/Lahontan Valley wetlands in Nevada, Copper River Delta in Alaska, Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas and Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina as WHSRN sites.

Environmental Action News

Native Forests Conference

Thank You!!!

Thanks are extended to all the volunteers who worked hard to make the Forest Conference a success. Special thanks are extended to co-chairs Gail Cheeseman, Nancy Doty, and Lynn Tennefoss as well as to Verl Clausen, Karen Zahorik, Cecily Harris and the many other volunteers staffing the co-sponsors' and registration tables on the day of the event. Without them the conference could not have been possible. Thanks also to all the Conference co-sponsors.

Innovative Conservation Campaigns

A May conference on the Native Forests of the Americas at Stanford University turned out to be an ideal habitat for a decidedly thrilling and varied species, what we might call "Audubonus Concer-nus." Conservationists, biologists and representatives of more than 40 citizen action groups and organizations gathered for reports on the state of our native forests and efforts to preserve them.

While one set of workshops gave overviews of the current situation, others described innovative conservation efforts that involve everyone from classes of school children in Sweden to attorneys capable of using laws for the public and planetary good. Although the situation is clearly alarming, the variety of responses is encouraging.

At one of the workshops, Pam Wellner of the Rainforest Action Network gave a succinct, impressive summary of her organization's capacity to rally public support, including their successful nationwide boycott of Burger King's beef

imported from Costa Rica. Norman Gershenz, of the San Francisco Zoological Society, described innovative ways for zoo professionals to work with Nature Conservancy and other groups to enlarge the vision and involvement of the country's many zoo visitors. Zoos don't have the space or resources to save or protect all the world's endangered species, he pointed out; but they can build awareness and support for programs such as "Adopt an Acre." Stephen Volker, attorney of Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, subtitled his remarks as "101 ways to skin a bureaucrat." Sierra Club and others have had great success pressing for enforcement of laws already on the books, in an effort to require state and federal agencies to protect the lands entrusted to them. His conclusion could be echoed by many other conference participants: "Thank God for the constitution and an independent judiciary."

Environmental Federation Offers Choices

The Environmental Federation of California, through its member groups, is purchasing and preserving open space, planting trees, and cleaning up the air and water and lobbying for a healthy ocean and for all things natural, wild and free. As a participant in EFC, SCVAS receives donations to support our conservation and education programs by payroll deductions from concerned individuals.

If you would like more choice and the opportunity to contribute, through payroll deduction, to SCVAS and other organizations working to protect the environment, you can help by asking SCVAS Development Coordinator Trish Mulvey (415) 326-0252 to contact your employer. Trish is available to meet with the representative of any

**Ten Minute
Activist**
YOU can make a difference

Help Save The Desert And Its Wildlife

Now is the time for action on behalf of desert protection! The U.S. House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands has held three congressional field hearings on HR 780, the California Desert Protection Act. The last of these hearings took place on February 10, in Los Angeles. The hearings have been highly successful and have proven to the public and Congress that there is broad public support for the bill. The act will:

- Establish the nation's 51st national park, the 1.5 million acre Mojave National Park, east of Barstow.
- Expand the boundaries of Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and make both national parks.
- Preserve 4.5 million acres of Calif. desert in 81 separate areas of wilderness.
- Transfer 20,500 acres of spectacular scenery and critical habitat to Red Rock Canyon State Park.
- Protect two special botanical areas, the 1,920-acre Desert Lily Sanctuary and 490 acres in the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs.

Please write your Congressman, let him or her know you support the bill and why. Write to: The Honorable_____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Include your feelings, your reasons and your arguments in support of HR 780. Desert experiences add a special touch to your letter.

company with at least 100 employees in California who might be interested in the benefits to their organization and their employees.

Fishing For The Future

Because of the increasing pressure on marine ecosystems and the woeful lack of protection for fish populations, Audubon is expanding its environmental policy analysis program to include fisheries management issues. Many will agree, marine fishery conservation is decades behind on-land conservation policies. "We still think of most fish as only being a commodity of some economic value or a commodity of some recreational value," says Dr. Carl Safina, Audubon research and policy ecologist. "And we don't think of fish in the ocean as the wild animal populations that they are. Fish need to be managed as wildlife populations, not as commodities." Currently there is virtually no biologically based management in effect for ocean systems. There has not been a great deal of detailed research conducted on population dynamics of ocean-going fish, but it is clear that many fish populations are declining. "What we know is enough to make management better than what it is."

The Atlantic coast-wide emergency management plan for striped bass is a good example, says Safina, of how investing in research and management can turn a problem around. Similar to other species of fish that are declining, many striped bass were being killed before they had a chance to reach reproductive age, thus robbing the population of spawning adults. Biological research on striped bass helped determine at a critical time why the fish were becoming scarcer and what could be done about it. The federal government acted by imposing size limits on catches, applied to commercial fishermen as well as sportfishermen. Federal biologists also worked to protect the last strong year-class of spawning stripers so as to ensure their survival to reproductive age. "Striped bass management," says Safina, "serves as a good model for

the kinds of programs that we need for other species."

Currently, fisheries management is administered by the Department of Commerce. However, the Commerce Dept. is not well-oriented to deal with the uniqueness of fisheries: It is our only major food source whose supply is dependent on natural reproduction in a wild environment. The fact that fish are wild animals makes their management needs fundamentally different from agriculture or domestic animal production, which are more appropriate concerns for the Commerce Dept. Since overfishing can induce collapse of the resource—as has happened or is happening with cod, swordfish, redfish, bluefin tuna, and others—fishery management, unlike agriculture and livestock raising, demands that factors beyond mere market forces be considered.

To remedy some of the inequities inherent with the current system, Safina recommends that: 1) Fishery management plans be developed for all recreationally and economically important fish; and 2) Administration of fishery management be transferred from the Commerce Dept. to the Dept. of Interior, within the Fish and Wildlife Service so that management decisions can be directed by biologists. Safina believes that the fundamental criteria used for management of fish populations must change. Only by de-emphasizing politics and economics, and by focusing primarily on the biological capability of fish populations to withstand fishing pressure, can healthy fish populations (and the commerce and recreation that they support), be maintained into the long term.

Dr. Carl Safina is a research and policy ecologist based at Audubon's Scully Science Center, 306 South Bay Ave., Islip, NY 11751; (516) 277-4289. (Reprinted from the Audubon Science Quarterly)

Sea Turtles Still in Peril

All Audubon members are urged to write to their senators and representatives now, asking for strong and continued support for the TED Amendment, as the shrimp industry is once again on the warpath. Flagrant violations of the law have been occurring without any sort of action on the part of the government, mostly due to shrimp industry influence, threats of severe violence, and a very anti-conservationist Secretary of Commerce who is willing to sacrifice the survival of species for a few dollars.

To refresh your memory, the TED Amendment is part of the Endangered Species Act and passed early in 1986 but due to shrimp industry lobbying was not put into effect until late 1989. Now that shrimping season is beginning, the Gulf Coast politicians are trying once again to repeal the TED

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Register Now for the 1990 International Open Space Conference!

September 22-26, 1990
Palo Alto, California

For elected officials, managers, staff professionals, volunteers, and others involved in the preservation, acquisition, and management of open space lands.

Reserve your place now. Participation limited to the first 400 registrations.

Hosted by:
Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
201 San Antonio Circle, C-135
Mountain View, CA 94040
(415) 949-3564

Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
415 Cambridge Ave., #21
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 5869

Non-Audubon Events

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for adults, with lower fees for children. Deadline for reservations is July 5. For further information, contact: Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373.

- Klamath Basin Raptors. Falcons, eagles and hawks and owls can all be seen in great profusion on this trip. From a camp site in Modoc National Forest, Lava Beds National Monument, Tule Lake, and lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges will be explored. Canoeing, camping and communing with raptors will occur. Contact: Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Field Trips Program, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. (415) 826-8459.

- Hawks of Southeastern Arizona. Many species of hawks, owls, nightjars, hummingbirds not seen in California. Trip visits the Sonoran desert, Chiricahuas, Huachucas, Ramsey Canyon, Aravipa Canyon and Madera Canyon. Fee: \$200. Call Fran McDermott at the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory for more information at (415) 826-8459.

- Day and weekend trips to a wide variety of bird habitats is being

offered by Sunbeam Ecology Explorations. Destinations include Yosemite, coastal areas, and Skyline Ridge. For further info and fees, call Maryann Danielson @ 415-325-9349. Reservations req.

Discovery Program

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ment a pilot program for 4th and 5th graders on the value of seasonal wetlands. Three San Jose schools (six classrooms) participated by visiting a seasonal wetland in Sunnyvale in the fall and spring. Each field trip followed an hour and a half introductory lesson taught in the six classrooms by Carol utilizing a variety of materials she had prepared. Following the second trip in March, the students were asked to evaluate and comment on what they had learned.

Report Granted Now Available In Office

A SCVAS grant that supported a study by Craig S. Strong on Bird Use of the Moss Landing Wildlife Management Area is now available in the SCVAS office.

Turtles

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Amendment, which is weakened because of lack of policing and non collection of fine dues from violators. This is a shameless attempt to thwart the scientifically documented benefits of the TED net, which East Coast shrimpers have used voluntarily for years for financially beneficial reasons. The waste of 12,000 sea turtles each year that drown in shrimp nets and the 1.5 billion pounds of finfish that become entangled and also drown is a tragedy. This inexpensive self-operating TED net is an excellent example of something that can and should be done.

Concerned conservationists should not delay as the shrimp industry is now fighting the TED Amendment. In addition to writing your senators and representatives, write letters in support of sea turtle conservation to Mr. John Sununu, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20006.

If you would like more information about sea turtle conservation measures, contact: Cynthia Gaya, HEART(Help Endangered Animals Ridley Turtles) @ (415) 856-1257.

DONATIONS - SCVAS welcomes gifts in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. All gifts and donations are tax deductible.

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