



# sequoia needles

Bulletin of the  
February, 1987

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.

Vol. 36, #6

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Mike Kapis, founder and director of the Save the Phillipine Eagles Fund, will give us the present state of the world's second largest and most endangered bird of prey. Aided by slides and videotapes, Mike will show us how the eagle lives, how its habitat is being systematically destroyed, how it is affected by the unrest in the Phillipines and what we can do about it.

Before the program, the Education Committee will have an exhibit of 'scopes and binoculars ranging from generic to Zeiss. If you're thinking of buying birding optics - don't miss this chance to try out the whole range first.

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

## NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

LUIS TAM, who presented last May's program on East Africa returns with a new double-header presentation, having just assembled two 15-20 minute multimedia programs - one on Brazil and another on Australia and New Zealand.

## RECYCLING SUCCESS

Our preliminary attempts at reaping some benefits from the new recycling law have produced some modest benefits, according to President Kypta. Aluminum cans turned into our office have been recycled and the returns added to our treasury's general fund.

We will therefore continue the program and are encouraging greater participation by the membership. If you can bring your aluminum cans - in plastic bags - to the office or to our meetings, we will take care of having them recycled.

We are also expanding our efforts to include plastic beverage containers as well as cans - but please keep them in separate bags from the cans.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS - PAGE SEVEN  
WILD GOOSE CHASE RESULTS - PAGE SIX

## ALIENS

CLIFF RICHER

Nearly one hundred years ago, Eugene Schieffelin, a wealthy drug manufacturer, a lover of Shakespeare and an admirer of birds, stood in New York City's Central Park and opened a cage door. Inhuman creatures with insatiable appetites, uttering weird sounds, emerged.

And so, according to most authorities, the European starling came to North America.

Schieffelin was not an evil genius, or an ornithological Jekyll and Hyde, but a well-meaning gentle man whose hobby was to introduce into America all of the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's works. Prior to importing the starlings, Schieffelin had imported and released skylarks, nightingales, chaffinches and even the already well-established house sparrow. The house sparrows merged into the local populations and quickly disappeared. The other species simply died off.

At first it looked like the starlings would meet a similar fate. Despite one pair nesting under the eaves of the American Museum of Natural History, it looked like the starlings were disappearing. But enough survived the winter to give some hope. And so, in the spring of 1891, another official of the American Acclimation Society released a second shipment in the park. These proved to be hardier than the original group - or their numbers were sufficient to augment the number of survivors - and a year later the starlings not only had survived but had become common in Manhattan.

No one alive knows for certain how many birds were released but the convenient number generally used is 100 birds.

Both shipments - because of earlier failures - were carefully selected to include only the healthiest and most aggressive birds. And the survivors of the first two New York winters were the fittest of the fit.

With an absence of natural controls, and two broods (or more) each season the bird increased in numbers at a geometric rate. 30 years ago they were unknown or very rare in Canada, the northern states and California. Today the starling is found everywhere in the United States and is probably the most common landbird in both countries.

In the southeast it forms huge wintering flocks. The size of these flocks, their noise and the quantity of their droppings have often made the eleven o'clock news, as have the futility of efforts to disperse or exterminate them. Everywhere it has prospered at the expense of native species, ousting martins, swallows, woodpeckers, wrens and other cavity nesters - even small owls - from their nest holes. It is - to its credit - an efficient insect eater but often devastates fruit orchards and vineyards while (or instead of) doing its job as a natural pesticide.

I know of no one who has any affection for, or even mild tolerance of, the starling, but, unloved, it persists. Let's face it, the aliens are among us to stay!

CALENDAR

February 1988

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

FEB. 4 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Kypta residence.  
 THURSDAY Open to all members but anyone except directors & officers should call ahead as space is limited.  
 ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

FEB. 11 SAS GENERAL MEETING. SAVING THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE  
 THURSDAY with Mike Kapis, Director of the Save the Philippine Eagle Fund. The program will be preceded by a special demonstration of birding optics, presented by the Education Committee. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 PM. General Meeting begins at 8:00. See Page One for further details.

FEB. 13-15 THE NORTHERN REFUGES - TULE LAKE, KLAMATH LAKE AND SATURDAY- BEAR VALLEY FOR EAGLES AND SWANS! The trip is MONDAY on although the itinerary is not yet set. The exact schedule will be decided by group consensus. The Lower Klamath Lake 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 CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

FEB. 24 CHAIN OF LAKES AT GOLDEN GATE PARK. Join us for WEDNESDAY this mid-week field trip. Enjoy an easy morning's walk with good birding. Blue-winged teal, wood ducks, Eurasian wigeons, red crossbills and a number of rare warblers have been seen near these lakes in recent years and almost anything might be found in the area. To get there take Sunset Blvd. north from Lake Marced (or any other convenient juncture) and follow it right into the park. Once in the park, take a left on South Drive and your second right on East Drive. We will meet in the parking lot on the right just before Middle Lake and across from the Equestrian Center at 9:00 AM. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

FEB. 28 FIELD TRIP - STOCKTON, LODI AND THE DELTA - The SUNDAY trip begins at the Stockton Oxidation Ponds, goes on to the Lodi Treatment Plant and then caravans through the back roads of the Delta. The Stockton ponds are famous for their wintering little and black-headed gulls and the Lodi ponds for their shorebirds while the Delta is noted for its winter populations of waterfowl and raptors. Rare gulls, plovers, swans, geese, sandhill cranes, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks are all expected on this trip. (At this writing, a Bendire's thrasher is also reported from a residential area of Lodi.) We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the entrance to the Stockton Oxidation Ponds. To get there follow I-580 east to I-5 and I-5 north to Stockton. Just before you get to the city itself take the exit for Hwy. 4 (also known as Charter Way) and proceed west a little more than 2 miles to the entrance (also known as John Turk Road.) After sifting through the thousands of Bonaparte's gulls looking for the rarities we will proceed north along I-5. Directions will be provided to our second meeting spot at that time. The trip will go on rain or shine. Bring lunch and liquids. Walking will be minimal.

LEADER GIL WEST 359-0820

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

JEANNE PRICE

(Because of a foul-up in the mails we did not receive the January column in time for inclusion in last month's NEEDLES. This month's column therefore includes material from both the January and February columns. --Ed.)

Audubon Canyon Ranch and Marin County have purchased for open space the last 15 acres of Kent Island under private ownership. The partially submerged land was bought in November from Dorothy Reinhardt of Santa Barbara with the help of the Bolinas Community Land Trust. ACR's funding for this acquisition was donated by Golden Gate Audubon Society, one of ACR's founding organizations.

During the sixties the Bolinas Lagoon Island was slated to become the center of a large marina. Instead most of the island became the county's first nature preserve through the generosity of Alice Kent and others.

Beginning this month (January) John Kelly will take up residence at Cypress Grove as a part time biologist. He holds a master's degree in wildlife from Humboldt University where he has also been an instructor. In addition he has undergraduate degrees in environmental studies and in field and marine biology, also a California teaching credential. Prior to coming to ACR he was the Science Program Coordinator for Point Reyes Bird Observatory and has worked as an ornithologist for the National Audubon Society at its Ecology Camp in West Dubois, Wyoming. He will provide a focus for the work of the research associates at Tomales Bay as well as assess all of ACR's Tomales Bay properties. This project will lay the groundwork for further education programs at Cypress Grove.

A ranch guides training program will begin February 20 and continue every Saturday all day through March 26. This program begun last year has proved very successful and more guides are needed.

After receiving training, guides will work eight weekend days during the spring season for a period of two years. They are on hand to help visitors to the ranch understand the ecology of the land and enrich their visits to the heronry and pond.

Substantial gifts from three New York foundations have been received to benefit the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. The Howard Gilman Foundation, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and the Josephine L. Hopkins Foundation have all given generously to ACR.

Anne Monk has announced that Dr. Kevin Podian, the internationally known University of California paleontologist

(Continued on Page Three)

**NEWS FROM THE RANCH**

(Continued from Page Two)

All speak at the Ranch this spring on evolution. The date will be announced in the March *NEEDLES*.

The Bouverie Preserve Community Hikes for February are on Saturday the 13th and 27th. The hikes in March are on the 12th and 26th and in April on the 9th and 23d. All hikes begin at 9:30 A.M. and last to 1:30 P.M. Reservations are required and space is limited, so call (707 938-4554) early.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS**

March 31-April 2 (Easter Week): The popular Baskets, Bunnies 'n Hot Cross Buns will be held. It is a family weekend at Bolinas to weave baskets, color eggs and make bread climaxed by a GIANT EGG HUNT Saturday noon. No adults admitted without a child. This fills up early so make your reservation now. Anne Monk and John Kipping will be in charge.

April 10-16: The outstanding Shaw/West Photography Workshop will again be held in Volunteer Canyon. The work of John Shaw and Larry West can be found in *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*, *Natural History* and *National Geographic* magazines as well as other significant publications in the natural history field. This week of lectures and field work is suggested for the serious amateur photographer. This course will fill quickly so make your plans now.

April 16: This is the date of the fifth annual "Moon Spring, a Banquet for the Senses", a wildflower walk on the Bouverie Preserve led by Phyllis Ellman and John Peterson. To sign up for any of these three events call 868-9244.

**NEW COASTAL GUIDE AVAILABLE**

The California Coastal Commission has published a companion guide to its popular and well-received *California Coastal Access Guide*. Called the *California Coastal Resource Guide*, the new publication describes the natural features of the coast, the history of its changing landscape and the cultural heritage of its human inhabitants.

The 384 page guide is illustrated with 155 two-color maps, 100 line drawings and 300 black and white photos. It is now available at bookstores for \$14.95 (paperback) or \$29.95 (hardcover).

(Thanks to Carol Larson for calling our attention to this by sending us two articles from the *Arata* Union along with her Wild Goose Chase contribution.)

**CALENDAR**

March 1988						
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		

MARCH 3 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 P.M., Meeting place to be THURSDAY announced. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

MARCH 10 SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING. Program THURSDAY is to be announced. At the San Mateo Garden Center on the Alameda at Parkside. Social Mixer at 7:30 P.M., with the General Meeting beginning at 8:00.

MARCH 13 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. This year's mystery bird is a "calico" heron that may be an immature little blue or a little blue heron-snowy egret hybrid. 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

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.

MAR.26-27 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 3-2 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) to obtain directions, information on accommodations, and a detailed schedule.

LEADERS STEVE SCHAFER AND JANET DUERR 689-0788

I have seen many people drop bird study; they had seen "all that there was to be seen" in bird life and there was nothing more to be discovered. I think of them as belonging to those ancient orchard sitters to whom a falling apple was merely a knock on the head.  
 --- Joseph J. Hickey, *A Guide to Bird Watching*, 1943

## FEATHERS

STEVE SCHAFER

What is it about birds that typifies them most? Feathers, of course. All birds have feathers, and all living things with feathers are birds.

Feathers are composed of keratin, the same protein found in our fingernails (and toenails, too). They come in an incredible range of sizes, shapes, colors, and textures. The soft, fluffy down that lines an eider's nest shares the same basic structure as the fantastically bizarre nuptial plumes of a bird of paradise.

Feathers come in every color imaginable, plus a few more, but most feathers contain only two kinds of pigment. Melanins, which are primarily brown and black, are the basic feather pigment in nearly all birds. Melanins also add structural strength to feathers, which explains why many birds that are otherwise light-colored (gulls, for example) have dark (and thereby reinforced) wingtips. Carotenoids, which are red, orange, or yellow, are also commonly found in feathers. Unlike melanins, which are manufactured in the bird's body, carotenoids are obtained from food. Flamingos in captivity are often much paler than their wild relatives because they lack the proper compounds in their diet.

There are no blue pigments in feathers. Instead, blue is produced in feathers by optical scattering, the same phenomenon that colors the sky. Scattering is also responsible for the shimmering iridescence in hummingbirds, starlings, and many others. In most birds, green is produced by scattered light filtered through a layer of yellow carotenoid pigments. The turacos, a family of birds restricted to Africa, are unique in that they possess two pigments, turacin (red) and turacoverdin (green), that are found in no other birds. Strangely, these two pigments are somewhat water-soluble; the colors of a turaco tend to run when the bird gets wet.

Feathers wear with time, and must be renewed regularly. As a rule, birds replace all of their feathers at least once a year, though some eagles and other large birds require two years for a complete overhaul. This feather replacement, or molt, usually occurs gradually, over a period of a few weeks to a few months, so that the bird avoids any significant loss of insulation or flying efficiency.

Waterfowl, on the other hand, lose their flight feathers all at once, and become sitting ducks, literally and figuratively, while the new feathers grow in. This behavior apparently evolved because these birds have very high wing loading; they are so heavy in proportion to the lifting power of their wings that the loss of even one or two flight feathers would seriously hinder their flying ability. Hence, they molt as quickly as possible to minimize their vulnerability.

How many feathers does a bird have? As one might expect, large birds have more feathers than small ones. Very small birds (hummingbirds, kinglets, and the like) typically have about 1,000 body feathers. In 1937, G. A. Ammann counted 25,216 feathers on a Whistling (Tundra) Swan (he probably started counting in 1936, but didn't finish until the following year). Oddly enough, in the fifty years since then, no one has had the urge to duplicate his feat, and find out for sure whether he really counted them all.

### IN OTHER WORDS . . .

A tiny throat, at first merely black, glowed suddenly ruby. Yet grind those gleaming feathers and you would have nothing but gray dust. A scarlet parrot would still be scarlet no matter how you sliced it, for the pigmentation is in the feathers. But the hummingbird's magic is all done with mirrors. The tiny barbs on each little plumule of each feather are so channeled as to break and refract the light. So a hummingbird is a feathered prism, a living rainbow.

---Donald Culross Peattie, *From a Cup of Sky*, 1947

## GARDENS AND BIRDS

JUANITA HEINEMANN

### SUET

Suet offers extra calories to the birds' diets during cold weather. The suet mixture is sticky for pressing into hanging type feeders such as pine cones, cups or logs. Suet will begin to go rancid at 70° F. so it is not recommended for use during summer months.

#### Suet Peanut Butter Mixture

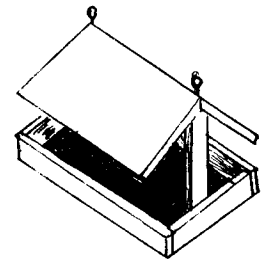
Prepare the Basic Peanut Butter Mixture as described in last month's column. Over a low flame or in a double boiler, melt a 2x2" square piece of beef suet. Pour enough melted suet into the peanut butter mixture to make it sticky enough to adhere to the inside of the cup feeder, log feeder or pine cone.

#### Suet Blocks

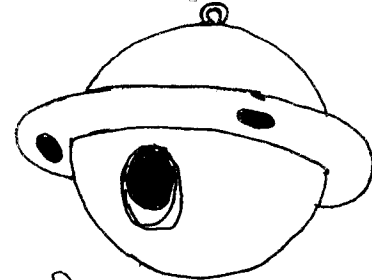
Melt a 4x4" block of beef suet and stir in enough small seed mix to thicken the melted suet. Pour into baking pan and cool. Cut into one day serving pieces. Store supply in refrigerator.

### FEEDERS

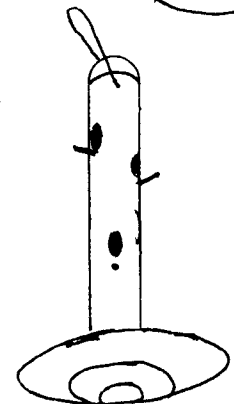
#### COVERED TRAY FEEDER



GLOBE TYPE FEEDER  
Sunflower and Niger Seeds

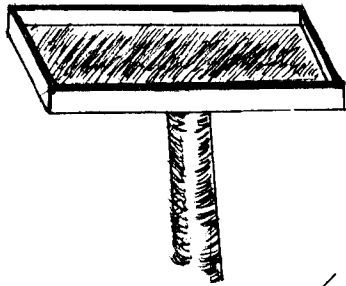


TUBULAR TYPE  
SEED FEEDER

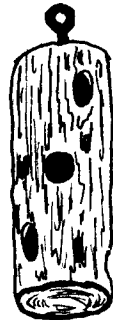
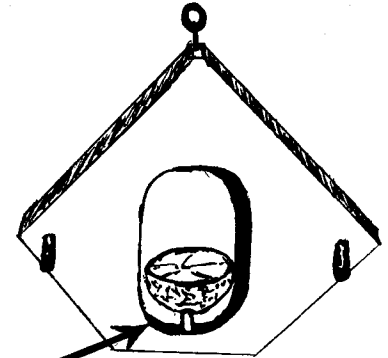


GARDENS AND BIRDS  
(Continued from Page Four)

FEEDING TRAY - Often pole-mounted, this is for seeds or Peanut Butter Mixture.



SUET WIRE FEEDER



LOG FEEDER - For Suet Peanut Butter Mixture.  
Pine Cones may also be used.

FRUIT FEEDER - For Orioles and other birds.  
CAUTION: It is important to round off the very sharp point of the fruit holding stick on commercial feeders. Birds have been found that had pierced an eye out on these sharp sticks.

(Extracted from *Wings Over Our Gardens* by Juanita Heinemann, publ.1985, by Calif.Garden Clubs,Inc.)

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  
National Geographic Field Guides-New Edition 16.00  
Birding Northern California - Jean Richmond 12.00  
Mono Lake Guidebooks 7.50  
Pacific Coast Checklist-in pads of 25 2.50  
Wings Over Our Gardens 2.00

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  
414 E-line 720 El Camino Real #403  
Belmont, Ca. 94002



**San Francisco  
Peninsula  
Birdwatching**

NAME .....

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CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS

WILD GOOSE CHASE 1987

CLIFF RICHER

SPECIES LISTING

November 20, 1987  
4:15 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

SPECIES	SEEN AT	SPECIES	SEEN AT
LOON, RED-THROATED	PIGEON POINT	SNIPE, COMMON	HALF MOON BAY
LOON, PACIFIC	PIGEON POINT	PHALAROPE, RED	PIGEON POINT
LOON, COMMON	PIGEON POINT	JAeger, POMARINE	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, PIE-BILLED	PESCADERO MAR	GULL, BONAPARTE'S	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, HORNED	PIGEON POINT	GULL, HEERMANN'S	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, RED-NECKED	PIGEON POINT	GULL, RAVEN	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, EARED	PESCADERO MAR	GULL, RING-BILLED	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, WESTERN	PIGEON POINT	GULL, CALIFORNIA	PIGEON POINT
GREBE, CLARK'S	PIGEON POINT	GULL, HERRING	PIGEON POINT
FULMAR, NORTHERN	PIGEON POINT	GULL, THAYER'S	MOUNTAINVIEW
SHEARWATER, SHORT-TAILED	PIGEON POINT	GULL, WESTERN	PIGEON POINT
SHEARWATER, BLACK-VENTED	PIGEON POINT	GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED	PIGEON POINT
PELICAN, AMERICAN WHITE	MOUNTAINVIEW	TERN, FORSTER'S	PIGEON POINT
PELICAN, BROWN	PIGEON POINT	MURRE, COMMON	PIGEON POINT
CORMORANT, DOUBLE-CRESTED	PIGEON POINT	MURRELET, MARBLED	PIGEON POINT
CORMORANT, BRANT'S	PIGEON POINT	AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	PIGEON POINT
CORMORANT, PELAGIC	PIGEON POINT	DOVE, ROCK	HALF MOON BAY
HERON, GREAT BLUE	PESCADERO MAR	DOVE, MORNING	BUTANO SP
EGRET, GREAT	PESCADERO MAR	BARN-OWL, COMMON	HALF MOON BAY
EGRET, SNOWY	PESCADERO MAR	SCREECH-OWL, WESTERN	GAZOS CREEK R
HERON, GREEN-BACKED	EL GRANADA	OWL, GREAT HORNED	BUTANO SP
NIGHT-HERON, BLACK-CROWNED	PESCADERO MAR	PYGMY-OWL, NORTHERN	GAZOS CREEK
SWAN, TUNDRA	CRYSTAL SP RE	OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET	BUTANO SP
GOOSE, CANADA	PESCADERO MAR	HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	BUTANO SP
TEAL, GREEN-WINGED	PESCADERO MAR	KINGFISHER, BELTED	BUTANO SP
MALLARD	PESCADERO MAR	WOODPECKER, ACORN	WUNDERLICH PA
PINTAIL, NORTHERN	PESCADERO MAR	WOODPECKER, DOWNY	GAZOS CREEK
TEAL, CINNAMON	PESCADERO MAR	WOODPECKER, HAIRY	BUTANO SP
SHOVELER, NORTHERN	PESCADERO MAR	FLICKER, NORTHERN	BUTANO SP
GADWALL	REDWOOD SHORE	PHOEBE, BLACK	CLOVERDALE RD
WIGEON, EURASIAN	PESCADERO MAR	PHOEBE, SAY'S	CLOVERDALE RD
WIGEON, AMERICAN	PESCADERO MAR	JAY, STELLER'S	BUTANO SP
CANVASBACK	PAULO ALTO PCB	JAY, SCRUB	BUTANO SP
REDHEAD	PESCADERO MAR	CROW, AMERICAN	REDWOOD CITY
DUCK, RING-NECKED	PESCADERO MAR	RAVEN, COMMON	BUTANO SP
SCAUP, GREATER	FOSTER CITY	CHICKADEE, CHESTNUT-BACKED	BUTANO SP
SCAUP, LESSER	PESCADERO MAR	TITMOUSE, PLAIN	WUNDERLICH PA
SCOTER, BLACK	PIGEON POINT	BUSHITT	BUTANO SP
SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED	PIGEON POINT	NUTHATCH, WHITE-BREASTED	WUNDERLICH PA
SCOTER, SURF	PIGEON POINT	NUTHATCH, PYGMY	HALF MOON BAY
GOLDENEYE, COMMON	FOSTER CITY	CREEPER, BROWN	BUTANO SP
GOLDENEYE, BARRON'S	PESCADERO MAR	WREN, BEWICK'S	BUTANO SP
BUFFLEHEAD	FOSTER CITY	WREN, WINTER	BUTANO SP
MERGANSER, HOODED	PESCADERO MAR	WREN, MARSH	PESCADERO MAR
MERGANSER, RED-BREASTED	PIGEON POINT	KINGLET, GOLDEN-CROWNED	BUTANO SP
DUCK, RUDDY	HALF MOON BAY	KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED	BUTANO SP
VULTURE, TURKEY	PIGEON POINT	BLUEBIRD, WESTERN	CLOVERDALE RD
KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	PIGEON POINT	THRUSH, HERMIT	BUTANO SP
HARRIER, NORTHERN	PIGEON POINT	ROBIN, AMERICAN	BUTANO SP
HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED	GAZOS CREEK R	THRUSH, VARIED	BUTANO SP
HAWK, COOPER'S	BUTANO SP	WRENTIT	BUTANO SP
HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED	HALF MOON BAY	MCKINGBIRD, NORTHERN	REDWOOD CITY
HAWK, RED-TAILED	BUTANO SP	THRASHER, CALIFORNIA	CRYSTAL SPR R
KESTREL, AMERICAN	SOUTH COAST	PIBIT, WATER	HALF MOON BAY
FALCON, PEREGRINE	PESCADERO MAR	WAXWING, CEDAR	CRYSTAL SPR R
PHEASANT, RING-NECKED	MOUNTAINVIEW	SHRIKE, LOGGERHEAD	FOSTER CITY
QUAIL, CALIFORNIA	BUTANO SP	STARLING, EUROPEAN	CLOVERDALE RD
RAIL, VIRGINIA	PESCADERO MAR	VIREO, HUTTON'S	BUTANO SP
SORA	PESCADERO MAR	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED	BUTANO SP
MOORHEN, COMMON	MOUNTAINVIEW	WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S	BUTANO SP
COOT, AMERICAN	PESCADERO MAR	YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON	PESCADERO MAR
POWDER, BLACK-BELLIED	SOUTH COAST	TOWHEE, RUFOUS-SIDED	BUTANO SP
GOLDEN-POWDER, LESSER	SOUTH COAST	TOWHEE, BROWN	BUTANO SP
KILLDEER	HALF MOON BAY	SPARRROW, SAVANNAH	CLOVERDALE RD
DYSTERCATCHER, BLACK	PIGEON POINT	SPARRROW, FOX	GAZOS CREEK
STILT, BLACK-NECKED	FOSTER CITY	SPARRROW, SONG	BUTANO SP
AVOCET, AMERICAN	FOSTER CITY	SPARRROW, LINCOLN'S	HALF MOON BAY
YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	PESCADERO MAR	SPARRROW, GOLDEN-CROWNED	GAZOS CREEK
WILLET	PIGEON POINT	SPARRROW, WHITE-CROWNED	BUTANO SP
TATTLER, WANDERING	PEBBLE BEACH	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	BUTANO SP
SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	FOSTER CITY	BLACKBIRD, RED-WINGED	CLOVERDALE RD
WHIMBREL	FOSTER CITY	BLACKBIRD, TRI-COLORED	CLOVERDALE RD
CURLEW, LONG-BILLED	FOSTER CITY	MEADOWLARK, WESTERN	CLOVERDALE RD
GOWIT, MARBLED	PESCADERO MAR	BLACKBIRD, BREWER'S	CLOVERDALE RD
TURNSTONE, RUDDY	PIGEON POINT	COUPLER, BROWN-HEADED	CLOVERDALE RD
TURNSTONE, BLACK	PIGEON POINT	FINCH, PURPLE	BUTANO SP
SURFBIRD	PEBBLE BEACH	FINCH, HOUSE	CLOVERDALE RD
SANDERLING	PIGEON POINT	CROSSBILL, RED	BUTANO SP
SANDPIPER, WESTERN	FOSTER CITY	SKIN, PINE	BUTANO SP
SANDPIPER, LEAST	FOSTER CITY	GOLDFINCH, AMERICAN	HALF MOON BAY
QUINLIN	FOSTER CITY	GROSBEAK, EVENING	BUTANO SP
DOWITCHER, SHORT-BILLED	FOSTER CITY	SPARRROW, HOUSE	PIGEON POINT
DOWITCHER, LONG-BILLED	PESCADERO MAR		

165 Species

After a rocky start, this year's Wild Goose Chase hardly deserves mention. The beginning was inauspicious. Neither Gil West, our senior member, or Peter Metropoulos could participate this time and Linda Kypta had to restrict herself to "mother's hours".

So only Barry Sauppe and I started out from Half Moon Bay at 4:15 AM in his van, the "Birdmobile".

Several hours later, when we arrived at Pigeon Point we had already amassed all of the expected owls, rails and woodland birds except for barn owls and band-tailed pigeons. We had even added a hoped-for pair of evening grosbeaks.

A ruddy turnstone, which we hadn't expected to find until late afternoon, was a bonus at Pigeon Point. A small shearwater - behaving quite differently from the others - attracted my eye. I was about to call Barry's attention to it when he began shouting "Short-tailed shearwater! Short-tailed shearwater! Peter will kill himself for not coming, he needs that one for his life list!"

Linda showed up about five minutes later as we were enjoying a celebratory cup of coffee and we expressed our sympathies to her for having missed THE bird.

Some more Coastside stops picked up the expected species and the golden plover and tundra swan were where they had been seen earlier in the week, a peregrine soaring above the hillside at Pescadero Marsh was a bonus but we were unable to locate the rock sandpiper or the rusty blackbird that Barry had "staked out".

On the Bay shore we were able to find the Eurasian wigeon but not the horned larks or burrowing owls and when Linda had to leave us at sunset, we had 163 species, tying our previous high. Barry decided to try for three more birds so the two of us headed back to Half Moon Bay. With the sun set but a few rays of light remaining, we strained to see short-eared owls and barn-owls while the snipes (#164) called. The short-eareds stayed away but finally two barn-owls began quartering the field - our last bird of our shortest and most successful Wild Goose Chase!

PAID PLEDGES TO DATE

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Frank and Jean Allen,  | Rick Baird,           |
| Janet Duerr,           | Jean Durick,          |
| George Frecker,        | Walter Hauter,        |
| Bill and Betty Horn,   | Colleen Horner,       |
| Mark and Pat Jones,    | Elgin Juri,           |
| Linda Kypta,           | Michael Macchiaverna, |
| Rosemary MacLean,      | John & Nena Padley,   |
| Pete & Donna Petersen, | Clifford Richer,      |
| Barry Sauppe,          | Steve Schafer,        |
| John Silliman          | and Allen Wofchuck    |

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

1987 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS

SPECIES	CRYSTAL SPRINGS		SPECIES	CRYSTAL SPRINGS		SPECIES	CRYSTAL SPRINGS	
	TOTAL	A&N		TOTAL	A&N		TOTAL	A&N
LOON, RED-THROATED	30	54	COOT, AMERICAN	1883	409	JAY, STELLER'S	166	423
LOON, PACIFIC	33	76	PLOVER, BLACK-BELLIED	502	94	JAY, SCRUB	370	125
LOON, COMMON	21	13	GOLDEN-PLOVER, LESSER	0	3	CROW, AMERICAN	2	10
Loon, species:	60	10	PLOVER, SNOWY	25	8	RAVEN, COMMON	29	44
GREBE, PIE-BILLED	100	63	PLOVER, SEMI-PALMATED	155	0	CHICKADEE, CHESTNUT-BACKED	569	39
GREBE, HORNED	49	20	KILLDEER	438	332	TITMOUSE, PLAIN	39	0
GREBE, RED-NECKED	1	0	OYSTERCATCHER, BLACK	5	38	BUSHTIT	922	412
GREBE, EARED	14	4	STILT, BLACK-NECKED	47	0	NUTHATCH, RED-BREADED	8	6
GREBE, WESTERN	211	578	AVOCET, AMERICAN	1125	0	NUTHATCH, WHITE-BREADED	12	1
GREBE, CLARK'S	11	3	YELLOWLEGS, GREATER	14	5	NUTHATCH, PYGMY	63	77
FULMAR, NORTHERN	0	1	WILLET	1984	93	CREEPER, BROWN	11	39
Shearwater, species:	2	0	TATTLER, WANDERING	2	0	WREN, BEWICK'S	115	55
PELICAN, BROWN	51	79	SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	3	0	WREN, HOUSE	0	1
CORMORANT, DOUBLE-CRESTED	336	63	WHIMBREL	26	20	WREN, WINTER	26	33
CORMORANT, BRANDT'S	32	170	CURLEW, LONG-BILLED	101	1	WREN, MARSH	24	34
CORMORANT, PELAGIC	65	141	GOOBIT, MARBLED	1611	71	WREN, MARSH	0	3
HERON, GREAT BLUE	27	12	TURNSTONE, RUDDY	19	8	DIPPER, AMERICAN	49	37
EGRET, GREAT	70	20	TURNSTONE, BLACK	73	79	KINGLET, GOLDEN-CROWNED	49	37
EGRET, SNOWY	102	21	SURFBIRD	15	40	KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED	286	329
EGRET, CATTLE	3	30	KNOT, RED	86	3	SNATCATCHER, BLUE-GRAY	1	0
HERON, GREEN-BACKED	0	1	SANDERLING	322	225	BLUEBIRD, WESTERN	12	21
NIGHT-HERON, BLACK-CROWNED	4	22	SANDPIPER, WESTERN	3110	0	THRUSH, HERMIT	101	180
SWAN, TUNDRA	0	31	SANDPIPER, LEAST	690	2	ROBIN, AMERICAN	3046	1170
GOOSE, SNOW	11	0	SANDPIPER, ROCK	1	1	THRUSH, VARIED	207	676
GOOSE, CANADA	494	37	DUNLIN	2021	3	WRENTIT	253	103
Small forms:	0	1	OWITCHER, SHORT-BILLED	1021	2	MOCKINGBIRD, NORTHERN	41	7
DUCK, WOOD	0	6	OWITCHER, LONG-BILLED	190	5	THRASHER, CALIFORNIA	14	2
TEAL, GREEN-WINGED	154	139	Dowitcher, sp.,	515	7	PIBIT, WATER	184	123
MALLARD	398	49	SNIFE, COMMON	46	11	WARBLER, CEDAR	176	21
PINTAIL, NORTHERN	263	4	PHALAROPE, RED	15	29	SHRIKE, LOGGERHEAD	13	8
TEAL, BLUE-WINGED	0	6	JAEGER, POMARINE	1	3	STARLING, EUROPEAN	2670	979
TEAL, CINNAMON	8	23	GULL, BONAPARTE'S	5	2	VIREO, HUTTON'S	59	16
SHOVELER, NORTHERN	255	39	GULL, HEERMANN'S	12	32	WARBLER, TENNESSEE	1	0
GADWALL	38	31	GULL, MEW	844	195	WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED	12	22
WIGEON, EURASIAN	3	0	GULL, RING-BILLED	1261	10	WARBLER, NASHVILLE	2	2
WIGEON, AMERICAN	324	155	GULL, CALIFORNIA	4315	157	WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED	218	74
CANVASBACK	1402	129	GULL, HERRING	252	172	Audubon's:	598	347
REDHEAD	2	1	GULL, THAYER'S	203	2	Myrtle:	29	43
DUCK, RING-NECKED	32	60	GULL, WESTERN	1201	593	WARBLER, BLACK-THROAT GRAY	1	0
SCAUP, GREATER	9151	5	GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED	459	212	WARBLER, TOWNSEND'S	88	125
SCAUP, LESSER	2552	7	KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED	1	0	Warbler, Townsend's-hrnt hybr	1	0
SCAUP Species	4504	2	Gull, species	102	108	WARBLER, HERMIT	4	14
DUCK, HARLEQUIN	0	5	TERN, FORSTER'S	111	38	WARBLER, PRAIRIE	1	0
OLDsquaw	4	0	MURRE, COMMON	59	2209	WARBLER, PALM	0	1
LOON, BLACK	0	28	MURRELET, MARBLED	2	9	WARBLER, BLACK & WHITE	2	1
LOON, SURF	4285	174	AUKLET, RHINOCEROS	2	3	WARBLER, MACGILLIVRAY'S	1	1
LOON, WHITE-WINGED	162	18	DOVE, ROCK	627	76	YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON	12	37
LOONEYE, COMMON	1306	21	PIGEON, BAND-TAILED	494	294	TOWHEE, RUFOUS-SIDED	108	24
LOONEYE, BARRON'S	12	0	DOVE, MOURNING	518	139	TOWHEE, BROWN	189	78
BUFFLEHEAD	568	68	BARN-OWL, COMMON	7	3	SPARROW, CLAY-COLORED	1	0
MERGANSER, HOODED	200	0	SCREECH-OWL, WESTERN	5	5	SPARROW, SAVANNAH	129	164
MERGANSER, RED-BREADED	16	20	OWL, GREAT HORNED	22	19	SPARROW, FOX	77	64
DUCK, RUDDY	2184	247	PYGMY-OWL, NORTHERN	4	5	SPARROW, SONG	184	301
VULTURE, TURKEY	48	159	OWL, SHORT-EARED	4	3	SPARROW, LINCOLN'S	41	24
KITE, BLACK-SHOULDERED	13	15	OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET	6	8	SPARROW, SWAMP	1	2
HARRIER, NORTHERN	26	29	SWIFT, WHITE-THROATED	0	43	SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED	3	3
HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED	20	10	HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S	301	88	SPARROW, GOLDEN-CROWNED	842	476
HAWK, COOPER'S	10	8	Helasphorus, species	1	0	SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED	744	900
HAWK, RED-SHOULDERED	20	14	KINGFISHER, BELTED	14	10	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	494	248
HAWK, RED-TAILED	103	79	WOODPECKER, ACORN	30	229	Slate-colored	1	0
HAWK, FERRUGINOUS	1	0	SAPSUCKER, RED-BREADED	10	5	BLACKBIRD, RED-WINGED	352	1581
HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED	1	2	WOODPECKER, NUTTALL'S	8	1	BLACKBIRD, TRI-COLORED	151	170
Buteo, species:	1	0	WOODPECKER, DOWNY	29	15	MEADOWLARK, WESTERN	433	587
EAGLE, GOLDEN	1	0	WOODPECKER, HAIRY	9	14	BLACKBIRD, BREWER'S	1846	980
KESTREL, AMERICAN	68	62	FLICKER, NORTHERN	221	138	COWBIRD, BROWN-HEADED	5	1
MERLIN	3	4	Yellow-shafted:	0	1	FINCH, PURPLE	176	104
FALCON, PEREGRINE	4	2	WOODPECKER, PILEATED	0	4	FINCH, HOUSE	1036	894
QUAIL, CALIFORNIA	443	348	PHOEBE, BLACK	70	90	CROSSBILL, RED	112	271
RAIL, CLAPPER	2	0	PHOEBE, SAY'S	26	20	SISKIN, PINE	704	2999
RAIL, VIRGINIA	2	23	LARK, HORNED	30	0	GOLDFINCH, LESSER	173	70
SORA	2	2	SWALLOW, TREE	0	145	GOLDFINCH, AMERICAN	44	46
MOORHEN, COMMON	0	2	SWALLOW, VIOLET-GREEN	0	39	GROSBEAK, EVENING	5	0
					SPARROW, HOUSE	193	112	

Crystal Springs A&N Nuevo  
 Total Species: 190 179  
 Total Individual Birds: 76122 26159

CRYSTAL SPRINGS CHRISTMAS COUNT PARTICIPANTS: Frank Allen, Jean Allen, Rick Baird, Dennis Beal, Jane Becker-Haven, Craig Benkman, Nick Coiro, Pam Conley, Pat Dickinson, Donna Dolezal, Marc Fenner, Walter Floyd, George Frecker, Chip Haven, Elizabeth Hayes, Kirt Hoffman, Colleen Horner, Rick Johnson, Scott Jordan, Dan J Keller, Kathryn Kimberley, Linda Kypka, Carol Larsen, George P. Lechich, Iona Luke, Maurie Luke, Genevieve Miller, Nancy Missert, Fran Nelson, Leroy Nelson, Michael J. O'Brien, Donna Petersen, Pete Petersen, Marie Putnam, Mark Riley, Bob Roback, Barry Sauppe, Werner Schumann, John Silliman, Beth Soltis, Aaron Spencer, Robert Spencer, Judy Spittler, Chuck Staben, Mary Beth Staben, Maria Straatmann, Paula Thompson

AND NUEVO CHRISTMAS COUNT PARTICIPANTS: Rigdon Currie, Maryann Danielson, Mike Day, Art Farley, Alexander Gaguins, Cindy Goral, Paul Jones, Karin Marsh, Paul Noble, Frank O'Sullivan, Thomas Olson, June Persson, Armin Ravel, Paul Reilly, Karen Remington, Jean Marie Spoellman, Richard Stovel, Gary Strachan.

PARTICIPANTS IN BOTH COUNTS: Nick Coiro, Edwin Duerr, Janet Duerr, Louise Fletcher, E Grant Hoyt, Karen Hoyt, Katy Innerst, Don Keller, Rick Johnson, Andy Kratter, Linda Kypka, Joan Maynard, Peter Metropoulos, Cliff Richer, Shirley Sampson, Steve Schafer, Smithson, Beth Soltis, Maria Straatmann, Ron Thonn, Rob Urry, Gil West, Allen Wofchuck.

Both of this year's Christmas Counts had clear, although chilly weather, but suffered from one other problem. Barry Sauppe, who has been our compiler for 12 of the last 14 years had to forego the job this year because of a last minute change in his work schedule. Even worse, he was only able to participate in the Crystal Springs count, and then only as an owl and feeder watcher. His scouting and his abilities as a long-distance scoper were sorely missed. Peter Metropoulos filled in nobly but that left gaps elsewhere. The net result was that we were probably 6 to 10 species short of the numbers we might have achieved in the counts.

A number of people rose to the challenge and turned in fine performances. Ron Thonn was the star of both counts with a remarkable number of rarities along Pilarcitos and Pescadero Creeks. 21 different individuals or teams had unique sightings (birds not seen by any other team). Andy Kratter and his two teams contributed 9 unique sightings: Peter Metropoulos had 8; Cliff Richer 6 (four of them while owling); and Nick Coiro, Grant and Karen Hoyt, Maryann Danielson and their teams each had 5. On the Crystal Springs compilation, our initial count came up with 187 species, but feeder reports from Fran and Roy Nelson, Iona and Maurie Luke and Barry Sauppe brought the final total to 190.

Unique sightings were also contributed by teams headed by Frank and Jean Allen; Dennis Beal and Pam Conley; Jane Becker-Haven and Chip Haven; Don Keller; Steve Schafer and Janet Querr; and Scott Smithson; and individually by Marc Fenner, Linda Kypka, Gary Strachen, Ron Thonn, Gil West and Allen Wofchuck.

Total population counts were down quite sharply from recent years. To some extent this reflected a somewhat reduced number of counters but more likely it indicated the effects of drought and habitat destruction in the prairie-pothole breeding grounds of most of our duck species and two successive dry years on the breeding grounds of many of our shorebirds. And the relatively low numbers of tri-colored blackbirds gives credence to the petition before the state Department of Fish and Game to declare the species endangered. However, definitive analysis will have to wait for more refined statistical methods.

Overall I would have to consider both counts successful. Certainly the species count would have been higher had Barry been able to be our compiler this year, but otherwise things went off with relatively few complications. This was hardly due to any great competence on my part and any credit should go to Barry Sauppe and Frank Allen for the work done in previous years, to Peter Metropoulos for doing an immense amount of work as coordinator despite an unusually heavy work schedule, and to Linda Kypka who did all the organization and most of the work for both compilation dinners. I enjoyed the experience and intend to stay active in the "background" work of future counts but no one hopes more fervently than I that Barry Sauppe will be back next year.

Thanks to everyone who gave time and effort and made the counts a success.

--- Cliff Richer, ACTING Compiler

NO BIRDING COLUMN  
THIS MONTH

Because of Peter's extensive involvement with the two Christmas counts, there will be no "Birding San Mateo County" column this month. The column will return in the March NEEDLES.

**ARCATA EARNS AWARDS FOR MARSH**

Throughout the Bay Area, developers are turning wetlands and marshes into industrial parks. However, further north, the city of Arcata has earned awards from the International City Managers Association and the Ford Foundation for turning degraded industrial land back to nature. In doing so Arcata solved two problems -- how to turn an eyesore area into an asset and how to get rid of treated wastewater from its sewage treatment plant. By doing a minimum amount of "sculpting" of the abandoned 50 acres of abandoned land and releasing the water into it Arcata created an instant marsh.

The concept of using a marsh's water purification ability to treat sewage is nothing new. What makes Arcata unique is that it reversed the clock and turned developed land back to nature. The project has one drawback according to Public Works Manager Klopp. "It's so simple," he said, "it's hard for professional people to understand."

In Arcata, they've also turned a derogatory pun into a slogan. "Flush with pride" has a unique meaning in this northern California city.

**FROM JEAN DURICK**

Even since her move to Glenwood, Iowa, Jean Durick has stayed in touch with SAS through the *NEEDLES*.

Along with her WGC'87 contribution, Jean enclosed a National Wildlife Federation stamp showing a pair of northern bobwhites and the notation "I see and hear these guys back here - they are darling."

She also wished us "lots of luck" on the Wild Goose Chase, a sentiment which all SAS members return wholeheartedly to her.

**GULL IDENTIFICATION CLASS**

Don Starks is teaching "Introduction to Bay Area Gulls and Their Identification", again at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory in March. It consists of 4 slide presentations & 2 field trips.

"So, if you hate gulls because you can't identify them," Don says, "join me and together we'll straighten out this mess."

Class fee is \$30. Call Don at (408) 371-9720 for more information or write him c/o SFBBO at PO Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002.

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