



sequoia needles

Bulletin of the
January 1988

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

San Mateo County, Ca.
Vol. 36, #5

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

John Dillon, Director of the Josephine Randall Museum in San Francisco will narrate and present a slide show featuring several National Parks in Costa Rica. As the leader of an Oceanic Society tour to the country last March, John came to know the area well and has kept up with current developments. He will share his experiences and will give us an update on the efforts to conserve wildlife and forests in this Central American country.

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

Kapis, founder and director of 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 and what we can do about it.

CORRECTION (SORT OF)

Juanita Heinemann, had a few corrections to make to our biographical article which ran in last month's *NEEDLES*. Unfortunately, the corrections did not reach us in time for our printer's deadline. Fortunately, because she was late, we got to tell you of some of her efforts which she herself was too modest to include.

She did change the title of the column (which was your Editor's idea...and not one of his better ones) to "GARDENS AND BIRDS".

She also points out that she now rehabilitates more than 200 birds each year for the Peninsula Humane Society with a release rate ranging from 65 to 80%.

Annually she presents workshop lectures on wildlife rehabilitation techniques at the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council conference and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association symposium.

Juanita's column appears on Page Six.

EDGEWOOD COUNTY PARK UPDATE

Gail Smithson

Sequoia Audubon Society Conservation Committee

Our time is getting short for saving Edgewood County Park from becoming a golf course. Action now rests in the lap of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to approve the golf course where the threatened checkerspot butterfly makes its home. Edgewood County Park is located south of Edgewood Road and borders Highway 280 on the east side in Redwood City. This park is a prime site for a San Mateo County public golf course. This land was acquired by the county in 1979 to use as parkland or a golf course. Since that time studies have been done showing that this land is unsuitable environmentally and economically for a golf course. Most importantly, this area contains a significant portion of the habitat of the bay checkerspot butterfly, which is now listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to the butterfly, Edgewood's serpentine habitat supports numerous rare and endangered plant species including the San Mateo thornmint which is found only at Edgewood Park and the "triangle" across 280, as well as western leatherwoods, mountain thistle, and Marin dwarf flax. Unfortunately, federal listing of plants does not prevent their destruction, only their commercial sale.

There is also the question of how a golf course would effect water quality in the San Francisco watershed which feeds Crystal Springs Lakes. There are seven separate drainages on the park which flow into Crystal Springs. There are serious unresolved questions of control of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and rodenticides, (not to mention how these would affect plants and animals using the park) associated with operation of a golf course in the watershed. Also the nature of the serpentine rock can create the hazard of chrysotile asbestos draining into the reservoir if the soil is disturbed. The soil in Edgewood Park is also unsuitable for growing golf course grass, much fertilizer and topsoil would need to be added at an extra cost to taxpayers.

There is an alternative site for the golf course that has been studied and found to have fewer problems. This site is southwest of Edgewood Park bordering 280 on the west side. It is the southernmost area of the San Francisco Watershed District and borders Woodside on the north side. From an environmental standpoint, the southern watershed alternative is a feasible alternative, and there would be less impact on soils, erosion, hydrology and water quality. There are no impacts on rare plants and the checkerspot butterfly. Habitat for the San Francisco garter snake can be adequately protected. Water, fertilizer, pesticide and energy consumption would be substantially less at the alternate site due to the inherent fertility of its soils versus Edgewood's serpentine soils. Hazards from chrysotile asbestos fibers probably contained in Edgewood's serpentine rock would not be a problem on the watershed site. If access were from the northern end, there would be no significant difference between the two sites in terms of traffic congestion, as the town of Woodside is concerned with. However, the San Francisco district has been unwilling to consider leasing this land for the golf course.

(Continued on Page Four)

CALENDAR

January 1988

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

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

JAN. 9 SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK FIELD TRIP. This SATURDAY park provides a variety of wooded, riparian and grasslands habitat for many wintering species of birds. The trip will entail some walking along easy trails. It begins at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the park. To get there take Highway 1 to Pacifica and, turn inland at Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar to its end and then follow the signs to the park.

LEADER SCOTT SMITHSON

JAN. 13 COYOTE POINT FIELD TRIP. A special week-day field WEDNESDAY trip to explore the birds and environmental assets of this very special area. The trip will begin at 9:00 AM in the second parking lot at the park entrance.

LEADER NICK COIRO 349-1834

JAN. 14 SAS GENERAL MEETING. At the San Mateo Garden Cen- THURSDAY ter on the Alameda at Parkside. JOHN DILLON on the National Parks of Costa Rica. See Page One for details. Social Mixer begins at 7:30 PM. The general meeting begins at 8:00. The public is invited.

JAN. 17 PRINCETON HARBOR. The only sheltered harbor SUNDAY 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. Oldsquaws, glaucous gulls and the rock sandpiper are regular winter visitors and the area almost always has one or two surprises. To get there take Hwy. 92 to Hwy. 1, follow Hwy. 1 north to Capistrano Road 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 on rocks with some areas of broken footing, so boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. The trip should break up at noon.

LEADER CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

JAN. 23 LOS BANOS REFUGES AND PANOCHE VALLEY FIELD TRIP. SATURDAY One of our highlight field trips of the year
 JAN. 24 covering two diverse areas and exposing us to a SUNDAY variety of rare and unusual birds. The four refuges north of Los Banos are noted for white-faced ibis, sandhill cranes, a large variety of waterfowl and shore birds, raptors and owls. Twenty miles south of Los Banos, Little Panoche Road winds its way through the Diablo Range into Panoche Valley where wintering flocks of mountain plovers, vesper sparrows, mountain bluebirds, long billed curlews, and perched raptors vie with the resident roadrunners, phainopeplas and chukars for the birders' attention. Saturday we plan on meeting in the parking lot of the Los Banos Wildlife Area at 9:00 A.M. Sunday we will meet at the parking lot above Little Panoche Detention Reservoir at 8:30 AM. The trips will go on rain or shine. Motel reservations are recommended at this time of year.

LOS BANOS LEADER JOHN SILLIMAN 585-3232
 PANOCHE VALLEY LEADER GIL WEST 359-0820
 TRIP COORDINATOR CLIFF RICHER 355-4058

(Continued on Page Three)

BIRDING CLASSES

SAN MATEO COUNTY - MARYANN DANIELSON

Two classes for persons interested in birds are being offered by Sequoia Adult School. The instructor will be Maryann Danielson.

BIRDING BASICS -- For beginning and intermediate birders. The winter quarter will concentrate on wintering land birds, their identification, basic biology and natural history. Nine slide lectures and five Sunday field trips starting Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Classes will be held at the San Carlos Senior Center. The fee is \$40 with registration at the first class.

A BIRDER'S CHALLENGE -- For intermediate and more advanced birders. The major challenge will deal with the behavior and activities of our winter birds. Nine lectures and five Saturday field trips, starting Monday, January 11, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Classes will be held at Little House in Menlo Park. The fee is \$45. Register at the first class.

For further information, call Maryann Danielson at (415) 369-6809.

SAN FRANCISCO - JOE MORLAN

Evening birding classes will again be offered by the San Francisco Community College District. Fees are \$45 for the classes which last eight weeks.

Classes stress identification, status and habits of North American birds in 2 hour weekly slide lectures. The text is the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society. The instructor is Joe Morlan, co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the weekly recorded Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

Ornithology I is an introduction to avian biology. It stresses concepts in modern ornithology including systematics, evolution, behavior and population ecology, especially of common California birds. Tuesdays; Jan.9-Mar.8, 7-9:30 PM.

Ornithology II is an in-depth systematic study of identification and status of waterbirds - including sea birds, waders and waterfowl. Wednesdays, Jan.20-Mar.9, from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M.

Ornithology III will cover land birds including hawks, gamebirds, owls, swifts and hummingbirds. It meets on Thursdays, January 21 to March 10 from 7-9:30 P.M.

All classes will be held in Room 222, Marina Middle School, corner of Bay and Fillmore Streets. Free parking is available off Bay Street on the east side of the school. If you have binoculars or field guides, bring them to class.

Weekend field trips are optional. Call 776-8247 for information or registration -pre-registration is highly recommended.

**SMITH RIVER NATIONAL
PARK PROPOSED**

On October 29, 10 members of Congress introduced HR 3588, a bill that calls for a National Park Service study of the Smith River Watershed to determine its suitability for a National Park.

The Smith is the only major river in the state without a big dam or reservoir.

If passed, this bill would prevent any further logging in the area until the study is completed, and would provide an annual payment of \$2 million to Del Norte County in lieu of timber receipts.

**READINGS FOR
CONSERVATIONISTS**

Chris Madson, the editor of *Wyoming Wildlife*, who often writes items for *Audubon* magazine, had a piece in the Aug.-Oct. Nature Conservancy Magazine that deserves reading and re-reading. Titled "Down from the Mountains", the piece is an education on the evolution of western land and water usage.

If you still have the magazine around the house, be sure to read this beautifully written well-researched article. It is of particular value to the transplanted easterner whose history of the West may have come entirely out of Hollywood.

The Coast Alliance, a non-profit coalition of coastal activists, has published *Two If By Sea: Fighting the Attack on America's Coasts*, a guide to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Copies are available from the Coast Alliance, 218 D St., SE, Washington, DC 20003 for \$2.00.

The Oil Rollercoaster: A Call to Action is a response to recent actions by the White House and the Departments of Interior and Energy by the Fund for Renewable Energy and the Environment (FREE). Copies are \$5.00 from the Fund for Renewable Energy and the Environment, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 638, Washington, DC 20036.

**THREE NEW WILD &
SCENIC RIVERS**

During the month of November, President Reagan signed into law three separate bills designating 114 miles of the Merced River, 81 miles of the Kings and 151 miles of the Kern River as wild and scenic areas.

Additional provisions in the bills designate certain canyons as wild and scenic and others as study areas. But in a departure from usual procedures, Southern California Edison was permitted certain water rights on the Kern.

Friends of the River is celebrating the success of their three rivers campaign with a party at Fort Mason on Saturday, January 23. For details, they ask you to call them at (916) 444-8726.

CALENDAR
(Continued from Page Two)

JAN. 30 BAEER FAIR. The Bay Area Environmental Education SATURDAY Resources Fair. At the Marin Civic Center from 10 AM to 5 PM. Displays of educational and environmental resources by both commercial and public service organizations. Workshops and programs. Admission is \$5.00.

JAN.30-31 THE PLANNING & CONSERVATION LEAGUE'S FIFTH ANNUAL SATURDAY ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM at the Clarion & SUNDAY Hotel in Sacramento. Topics on CEQA, Coastal Protection, Computers, Fundraising, Initiative Petitions, Lobbying and Urban Growth, etc. Contact the PCL at (916) 444-8726 for further information or to register.

JAN. 31 PESCADERO MARSH. Although restoration work has SUNDAY been slow because of red tape and litigation, Pescadero Marsh still remains one of the premier birding spots in the county and the only sizable estuarine marsh between Bolinas Lagoon and Elkhorn Slough. Dependent upon weather and birding conditions, we may also bird the coastal areas in the vicinity. Since the weather may be cool, depending upon fog and wind conditions, be prepared! Boots or sturdy shoes are recommended but any walking will be relatively easy and on level grades. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the first parking lot on the right just south of the bridge over Pescadero Creek on Hwy.1. To get there, follow Hwy. 1 south from Half Moon Bay to the marsh and take the first right after crossing the bridge over Pescadero Creek.

LEADER PETER METROPULOS 591-2417

February 1988						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat	
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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FEB. 4 SAS BOARD MEETING. 7:30 PM at the Citicorp Savings THURSDAY Bank, Carlmont Shopping Center, at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and the Alameda de la Pulgas in Belmont. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

FEB. 11 SAS GENERAL MEETING. At the San Mateo Garden Cen- THURSDAY ter on the Alameda at Parkside. The public is invited. See next month's NEEDLES for details.

FEB.13-15 THE NORTHERN REFUGES - TULE LAKE, KLAMATH LAKE AND SATURDAY- BEAR VALLEY FOR EAGLES AND SWANS! The status of MONDAY this trip is uncertain as we go to press. Call the office (593-7368) between January 8 and January 14 for details. Leader and itinerary are to be announced.

FEB. 24 CHAIN OF LAKES-GOLDEN GATE PARK. Join us for this WEDNESDAY mid-week field trip. Enjoy an easy morning's walk with good birding. Take Sunset Blvd. north from Lake Merced (or any other convenient juncture) and follow it into the park. In the park, take a left on South Drive and your second right on East Drive. We will meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot on the right just before Middle Lake and across from the Equestrian Center. Trip breaks up at noon.

LEADER LINDA KYPTA 591-9053

FEB.28 FIELD TRIP - STOCKTON, LODI & THE DELTA -- The trip SUNDAY begins at the Stockton Oxidation Ponds and caravans through the Delta. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the entrance to the Stockton Ponds. 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.) The trip will go on rain or shine. Bring lunch and liquids. Walking will be minimal.

LEADER GIL WEST 359-0820

EDGEWOOD COUNTY PARK UPDATE

(Continued from Page One)

The county has actively opposed the federal listing of the checkerspot butterfly as endangered. On at least one occasion, county officials went to Washington, D.C. at taxpayers expense to lobby high level officials against the listing. This was at a time when public comment had been closed. This kind of activity is highly offensive to citizens of this county who expect our elected officials to respect legal mandate of the various regulatory bodies involved. On October 16, 1987, the bay checkerspot butterfly was listed as a federally protected threatened species. On November 17, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to request proposals for designing, building, and operating a golf course at Edgewood Park. At the same time, Supervisor Bill Schumacher announced that he had met with Robert Kallman, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and with representatives of the US Fish and Wildlife Service who are charged with protecting rare and endangered species. It is apparently the county's intention to get the Interior Department to override Fish and Wildlife's objections to the proposed golf course, which would eliminate a significant portion of habitat of the bay checkerspot butterfly, as well as that of several rare plants that are found only on serpentine grassland.

Any golf course must meet approval of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Native Plant Society. Letters are needed to the US Fish and Wildlife Service asking them to stand fast to protect the bay checkerspot butterfly and the unique serpentine plants. Letters, concerning Edgewood Park should be sent to:

Mr. Gail Kobetich
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E1823
Sacramento, CA 95825

Mr. Rolf Wallenstrom
Regional Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Lloyd 500 Building, Ste. 1692
500 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. William Knapp
Acting Chief,
Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1000 N. Glebe Road, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201

(Gail is a member of the SAS Board of Directors and of the SAS Conservation Committee.)

COLOR-BANDED OSPREYS

Jim Anderson

WANTED...Sightings of color-banded osprey from the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon.

In addition to the USF&WS band, another band of varied color combinations has been placed on selected osprey within the Deschutes National Forest as an aid to a long-term study. Bands of one, two or three colors could be observed.

Please report any sightings of these marked birds by writing to:

Osprey Study
Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife
61374 Parrell Road
Bend, Oregon 97702

or calling the project leader:

Jim Anderson
Central Oregon Audubon Society
(503) 388-1659

Collect calls will be accepted.

ON COPING WITH NON-BIRDERS

DOROTHY DIMSDALE

A birder's spouse leads a lonely life. A birder can bird *anywhere* as long as the outdoors can be seen; almost every other hobby is limited to specific time periods or to particular localities, or both. From another viewpoint, one could say that a birder can be a pain in the neck 24 hours a day! The following exchanges must have taken place countless times between any given birder and non-birder spouse traveling by car.

Birder: Look! Sitting in the road! Must be two feet tall, with bright orange wings and a crest!

Spouse: Oops, sorry! I couldn't stop. Was it a new one? It must be a mile away by now. Ah well, I expect there'll be lot's more!

Birder: On the wire! It's a Mot Mot, but I can't tell what kind. Can you slow down a bit? It's hard to see when we're doing 75.

Spouse: I think we'd better get on. The restaurants get crowded by noon.

Long silence. Then, 15 minutes later.

Spouse: Would you like me to go back?

Spouse: (casually) What has a long forked tail, is sort of black and white, maybe yellow, with blue or perhaps gray on its back?

Birder: Where is it?

Spouse: Oh, it was on the verge of the road about two miles back. I couldn't stop with this truck on my tail.

Parked on the road edge:

Spouse: When you've looked at that bird, come quickly, there's one over here you should see.

Birder: Thanks! Oh, its a house finch.

Spouse: I *thought* I'd seen it before.

If any of these exchanges sound familiar, you are one of many birders who have partners with a minimal interest in birding. Frustrating it may be, but do you ever consider what a drag you are to your partner?

The big problem for me with a non-birder has been finding an adequate answer to the question: "When you've seen the bird and identified it, what then?" Unwittingly, my long-suffering husband provided the answer: we were birding near Chichen Itza in Yucatan, an area rich in unfamiliar species. After about two hours he said: "I've noticed that when you're birding, a sort of peace of mind takes over and you seem utterly content."

He couldn't have been more right. For me, *that's* what it's all about.

(Reprinted from the March 1981 West Tanager, newsletter of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.)

APOLOGIES

The regular column NEWS FROM THE RANCH by Jean ... was apparently lost in the mail and did not reach us by the NEEDLES deadline. We will run a double column in the February issue.

Space did not allow us to run full details on the WILD GOOSE CHASE this month, but look for full details in the February NEEDLES. The 1987 WILD GOOSE CHASE team of Linda Kypta, Cliff Richer and Barry Sauppe set a new WGC record of 165 species and raised more than \$500 for the SAS treasury.

NEW BIRDING RESOURCES

The Año Nuevo State Reserve Checklist has been revised by Gary Strachan and Peter Metropulos. Copies are on sale at the Reserve.

A Checklist of the Birds of Mount Diablo has been updated by Phil Gordon and John Pelonio and is available from the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, PO Box 250, Mt. Diablo, CA 94528 or at the State Park Headquarters at Mt. Diablo.

The California Bird Records Committee has approved an Official California Field Checklist. Available at \$1.00 each from Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Birds of San Benito County, is a 13-page annotated checklist by Bruce Gerow and Kent Van Vuren.

The Breeding Birds of Santa Cruz County, a 7-page summary by David Suddjian, compiled in accordance with the latest standardized breeding criteria.

These last two are available from Kurt Campbell, PO Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928 at \$2.00 each.

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 7.60 Pacific Coast Checklist-in pads of 25 2.50 Wings Over Our Gardens CALL

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 720 El Camino Real #403 Belmont, Ca. 94002

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

ALSO AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND SOME FIELD TRIPS

AUBURN DAM UPDATE

The Auburn Dam project refuses to die. In fact, some environmentalists believe that Interior Secretary Hodel's plan to drain Hetch-Hetchy is just another step to justify re-activation of the massive Auburn Dam project.

In another development, the Corps of Engineers is proposing the construction of a "dry" dam for flood control. Such a dam would hold back the initial flood waters following a rain storm and then release them over a two-week period. Pending further information and development of a comprehensive plan, this idea has received guarded approval from a number of environmentalists who see it as an effective compromise between preservation and flood control. Some interests in El Dorado and Placer counties - including the County Supervisors - are expected to oppose the plan since they would derive no tangible benefits from it.

SAS PATCHES AVAILABLE

Because of a computer set-up error, our official SAS shoulder patches were finished improperly and had to be re-done. As a result the patches were not ready for the December Potluck.

They are now available by mail or at meetings.

SANTA CLARA & SACRAMENTO BIRD GUIDES OUT OF PRINT

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay, published by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Birds of the Sacramento Area, published by the Audubon Society of Sacramento are now out-of-print and are no longer available from our office or the offices of either SCVAS or Sacramento Audubon.



San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching

JUANITA HEINEMANNSTEVE SCHAEFER

Several books on back yard bird feeding have recipes for making your own wild bird seed mix. A variety of bulk seeds are available at feed and grain or pet supply stores.

Juanita's Special Seed Treat

Mix thoroughly one part each:
Anise, black lettuce, flax, niger (thistle)
and hulled sunflower seeds.
Serve in a separate seed feeder.

This mix is especially good during cold weather. These seeds have a higher content of oil providing birds with extra calories. Crowned sparrows, titmice, chickadees and all of the finches have been observed eating this treat mix.

Purchase fresh, clean seeds. When buying seeds in bulk, look for shiny hulls and fresh smelling seeds. Dusty seeds that have a musty odor may be old stock. It is most important that seed trays, tubes or whatever type of feeder you may be using is thoroughly washed and dried before refilling. This is especially necessary during rainy weather. Seeds do mildew and become moldy and sour, a health hazard to your wild flocks.

PEANUT BUTTER MIXES

These mixtures will offer a source of protein, vitamins, minerals, fats, etc., to the birds' diet year-round, especially during stormy, cold or severe weather conditions.

The peanut butter mixture may be prepared by two methods. The basic mixture is loose and crumbly for flat feeding trays and containers.

Basic Peanut Butter Mixture

2 cups peanut butter (any brand)
1 cup wheat germ (optional)

2 tablespoons Super Preen, or any brand of avian, powdered, vitamin/mineral supplement. (Available at pet shops - provides vitamin D₃ as well as other vitamins and minerals.)

2-4 cups of 100% nutritionally complete dry canine or feline food, (Science Diet is recommended) which has been pulverized in a blender to a powder.

Mix peanut butter with wheat germ & powdered vitamin/mineral supplement. Begin adding the pulverized canine or feline food, cup at a time, until the peanut butter mixture is loose, crumbly and non-oily. Depending on the brand of peanut butter, it may take two or more cups of the dry food. This mixture should not be sticky or too dry.

Scoop it into plastic containers and place it in the freezer or store it in the refrigerator.

Peanut Butter Plus

At the time of feeding, to the Basic Peanut Butter Mixture, you may add chopped nut meats, hulled sunflower seeds, wild bird seeds, currants or chopped dried fruits (birds' bite sized) for a special treat.

Be sure to put out only the amount of food the birds can consume in one day to prevent spoilage and to protect from attracting rodents or other unwanted guests to your garden.

TREATS

Make garlands or wreaths of berries, shelled nuts, bread cubes, hulled sunflower seeds, popcorn or millet sprays and hang them from the trees in your garden.

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

For most of us, winter means cool weather, rainy days, and the coming of holiday season. For the dedicated birder, winter also means the return of old friends. Several species of birds, uncommon or absent during the rest of the year, arrive in late fall to help brighten the gray days and add a little color to our daily routine. The most obvious examples are of course the many kinds of waterfowl that congregate in great flocks on the bays, lakes, and marshes in our area, but a number of other, less visible species make an appearance as well.

One somewhat shy and secretive visitor is the varied thrush, looking a bit like an American robin, dressed up in a striking suit of blue and orange. The number of varied thrushes that reach our area varies considerably from year to year (perhaps that's how they got their name), but a short visit to a redwood grove or a stand of tanoaks, combined with a little patient observation, is usually all that's required to see one.

The varied thrush can be found anywhere between the forest floor and the lower branches of the canopy trees; other woodland birds have their own preferred habitats. The hermit thrush and the fox Sparrow keep near the ground, while mixed flocks of Townsend's warblers, ruby-crowned kinglets, and chestnut-backed chickadees patrol the treetops.

In more open oak woods, white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows scramble noisily through the underbrush as a flock of cedar waxwings descends on a madrone to feast upon the sweet berries. Purple finches and pine siskins, though present all year long, collect in flocks during the winter and are easy to spot as they forage from tree to tree.

Water pipits bob their long tails every month of the year; however, only in winter do they bob them in California, where they can be found almost anywhere there is flat, open ground. Lapland longspurs are never common here, but a few turn up each year, and it sometimes seems that the more desolate and barren the wasteland, the more likely that longspurs will be there.

These are only a few of the winter visitors that stop by for a few months each year; they and many others are all around us now, just waiting for you to find them. So grab a pair of binoculars and a field guide, take a walk along a tree-lined path or through a grassy field, or simply step into your own back yard, and see who shows up. You may be surprised at how many different birds you find, and I guarantee that the surprise will be a pleasant one.

Copies of the complete *Wings Over Our Gardens* are now available for sale at the office. Call for details.

BIRDING SAN MATEO COUNTY

Peter Metropulos

A major migration of **PACIFIC LOONS** moving south past Pigeon Point on November 15 involved 107,000 birds (BS).

Inside the bay, where they are very rare, a **RED-NECKED GREBE** was at Coyote Point, Nov. 14 (PN).

Single **SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS** appeared close to shore at Pigeon Pt. on Nov. 16 (BS) and 20 (CR,BS).

BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS were continually present along our coast with a peak of 467 at Pigeon Point on November 18 (BS).

The only **CATTLE EGRETS** reported were at Princeton Harbor Nov. 20 and Pigeon Point Nov. 28 (BS).

A **TUNDRA SWAN** arrived at Pescadero Marsh on Nov. 3 (AM) and remained through the month. A flock of 18 was flying over Pigeon Point on Nov. 25 (BS).

A lone **SNOW GOOSE** strayed to Año Nuevo Point on November 17 and 18 (GS).

A **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** was present in Pescadero Marsh on November 18 (BS).

A **EURASIAN WIGEON** was found on a small freshwater pond where one has wintered the last three years at Redwood Shores on November 20 (LK,CR,BS).

Always rare locally, two **REDHEADS** were at Redwood Shores on November 26 (PM).

Seven **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** at Año Nuevo Point November (GS) was a wonderful sight.

Ten **HOODED MERGANSERS** and two **BARROW'S GOLDENEYES** were at Marina Lagoon, Foster City on Nov. 1 (NC).

An **OSPREY** was at Año Nuevo Point on Nov. 10 (GS).

Stunning was an adult **BALD EAGLE** cruising over Pigeon Point on November 15 (BS).

GOLDEN EAGLES were reported from Pescadero Marsh on November 1 (JRB) and one seven miles south of Half Moon Bay on November 16 (CG).

The only **PEREGRINES** were at Pebble Beach on Nov. 7 (RF,AK) and on the hills above Pescadero Marsh on November 20 (LK,CR,BS).

In contrast **MERLINS** were everywhere: Menlo Park on Nov. 1 (GSm), Coyote Point from Nov. 8 to Nov. 21 (CB) and Menlo Park on Nov. 16 (SS) to name a few.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVERS were spotted at Pigeon Point on November 19 (JRB) and 20 (LK,CR,BS) and Año Nuevo Point on November 1 through 8 (BM).

A **ROCK SANDPIPER** was at Pebble Beach on November 8 (JM) and another was at Pillar Point (mob) through the month.

A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was seen from Pigeon Point on Nov. 1 (RT) and a **POMARINE JAEGER** on Nov. 20 (BS).

A **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** at Pigeon Point on Nov. 15 (BS) was the only sighting.

A **BARN SWALLOW** at Año Nuevo point on November 12 (GS) was exceptionally late.

A **SAGE THRASHER** at Año Nuevo Point on November 15 (BM) was only the third county record.

A **SOLITARY VIREO** at Pilarcitos Creek on November 8 (RT) was quite tardy.

A **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** reported from Gazos Creek on November 21 (BH,BSc) was also extremely late, and the only one reported this fall.

PALM WARBLERS continue to be reported late into the fall: one at Pilarcitos Creek on November 8 (RT), one at Año Nuevo Point on November 4 (PM) and Pigeon Point on November 16 (BS).

Rare, but regular, was a **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** at Pilarcitos Creek on November 16 (RT).

A late-lingering **WESTERN Tanager** was in flowering eucalyptus in Belmont on November 11 (PM).

Very rare was a **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at Año Nuevo Point on November 7 (GS).

Another rarity was a **SWAMP SPARROW** in the weeds along Gazos Creek on November 1 (RT).

A **RUSTY BLACKBIRD** found in moist fields in Half Moon Bay on Nov. 18 (BS) was reseen on Nov. 22 (CR) establishing the third county record.

RED CROSSBILLS were widely reported this month throughout the county. The highest count was of 400 at Gazos Creek on November 11 (BS) and 25 were along the bay in Foster City on November 27 (PM) were in an odd place.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were also reported, but in smaller numbers. The high count was twelve at Butano State Park on November 20 (BS).

OBSERVERS: Carl Beck(CB), J.R.Blair(JRB), Nick Coiro(NC), Roland Franz(RF), Cathy Gill(CG), Bambi Hopkins(BH), Andy Kratter(AK), Linda Kypta(LK), Peter Metropulos(PM), Bryan Mori(BM), Joe Morlan(JM), Anne Moser(AM), Paul Noble(PN), Cliff Richer(CR), Barry Sauppe(BS), Barbara Scharfenstein(BSc), Steve Schmidt(SS), Gail Smithson(GSm), Gary Strachan(GS) and Ron Thorn(RT).

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS OF RARE,
BIZARRE OR UNEXPECTED BIRDS TO 592-2417.

HELP WANTED

The Mono Lake Committee is once again looking for interns. Interns do the bulk of the office work at the Mono Lake Center and are needed for the January-March winter period and especially for the spring (March-May) season

For more information, please contact Debby Parker at:

The Mono Lake Committee
PO Box 29
Lee Vining, CA 93541
(619) 647-6595

We note that Jim Parker is listed on the Mono Lake Committee Newsletter's masthead as being the official staff "malcontent". We applaud this concept. A contented office is a static office. Every staff needs its own malcontent to keep things moving and to keep the boss in line. The old army adage that "you don't have to worry until they stop complaining" has a great deal of merit to it.

SMALL HYDRO RESTRICTIONS

Small hydro-electric generation projects, with a very few exceptions have turned into environmental disasters. During the last energy crisis, the authorizing legislation was created with few environmental or management safeguards and with some extremely favorable tax provisions.

Under this legislation, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management *must* allow small hydro projects on Federal lands and are only permitted to make "reasonable" recommendations. They cannot veto or modify any such project planned for areas under their management.

Rick Lehman, (D-Kings County), has proposed that the opposite view should prevail - that any such project be *prevented* unless it is in the public interest and offers more benefit than harm to natural, scenic, recreational, watershed, fish and wildlife values. The bill, assigned number HR 3593, is now before the Interior Committee.

RAPTOR STUDY LECTURE

William S. Clark, author of the new *Field Guide Hawks*, will discuss the "State of the Art in Raptor Field Identification" on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1988 at 7:30 PM at the California Academy of Sciences.

Clark was formerly director of the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Information Center and has led the raptor banding program at Cape May Bird Observatory for some twenty years. Currently, Clark is doing research on the hawk migration through Eilat, Israel, site of the largest bird of prey flight in the world.

The evening will include time for questions and for book signing of the new field guide, which may be purchased at the lecture.

The event is sponsored by the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and the Academy of Sciences. Tickets are \$2 for members of these organizations and \$3 for others. Call 556-2236 for more information.

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