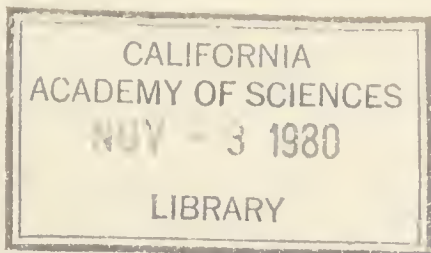


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Volume 62

Berkeley, Calif.

November 1980

Number 10

Galapagos—The Unique Experience

Nowhere in the world can birds be studied and photographed at such close range as in the famed Galapagos Islands off Ecuador. The tameness and abundance of birds and reptiles are legendary. Breeding birds diversity is unmatched and the 27 endemic bird species include the Darwin's Finches that provided key evidence for his theory of evolution. Equally fascinating are the Marine Iguanas and other lizards, crabs, marine mammals and the great tortoises for which the archipelago is named.

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey, who is preparing to return to the Galapagos as leader of a low-cost tour in December, will describe this superlative wildlife experience at the November general membership meeting. Included will be identification tips for storm-petrels, boobies and frigatebirds that can reach California.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Bring a friend; these meetings are open to all.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, November 8—Bodega Bay. Meet at 9 a.m. in the Tides Restaurant upper parking lot in the town of Bodega Bay. If you wish to carpool, meet at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H. The terminal is just east of the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. exit from Hwy. 101. Because the leader will meet the group in Bodega, carpoolers should make their own arrangements. They should leave the ferry terminal by 7:45

a.m. From Hwy. 101 in Petaluma, take the Bodega Bay exit and drive west to the coast. We'll look for Rock Sandpipers, Red-necked Grebes, scoters and shorebirds. Bring lunch, scope and clothes appropriate for inclement weather. Leader: Betty Burrige (707-527-0225). (✓)

Wednesday, November 12—Lake Merritt, Oakland. Mini trip to see the wintering fowl. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Rotary Science building at the north end of the lake. Bring scopes. Rain will cancel trip. Lunch optional. Leader: Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, November 15—Beginners' trip to Golden Gate Park. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking lot by Middle Lake just north of the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to the Park. We will bird in the vicinity of the Chain of Lakes, the Buffalo Paddock and Spreckels Lake. Because this trip is for beginners we will concentrate on identifying ducks and other species common to the Park. Leaders: Shirley and Michael Kelly (387-8290).

Sunday, November 16—Briones Regional Park. Meet at **8:15 a.m.** at the second parking lot at the Bear Creek Rd. entrance. From Hwy. 24 take Orinda exit and turn left onto Camino Pablo. Go north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (Briones Park sign), turn right and drive four miles east to the park entrance. Carry lunch and liquids for a five mile hike. The terrain is somewhat hilly. We should see many of the common wintering birds of the interior areas of the East Bay. Leader: Pete White (229-1714).

Sunday, November 23—Corte Madera Marsh. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking area across the street from the trailer court just south of the Lucky Drive Exit from Hwy. 101. This exit is just south of the Sir Francis Drake/Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Bring a scope, lunch and liquids. Rubber boots may also be desirable. We should see ducks, wading birds, shorebirds and perhaps Short-eared Owls. Leader: Bob Hirt (383-5337).

Thursday, November 27—Traditional Thanksgiving Outing to Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at **10 a.m.** at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters at Olema. We will have a leisurely day of birding and hiking in the headquarters area and Limantour Natural Area. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds.

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The day will end with the Thanksgiving dinner (\$7+) at Jerry's Farmhouse in the town of Olema. Bring a light lunch, scope and clothes for cool and windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (454-2769) between 6 and 9 p.m. (✓)

Saturday, December 13—Reforestation Golden Gate Park. Golden Gate Park in San Francisco has provided generations of GGAS members with endless hours of birding experiences. *The Gull* was born while two of our members birded at Middle Lake in 1919. Since then, a year has not passed when GGAS did not have at least one field trip to the Park. Recently we have used it for four to six field trips per year. A compilation of field trip lists for our first 25 years indicated that Golden Gate Park produced more species of birds than any other site visited by GGAS field trips. The forests of the park are presently threatened. It is estimated that the Monterey Pines and Monterey Cypress which dominate those forests have reached the end of their life spans. As the trees have not reproduced naturally the forests must be replanted during the next 20 years.

On December 13, GGAS will help plant trees which will be the backbone of the Park into the 21st century. Join this conservation activity in our own community. The four-hour project will begin with a training session in the park nursery. From there we will carpool to a site in the park and plant trees. Bring gloves, lunch and liquids.

There is a limit of 30 participants for this trip. Register before the November 21 deadline by contacting the GGAS office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley (843-2222.) We need your name, address, phone number and the number of participants in your group.

Saturday/Sunday, December 13-14—Sacramento and Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges. On Saturday meet at 9 a.m. in parking lot #14 at Gray Lodge. Approach via Hwy. 99 and follow the signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. On Sunday meet at 8 a.m. at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge headquarters seven miles south of Willows. We plan to get together for dinner in Willows on Saturday night. There is a state park campground in Colusa. For those wishing to stay in a motel, the Blue Gum in Willows (916-934-5401) is suggested. From the Bay Area drive east on I-80 to I-505 in Vacaville, take I-505 to I-5 and drive north to Willows for lodging or turn off sooner for the refuges. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for the valley in December. Leaders: Dolores and Peter White (229-1714). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked ✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9853 (Richmond) and leave a message *during the*

day until 5:30 p.m. (including weekends). She will contact you. Please, no phone calls after 5:30 p.m. as this is an evening business phone.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Dan Murphy (564-0074) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

September Observations —Through September 24

Due to the continual coastal overcast and calm to light winds, this month began as if it would be our best ever for vagrants. September 13 was clear and windy, after which unsettled weather belatedly became Indian Summer. During this period vagrant landbird numbers dropped to a steady trickle and attention was diverted by rare shorebirds.

WATERBIRDS

As has been noted occasionally in the past, huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters were rafting in the Golden Gate Sept. 1 (MLR). Although the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock was still small (about 800) on Sept. 17 it included a Wilson's Storm-Petrel (RS, *et al.*). The fall's first Cattle Egrets were two by Inverness Park Sept. 2 (BF, *et al.*). The Least Bittern flushed from the marsh at Drakes Beach Sept. 18 (RS, *et al.*) was certainly a pleasant surprise. If it did not summer locally the Whistling Swan at Lagoon Creek Impoundment, Manchester Beach, Sept. 1 (JP, BDP, KVV) was exceedingly early. Both female (Sept. 7) and male (Sept. 13) Harlequin Ducks visited SE Farallon (PRBO).

The bird of the month was unquestionably the juvenal **Mongolian Plover** found on the Moss Landing salt ponds Sept. 13 (CD, DD) and seen there daily to Sept. 18 (JD, mob). Most, but not all, of California's leading listers saw this first state record. It is only a matter of time before all rare Alaskan shorebirds stray to California. Mongolian Plover had been found as close as Oregon. A Wandering Tattler was seen again on Sept. 5 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds (DE, JF, FH). Three more Semipalmated Sandpipers were identified, two at Limantour Sept. 18 (RS, *et al.*) and another at Bodega Bay Sept. 20 (EH). Photographs document a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at the Gualala River Mouth Sept. 1-3 (TC, ZC). A veritable wave of **Ruffs** found our salt ponds and shores, beginning with a male beside the Dumbarton Bridge Toll Plaza Sept. 1 (HJ). Individuals of unreported sex followed at Drakes Beach Sept. 6 (DT) and Año Nuevo Point Sept. 6-14 (AH, SCAS). A male was

at Limantour from Sept. 14 (JE, mob) and possibly a different Ruff (female?) was there Sept. 18 (RS, *et al.*), with probably the male present to Sept. 21 (EM). Finally, a female inhabited the Mongolian Plover pond at Moss Landing Sept. 15-21 (HJ, mob). An Arctic Tern at Lagoon Creek Impoundment Sept. 1 (KVV, BDP, JP) was rare on land. A searee visitor from inland was the Black Tern at Moss Landing Sept. 7 (JML).

NONPASSERINE LANDBIRDS

Point Diablo's first Broad-winged Hawks of this fall were an adult or sub-adult and an immature Sept. 17 (HJ, CB). Among our rather early Ferruginous Hawks a single adult stands out, by Route 1 at Salinas River Sept. 10 (NS, CR). A White-winged Dove flew past Road Forks Pool Aug. 30 (RS, DS) and was also seen that day at Drakes Beach (SS). Both Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen only once, Moss Beach Sept. 10 (PM) and Watsonville Sewage Plant Sept. 21 (GH). Most of California's state listers are grateful that an abundance of woollybear caterpillars extended an immature **Black-billed Cuckoo's** tenure at the Willows, Point Reyes, from Sept. 8 to 15 (JL, MW, mob). The state's two previous records were one-day birds. Long-eared Owls roosted in the Willows during the same period, with three there Sept. 7-8 (JM, mob). Small numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers have been passing Point Diablo (mob).

Given the tendency of Eastern Kingbirds to wander over Point Reyes and disappear for a day or two it is difficult to decide how many individuals occurred. Our sightings were: Lighthouse Sept. 6 (EM, AM, JZ), Willows Sept. 8 (HG, DRi), RCA Station Sept. 9 (DDeS), Willows Sept. 13 (BLaB, EM, *et al.*). Also in Marin County, an Eastern Kingbird was at Tomales Sept. 14 (JP, BDP). The fall's first Tropical Kingbird appeared at Lincoln Park Sept. 20 (SM). Rare on the coast in fall, a Gray Flycatcher was at Moss Beach Sept. 12 (KC, EM, *et al.*). A Purple Martin reached SE Farallon Aug. 24 and two were there Sept. 3 (PRBO). Lincoln Park, S.F., hosted a Townsend's Solitaire Sept. 13-14 (BS, NB, *et al.*). The **White Wagtail** was still at Watsonville Sept. 21 (mob). One Red-eyed Vireo accompanied the rush of vagrant warblers, Lincoln Park Sept. 11 (JL), but the two Philadelphia Vireos came later, Watsonville Sewage Plant Sept. 14 (LB, *et al.*) and the Willows Sept. 18-19 (RS, *et al.*).

The following tables of eastern warblers adheres to my recent format except that SE Farallon Island birds are reported (PRBO) only by arrival date. It lists 142 individuals of 21 species. As the best vagrant

weather came early in the month the early-migrating American Redstart predominated. Despite the absence to date of three regular late vagrants (Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers), species diversity was good. The **Prothonotary Warbler** was Northern California's sixth (all in fall), and the **Golden-winged Warblers** were numbers eight and nine (five and six in fall).

Black-and-white Warbler (total 2)			
1	Abandoned Ranch	Aug. 27	RS, tide DS
1	Fort Funston	Sept. 20	BJ
Prothonotary Warbler (total 1)			
1	Rodeo Lagoon	Sept. 17-21	TG, DT, mob
Golden-winged Warbler (total 2)			
imm. male?	SE Farallon	Sept. 2	PRBO
ad. male	Moss Beach	Sept. 10-11	PM, mob
Tennessee Warbler (total 6; 7 for fall to date)			
3	SE Farallon	Aug. 24, Sept. 9, 15	PRBO
2	Willows	Sept. 6-8; Sept. 6 to Fish Docks	Sept. 7
		EM, AM, JZ, mob; EM, AM, JZ, GH	
1	Fort Funston	Sept. 11	DM
Virginia's Warbler (total 1)			
1	Nunes	Sept. 9-11	LCB, mob
Lucy's Warbler (total 1)			
1	Palomarin	Sept. 3	PRBO
Northern Parula (total 2)			
1	Tocaloma Bridge, Marin Co.	Sept. 7	KY, DMcC
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 9	PRBO
Magnolia Warbler (total 2)			
1	Fish Docks	Sept. 9-16	DS, SFB, mob
1	Lighthouse	Sept. 24	RS, AG, WG
Blackburnian Warbler (total 7)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 6, 11	PRBO
2	Lighthouse	Sept. 6; Sept. 21	EG, EH, JH <i>et al.</i> ; RS <i>et al.</i>
1	Nunes	Sept. 7-10	mob
1	Drakes Beach	Sept. 11	BC, DS
ad. male well-described	Sea Ranch	Sept. 23	KB, JB
Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 7)			
1	Lighthouse	Sept. 8-9	HG, DRi, mob
3	Fish Docks(1 at Willows	Sept. 8-9	mob
1	Fort Funston	Sept. 11-18	DM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Watsonville Sewage Plant	Sept. 14	RW, <i>et al.</i>
1	Rodeo Lagoon	Sept. 20-21	PL, JP, PLaT, <i>et al.</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler (total 2)			
1	Stow Lake, G.G. Park	Sept. 17	DM
1	Lincoln Park	Sept. 18	JR, <i>et al.</i>
Blackpoll Warbler (total 29)			
11	SE Farallon	Sept. 5,7,8(4),9(2),10,11,15	PRBO
4	Lighthouse	Sept. 5;Sept. 8(2); Sept. 21-24	JP,BDP,BL;JM,mob;mob,AG,WG
1	Nunes	Sept. 7-11	mob

6	Fish Docks	Sept.6;Sept.9(4:1 from 8th,1 to 10th); Sept. 20	mob;JL,mob;EM
2	Mendoza	Sept. 5-7;Sept. 10-13	BL,mob;AE,mob,JZ
2	Drakes Beach	Sept. 11(2)	BC, DS
1	Moss Beach	Sept. 10	JL
1	Lincoln Park	Sept. 11	JL
1	Fort Funston	Sept. 11	DM
Prairie Warbler (total 4; 6 for fall)			
2	Lighthouse	Sept. 2(2)	BF, <i>et al.</i>
1	Lincoln Park	Sept. 10-18	AH, mob
1	draw W of Nelson Ranch	Sept. 20-21	EH,JM, <i>et al.</i>
Palm Warbler (total 6)			
1	Fish Docks and Willows	Sept. 13	HB, JR, mob
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 15(2), 18	PRBO
1	Bolinas Lagoon	Sept. 21	EH
1	Fort Funston	Sept. 22	DM
Ovenbird (total 4)			
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 1,9(2)	PRBO
1	Lighthouse	Sept. 8	mob
Northern Waterthrush (total 6; 7 for fall)			
2	Fish Docks	Aug. 27(2)	RS, <i>fide</i> DS
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 1, 10, 18	PRBO
1+?	Willows(Nunes Sept.11)	Sept. 6-13	EM,AM,JZ,JML,mob,JZ
Connecticut Warbler (total 4)			
3	SE Farallon	Sept. 1, 8, 19	PRBO
1	Palomarin	Sept. 12	PRBO
Mourning Warbler (total 1)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 9	PRBO
Hooded Warbler (total 1)			
1	Lincoln Park	Sept. 18	JR, <i>et al.</i>
Canada Warbler (total 4)			
2	males SE Farallon	Aug. 23, 24	PRBO
1	Willows	Sept. 6-8	PLaT, mob
1	Lighthouse	Sept. 9	CC, LCB, mob
American Redstart (total 50; 52 for fall)			
16	SE Farallon	Aug. 25, Sept. 2(2),4,8,9(7),10(4)	PRBO
1	Muir Woods	Aug. 27-28	CM
8+?	Nunes	Sept. 2-8;5-8;5-9;7-10;7-13(2);16-18;18-21	DS,mob; BDP,JP,mob; BDP,JP,mob; JM,JML,mob;JM,JML,mob;RS, <i>etal.</i> ;RS,mob
6	Lighthouse	Sept. 5(2);8(2);16(2)	BL,JP,BDP;JM,mob;mob
4	Fish Docks	Sept. 6;8-9;9-10;9-13	mob;mob;DR,mob;DR,mob
1	Mendoza	Sept. 6	mob
3	Abandoned Ranch	Sept. 5; 9; 20	BL;CC;GC, <i>fide</i> RS
3	Bodega Bay	Sept. 4; Sept. 10(2)	JP, BDP; DS, JE
4	Lincoln Park	Sept. 8-10(2); 8-14; 11-14	AH,mob;AH,mob;JL,SM
1	South Lake, G.G. Park	Sept. 14	JH
2	Fort Funston	Aug. 28; Sept. 11-13	DM; DM, <i>et al.</i>
1	Moss Beach	Sept. 12	KC, EM, <i>et al.</i>

Yellow-breasted Chats stopped at the Willows Sept. 8 (JL, mob) and Nunes Ranch Sept. 11 (mob). SE Farallon monopolized the Bobolinks: one Sept. 2, three Sept. 9, and one Sept. 17 (PRBO). Two Orchard

Orioles landed on Point Reyes, at Nunes Ranch Sept. 11 (DDeS, *et al.*) and in the newly-discovered draw west of the Nelson Ranch Sept. 20 (JM, *et al.*). A red tanager in Oakland near Mountain View Cemetery Sept. 17 was believed to be a Hepatic but might have been a Summer (LS). PRBO identified all the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: two on SE Farallon Sept. 8, one there Sept. 10, and one at Palomarin Sept. 10. A Blue Grosbeak graced Esplanade Park, Pacific Grove, Sept. 11 (DR). On Sept. 10 an Indigo Bunting visited Kellogg Creek southwest of Byron, an unlikely vagrant spot but good for migrant buntings (JF, DE). A **Dickeissel** delighted observers at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 6 (EH, EG, JH). Twenty Evening Grosbeaks were on the coast at Russian Gulch State Park Aug. 31 (BDP, JP, KVV). Green-tailed Towhees scratched SE Farallon Aug. 27 and Sept. 4-12 (PRBO), and another was in Hole-in-the-Head, Bodega Bay, Sept. 10 (DS, JE). On SE Farallon a male Lark Bunting arrived Aug. 22 and was joined by an immature Aug. 24; both were last seen Aug. 27 (PRBO). Another Lark Bunting foraged near Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 9 (JM, SFB, mob). SE Farallon also had two Vesper Sparrows (Sept. 9 and 16 - PRBO) to one for the Lighthouse (Sept. 8-9 - JM, *et al.*). A Sage Sparrow was along the road past Nunes Ranch Sept. 21 (EM). Seven Clay-colored Sparrows hit SE Farallon on the following dates: Aug. 22, Sept. 2, 4, 5, 10(2), 14 (PRBO). Two Brewer's Sparrows arrived there Sept. 15 (PRBO), and three were on Pt Reyes Sept. 8: two at Lighthouse (JM, mob) and an adult at Fish Docks (JM).

LATE REPORT

The immature **Magnificent Frigatebird** mentioned last month at China Camp State Park, San Rafael, July 30 apparently was in the area for many days; one was photographed at very close range from a row-boat July 19 off McNears Beach (KF, JH), less than a mile from the later sighting.

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, John Barr, Kathleen Barr, Louis Bevier, Laurence C. Binford, Neil Blank, Hank Brodtkin, Courtney Buechert, Kurt Campbell, Chris Carpenter, Glenn Clifton, Bill Clow, Terry Coddington, Zoe Coddington, Dave DeSante, Carol Deuel, Donna Dittmann, Jon Dunn, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jules Evens, Jan Fischer, Kellogg Fleming, Bud Fry, Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Tom Goldbin, Doug Gomke, Ed Greavcs, Helen Green, Frank Hall, Jay Harlow, Ed Harper, Greg Homel, Jane Hook, Alan Hopkins, Joel Hornstein, George Hugenberg, Hans Johanson, Dick Johnson, Bill Jones, Bruce La Bar, Jeri M. Langham, Peter LaTourette, Bill Lenarz, Phil Linne, John Luther,

Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Dianne McClung, Peter Metropoulos, Steve Miller, many observers (mob), Charlene Modena, Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Dan Nelson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Phil Henderson), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Claire Reordan, David Rice (DRi), Jean Richmond, Don Roberson (DR), Mary Louise Rosegay, Lilian Schneiderman, Ben Seaver, Dave Shuford, Sue Smith, Nancy Spear, Santa Clara Audubon Society, Rich Stallcup, Dorothy Tobkin, Kent Van Vuren, Richard Webster, Mike Wihler, Jon Winter, Keiko Yamane, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen L. Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Oakland Christmas Bird Count

The 1980 Oakland Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Sunday, December 21, and we hope to have as many participants as possible. Oakland traditionally fields one of the largest groups in the country and we would like to maintain that tradition.

If you participated last year you should have received a letter asking you to volunteer again. Because of the value of past experience with an area it would be more effective for this year's census takers to return to the same areas as last year. If you can do so (or if you cannot) please contact me at 885-1480 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Feeder coverage is also very important because that area of census work often gives us a record high species count or two; more to the point, it adds to the accuracy of the census. If you have a feeder and want to count bird species visiting it that day contact Jerry Emory at the GGAS office, 843-2222.

We need one stalwart volunteer to stay home on Bird Count day to answer questions from people watching feeders or help with identification. If you are feeling noble enough (and are willing) to sacrifice a day in the field, please call me.

If you have not yet received your letter or if you would like more information don't hesitate to call me or the GGAS office. *New bird enthusiasts are more than welcome to participate!*

—DOUG GOMKE, 885-1480, *Compiler*

1980 CALIFORNIA BIRDERS' CALENDAR & ALMANAC

NOW AVAILABLE through the GGAS office

\$5 each, postpaid, including tax

Birds of Northern California, An Annotated Field List

by McCaskie, De Benedictis, Erickson and Morlan

\$5 each, postpaid including tax

Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail to GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705.

Attention Bird and Children-Lovers

Do you enjoy seeing a child's eyes open wider when you share some of your knowledge of nature with him? During the winter and spring of 1979-80 the Education Committee offered classroom slide presentations on migration in East Bay schools and then invited the students to Lake Merritt to see the waterbirds which use the lake at that time of year. Some schools or groups participated in both activities, some only one. In every case, though, there was the satisfaction of bringing an awareness of nature to young people.

Now we need more volunteers so that we can continue these efforts. All of us currently involved work either full or part time and must arrange classroom talks around our own busy schedules. Can you spare a morning or afternoon once or twice a month? The slide shows are easy to do and new volunteers will learn quickly from current volunteers.

Our future plans envision offering several topics for slide presentations and perhaps field trips to other locations. We'd like to develop a program on common bird songs and offer a field trip to Tilden Park or another Berkeley location. We welcome more people with more ideas.

If you can help us or are just interested in coming to an Education Committee meeting to see what it's all about, call Marty Morrow, 832-7141, or Jerry Emory at the GGAS office, 843-2222. We're looking forward to an exciting new year!

—EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Backyard Birders' Question Box

Callers to the GGAS office often ask what solution should be used in hummingbird feeders.

Both Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds may be found in the Bay Area during the winter months. These tiny birds use tremendous amounts of energy and must feed heavily and regularly to keep up their energy supply. Their natural food is nectar obtained from flowers and such small nectar-feeding insects as ants and small flies as well as spiders.

If hummingbirds remain in your neighborhood when fuchsias and other nectar producing flowers are not at their best, the birds' diet may be supplemented with a sugar solution in feeders. Honey should *never* be used because it has been found that a honey and water solution ferments quickly and produces a fungus that affects the bills and tongues of the birds and eventually kills them.

One solution recommended by experts as a basic food for hummingbirds consists of one part of sugar in eight parts of water. The solution may be colored by non-harmful red coloring or not, but the feeding tube should have some form of red, orange or bright purple marking to attract the birds.

The food obtained from flowers also contains necessary protein, vitamins and minerals that will be lacking in a plain sugar solution. Formulas are available that provide these elements or specially prepared commercial products, available at pet stores, may be added to the sugar solution. If prolonged artificial feeding is planned, it would be well to consider these options.

* * * *

Do you have a question about backyard birds? Several GGAS members who are interested in the behavior of wild birds that live in populated sections of the Bay Area will do research and answer your question. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail to Kay Steinberg, 850-38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121.

GGAS BUDGET APPROVED

The 1980-81 GGAS budget has been approved by the board of directors. A copy is available for members to review at the GGAS office. A fiscal statement for the year ended May 31, 1980, will be published in the December issue of *The Gull*.

Lake Merritt — A Winter Bird Haven

Oakland's Lake Merritt offers special attractions to migrating waterbirds. On any morning the refuge area may be graced by a number of newcomers that arrived during the night. Some stay for a day or few and then disappear quietly, heading south, each feathered head full of navigating abilities and memories of long, hard journeys from far places. Others find Lake Merritt pleasant enough to end their southward expedition here and relax over the winter. These birds quickly learn to venture quite close to the refuge shore when food is offered, allowing birders a chance for observations close at hand and photographers excellent opportunities for portraits.

The Rotary Natural Science Center at the foot of Perkins St. presents regular programs about wildlife. On November 16, for instance, Dick Kaufmann will lead a walk along the Lake Merritt shore which he says is a chance to "Meet the Canadians" as well as the Alaskans and other waterbirds that have migrated down from the far north to spend the winter with us. Meet at 10 a.m. in front of the Science Center.

For more information on the center's full program contact The Naturalist Program, Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612 (273-3739).

Information, Please

The *National Outlook* published by National Audubon Society will be sent at no cost to any member on request. The *Outlook* will inform you about national environmental issues and act as a vehicle to increase your participation in legislative action. Send your name and address to NAS, National Capital Office, 2000 K St., N.W., Suite 602, Washington, D.C. 20006 and a subscription form will be sent to you.

How Birds Choose a Mate

"Choosing a mate . . . for the birds" is the title of a slide lecture to be presented at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park at 8 p.m. Saturday, November 8, by Professor Klaus Immelmann of Bielefeld University, West Germany. Dr. Immelmann, a professor of ethology, will discuss the phenomenon of sexual imprinting and how birds choose their mates, with specific emphasis on finches. There is a \$3 fee.

Results of PRBO Snowy Plover Study

Volunteer participants all along the coast of Washington, Oregon and California collected valuable information on the distribution and number of wintering Snowy Plovers for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's study of this secretive inhabitant of California's beaches and alkaline lakes.

Within San Francisco Bay 206 plovers were found at six sites. This is 8% of the total number counted in California. On outer coast beaches, 14 Snowy Plovers were found in San Francisco County and 116 in San Mateo County. In the city of Alameda, 47 birds were recorded.

This summer PRBO banded Snowy Plover adults and chicks at Mono Lake and Monterey Bay. If you sight a banded plover, want to learn more about the wintering population or about the PRBO studies, write to Gary Page at PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Cooper Society Meeting, November 3

Dr. Kimberly G. Smith of the Bodega Marine Lab will speak on "Life in the sub-alpine: weather, predators and junco nesting success" at the November meeting of the Cooper Society. A business meeting at 7:30 p.m. precedes the 8 p.m. lecture in Room 2503 of the Life Sciences Building on the UC campus.

Autumn Adventures Around the Bay

Wondering what to do on fall weekends? Why not explore the south bay's only ghost town, stalk birds through the marshes or "capture" wildlife with a pencil?

Bay Adventure Seminars, a nonprofit educational program based at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Newark, is offering these and other opportunities to learn about the Bay and enjoy its abundant wildlife. For a nominal registration fee which covers the cost of instructors, materials and administration, participants will be led on field expeditions all around the area. Classes are small (no more than 24) so that each student can benefit from the instructor's professional knowledge.

The legions of birds found in the fall had long and dangerous journeys to get to our Bay. This phenomenon of migration will be the subject of Ted Chandik's "Migratory Birds," November 1 and 8.

"Wildlife Niches in the City" on November 8 and 9 with Richard Wagner will show students a variety of man-made habitats and investigate the numerous situations where an environmental change has been detrimental to some species but beneficial to others.

"Biological Illustration" on November 15 and 16 promises to be a

satisfying experience for both beginners and more practiced sketchers. The seminar will be team-taught by professional illustrators Beth Merrick and Doris Alcorn. Participants will learn and practice accurate drawing, simplified with some "tricks of the trade."

An evening program on November 21 will introduce "Rails and Sails in the South Bay." Instructor Bruce MacGregor will present this Friday slide-talk to prepare participants for a "walk into the past" on Saturday, November 22. This seminar offers a unique opportunity to learn about the rich legacy of the South Bay, to visit the ghost town of Drawbridge and to tour historic Alviso.

To receive a Bay Adventures Seminar brochure containing more complete course descriptions, a registration form or other information contact Seminar Coordinator, Bay Adventures Seminars, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 524, Newark, CA 94560 or call (415) 792-3271.

Fall Canoe Trips

The Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum will be offering three canoe trips in the Delta this fall. The first two, November 2 and November 15, will be led by the museum director, Sam Smoker, and are open to seventh graders through adults. The third trip, December 7, for high school through adult, will have Phil Gordon as its leader.

Fee for each trip is \$10 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting the museum at 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, 94596 (935-1978).

1981 Texas Birding Trip

There are still a few spaces left on this GGAS-sponsored trip to Texas next spring. The trip is a repeat of the 1978 trip which recorded more than 280 bird species. There will be an optional trip to Big Bend National Park to look for the Colima Warbler and other west Texas birds. The dates are April 18-30, with an extension to May 3. For reservations and information call Mike Wihler at 664-6567 during the day.

Weekend Seminar on Predatory Birds

A seminar on the predatory birds of Point Reyes led by Diane Williams will be held December 13-14. There will be a preliminary discussion of field identification followed by tours around the area looking for wintering hawks and owls. Saturday evening will feature an "owl prowl." Overnight accommodations will be at the Clem Miller Environmental Center near Limantour Beach. For complete information contact Point Reyes Field Seminars, Point Reyes, CA 94956 (415) 663-1200.

Donations Welcome

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to tug at your pocket-book as well as your heartstrings as I mention a few items that GGAS desperately needs for membership meetings and office use. Donations can be deducted from your income tax; I will be happy to give you a receipt.

WE NEED:

1 100-cup capacity coffee maker

1 16-mm movie projector

1 standing, sturdy book shelf: 6' high, 3' wide, 1' deep

2 display tables: large, collapsible, 2½' x 6'

1 HUGE sack wild bird seed for office "regulars"

Subscriptions to any of the following publications:

The Condor (Cooper Ornithological Society)

National Geographic

The Sacramento Bee (for legislative information)

—JERRY EMORY, *Executive Director*

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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Gift of

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur England

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Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgments will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$20 per year (individual); \$25 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 75¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**

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