

CAVE CREEK CANYON NEEDS OUR HELP IN CONGRESS!!!!!!

Terry Ronneberg has just returned with his report on the birds he saw in the southwest on his vacation. One place he didn't miss was Cave Creek Canyon in southeast Arizona. Birders from all over the country go to Cave Creek to see tropical species seen almost nowhere else in the country.

BUT, the multinational Newmont Mining Co. has obtained a permit from the U.S. Forest Service to develop an open-pit, cyanide leach-int gold mine at the mouth of the canyon. The threat of surface and underground water pollution, or wildlife drinking from contaminated ponds, of scenic disturbance has aroused the environmental community.

Your letters are needed. Letters should be sent to Senator Alan Cranston

112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-0501

Senator John Seymour
367 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. John Doolittle
House of Representatives

Washington, Dc 20515

PROPOSED STONE LAKES NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE

Your letters are requested to help to get support for one of the better alternative plans for this proposed refuge. This would be our nearest National Wildlife Refuge as it is to be along both sides of I-5 just south of Sacramento. It would comprise a remnant of the once vast California Great Valley riparian and fresh-water seasonal wetland ecosystem. (See next page for article on protecting wetlands.) Sacramento is one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

Many endangered, threatened, candidate, sensitive, and special concern species use the area, including yellow-billed cuckoo, Aleutian canadagoose, sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, giant garter snake, and others. Waterfowl and shorebirds make heavy use of the area in winter and as a migratory staging area. Present are at least three large rookeries of great blue heron, American egrets, black-crowned night herons, and double-crested cormorants. There have been some appropriations for

study but none yet for acquisition. Purchase would only be from willing sellers and not by condemnation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recommended "Alternative C" which would contain 24,333 acres, all within the floodplain. Write to your U.S. Senator or Representative in support.

(See previous article for addresses)

QUICK INDEX AND "THE LINK"

Interested in a system which will keep your camera separate from your binocular strap? It is easy to use and if we get orders for 12 you can get one for \$3.58! Also there are "quick indexes" to either the new Western Peterson, National Geographic or Golden field guides which have alphabetical list of birds and bird groups to be stuck to the book. .75 each if we get 12 orders. Talk to Nancy Greenwood at one of our next meetings. (she is our unofficial sales rep for this)

RANCHO NATURALISTA

Those who run this lodge on a 125 acre ranch in the rain forest of Costa Rica would like to have you come and bring a group. In fact, if you get up a group of six paying friends do they have the deal for you! "The extensive trail system will reveal various species of toucans, marmots, tanagers, parrots and parakeets, hummingbirds, trogons, etc. Some special birds of the area are snowcap hummingbird, dullmantled antbird and lanceolated monklet. See Steve Stocking for more information (465-2729)



FOREST SERVICE REPORTS

Monitoring pileated woodpecker. The largest woodpecker in North America, is found in highest densities in old-growth conifer forests. The bird's need for large dead trees for nesting, large hollow trees for roosting, and dead woody material for foraging make it susceptible to impact from short-rotation forestry. To protect the pileated woodpecker, National Forests provide management areas of standing and downed dead wood. These areas need to be monitored for their effectiveness.

Habitat use and densities of cavity nesting bird species in the Oregon Coast. Abundance patterns and habitat use of eight cavity-nesting bird species in the Coast Ranges of Western Oregon were studied during spring and summer 1985 and 1986. In general, densities of all cavity nesting birds were higher in mature and old-growth forests than in young forests; five species in 1985 and six species in 1986 were significantly more abundant in old-growth forests compared with young forests.

Great Grey Owl & Pileated Woodpecker in Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The great grey owl nests in raptor nests, on mistletoe brooms, in broken-topped trees, and on artificial platforms. The pileated woodpecker excavates nest and roost cavities in large-diameter dead trees. Management concerns for both species include loss of large-diameter dead trees, shortened rotations reducing number of large live trees, and elimination of trees with mistletoe.

Obviously it is not only the spotted owl that needs old growth forests. The spotted owl is only one of the many species dependent on the few remaining mature forests remaining in the western United States.

THIS CRAZY CRAZY WORLD

Six British parakeets received citations for bravery for their work in detecting chemical gas during the Persian Gulf war last January.

Parakeets and canaries have been used traditionally in coal mines because of their extreme sensitivity to gas. But then we have birds out in the woods and wetlands too and we ignore their warnings.

SUMMER TRAVELS AND BIRD OBSERVATIONS:

Rich Petersen and Kasey Foley observed the following in Grand Teton Natl. Park in late July. white pelicans, trumpeter swans, canadageese, osprey, sandhill cranes, common nighthawks, yellow headed blackbirds and others. In Yellowstone they saw Great Grey Owl, hairy, Lewis & Three-toed woodpecker, Grey jay, red crossbill and others. In Idaho they found many common nighthawks and Swainson's hawks.

Nancy Greenwood observed the following on her trip to Montana with the Harpers. (Ed was an Audubon speaker last year) Late June. Trumpeter swan, grey partridge, upland plover, great grey owl, black & Vaux's swifts, lark bunting, McCowen's & chestnut collared longspur, bobolink, red crossbill and a stalking bobcat... among many others.

Terry Ronneberg visited many interesting locales in the south west this July including Ramsey, Madera and Cave Creek Canyons, Patagonia Preserve, Chiricahua Natl. Monument, and saw many species new to him including, but not limited to, the following. Blue-throated magnificent grey-headed, sulpherbellied, broad-billed, and Lucifer hummers, zone-tailed hawk, Botteri's sparrow grey hawk, hepatic tanager, elegant trogons, pyrrhuloxia, bridled titmouse, Lucy's warbler buff-breasted, brown-crested and black-tailed flycatchers and Strickland's woodpecker.

Steve & Linda Stocking observed many grey-crowned rosy finches eating mosquitoes at Rae Lakes in Kings Canyon Natl. Park.

Steve with Rich Boubelik observed many birds common in the Sierra but on the Ruby Crest Trail in the Ruby Mts. of Nevada late in July. These included many Cassin's finch, rufous hummers, siskins but no bears or marmots. Great Basin Natl. Park had many common nighthawks. A flock of long-billed curlew were on the alkali flats east of Fallon following the summer cloudbursts. In late August *Kim and Josh Horner* travelled back to Ill. and saw a red-bellied woodpecker in Nebraska and a chestnut-collared longspur in north-eastern Colorado.



BIRDS

BUSH ADMINISTRATION NARROWS WETLAND DEFINITION

Mr. Bush pledged "no net loss of wetlands" during his term as President. Now he has apparently, with the help of Mr. Quayle, found a way to do this and keep those who want to fill in wetlands for their projects happy as well. All they had to do was to change the definition of "wetlands".

Now for an area to be a protected marsh it must be inundated with water for 15 consecutive days or be saturated for 21 or more days during the growing season. The land must also support certain plants and soil types. In the Bay Area alone, this would mean that 48,000 acres of seasonal wetlands could lose protection, opening the door for several big developments now on hold. One EPA scientist, who asked not to be identified for fear of losing his job said: "Those of us on the inside who are familiar with the rules and regulations recognize that the proposed changes will have far-reaching negative effects on our ability to protect wetlands". (Staff has been instructed not to criticize the program and to direct all inquires to EPA headquarters.)

An EPA Region 9 internal memo stated; "the changes could reduce the level of Clean Water Act protection for nearly every type of wetland currently regulated... In a region that has already lost more than 90 percent of its wetlands base, such changes would be devastating."

We all know the importance of wetlands as wildlife habitat, the great flocks of birds which once wintered in this valley have been reduced to fractions of what they once were and are restricted to season wetlands which remain mostly on wildlife refuges. Wetlands also act as great sponges to filter our water and clean our air. Over 95 percent of the Central Valley's historic wetlands are already gone. Waterfowl populations have declined by more than 50% since 1974, this in the area used by fully 60% of Pacific flyway waterfowl each winter. Many of our wildlife refuges do not now have adequate guaranteed water to meet their needs.

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO:

- (1) Object to the Presidents plan to weaken the rules which protect all wetlands, and particularly those last remnants remaining in the Central Valley.
- (2) Ask them to support HR 1306 and S 484 which would ensure that a firm supply of clean water would be available to our National Wildlife Refuges.



San Joaquin Audubon Society

Officers:

President: John Blades
473-7073

President Elect:

David Wagner
Secretary: Nancy
Ballot 465-9461
Treasurer: Jim
Rowth 462-7512

Board Members:

Terry Ronneberg
Steve Stocking
Kasey Foley
Dennis Smith

Chairmen:

Editor: S. Stocking

Programs: D. Yee

Field Trips: David Yee

Conservation: Waldo Holt

Membership: Terry Ronneberg

Historian: Staci Lavergne

Education: J. Gaia & E. Johnson

Hospitality: Nancy Greenwood

>>Joint membership in the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to both Audubon magazine and The Hoot Owl. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to Terry Ronneberg, 1035 Wood Thrush Ln, Tracy Ca. 95376. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

—\$35 individual—\$38 family—\$20 student—\$21 senior, \$23 senior family
—\$50 sustaining—\$250 contributing—\$1,500 life—\$5newsletter (non-member)

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY
236 West Knoles Way
Stockton, CA. 95204

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Stockton, CA.
Permit No.450