



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, CA.

February, 1989

Vol. 37, #5

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Dave Shuford, a naturalist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory and an expert ornithologist and birder, will give our February program. Dave is involved in a number of local bird projects, including studies of rare nesting Snowy Plovers, the Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas project, and studies of shorebird distribution. However, this February, Dave will talk to us about a study that took him far from California. Dave has just returned from a two-week trip to Antarctica, and will be presenting slides from his most recent trip, as well as an earlier trip to the South Shetland Islands. He will be talking about penguins, seals, and the many other pelagic birds and mammals that inhabit one of the world's last real frontiers.

Dave has also agreed to lead a field trip for us on Saturday, February 11. Although he won't be able to take us down to Antarctica for the day, he will lead us around an area he is very familiar with, Bolinas Lagoon. Please see the calendar for details.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

Next month we go to the opposite end of the world (almost), to hear Paul Jones, a biologist and tour leader, talk about the natural history, marine mammals and birds of Alaska. (Paul, a member of SAS, has been a frequent participant in our Christmas counts.)

AFTERNOTES

Shawneen Finnegan, who presented the Attu Island program in October has had two of her Attu photographs published by *Birding* magazine, the bimonthly publication of the American Birding Association. Her photo of the red-flanked blue-tail is featured on the front cover of the February 1988 issue while her common cuckoo graces the rear cover. (Those who are unfamiliar with the ABA's rather eccentric publication schedule should note that this issue was mailed to members in late December of 1988.)

Paul Lehman, who is still officially an SAS member, although he is now living downstate, also appears in this issue as a book reviewer. Paul is actively involved in the publication of the magazine and is a frequent contributor to its pages.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANCISCO MENDES
1944-1988

Most of us had never heard of Francisco Mendes or of the Brazilian village of Xapuri in the depths of the Amazonian rain forest. Nor had we heard of the Rural Workers' Union - a labor group dedicated to preserving the rights of rubber plantation workers and freelance rubber-tappers.

But he was - whether we knew him or not - our man in Brazil. His fight against the development of the Amazon Basin began as an effort to preserve the jobs of his workers but became an environmental crusade to save the world's rain forests.

From this meager base - an unknown union in an obscure village, 1800 miles from the nearest major city - Mendes garnered an amazing and influential following including Prince Philip of England. He became a representative for the World Bank and a number of lesser international lending institutions and was instrumental in reducing the flow of development money into the Amazon Basin and in putting environmental constraints on loans to other Central and South American nations. He was the recipient of many environmental awards capped by the UN Global 500 Prize.

On Thursday, December 22, he was shot and killed at his home in Xapuri. There was no attempt at robbery.

A short time after the funeral a 21 year old *ranchero* turned himself into the police, confessing that he had hired a professional assassin. The motive apparently was a land use dispute between Mendes and the killer's family.

We can only hope that the reaction to and revulsion at this act will be so widespread and so immediate that a thousand voices will arise where one was stilled and that the government of President Jose Sarney will accelerate the (very) modest restrictions they recently placed on Amazonian development.

It would be a fitting memorial for a martyr.

* * * * *

In mourning the death of Oleta Dickinson last September, I wrote "Sequoia Audubon has lost some of its history".

Now thanks to the thoughtfulness of the Dickinson family some of that history has been restored. A large box filled with old SAS documents, newsletters, Christmas Count results, and other memorabilia dating back to the '40s has been presented to us.

It will take time to review, file and absorb all of this historical information, but don't be surprised if some of it finds its way into these pages.

We thank the Dickinson family for this gift of our past.

* * * * *

An apology is due to some of the people who volunteered for the Ano Nuevo Christmas Count but were never called upon. The fault is entirely mine. During the hectic holiday times, the list of late volunteers was lost. (Thrown out with the used Christmas wrapping?)

CALENDAR

February 1989						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

FEB. 4 COYOTE HILLS FIELD TRIP. Beleagured on all sides SATURDAY by encroaching development, this East Bay Park has it all in the way of birding habitat. Marshes, upland areas, tidal sloughs and mudflats are only some of the habitats. As a bonus there is always the chance to observe the great horned owl and her owlets on the nest-box. We will meet at the parking lot in front of the Visitors' Center at 9:00 A.M. To get there cross the Dumbarton Bridge and continue on the freeway to the Newark Blvd. exit. Take Newark Blvd. north about one mile to Patterson Ranch Road on the left. Take a left on Patterson Ranch Road to the end. An entrance fee is required. Trip should break up at noon. A GOOD TRIP FOR BEGINNERS.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

FEB. 7 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence THURSDAY ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. but those wishing to attend should contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) to be sure there is room to accommodate everyone.

FEB. 11 BOLINAS LAGOON FIELD TRIP. Although Dave Shuford SATURDAY has traveled all over the globe as a birder and ornithologist he calls Bolinas Lagoon his home base. The shallow waters of the lagoon and its marshes are one of the great feeding grounds for ducks and shorebirds while the abundance of varied habitat in the area can produce almost anything in the way of unusual or rare species. The birding day will begin at 8:30 AM at the Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot on Highway One between Bolinas and Olema. (The entrance to the parking lot is marked with a sign for Five Brooks Stable.) This fresh water pond is a regular place for hooded mergansers and pileated woodpeckers. Some walking on level ground (and probably in wet areas as well) will be required. Bring a lunch for this all day trip. In case of rain, call Steve Schafer to find out if the trip has been cancelled.

LEADER DAVE SHUFORD
COORDINATOR STEVE SCHAFER 689-0788

FEB. 14 GENERAL MEETING. ANTARCTICA with Dave Shuford. THURSDAY A few years back Dave presented a stunning program on the nesting birds of the Alaskan tundra. This time his travels and his program take us far away from there to other seemingly harsh, but biologically rich lands - Antarctica and the South Shetland Islands. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM. General Meeting begins at 8:00. See the article on Page One for further details.

FEB. 16 THE GREAT WHITE NORTH is the name given to this TO FEB. 18 trip to the northern refuges - Tule Lake, Klamath SATURDAY- Lake and Bear Valley where eagles and swans dominate the winter scene. The Lower Klamath Lake MONDAY area has the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles south of Alaska. Drawn to the area by an incredible number and variety of waterfowl, they sit in wait for the weak and sick among the ducks and geese. In February any open water is dominated by the tundra swans' regal dignity. We will look at swans for a possible trumpeter and through the area for raptors, northern shrikes, tree sparrows and other northern and eastern wanderers as well as the expected concentrations of bald and golden eagles. Call the leader for full details.

LEADER JANET DUERR 689-0788

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

DAN MURPHY

ACR ENDOWMENT DRIVE

The Board of Directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch has announced a major endowment drive. We seek to raise \$2,000,000 during the next three years to continue the education and preservation programs of the Ranch. If you read this column regularly you know that about 20,000 weekend visitors and school children benefit from the Ranch's programs. Those programs are considered some of the finest in the world. Our preservation program is designed to conserve habitats which might otherwise be lost. As a result of our efforts we have been able to preserve considerable portions of Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay and the Sonoma Valley.

It is vital that ACR remain on firm financial footing to accomplish the goals of education and preservation for which it was established. We believe that our expenses reflect that we are on track. With a budget breakdown of 44% to nature education, 40% to land preservation and management, 8% to research and 8% to development we think you will agree that donations and grants to Audubon Canyon Ranch are well spent.

The Board believes we can better assure meeting our goals by becoming more self-supporting. Our current sources of funds include the following: 36% contributions, 29% foundation and corporate grants, 29% other grants and 6% miscellaneous. We project the following future sources of income: contributions - 35%, foundation and corporate grants - 10%, endowment - 50% and other - 5%. Note the projected loss of foundation and corporate income. If we are unable to compensate for that dramatic drop in income we will no longer be able to educate the public as we have in the past, and we would be hard pressed to maintain our present holdings.

It was individuals like us, members of local Audubon chapters, who founded Audubon Canyon Ranch. We paid for it with our donations, helped form its philosophy by providing representatives to its board of directors and molded it into a model sanctuary which reflects the conservation and education goals which brought us together as Audubon members in the first place. It was our success with the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve which led to donations of our other major preserves, the Cypress Grove Audubon Preserve by Clifford Conly and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve by David Bouverie. Here is tangible evidence of the value of our ideas and the potential for their success.

Now we wish to assure the continuity of that success in education and preservation. Although the official start

(Continued on Page Three)

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Two)

Our endowment drive was January 1, our very good friends had already donated over \$500,000 before the first of the year. This is not an effort to be left to the other guy. Join your fellow Audubon members in supporting our sanctuary. Make your check payable to the ACR Endowment Fund and mail it to the Ranch at 4900 Highway One, Stinson Beach, CA 94790. For further information feel free to call the Ranch at 868-9244.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Though most people view ACR as a sanctuary and provider of various educational services, it also supports an exciting and vital research program. John Kelly, resident biologist at Cypress Grove Preserve, discussed some such projects and findings at our last Board of Directors meeting.

For example, since digging pools in Olema Marsh in 1983, bulrush and willow have flourished. Together with blackberry they have flourished in Livermore Marsh as well. Bird populations have increased accordingly. Various dabbling ducks have been using the pools. Tricolored blackbirds colonized Livermore Marsh this past breeding season and seemed quite successful. Postulating on the absence of red-winged blackbirds, John informed us that marsh wrens attack their nests and destroy the eggs. This may be the reason that those of us who bird at San Francisco's Lake Merced have been unable to locate a red-wing breeding colony in what would seem an ideal habitat. He also reported that a loss of fresh water marsh edge, and adjoining mud flats, may impact migrants such as pectoral sandpiper, Baird's sandpiper and lesser yellowlegs.

Of course we need research on aspects of the environment beyond plants and birds. John proposes sedimentation studies, monitoring of agricultural practices used in Tomales Bay, an investigation of marsh vegetation progression and change and long term observations on marsh development with an eye on stabilizing the vegetation pattern when it reaches maximum habitat value.

BAAC MEETING

We at ACR are very pleased the Bay Area Audubon Council held its January 21st meeting at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. The bond between ACR and chapters of the National Audubon Society in our area is a special one. More than half of our directors and officers come to us from Audubon chapters. Our organization was founded by its sponsoring chapters and it continues to reflect the philosophy of those founders and their successors. Not only is ACR

(Continued on Page Four)

CALENDAR

March 1989

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MAR. 2 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence
THURSDAY ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME, but those wishing to attend should contact the Sequoia Office (593-7368) to be sure there is room to accommodate everyone.

MARCH 9 PRINCETON HARBOR FIELD TRIP - The only sheltered THURSDAY harbor between Santa Cruz and San Francisco, Princeton Harbor is winter home to a good variety of bay ducks, loons, cormorants and other divers as well as gulls and shorebirds. Not only does the harbor usually have one or two surprises, but the nearby willows, cypresses and grasslands have proven to be first-rate warbler traps. Clay-colored sparrows, palm and prairie warblers are only a few of the species that have wintered here the last few years. To get there take Hwy. 92 to Hwy. 1 and follow Hwy. 1 north to Capistrano Rd. and turn left at the lights. Take your first left and proceed straight ahead into the upper parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 A.M. This will be a walking trip along the beach and rocks with some areas of broken footing, so boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

MARCH 9 GENERAL MEETING. ALASKA with Paul Jones. Whales, THURSDAY marine mammals and sea birds dominate Paul's views of the Arctic wilderness. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM, General Meeting begins at 8:00.

MARCH 12 MOUNTAIN VIEW FOREBAY AND SHORELINE PARK. This SUNDAY area affords some of the most varied shorebird and waterfowl wintering habitat in a small area and in every year it has produced a surprise bird or two. Parasitic jaegers, red-necked grebes, Ross' geese and tufted ducks are only some of the past visitors. The trip will involve walking on level well-defined paths. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the foot of San Antonio Rd. near the entrance to Mountain View Shoreline Park. To get there, take Hwy. 101 to San Antonio Rd. and take the San Antonio Rd. (North) exit. Follow San Antonio Road for a short distance until it makes a right angle turn and becomes Terminal Road. Stop and park as close to the intersection as feasible. Trip breaks up at noon.

LEADER LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

MAR. 18-19 BODEGA BAY, THE RUSSIAN RIVER, AND BLUE GROUSE. SATURDAY The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the parking lot & SUNDAY of the Tides Restaurant in Bodega Bay. This is a 2-2 hour drive from San Mateo. Those not wanting to try the drive that morning can find overnight lodging in Petaluma (inexpensive) or Bodega Bay (not so inexpensive). We will spend Saturday morning around Bodega Harbor, where we will be looking at waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. In the afternoon, we'll make our way up the coast to the mouth of the Russian River, and bird the woods in that vicinity. We will spend the night camping at Salt Point State Park, 25 miles up the coast (alternate accommodations are available). We will get an early start Sunday morning in order to search for the booming Blue Grouse, the highlight species of the trip, along Hauser Bridge and King Ridge Roads. In addition to the grouse, the scenery in this area is magnificent. The trip will officially end at about noon near the town of Monte Rio on the Russian River; however, if anyone is interested, we may make a few stops during the afternoon on the way back to the Bay Area. Call the SAS office (593-7368) for directions, accommodations information and a schedule.

LEADER STEVE SCHAFER 689-0788

CONSERVATION NOTES

GAIL SMITHSON

PROTECTING SHORELINE PROPERTY FROM EROSION

The San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) recently completed a staff report on protecting shoreline property from tidal erosion, an analysis of the effectiveness and environmental impacts of administratively authorized protective structures. This basically has to do with procedures related to authorizing the placing of erosion control structures on the edge of San Francisco Bay. The review was recommended by Marin Audubon Society in order to understand the cumulative impacts of the many small fills administratively authorized by BCDC. BCDC is now considering an amendment to the Bay Plan to include a new section entitled "Protection of the Shoreline."

As a result of the report BCDC is recommending 1) changes to the Application Form to provide better information on how proposed erosion control structures will impact Bay resources; 2) changes in processing permits for protective structures involving more than 10,000 square feet of fill so that public hearings and environmental impact reports will be required; 3) continued evaluation of all protective structures under BCDC's existing mitigation policy where public benefits of the fill for erosion control do not clearly exceed the public detriment from the loss of water areas due to the fill, and where the fill will significantly and adversely affect bay resources; and 4) promote the creation and use of mitigation banks for mitigating the adverse impacts of fills for protective structures.

A public hearing will be held February 16, 1989 concerning the amendment to the Bay Plan. Written comments are due on or before that date. The Sequoia Audubon Conservation Committee is now composing a letter to BCDC supporting their efforts to more closely regulate the impact of fill on the bay. We are recommending that BCDC's criteria for deciding whether an erosion control project is processed as a major permit be based on linear feet of shoreline rather than square feet of fill. We feel that 100 feet should be the cut-off between projects processed administratively and those considered major projects. We are also questioning the use of mitigation banks because it is important that habitat lost or impacted in an area be mitigated by habitat replacement in that same area in order to serve that population of wildlife. If you wish to send written comments on this subject please address them to:

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94016

If you wish to attend the hearing on February 16, please contact Gail Smithson at 367-6575 for more information.

UNAUTHORIZED FILL IN BAY TO BE REMOVED

The Army Corps of Engineers has ordered the removal of illegal fill from two areas in San Mateo County. Guido Gasivoda was ordered to remove .21 acres at 100 Harbor Boulevard in Belmont and Mary Daniel to remove .49 acres from 3499 East Bayshore in San Mateo. They were given 60 days in which to accomplish this. The Conservation Committee has written to the Corps of Engineers to thank them for their attention to this subject, and encourage them to follow up to be sure the fill is removed and the wetland restored.

INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

The Tucson Audubon Society is again conducting its Institute of Desert Ecology. The course begins Thursday, April 20 and goes through Sunday, April 23. The cost of \$245 per person includes all meals and camping fees. For more information contact Mary Ann Chapman, Director, Institute of Desert Ecology, 300 E. University Blvd., #120, Tucson, AZ 85705.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

(Continued from Page Three)

an independent non-profit corporation it is a sanctuary of Marin, Golden Gate, Sequoia and Madrone Audubon Societies. Many of our educational programs are geared to the needs of our sponsoring chapters and the community at large. So welcoming our friends in BAAC is a real pleasure and we hope this new use of our facilities can continue in the future.

BOUVERIE AUDUBON PRESERVE HIKES

As you are probably aware, access to the Bouverie Preserve is restricted to docent-led groups. The lovely 400 acre preserve is a marvelous place to see spring wildflowers. Its 5 plant communities are home to most land birds resident in Sonoma County. Hike through the meadows and woods of this pristine sanctuary, discover its natural history, enjoy its simple beauty, join a member of the Bouverie Audubon Council on a walk through our 400 acre preserve between now and May. All hikes are scheduled for Saturdays from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Groups are limited to 35, so make your reservations early in the season at (707) 938-4554.

BOLINAS PRESERVE OPENING

The Ranch will open to the public on March 18 this year. The public season will continue on weekends and holidays until July 16. We are opening a little later than usual so the great blue herons should be pretty well established and the great egrets should be starting to visit the colony.

As usual Sequoia Audubon Society will be responsible for providing hosts at the entrance station. This is a great way to get a little more involved with the Ranch and meet some fellow Audubon members. Oftentimes there is enough time to hike the longer trails, something many of us overlook on other visits to the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.

Sequoia Audubon members will host on each weekend (including the holiday of May 29). You can volunteer by calling the office (593-7368) or if you can't make it in May, then please call the Ranch (868-9244) and Edris Cole will be glad to find a place for you on the schedule.

SFBBO TOURS/CLASSES

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is offering several classes and tours.

A gull identification class - 4 lectures and 2 field trips - starts on Feb. 1.

Camping and birding tours for Arizona and Texas (late April and early May) and Michigan (June) are being planned.

Contact Don Starks, Executive Director at 408-946-6548 (SFBBO) or 408-371-9722 (Home) for more information.

BIRDING CLASSES

Maryann Danielson is once again conducting her birding classes through the Sequoia Adult School.

FOLLOWING THE BIRDS THROUGH THE WINTER SEASON

A lecture and field trip series for intermediate and advanced birders. The winter quarter focuses on birds wintering locally and in selected areas across the United States. Identification, behavior and ecology are discussed. Classes are held at Little House in Menlo Park.

BIRDING BASICS

A slide lecture and field trip series for beginning and intermediate birders. This class concentrates on local wintering birds, their identification, behavior and natural history. Classes are held at the San Carlos Senior Center.

Although classes have already begun there may still be time to participate - Call Maryann Danielson at 369-6809 for more details.

BIRD AND WHALE WATCHING TRIPS -HALF MOON BAY

The Whale Center is conducting a series of whale watching trips out of Half Moon Bay through April. While there are no "designated experts" as such most trips do have a few experienced birders and most of the Whale Center's naturalists are skilled at bird as well as sea-mammal identification.

Every Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 AM, 11:30 AM, and 2:30 PM there will be a 2 1/2 hour trip. These afford opportunities for economical, nearby pelagic birding for those who are pressed for time or for first-time pelagic birders who may want to test their sea-legs. Cost of the trip is \$28 per person. Children under 5 are not permitted.

On Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, April 2, 8-hour trips leaving at 8 AM will explore the San Mateo coast from Princeton Harbor to Ano Nuevo. Cost is \$48 per person. Children under 10 not permitted.

Lower prices are available for children, groups and Whale Center members.

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY PATCHES ---- \$4.00 BY MAIL
San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching is Sequoia Audubon Society's guide to birding sites in San Francisco and San Mateo County. More than 30 different spots are described and accompanied by maps, directions and helpful notes about each spot. A species index directs you to habitats for the birds you want to see. Order one for yourself and several as gifts! Only \$6.00!

(Taxes, shipping and handling included).

Also available by mail - including postage and tax
The Birder's Handbook-Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye 17.60
National Geographic Field Guides-New Edition 17.25
Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00
Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.50
Pacific Coast Checklist-in pads of 25 3.50

BIRDING VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

TECHNIQUES OF BIRDING by Arnold Small - \$2/wk.

VIDEO GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA - \$5/wk.

Send checks to: Sequoia Audubon Society
Allow 14-18 days 720 El Camino Real #403
for delivery Belmont, Ca. 94002



**San Francisco
Peninsula
Birdwatching**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS

1988 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

CRYSTAL SPRING COUNT - DECEMBER 17, 1988

AJO NUEVO COUNT - DECEMBER 31, 1988

SPECIES	CS TOTAL	AN TOTAL
LOON, RED-THROATED	50	95
LOON, PACIFIC	405	32
LOON, COMMON (2A)	42	85
Loon, species:	70	1
GREBE, PIE-BILLED	109	18
GREBE, HORNED (1A)	53	6
GREBE, RED-NECKED	1	0
GREBE, EARED (1C)	4	12
GREBE, WESTERN	389	81
GREBE, CLARK'S	21	3
FULMAR, NORTHERN	0	3
SHEARWATER, BLACK-VENTED	8	0
All-dark shwtr, species	2	0
PELICAN, AMERICAN WHITE	0	0
PELICAN, BROWN	6	52
CORMORANT, DOUBLE-CRESTED	599	31
CORMORANT, BRANT'S	65	98
CORMORANT, PELAGIC (2C)	127	114
Cormorant, species	0	4
HERON, GREAT BLUE	32	15
EGRET, GREAT	57	10
EGRET, SNOWY	106	20
HERON, GREEN-BACKED	2	0
NIGHT-HERON, BLACK-CROWNED (2A)	44	17
SWAN, TUNDRA	1	0
GOOSE, GREATER WHITE-FRONT (2C)	20	0
GOOSE, ROSS' (3C)	1	0
BRANT (2C)	15	0
GOOSE, CANADA	409	0
GOOSE, CANADA(Small Forms)(3C)	17	0
DUCK, WOOD	23	6
TEAL, GREEN-WINGED (2A)	61	208
MALLARD (2C)	704	76
PINTAIL, NORTHERN	1423	41
TEAL, CINNAMON	9	25
SHOVELER, NORTHERN	67	64
GADWALL (2C)	129	14
WIGEON, EURASIAN (2C)	6	1
WIGEON, AMERICAN	482	60
CANVASBACK	982	54
REDHEAD	0	10
DUCK, RING-NECKED (2C)	357	36
SCAUP, GREATER	1878	10
SCAUP, LESSER (1A)	926	1
SCAUP Species	7950	0
DUCK, HARLEQUIN	0	3
SCOTER, BLACK	1	2
SCOTER, SURF (1A)	2320	226
SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED (2C)	319	61
GOLDENEYE, COMMON (2A)	626	32
GOLDENEYE, BARROW'S	19	0
BUFFLEHEAD (2A)	574	52
MERGANSER, HOODED	46	0
MERGANSER, RED-BREADED	17	28
DUCK, RUDDY	1038	178
VULTURE, TURKEY (2A)	27	62
KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED (2A)	17	39
HARRIER, NORTHERN (2A)	26	48
HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED	16	11
HAWK, COOPER'S (2A)	3	12
HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED (2A,C)	22	19
HAWK, RED-TAILED	79	85
HAWK, FERRUGINOUS (5A)	0	1
HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED	12	8
Buteo species	1	0
KESTREL, AMERICAN (1A)	58	34
MERLIN (2A,C)	6	4
FALCON, PEREGRINE (2A,C)	6	5
FALCON, PRAIRIE (5C)	1	0
TURKEY, WILD (4C)	1	0
QUAIL, CALIFORNIA (2A,C)	544	826
RAIL, VIRGINIA	4	4

Total Species: 193 175

Total # of Individuals: (1C) 63720 29228

KEY TO NUMERIC NOTATIONS
 (1) Abnormally low numbers
 (2) Significantly higher numbers
 (3) First time on this count
 (4) Not established, not reported to AB
 (5) Rare bird for this count
 (A) AJO Nuevo Count
 (B) Both Counts
 (C) Crystal Spring Count

PARTICIPANTS - AJO NUEVO COUNT ONLY

Barrett Anderson
 J.D. Blair
 Maryann Danielson
 Jennifer Green
 Howard Higley
 Colleen Horner

Paul Jones
 Dan J. Keller
 Don Keller
 John Page
 Sue Quigley
 Paul Reilly

Jean Marie Spoellman
 Gary Strachan
 Tim Sullivan
 Sonja Surgail

SPECIES	CS TOTAL	AN TOTAL
SORA	1	4
MOORHEN, COMMON (2C)	10	1
COOT, AMERICAN	1907	293
PLOVER, BLACK-BELLIED	514	155
GOLDEN-PLOVER, LESSER	2	1
PLOVER, SNOWY (2C)	90	15
PLOVER, SEMI-PALMATED	40	0
KILLDEER	394	249
OSTERCAATCHER, BLACK (2A)	2	64
STILT, BLACK-NECKED	68	0
AVOCET, AMERICAN	1094	0
YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	22	10
YELLOWLEGS, LESSER	0	1
WILLET (2A,1C)	1674	166
TATTLER, WANDERING (1A)	1	1
SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	6	0
WHIMBREL (2A)	25	33
CURLEW, LONG-BILLED (5A)	58	1
GOOWIT, HARBLED (1C)	849	97
TURNSTONE, RUDDY (1C)	4	11
TURNSTONE, BLACK (2A)	52	219
SURFBIRD (2A)	17	93
KNOT, RED (2A)	50	6
SANDERLING	407	410
SANDPIPER, WESTERN (1C)	768	3
SANDPIPER, LEAST	765	3
SANDPIPER, ROCK (5C)	1	1
DUNLIN (2A)	3715	31
Peep, species	110	0
DOWITCHER, SHORT-BILLED	409	3
DOWITCHER, LONG-BILLED (1A)	278	1
Dowitcher, sp.,	907	19
SNIPES, COMMON	57	9
JAAGER, POMARINE	2	2
GULL, BONAPARTE'S	7	5
GULL, HEERMANN'S	3	15
GULL, MEW (2A)	842	894
GULL, RING-BILLED	1435	35
GULL, CALIFORNIA (2A,1C)	528	646
GULL, HERRING	157	79
GULL, THAYER'S	5	5
GULL, WESTERN (2A)	1249	1413
GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED	513	350
KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED	1	3
Gull, species	976	48
TERN, ELEGANT (5C)	1	0
TERN, FORSTER'S	83	8
MURRE, COMMON	459	860
MURRELET, MARBLED	13	10
MURRELET, ANCIENT	2	0
AUKLET, CASSIN'S	7	3
AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	23	17
DOVE, ROCK (2A)	720	244
PIGEON, BAND-TAILED	109	63
DOVE, MOURNING	775	124
BARN-OWL, COMMON (2A,1C)	2	8
SCREECH-OWL, WESTERN	4	3
OWL, GREAT HORNED (2A,C)	27	17
PYGHY-OWL, NORTHERN	3	3
OWL, LONG-EARED (5C)	1	0
OWL, SHORT-EARED	6	0
OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET	5	5
SWIFT, WHITE-THROATED	0	21
HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	211	34
KINGFISHER, BELTED	10	12
WOODPECKER, ACORN	42	141
SAPSUCKER, RED-BREADED (2A,1C)	2	9
WOODPECKER, NUTTALL'S	6	0
WOODPECKER, DOWNY	22	14
WOODPECKER, HAIRY	8	21
FLICKER, NORTHERN	122	104
WOODPECKER, PILEATED (2A,3C)	1	3

CRYSTAL SPRINGS COUNT - 48 Observers

AJO NUEVO COUNT - 35 Observers

PARTICIPANTS-BOTH COUNTS

Rick Baird
 Edwin Duerr
 Janet Duerr
 Marc Fenner
 Grant Hoyt
 Karen Hoyt
 Rick Johnson
 Dan J. Keller
 Donald Keller
 Andy Kratter
 Linda Kypta

Peter Metropoulos
 Cliff Richer
 Barry Sauppe
 Steve Schafer
 Gail Smithson
 Chuck Staben
 Mary Beth Staben
 Maria Straataann
 Ron Thorn
 Rob Urry
 Al Vofchuck

PARTICIPANTS - CRYSTAL SPRINGS ONLY

Frank Allen
 Jean Allen
 Jane Becker-Haven
 Dennis Beal
 Nick Coiro
 Pamela Conley
 Pat Dickinson
 Shawneen Finnegan
 Louise Fletcher
 George Frecker
 Chip Haven
 Elsa Hooper
 Donna Kirsacko
 Carol Miller
 Genevieve Miller
 Donna Petersen
 Grace Sain
 Werner Schumann
 Carol Scott
 Ann Shadwick
 Don Slater
 Scott Smithson
 Judy Spittler
 Francis Toldi
 Diane Morgan
 Malinda Zeilinner
 Nahhina Kishall

BIRDING SAN MATEO COUNTY

Peter J. Metropulos

OBSERVATIONS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1988

A **RED-NECKED GREBE** was present in the Princeton Harbor area November 15 through December 17 (BS).

Eight **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS** were identified from shore at Pillar Point on December 17 (BS).

Up to two **GREEN-BACKED HERONS** were at Emerald Lakes, Redwood City from November 20 to December 17 (GM) and another was at a ranch pond in Half Moon Bay on December 17 (RU).

A flock of 5 **TUNDRA SWANS** appeared at Pescadero Marsh on November 15 (JRB), stayed briefly, then re-appeared on December 21 (RF) but were not seen thereafter. Another was seen flying overhead at Crystal Springs Reservoir on December 17 (G&KH).

An out-of-range flock of 20 **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GRESE** was winging its way over Huddart Park on December 17 (GF,DS).

A flock of 15 **BRANT** was southbound at Pillar Point on December 17 (BS).

WOOD DUCKS numbered 22 at Searsville Lake on November 6 (PJM) and 16 at Crystal Springs Reservoir on December 17 (G&KH).

Four **EURASIAN WIGEONS** were at Foster City on December 17 (SEF,NC). two more were at Redwood Shores the same day (PJM). Another was at Crystal Springs Reservoir on November 8 (AK) and another two were at Pescadero Marsh on December 24 (PJM), with at least one holding over to the 31st (G&KH). All birds were identified as males (drakes). Females (hens) are much more difficult to identify so are almost never reported.

Rare locally, ten **REDHEADS** were on the lagoon at Redwood Shores on December 17 (PJM).

A concentration of 500 **RING-NECKED DUCKS** on Crystal Springs Reservoir, November 13 (PJM) was the highest count in our area in many years.

Three **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** were at their usual Año Nuevo Point wintering haunts (GJS) on December 31.

Three **COMMON MERGANSERS** were at Crystal Springs Reservoir on December 25 (PJM). They are rare on the Peninsula although they nest in small numbers in the Santa Cruz Mountains to the south of us.

A roost of **BLACK-SHOULDERED KITES** at Año Nuevo Pt. on Nov. 27 boasted 15 birds (GJS) in one tree!

An immature **BALD EAGLE** was at San Andreas Reservoir on December 21 (KW).

A **FERRUGINOUS HAWK** was reported in the Pescadero area on December 16 (CR) and December 17 (RT).

ROUGH LEGGED HAWKS staged the biggest influx into our region in the past decade with a dozen birds in Half Moon Bay area during late November (BS), staying through the Crystal Springs Christmas Count on December 17, and another 8 being seen on the Año Nuevo Count on December 31.

Three **GOLDEN EAGLES** were observed at Belmont lough on November 19 (DK), Jasper Ridge, December 6 (LF) and Pescadero Marsh on December 11 (DA).

NERLINS and **PEREGRINES** were reported so frequently I cannot list individual sightings. On the two Christmas counts, 11 **PEREGRINES** were reported. A decade ago we would have been fortunate in locating one!

A sign of life during drought times: A **SORA** skulking through dry willows at Searsville Lake on November 2, (WL).

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVERS were reported from their usual coastal grassland wintering grounds with a total of 6 birds found from Half Moon Bay to Año Nuevo (JD,SSc,GJS,RT).

Very rare in winter, a **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** was found along Pescadero Creek on December 30 and 31 (CR).

The Pillar Point **ROCK SANDPIPER** showed up on Nov. 6 (MW) for its twelfth or so winter. Another inhabited the rocky headlands at Bean Hollow Beach on December 31 (RJ).

Stormy conditions may have pushed **RED PHALAROPES** onshore at Año Nuevo Point on Nov. 10 (CS), and Princeton Harbor on Nov. 15 (AK) and Dec. 10 (CR).

Small numbers of **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES** (were reported from coastal promontories this season.

For the third time an **ELEGANT TERN** has been found wintering in our coastal waters. Two were in Princeton Harbor November 6 (MW) with one being found throughout December by many observers. There are only a handful of winter records for North America!

38 **MARbled MURRELETS** at Año Nuevo Point on November 27 (GJS) was a good winter concentration.

Two **ANCIENT MURRELETS** at Pillar Point on December 17 (BS) were the only ones seen. They are erratic in occurrence in our area but usually a rare winter visitant.

A **LONG-EARED OWL** was found roosting at Pilarcitos Creek mouth on December 17 (RT).

A very late **BARN SWALLOW** was enjoying mild weather at Año Nuevo Point on November 4 (GJS).

Three **HOUSE WRENS**, rare winter birds, were at Half Moon Bay, Pescadero and Año Nuevo Point.

A **SOLITARY VIREO** foraging with a large flock of kinglets at upper Pescadero Creek on December 31 (PJM) was the first winter record for the county.

Single wintering **NASHVILLE WARBLERS** were in streamside willows at Pilarcitos Creek and Frenchman's Creek on December 17 (DK) and San Pedro Valley County Park on December 11 (SS).

A **HERMIT WARBLER** was in pines at El Granada on December 17 (BS).

A total of 7 **PALM WARBLERS** were detected along the coast.

A **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** was along San Gregorio Creek on December 11 (RT).

A **WORM-EATING WARBLER** was discovered along Miramontes Creek, Half Moon Bay on December 2 (PJM,DK) was our first county record! This buffy-breasted gem of a bird was found uncurling willow leaves to expose insect larvae within. It is one of the rarest warblers to occur in California.

BIRDING SAN MATEO COUNTY

(Continued from Page Seven)

Never before had a **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** been found in our county in winter so it is an extraordinary coincidence that two should be found on December 27 within the same hour; one at Año Nuevo at 7:00 A.M. (GJS) and the other at Atherton at 7:45 A.M. (PJM)! Both were males attracted to well-stocked feeders.

A **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at Higgins Creek in Half Moon Bay Dec. 10 (RT) was probably a late migrant.

A **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** feeding on the trail at Pescadero Marsh on December 31 (G&KH) was behaving very atypically for this ultra-elusive species. This is our first (long-overdue) county record.

SWAMP SPARROWS were reported as follows: one at Pilarcitos Creek, Dec. 17, two at Pigeon Point, Dec. 23, three at Año Nuevo Point on Dec. 24 and two in the town of Pescadero on Dec. 31 (all RT); and two at Pescadero Marsh on Dec. 26 (PJM).

WHITE THROATED SPARROWS were found at Menlo Park (WGB), Belmont (PJM), Pescadero (RT) and Pilarcitos Creek (DK).

One **RED CROSSBILL** was at El Granada on December 11 (BS) and a flock of 27 was along Skyline near Farwell's Rhododendrons on December 17 (RU).

A lone **EVENING GROSBEAK** appeared in an El Granada yard on December 17 (BS).

THE BIRD OF THE YEAR AWARD goes to Dan Keller for finding a **RUSTIC BUNTING** on November 25 at Half Moon Bay. The bird was re-discovered by Ron Thorn and identification verified the following day (RT,BS,JM,mob). This is not only a first record for San Mateo County but also the second record for California. It is considered "accidental" in North America outside the Aleutians.

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS OF RARE BIRDS TO
PETER METROPULOS (415-592-2417)

OBSERVERS: Dave Augustine, J.R. Blair, William G. Bouseman, Nick Coiro, Louise Fletcher, Roland Franz, George Frecker, Grant and Karen Hoyt, Dan Keller, Andy Kratter, Winkie Lennihan, Genevieve Miller, Cliff Richer, Barry Sauppe, Steve Schafer (SSc), Scott Smithson (SS), Chuck Staben, Gary J. Strachen, Ron Thorn, Rob Urry, Katy Wilson.

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