



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
February 1987

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
vol. 35, #6

SAS GENERAL MEETING

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH AND
THE BOUVERIE PRESERVE.

Most of us are familiar with the heron rookery on Bolinas Lagoon, but very few of us have had an opportunity to see what else is involved behind the scenes and at the other Ranch properties. Here is an opportunity to see two more sides of this multi-faceted operation.

Anne Monk and Jon Petersen of the Audubon Canyon Ranch Staff will be our featured speakers this month. Anne's talk will concentrate on the educational activities by and at the Ranch. Jon, the resident naturalist at the Bouverie Preserve, will show us the many resources of this remarkable property. Both will illustrate their talk with slides.

Meetings are held at the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. The Social Mixer begins at 7:30 P.M. with the General Meeting and Program at 8:00. The public is invited.

SPECIAL SALE!

For one month only, SAS is offering *San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching* to all members at the special price of \$5.00, a savings of nearly 30% over its regular price. Add \$1.00 for shipping and handling. All taxes included.

Use the order form on Page 5 (or a separate piece of paper) and specify MEMBERS' SPECIAL when ordering.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Two more volunteers are needed for general meeting night.

A doorkeeper is needed to greet the arriving members and guests, have them sign up and dispense the identification tags.

Another person is needed to staff the "book table" where the principal duty is to collect money and give change when someone wishes to purchase one of the books that is on sale.

Neither task involves a great deal of effort and both can be done while seated. And both are ways in which an otherwise busy person can get involved in SAS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

LINDA KYPTA

I want to thank all the counters that participated in this year's Christmas Counts. We did surprisingly well. (You'll find the complete results inside.) The number of birders we had was not large but we came up with lots of good birds.

My special thanks to Greta Broadwell, Carla Moreno and Donna Petersen who made soup and desserts and especially to Judy Spitler who outdid herself and donated *eight gallons* of soup. Nadine, in our office, also went beyond the call of duty and was invaluable in pulling together all the loose ends, especially at the last minute. And above everyone else, thank you to Peter Metropolis and Barry Sauppe for their many hours of work coordinating, scouting and birding and thanks to Barry for the final job of compiling all the results. After we finish our job, his has only begun.

Next year, we'll be asking all of you that can't get out on the count days to count your own yards. This year we had less than 10 feeders reported. We all get caught up in the species total and sometimes forget the point of Christmas Counts - to record population swings and movements. Birds like house sparrows just didn't get counted because people tend to go to "birdy" areas and ignore our back yards. This particularly pertains to the Crystal Springs Count and the populated areas where most of us live. Next year we have to get out there and count more starlings and house sparrows.

Many of you may have picked up a birding video cassette and wondered what it was like...but not enough to pay the price. Well, now you can watch them for a fraction of that price. Since January 19, SAS has had Arnold Small's *Techniques of Birding* and National Audubon Society's *Video Guide to Birds of North America* available for rental. Both are very good. Small's is especially good for beginners. You can learn in 70 minutes what it takes most birders a year to learn or their own. Tapes can be picked up during normal office hours - Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noontime. In order to give you time to play them over and over and study them, the rental period is five days. Until the tapes are paid for there will be a minimum donation of \$2.00 to rent the Arnold Small tape and \$5.00 for the NAS video.

FLORENCE ERICKSON and her son, LARRY, responded to our article in last month's *NEEDLES* and will be taking over the important job of assembling and mailing your monthly newsletter. I'm looking forward to working with them both.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH - We will be hosting the month of March this year. Donna and Pete Petersen - our perennial and very capable ACR hosts - will be out of the country for the entire month and John Silliman has agreed to handle the duties for this year. Please call John (585-3232) or the office (593-7368) to volunteer for the light (and usually fun) duty on any one of the 4 Saturdays or Sundays in March. Remember, even Mikie likes it!

CALENDAR

February 1987

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. 5 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Sears Savings Bank, Carlmont Shopping Center, at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and the Alameda de la Pulgas in Belmont. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

FEB. 11 FOSTER CITY AREAS FIELD TRIP. Wintering ducks and WEDNESDAY shorebirds will be our main interests along the bays and lagoons of Foster City as we look for the fieldmarks that separate Barrow's from Common Goldeneye and greater and lesser scaup. Learn how to identify the red knot (who is really gray) and pick the knot out of the Flocks of dowitchers, plovers, willets and dunlins. But the number one target bird will be the spectacular hooded merganser. We will meet in the parking lot at the Recreation Center on Shell Blvd. at 9:00 A.M. rain or shine. The trip should end at noon.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

FEB. 12 SAS GENERAL MEETING. AUDUBON CANYON RANCH -- TWO THURSDAY MORE FACETS TO THE JEWEL -- Educational Programs with ANNE MONK and The Bouverie Preserve with JON PETERSEN. 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.

WELCOME!
 : FIELD TRIPS AND THE GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL :
 : MEMBERS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME :
 : ON ALL OF OUR FIELD TRIPS. SOME TRIPS ARE DESIGNATED AS :
 : BEGINNERS' TRIPS BECAUSE THEY ARE RELATIVELY NEARBY AND :
 : MAY BE ENJOYED WITHOUT SPECIAL CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT OR :
 : PRIOR EXPERIENCE. /

FEB. 14 CHARLESTON SLOUGH AND THE PALO ALTO FLOOD CONTROL SATURDAY BASIN. Geographically isolated from the other habitats of the Palo Alto Baylands this complex area of salt and freshwater ponds, brackish marshes, creeks, sloughs, grasslands and riparian growth offers a wide variety of wildlife in the midst of the highly industrialized and developed western bay-front. As a result it offers much to both the beginning and the skilled birder. Relatively rare birds such as blue-winged teal, redheads, merlins, moorhens, short-eared owls and Lincoln's sparrows are regular winter residents and a wide variety of other species can be observed in a relatively small area with a minimal expenditure of time. To get there, take Hwy. 101 to the Embarcadero exit and proceed east to the first traffic light at Frontage Road. Take a right on Frontage Rd. and look for a small parking lot on the left after approximately 1.2 miles. We will meet there at 9:00 A.M. and bird until noon. Rain will cancel the trip. Regardless of weather expect to encounter some muddy going. Other than that the terrain is flat and the small amount of walking that will be done will be easy going. A good trip for beginners.

LEADER ELGIN JURI 325-7470

The CALENDAR is continued on Page Three

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

Next month, for one month only, the Bolinas Preserve will hold special Family Programs every Sunday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Each one will feature a particular craft project for adults and kids under the direction of Anne Monk. So plan to visit with your family in March and be part of the fun.

At the close of 1986 ACR received three sizeable donations to further its work.

The L. J. and Mary Skaggs Foundation granted funds to support environmental education programs at Bouverie Preserve. A bequest from the estate of Ivan Barker was given to the Ranch in memory of Mr. Barker's aunt, Josephine Hill, who, he wrote, "taught me to love the birds." This gift-like all unspecified bequests has been placed in the Ranch's endowment to provide a continuing source of income for the future.

The Madrone Audubon Society donated the proceeds of its Nature Center Fund in memory of Tom Olds. Mr. Olds was a founding member of Madrone Audubon and constant contributor to the Nature Center Fund through the sale of his hand carved bird pins. The money will be used to outfit the laboratory in Gilman Hall at the Bouverie Preserve, including the purchase of microscopes, binoculars, and other field study equipment.

This month Bouverie Preserve will graduate 24 new docents in its 5th training class, bringing the number to 60.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS:

February 28 is the annual free lunch and work day at the Bolinas Preserve. Beginning at 9 AM, volunteers will get the Ranch spruced up for opening day, March 1. If you plan to help out please call the Ranch at (415)383-1644 so there will be a place at the table for you.

April 4-5 will be a very special weekend at the Bolinas Preserve with water color artist Nell Melcher, who is well known in Marin and Sonoma counties for her posters, postcards and wine labels. If you like to paint or love flowers you won't want to miss "Watercolor Wild Flowers".

Also on April 5, the Bouverie Preserve will feature "Moon Spring, a Banquet for the Senses", a hike to the Mayacamays Mountains and the Stewart Creek Water-fall to be conducted by Phyllis Ellman and Jon Petersen.

To reserve a spot at any of these events please call (415) 383-1644.

And don't forget Bouverie's Community Hike Days - the last Saturday of every month. They include February 28, March 28, April 25 and May 16 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Reservations should be made by the Wednesday prior to each hike by calling (707) 938-4554. These hikes fill up quickly so call now.

Senator Alan Cranston is proposing a sweeping change in the way that the Federal Government administers the vast desert areas of east-central and southern California. The Bureau of Land Management now controls most of this land with isolated pockets administered by the Park Service and the Forestry Service.

The Bureau of Land Management's multiple-use philosophy has not been kind to the desert nor to its fragile environment in Cranston's view. By creating two new National Parks, (Mojave and Joshua Tree), upgrading Death Valley from a Monument to a National Park and designating 4.5 million acres as wilderness, Cranston hopes to save hundreds of threatened species of plants, animals and birds.

The bill would bring an end to prospecting. All existing mining claims would be reviewed and no new ones would be allowed. Some 30 ranching families and a total of 250-350 people live on the 12 million acres which would fall in the area and they would be severely impacted by the eventual loss of grazing rights and the reduction in off-road vehicle use which would now be severely curtailed and restricted to specific areas of non-critical habitat.

Ranchers throughout the West will oppose this bill which they see as a threat to the open range. Well organized off-road vehicle groups such as the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs are working on bringing fishermen, hunters, van and trailer campers and rock collectors into an organized opposition coalition. Supervisors in 14 rural California counties have expressed opposition and the BLM is expected to lobby heavily against it. Senator Cranston has wisely avoided including any areas outside of California in the hope that it will be regarded as a "home rule" bill. This makes Senator Wilson a key to passage. Without his support the bill will probably become a victim of the powerful opposition and die in committee. With his support the bill should pass as a "local" issue. Letters indicating your support for your particular point of view will be influential in determining the outcome of this bill.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE?

Mount Shasta Audubon learned of a new way to increase its membership. This chapter is heavily involved in opposing the development of a ski area on Mt. Shasta. The developer signed up 45 new members in an attempt to pack the annual general meeting and influence the chapter elections. As is inevitable in a small town, news of this leaked out and a last minute telephone campaign delivered a record turnout and prevented an unfriendly takeover.

EAGLES OR MOVIES?

Was it the prospect of a free movie or was it the subject matter of the movie - the American bald eagle - that was the big attraction that drew so many members and friends? In any event last month's meeting was a one of the largest in recent memory.

The movie produced by National Audubon dealt with the danger to the world's largest concentration of bald eagles on the Alaskan panhandle. What was left out of the movie was its eventual happy ending. National Audubon representatives, working with native groups, federal agencies, local businessmen and timber interests worked out a compromise plan that left the habitat untouched - all without engaging in costly litigation and without leaving a bitter aftermath. This settlement has often been cited as one of the best examples of positive environmental negotiation. Unfortunately such settlements require people of rare skills with the ability to understand the others' points of view and too often the opponents are polarized even before there is any opportunity for discussion or negotiation.

Congress is back and with a Democratic majority is ready to show its muscle. One of Congress's announced objectives is to pass the re-authorized Clean Water Act, pocket-vetoed by the President last fall. Some of the President's advisors are predicting an active veto unless the costs of the bill are reduced. But with near-unanimous agreement in both houses, it is doubtful that Congress will compromise the bill any further. It may be law by the time you read this.

The California Democratic Caucus has announced that wild river protection for the Kings, Kern and Merced Rivers is among their top priorities. Since these bills affect only California, it is expected that "professional courtesy" in the House will insure their passage there. With narrower margins in the Senate, passage there is less certain. A great deal depends upon the position taken by Senator Wilson. While hardly an environmental activist, Senator Wilson has kept an open mind on most conservation issues. His own bill on the protection of the Merced River is broader and more sweeping than the House bills. Your letters to him could go a long way towards influencing his decision on the other bills as well.

The Electric Consumers Protection Act of 1986 was passed in October. Hidden among its many technical proposals were provisions placing limitations on environmental restrictions on small hydro development. The bill requires evaluation of environmental impacts and gives a much greater regulatory role to federal and state wildlife agencies.

Big hydro projects remain the cleanest long-term method of generating electricity but the most immediately damaging to the environment. With a current oversupply of electricity in California, the principal force behind new projects is not power, but the desire for new and cheap sources of agricultural water. The State Water Resources Control Board has just completed one round of hearings for projects on the Cosumnes (six dams and seven power plants) and the Mokelumne (two dams) rivers. Regardless of the board's decision, there will be considerably more to be heard on these projects. As usual, these are expected to end up in the courts.

Meanwhile pressures are mounting on farmers to reduce usage of irrigation water. The San Luis Drain is plugged. Studies continue on cleaning up the Kesterson Refuge. Tulare Lake may prove to be as severe a problem as Kesterson. Tests on small evaporation ponds have shown that the "impermeable" clay layer has been anything but. Wells near these ponds have become polluted as selenium has penetrated to the aquifer. The courts of the West Valley counties are going to be occupied for some time in fixing damages.

... ON SECOND THOUGHT

LINDA KYPTA

ate last fall an unidentified out-of-state birder saw a young shrike at the Olema Marsh. Since he was from out-of-state, he didn't know where to report a rare bird and as a result no one else was aware of it locally.

Much later this bird was seen again and identified as an immature northern shrike. Many birders went out to see this "good bird" and although they had some problems fitting the field marks to the bird, most of them were experienced birders who knew the field guides were sometimes wrong or didn't cover all the plumage variations - therefore the local experts had to be right.

By this time our out-of-stater had sent a letter to the American Birding Association, which in turn passed the question on to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory... "Would anyone be interested in a brown shrike at the Olema Marsh?"

And so the experts went back out to the marsh again and found that their immature northern shrike had been transformed into an immature brown shrike - an Asiatic species far from its normal range in Russia and China.

You won't find this bird in any of your field guides. In 1983, the last time any of these was updated or published this bird had only been seen twice in the United States - both times on remote Alaskan islands. Since that time three more have been sighted, one from the Farallones, but this bird is the first mainland American sighting.

The bird hasn't been hard to spot and several hundred people have now seen this "great bird" - with birders from Georgia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania adding it to their lists.

There's a moral here somewhere. As beginners we tend to see rarities in every variant plumage. Later as we get more sophisticated we tend to dismiss every different bird as being "just another" variant plumage. Perhaps we should go back to questioning every bird that doesn't fit the mold. It just might be the next brown shrike...or dotterel...or smew...or ?????.

(Thanks to Rich Stallcup for the story).

REVISED NG FIELD GUIDE ON THE WAY

When the National Geographic Society published their first birding field guide almost four years ago, it was generally hailed as the most comprehensive and accurate of all the guides.

Nevertheless, there were defects and the National Geographic Society began working on a revised and corrected edition even before the first printing was sold out. Some of the plates were recommissioned and others were altered to better illustrate the field marks. Additional text has been provided and some maps - particularly those of the Pacific Coast or northern Mexico have been redone.

The revised National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is expected to be available in April. To reserve your copy and to help us in estimating the size of our initial order, please call Nadine at the Audubon Office (593-7368). The new price is not known as we go to press but may be available when you phone.

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! Use this form to order your copy today. Only \$8.99! (Taxes, shipping and handling included).

XX
 Also available by mail - including postage and tax
 National Geographic Field Guides \$16.00
 Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00
 Birding at the Bottom of the Bay 8.25
 Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.60
 Birds of the Sacramento Area 4.50

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS



**San Francisco
 Peninsula
 Birdwatching**

**1987 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS
SPECIES COUNT**

SPECIES	NUMBERS		SPECIES	NUMBERS		SPECIES	NUMBERS		SPECIES	NUMBERS	
	Crystal Springs	Ano Nuevo		Crystal Springs	Ano Nuevo		Crystal Springs	Ano Nuevo		Crystal Springs	Ano Nuevo
LOON, RED-THROATED	67	4	HARRIER, NORTHERN	19	30	KITTINAKE, BLACK-LEGGED	3	4	SOLITAIRE, TOWNSEND'S	---	1
LOON, PACIFIC	357	561	HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED	14	7	TERN, CASPIAN	1	-	THRUSH, HERMIT	72	61
LOON, COMMON	25	35	HAWK, COOPER'S	6	3	TERN, FORSTER'S	71	7	ROBIN, AMERICAN	1125	185
GREBE, PIE-BILLED	107	40	HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED	14	4	MURRE, COMMON	767	674	THRUSH, VARIOUS	286	94
GREBE, HORNED	100	29	HAWK, RED-TAILED	59	33	GUILLEMOT, PIGEON	1	-	WRENTIT	165	81
GREBE, RED-NECKED	5	1	HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED	1	--	MURRELET, MARBLED	3	7	MOCKINGBIRD, NORTHERN	72	1
GREBE, EARED	26	14	KESTREL, AMERICAN	52	35	MURRELET, ANCIENT	5	-	THRASHER, CALIFORNIA	21	2
GREBE, WESTERN	891	227	MERLIN	4	4	AUKLET, CASSIN'S	3	5	PIBIT, WATER	159	109
GREBE, CLARK'S	24	---	FALCON, PEREGRINE	2	2	AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	47	18	WAXWING, CEDAR	99	1
FULMAR, NORTHERN	6	7	PHEASANT, RING-NECKED	2	1	DOVE, ROCK	782	91	SHRIKE, LOGGERHEAD	11	2
SHEARWATER, SHORT-TAILED	4	-	QUAIL, CALIFORNIA	351	536	PIGEON, BAND-TAILED	170	78	STARLING, EUROPEAN	4517	1748
SHEARWATER, BLACK-VENTED	3	-	RAIL, CLAPPER	10	--	DOVE, MOURNING	586	152	VIREO, HUTTON'S	71	22
SHEARWATER, Species	---	2	RAIL, VIRGINIA	6	5	BARN-OWL, COMMON	5	4	WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED	13	6
PELICAN, BROWN	11	2	SORA	5	7	SCREECH-OWL, WESTERN	17	4	WARBLER, NASHVILLE	1	-
CORMORANT, DOUBLE-CRESTED	1152	31	MOORHEN, COMMON	1	--	OWL, GREAT HORNED	25	1	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED	130	7
CORMORANT, BRANDT'S	67	32	COOT, AMERICAN	2179	521	PYGMY-OWL, NORTHERN	4	4	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED (AUD)	780	321
CORMORANT, PELAGIC	103	87	POLOVER, BLACK-BELLIED	354	120	OWL, BURROWING	2	-	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED (MYRT)	76	178
BITTERN, AMERICAN	---	3	GOLDEN-POLOVER, LESSER	1	2	OWL, LONG-EARED	2	--	WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S	89	102
HERON, GREAT BLUE	43	16	POLOVER, SNOWY	33	22	OWL, SHORT-EARED	3	--	WARBLER, HERMIT	2	1
EGRET, GREAT	59	12	POLOVER, SEMI-PALMATED	48	--	OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET	20	10	WARBLER, PRAIRIE	1	-
EGRET, SNOWY	113	13	KILLDEER	387	702	SWIFT, WHITE-THROATED	25	--	WARBLER, PALM	2	-
EGRET, CATTLE	1	-	OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK	9	48	HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	327	39	WARBLER, BLACK-AND-WHITE	2	1
HERON, GREEN-BACKED	1	1	STILT, BLACK-NECKED	60	2	KINGFISHER, BELTED	13	9	WARBLER, MACGILLIVRAY'S	1	-
NIGHT-HERON, BLACK-CROWNED	44	14	AVOCET, AMERICAN	507	--	WOODPECKER, LEWIS'	3	--	YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON	39	36
SWAN, TUNDRA	16	2	YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	22	15	WOODPECKER, ACORN	202	62	WARBLER, WILSON'S	1	-
BRANT	2	-	WILLET	3670	153	SAPSUCKER, RED-BREADED	9	5	GROSBEAK, ROSE-BREADED	1	-
GOOSE, CANADA	296	-	TATTLER, WANDERING	2	1	WOODPECKER, NUTTALL'S	7	1	TOWHEE, RUFOUS-SIDED	94	20
DUCK, WOOD	62	2	SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	8	--	WOODPECKER, DOWNY	30	11	TOWHEE, BROWN	188	123
TEAL, GREEN-WINGED	215	90	WHIMBREL	19	11	WOODPECKER, HAIRY	19	7	SPARROW, LARK	174	2
MALLARD	428	39	CURLW, LONG-BILLED	79	--	Flicker, NORTHERN	124	61	SPARROW, SAVANNAH	174	73
PINTAIL, NORTHERN	1340	85	GODWIT, MARBLED	3180	301	WOODPECKER, FILEATED	---	2	SPARROW, FOX	275	136
TEAL, CINNAMON	7	26	TURNSTONE, RUDDY	33	6	PHOEBE, BLACK	81	93	SPARROW, SONG	301	228
SHOVELER, NORTHERN	394	51	TURNSTONE, BLACK	76	213	PHOEBE, SAY'S	9	14	SPARROW, LINCOLN'S	48	23
SADWALL	82	34	SURFBIRD	24	124	LARK, HORNED	27	--	SPARROW, SWAMP	---	1
WIGEON, EURASIAN	2	--	KNOT, RED	199	1	SHALLOW, TREE	2	40	SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED	4	3
WIGEON, AMERICAN	833	25	SANDERLING	267	527	SWALLOW, VIOLET-GREEN	---	160	SPARROW, GOLDEN-CROWNED	938	701
CANVASBACK	2684	38	SANDPIPER, WESTERN	6722	7	JAY, STELLER'S	252	92	SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED	820	891
REDHEAD	7	--	SANDPIPER, LEAST	1255	8	JAY, SCRUB	453	58	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	956	595
DUCK, RING-NECKED	148	109	SANDPIPER, ROCK	1	1	CROW, AMERICAN	4	1	JUNCO, DARK-EYED (SLTE-CLRD)	3	---
SCAUP, GREATER	9123	10	DUNLIN	13332	-	RAVEN, COMMON	19	22	BLACKBIRD, RED-WINGED	1394	1415
SCAUP, LESSER	4976	10	DOWITCHER, SHORT-BILLED	469	--	CHICKADEE, CHESTNUT-BACKED	617	303	BLACKBIRD, TRI-COLORED	535	3403
OLDSQUAW	1	-	DOWITCHER, LONG-BILLED	270	13	TITMOUSE, PLAIN	38	1	MEADOWLARK, WESTERN	603	425
DUCK, HARLEQUIN	---	1	SNIFE, COMMON	59	17	BUSHITIT	832	417	BLACKBIRD, RUSTY	---	1
SCOTER, BLACK	11	4	JAEGER, POMARINE	2	--	NUTHATCH, RED-BREADED	19	2	BLACKBIRD, BREWER'S	2383	309
SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED	296	42	JAEGER, Species	---	1	NUTHATCH, WHITE-BREADED	15	2	COMBIRD, BROWN-HEADED	49	---
SCOTER, SURF	8218	247	GULL, FRANKLIN'S	1	-	NUTHATCH, PYGMY	78	101	ORIOLE, NORTHERN	---	---
GOLDENEYE, COMMON	517	19	GULL, BONAPARTE'S	9	4	WREN, BEWICK'S	39	32	FINCH, PURPLE	109	37
GOLDENEYE, BARRON'S	33	--	GULL, HEERMANN'S	3	29	WREN, WINTER	55	30	FINCH, HOUSE	1884	593
BUFFLEHEAD	773	32	GULL, NEW	749	373	WREN, MARSH	28	31	CROSSBILL, RED	11	3
MERGANSER, HOODED	26	--	GULL, RING-BILLED	3170	35	DIPPER, AMERICAN	---	1	SISKIN, PINE	257	93
MERGANSER, COMMON	5	--	GULL, CALIFORNIA	5085	345	KINGLET, GOLDEN-CROWNED	82	29	GOLDFINCH, LESSER	56	52
MERGANSER, RED-BREADED	34	36	GULL, HERRING	132	48	GULL, THAYER'S	364	195	GOLDFINCH, AMERICAN	166	94
DUCK, RUDDY	2738	234	GULL, WESTERN	1932	973	GATCATCHER, BLUE-GRAY	---	1	GROSBEAK, EVENING	3	3
VULTURE, TURKEY	19	2	GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED	810	349	BLUEBIRD, WESTERN	26	97	SPARROW, HOUSE	408	16
KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	23	7									

Total species: Crystal Springs=204 Ano Nuevo=177

Total Numbers of Birds 107965 25965

PARTICIPANTS

CRYSTAL SPRINGS COUNT

Ann Behnke	Jim Behnke	Jane Becker-Haven	Craig Benkman	Greta Broadwell	Pat Dickerson
Louise Fletcher	Walter Floyd	Kathy Graves	Chip Haven	Albert Jasberg	Don Keller
Jane Lee	Winkie Lennihan	Fran Nelson	Roy Nelson	Kirsten Nielsen	Donna Petersen
Pete Petersen	Shirley Sampson	Werner Schumann	John Silliman	Gail Smithson	Scott Smithson

AND NUEVO COUNT

Lynne Aldrich	Art Farley	Peter Gottschling	Joan Humohrey	Genevieve Miller	Thomas Olson
Robert Pigeon	Aram Rameel	Karen Remington	Gary Strachan	Jim Thomas	Rob Urry

BOTH COUNTS

Frank Allen	Jean Allen	Janice Anderson	Rick Baird	John Boring	Maryanne Danielson
Edwin Duerr	Janet Duerr	Dan Keller	Andy Kratter	Linda Kypta	Peter Metropoulos
Paul Noble	Cliff Richer	Steve Santaguida	Barry Sauope	Steve Schafer	Jean-Marie Spoelman
David Suddjian		Ron Thorn	Gil West	Christine Wolfe	Claire Wolfe

CHRISTMAS COUNT NOTES

Our thanks to Barry Saupe for compiling the statistics on the Christmas Counts. The Crystal Springs count went over the 200 mark for only the second time and just barely missed tying or exceeding the record set two years ago. In this we were assisted by clear, albeit cold, weather. Peter Metropoulos and Barry thoroughly canvassed the County in the weeks preceding the count and identified the location of many of the rarities for the other observers. The birds and the observers cooperated very well and all of the "stake-outs" were added to the count. Owling was to prove very profitable with a record eight species! Under normal good owling conditions, five species are expected in our area - common barn-owl, great horned and saw-whet owls, northern pygmy-owl and western screech-owl. At this time of year one or two short-eared owls should also be found in the count area. Burrowing owls, once

common in the county, are now found only rarely and by chance and the secretive, reclusive and declining long-eared owl has only occasionally been found in the county. To find all of them on a single day in the count area was a remarkable achievement.

The Ano Nuevo count was another story. Before dawn typhoon winds and monsoon rains lashed the coastline. At daybreak the rain was horizontal and it looked as if it would be a repetition of last year's disastrous weather conditions. However, from the shelter of his car at Pigeon Point, Barry was able to find "holes" in the storm often enough to enable him to count up some of the needed pelagic species. Elsewhere, other counters slogged along through dripping and swaying redwood forests, covered in their vehicles (while pointing binoculars out the lee

window), or stood on the porches of park buildings waiting for a break in the weather. By noontime all were soaked through to the skin and discouraged and the count was extremely low. The small passerine species and the raptors were "hunkered" down waiting out the storm. Shorebirds were almost non-existent since the shoreline was being swept by monster waves right to the base of the cliffs - at low tide! And even the ducks at Pescadero Marsh chose to feed among the reeds out of the force of the wind. However, after one last blast at noon, storm abated and the birds - driven by hunger began make their appearance in the afternoon. Slowly the species and totals counts began to increase and the final counts became at least respectable by the time that darkness descended over a soggy, sodden and thoroughly exhausted group of counters.

NAS CONVENTION
August 24-28, 1987

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON
NEEDS OUR HELP!

The National Audubon Society reminds us that it's not too early to begin making plans for summer and including the National Convention in your travels.

CLIFF RICHER

Auduboners from around the nation will converge on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington this August. The program will include speakers, workshops, entertainment and a variety of field trips to the scenic areas of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest.

Registration forms and additional information will soon be sent to you. For more information, contact the Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca. 95825, (916) 481-5332; or Richardson Bay Audubon Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, Ca. 94920, (415) 388-2524.

Golden Gate Audubon has initiated a lawsuit against the Port of Oakland's expansion project covering 180 acres of wetlands at the Oakland Airport. GGAS considers the airport's mitigation package less than adequate and a violation of CEQA (The California Environmental Quality Act). They have been joined in this action by the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, Save San Francisco Bay and the Attorney General of California. Golden Gate's actions are supported unanimously by Sequoia Audubon Society's Conservation Committee and it's Board of Directors.

All of this area is behind chain link fences, is on airport property and is unavailable to the general public. What can be seen of it is mostly unattractive and dismal to the uneducated eye. Yet it is a nesting place for burrowing owls, the endangered clapper rail, other rail species, gulls, terns, avocets and numerous passerines. In the winter it provides a feeding ground for ducks and shorebirds. The rare golden plover has been seen through the chain link fence in most winters. It is a habitat that is vital not just to wildlife but to the life of the bay itself. We need to preserve every remaining square foot of wetland to insure the quality of the Bay.

ALASKAN ADVENTURE

The Mono Lake Committee is sponsoring a two week wilderness trip to Alaska starting June 21. It includes the fjordlands and wilderness refuges of Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, the scenic highway to Glenallen and Matanuska Valley and five days at Camp Denali in Denali National Park. The city of Anchorage and the towns of Homer, Seward and Valdez will be visited.

The Port of Oakland has lobbied many civic bodies, trade unions and newspapers to bring pressure to bear on the State Attorney General to drop his portion of the lawsuit. This pressure has apparently been working and the Attorney General has agreed to reconsider his position. His participation is critical to the suit since without it, Golden Gate has neither the funds or the personnel to carry the suit forward to a successful conclusion and the Port may win by default.

If there is sufficient interest, a 5 day extension to Glacier Bay and Juneau will be offered.

Time is critical. GGAS requests that you send a letter to the Attorney General requesting that he continue his participation. They have prepared the following sample for you to copy or paraphrase:

Cost for the 14 day excursion is approximately \$2300 plus airfare and the 5 day extension to Glacier Bay is estimated at \$600.

Honorable John Van De Kamp
Attorney General
3580 Wilshire Blvd.
Room 800
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010

For full information, send a self-addressed stamped legal-size envelope to Alaska '87, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

Dear Attorney General Van De Kamp:

I W I S T

(I W I S H I ' D S A I D T H A T)

Our remaining native wetlands also have this in common: many are in jeopardy, doomed to be drained for crops we do not need, to be filled for resort developments or factories, or simply to be used as garbage dumps. And when the last prairie pothole has been put to wheat, the Achafalaya Swamp made safe for soybeans, and Butte Sink converted to rice fields, a vast part of our wild original wetlands will have been lost forever. It cannot be recalled from the computer banks, and no spacecraft can take us where it has gone.

We urge you to continue your lawsuit against the Port of Oakland expansion project. The CEQA issues are important. We must establish strong precedents against development of sensitive and diminishing areas such as wetlands without appropriate mitigation. Please know that we appreciate your efforts in this important environmental and health issue.

Thank you for your strong stand.

Sincerely,

Letters in this or a similar vein - particularly adding your own words of support or encouragement - may well be the deciding weight in determining the fate of another parcel of our diminishing heritage.

I W I H H T

(I W I S H I H A D N ' T H E A R D T H A T)

Wetlands, by John Madson, writing in The Nature Conservancy News, December 1986/January 1987

"This land we're sitting on right now, (Hacienda Business Park), I rowed across in the winter of '77 with a couple of friends, shooting ducks... there were ducks all over the place. It's hard to believe." -----Joe Callahan, Developer
Hacienda Business Park
Pleasanton, Ca.

WILD GOOSE CHASE CONTRIBUTORS

CLIFF RICHER

We wish to thank publicly and acknowledge our gratitude to the following members and supporters who gave so generously of their time, effort and money to this year's Wild Goose Chase. Any of you

who have made pledges or contributions which have not been acknowledged should contact Cliff Richer at 355-4058. Your assistance is especially appreciated in this very tight budget year.

RICK BAIRD	TOM AND WIN DYE	ELGIN JURI	STEVE SCHAFER
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			Rare Bird Alert 528-0288

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