

The 100th Annual Christmas Bird Count

by Harry Fuller

This year we just completed the National Audubon's 100th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The first one was organized in 1900 by Frank Chapman, ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History. He was also founder of **Bird-Lore** which became **Audubon Magazine**. Chapman enlisted 26 other birders in that first count, including Witmer Stone, legendary birder of Cape May, New Jersey.

William Dawson, author of multi-volume **Birds of California**, and bird artist Allan Brooks were the first CBC team to break 100 species. That was in San Diego County, 1913.

Golden Gate Audubon CBCs

My sources are old issues of *The Gull* and CBC online (www.birdsource.cornell.edu). I studied counts for Berkeley, Hayward-Fremont, Oakland and San Francisco.

The first Bay Area Christmas Count was Berkeley, 1915. That count listed 25 species, with Bushtit the most common. The next and last Berkeley count was in '48.

The earliest CBC I found for San Francisco was 1916. Coot, Mallard and California Quail were the most plentiful birds. Early counts covered Marina to Lake Merced, ignoring McLaren and Candlestick.

The first Oakland count was '55. (NOT in the online database.) Seven counters

had 108 species. Most numerous in that count: Least Sandpiper, over 5600. Top ducks: Pintails and Canvasbacks, over 1300 each. Leading passerines: Brewer's Blackbirds and House Finches. Three weeks later, a Lake Merritt census had over 1800 Canvasbacks, over 500 each of Scaups and Ruddy Ducks, and 12 Mallards.

Since its inauguration in '68 Hayward-Fremont has missed only one year. (San Francisco had a hiatus from 1964-85).

Local Trends

I compared CBC numbers for species from different habitats as follows:

Brown Pelican—Certainly increasing since the ban on D-D-T. Hayward didn't get one for its first decade, now they are annual. Oakland had them regularly in the '70s, now averages about 100/year. San Francisco with its ocean coast shows a dramatic increase with an average of fewer than 50/year before '60, an average of over 180/year this decade. The high: 531 in '97.

Canvasback—Sadly disappearing duck. Along with the Pintail, the Breeding Bird Survey shows a serious decline in Canada, but happier results in the U.S. Old CBC numbers seem fantastic. Hayward reported 7,000 in '72, but hasn't topped 1300 any year this decade. Oakland had 22,000 [not a typo] in '55, over 9,700 in '60. High this decade: 971.

Continued on page 11



Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WRAP-UP!

See details in December Gull. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. (*)

SUNDAY JANUARY 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

See February 6 trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241

SATURDAY JANUARY 8, PALO ALTO BAYLANDS.

See December Gull for details. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074. (*)

SUNDAY JANUARY 9, CRISSY FIELD, SAN FRANCISCO.

See December Gull for details. Leader Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, MINI-TRIP TO ARROWHEAD MARSH.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy 880 to the Hegenberger Rd. exit. Drive west to Doolittle Drive and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right again

onto Swan Way. Turn left after a block and follow the sign to the marsh. Beginners and all welcome. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510)351-9301 and Jean-Marie-Spoelman.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15, AQUATIC PARK, SAN FRANCISCO.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners bird walk. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately two hour walk featuring wintering land and water birds of the area. This trip is wheelchair accessible. (415) 556-3002, days.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15, SANDHILL CRANES.

See December Gull for details. Call leader Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229 for reservations.

SUNDAY JANUARY 16, LAKE MERRITT, OAKLAND.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range, and to study their field identification. This trip is especially recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. Trip ends at noon. Rain cancels. Leader: Joan Zawaski (415) 621-2424 days; (510) 530-2427 eve. (*)

SATURDAY JANUARY 22, WOODBIDGE ROAD ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE AND AREA, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the park and ride lot on the east side of the intersection of I-5 and Hwy. 12, west of Lodi. The first planned stop will be the Lodi Sewer Ponds. This location is very birdy, and depending upon water levels, in some years, Pacific Golden Plover can be found. We will then caravan to the Woodbridge Road Ecological Area, where we should see Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans. The rest of the day will be determined by the leader on the day of the trip. Bring lunch. Trip will end by mid afternoon or sooner depending upon weather. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cold. Heavy rain cancels. Fog may make viewing difficult. Leader: Jim Rowoth (209) 462-7512. E-mail: TLALOC27@aol.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, UPPER SAN LEANDRO RESERVOIR, MORAGA.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Valle Vista Staging Area for a one-half day trip. Take Hwy. 24 to Orinda and exit on Moraga Hwy. Continue approximately four miles to Canyon Road. Turn right at the traffic signal and continue 1.2 miles to the Valle Vista Staging area on the left. Grassy hills, pines, oaks and open water provide varied habitats for land birds (many woodpeckers) and waterfowl. Beginners welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001. (*)

**SUNDAY JANUARY 30,
PANOCHÉ VALLEY.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. This trip traverses raptor habitat which usually produces Golden Eagle, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon, plus Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas and Vesper Sparrows. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before leaving Hollister, and carpool from the Bay Area if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Trip will end about 3 p.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Chris Carpenter (510) 569-9281 day, (510) 547-2201 eve.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5,
GRIZZLY AND JOICE ISLANDS,
SOLANO COUNTY.**

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot near the McDonald's Restaurant at Sunset and Hwy 12, North of the turnoff to Grizzly Island Road. There we will consolidate cars. Our plans are to bird Hill Slough, Rush Ranch, Grizzly and Joice Islands. Since permission depends on the weather, your leader can not promise exactly where we will bird. Please bring binoculars, scopes, layered clothing, a lunch and sweets to share (if you want to see some interesting views of wild life in the afternoon). If we are lucky, we will see most of the marsh birds, waterfowl and raptors. There may be a chance to see Tule Elk, River Otters, hear Black Rails, see Suisun Song Sparrow, Rough-Legged Hawk and 4 species of owls. Trip will end by mid-afternoon. Heavy rain can-

cels. Leader: Robin Leong (707) 643-1287.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6,
STRYBING ARBORETUM.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6,
PESCADERO MARSH, SAN
MATEO COUNTY.**

Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach before the junction of Highways 1 and 84 for this trip which will precede the FAWR fund raiser to Ano Nuevo State Reserve. (See article in this issue.) Rain cancels this trip but not the Ano Nuevo visit. Bring lunch. Leader: Leora Feeney (510) 522-8525. \$

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9,
MINI-TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS
REGIONAL PARK.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot by the Visitors' Center at the end of the road. From the East Bay take I-880 south to Newark and turn right at Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Continue west and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow the signs to Coyote Hills. We will be looking for three species of teal and

GGAS Calendar

January Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2000
Josephine Randall Museum
7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Program
See back cover for details

**January Board of
Directors Meeting**

Monday, January 31, 2000
7:30 p.m.
GGAS Office, Berkeley

**FAWR Winter and Spring
Bird Classes**

With John Luther

Begins on January 19 (winter)
Begins on March 14 (spring)
Contact: College of Alameda
510-748-2228

FAWR Fundraiser

Sunday, February 6
Ano Nuevo and
Pescadero Marsh
See page ? for more information.

**Joe Morlan's Spring
Birding Classes**

Beginning In February
See page ? for more information

Panama Field Trip

March 16-26, 2000
Contact: Steve Margolin at
530-342-6476.

other wintering waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 & Jean-Marie Spoelman. (\$) (*)

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*). Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger (even if a trip is not marked with an (*)), if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Lillian Fujii (510) 256-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.



Look for a variety of Wrens in your backyard or neighborhood

A two-way argument of scolding notes caught my ear. A couple of Bewick's wrens were disputing the area under my feeders. Seeds aren't in their diet, so some type of insect must have seemed delectable to both of them. The discussion was brief. Off they flew into dense bushes.

Unlike the more boring LBBs (Little Brown Birds) or LBJs (Little Brown Jobs), wrens as a group are cunning small birds with big personalities. There are 59 species worldwide and 6 of them can be found in the Bay Area: House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Canyon Wren and Rock Wren. They are brown (of course), pale below, and have a compact shape with short, rounded wings and tail characteristically "cocked up." Wrens prefer dense shrubbery, are active while feeding and have lovely long,

bubbly songs. Insects are their main food but they eat other invertebrates as well as fruit in winter.

John James Audubon named the Bewick's Wren after his friend, Thomas Bewick, an English artist and wood carver. It has a slim shape, is about 5" long, and sports a long, rounded tail which is tipped with white spots. To me, its tail and wing feathers give the impression of a checkered pattern. A light eyebrow stripe completes its jaunty appearance. When disturbed, it will scold you with a buzzy call. Both sexes look alike and either one will sing a rolling song while throwing its head back and holding its tail down. In some areas their songs are said to be similar to the Song Sparrow's but "mine" is quite different. Wrens constantly cruise your yard and house examining every crevice and surface for

insect goodies.


Almost any site will do for a nest as long as it is a cavity: knot-holes, mail boxes, tin cans, a bleached skull, baskets, tree holes, crevices in walls. Bewick's Wrens may compete with House Wrens for housing and they usually lose. In fact, most wrens are so competitive that they will pierce the eggs of rivals with their long, sharp beaks.

Winter Wrens are the only species of wrens which are also found in Europe. They probably crossed from Alaska on the now submerged land bridge across the Bering Straits. This chubby cutie has almost no tail and belts out the loudest, richest song of rising and falling notes. My favorite sighting of a Winter Wren was on a hike down a creekside trail on Mt. Tamalpais. The bird was perched on a sunny, moss-laden branch above the rushing brook and gave us an unrivaled concert. His nest was probably under the roots of a tree along the stream. All of us were completely charmed.

Most of my wren recollections involve these mighty mite's operatics. I recall seeing a male Marsh Wren, clinging to a cattail just a few feet away, singing his heart out—his tongue was even visible! Usually these birds are impossible to see. You usually spot where they've just been by the movement of a reed. But during the courting season, males advertise the fact that they have built a number of cozy nests nearby by singing their best songs from prominent perches. These are dummy nests from which the

We Need A Volunteer to Help Us Continue Our Seed Sale Activities

GAS has been selling birdseed for over ten years now and the proceeds help sustain our conservation, education and recreation efforts. Due to increased activities outside the office and a semi-serious neck problem, our Executive Director, Arthur Feinstein, is no longer able to handle the job of moving the heavy bags (20LB to 50LB bags) of seed. So we need help. Three or four times a year we get a shipment of seed from our distributor and that seed needs to be moved from pallets in the hall into our office.

If anyone is interested in building their muscles, or simply maintaining muscle tone, this is the job for you. Seriously, we need someone to volunteer to help us move the seed a few times a year. If you are interested please call Arthur at 510-843-2222. Thanks. 

female may choose. Then she completes the nest by softly lining it with feathers—or she may decide to rebuild it herself. Later, the male may escort one of his young to sleep in a nearby dummy nest. Or, he may lure another female into his neighborhood since Marsh Wrens are often polygamous. (Recently, the Long-billed portion of the name became simply Marsh Wren. Then, the Short-billed Marsh Wren (found in the East) became the Sedge Wren. Your old field guides may show the former names.)

Another time, we were birding near Lake Berryessa below a dam when a silvery song, a downward spiral of liquid notes, heralded the presence of an elusive Canyon Wren. It took a while to spot it as it crept mouselike among the loose rocks of the riverside chasm. Its red-brown back and white belly blended into the surroundings so completely that only its movement revealed its presence. However, what I remember most is that haunting song which literally echoed among the boulders.

The Rock Wren is very similar except it is grey-brown with a streaked white breast and a light eyebrow. It prefers a dry, bare, rocky habitat and is also hard to spot, so well-camouflaged is he. Its sprightly song reminds me of a mockingbird. This particular bird dodged into a crevice which contained its nest. We knew this because of the bird's habit of making a trail of pebbles to the entrance of the nest.

The House Wren is much more common in the east. However, there is no mistaking its clear, bubbling song. I've seen them more often on hikes than I have in a back yard so I haven't first-hand knowledge of this member of the family. They seem to have similar characteristics to the Marsh Wren

Don't confuse wrens with our Wrentit, a bird who is the only member of his family. The Wrentit is found exclusively in North America and only on the West Coast (California and Oregon). It shows no resemblance to any other American songbirds, making it as unique as its bouncing ping pong ball song. Wrentits are among my favorites, probably because of facts published by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. They mate for life and defend their territory year round. They roost at night, leaning together with their feathers and wings intertwined and their inner legs drawn up so they look like one plump bird. They are shy but very curious and can be lured into view if you sit quietly while pishing. If you are lucky enough to find a nest, the parents will entertain you with dramatic ploys which include a "swan dive" from a perch to the ground. They will repeat the performance until you leave!

Whether you have wrens or WrenMeg Pauletichtits in your yard, consider yourself blessed. }

January 2000 Donations

Pergerine Falcon

(\$500 or more)

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) for assistance in the creation of a salt marsh at Heron's Head Park, Port of San Francisco.

Clapper Rail

(\$100 or more)

Stephen Chance
for the Bird Box

Gifts (under \$100)

Jean Lucken, Lisa Wayne, Daniel Jacobs, Gwen Thoele, J.A. Ogden, Hopemary A. Key, Jack K. Stewart, Donald C. Williams, Katherine and Krehe Ritter, Robert N. Hall, Barbara E. Anderson, Blair F. Fuller, Bob and Sarah Howald of Elizabethan Properties, Glenn Finch and Lorraine Grassano

In Memorium

Ruth and Jim Gravanis
in memory of
William K. Hynes.
Louise and Ken Cunningham in
memory of
Leora Elaine Nelson.

The Society Welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary. }

Fourth Annual FAWR Fund Raiser to Año Nuevo and Pescadero Marsh

The time has come the Walrus said." Well not a Walrus, but a Northern Elephant Seal is saying it is time to visit the Año Nuevo State Reserve and support the work of the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge (FAWR). Tickets for this unique fundraiser are available for early afternoon tours on Sunday, February 6 for \$10 a person. Bring family, friends, and binoculars and join us on this fascinating walk around the seal colony during breeding season.

Guided walks through the dunes at Año Nuevo are about three miles and take 2 and half-hours. Docent led tours are given from December 15 through March 31 and go rain or shine. Our early February date is an ideal time to visit the reserve.

Bull seals begin arriving in December and pregnant females begin coming ashore to pup in December where they nurse their newborns for a month before mating and going to sea. Most the adults are gone by mid-March, while the weaned pups remain behind to develop swimming and feeding skills.

The Año Nuevo Reserve is located on Highway 1 between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz. Parking (\$5) and picnic tables are available. You can also visit the bookstore and visitor center at the reserve.

As an added bonus you can combine your visit to the reserve with a morning field trip led by Leora Feeney at the Pescadero Marsh which is on Highway 1

north of Año Nuevo. To participate, meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at San Gregorio State Beach, near the junctions of Highways 1 and 84. While heavy rain cancels Leora's trip it will not cancel the Año Nuevo trip.

To purchase tickets for the Año Nuevo afternoon excursion, send a check for the total number of tickets to: **C. Baxter, 6406 Benvenue Ave., Oakland 94618**. Make checks payable to GGAS and include your phone number, address, and a note of the number of tickets you are purchasing. Verification will be sent to you by return mail. There are no cancellations or refunds.

For further information, phone 510-563-9441.

Spring 2000 Birding Classes in San Francisco

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting February 8, 9, and 10, 2000. All classes meet 7-9:15 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building. The instructor is co-author of *"Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area"* and *"Birds of Northern California."* He is also coordinator of the recorded "Northern California Birdbox" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *"A Field Guide to Birds of North America,"* third edition, by the National Geographic Society.

- **Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Part A (**EA101**) starts February 8 and ends March 21; Part B (**EA105**) starts March 28 and ends May 18.

- **Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American birds, including waterfowl and hawks. Part A (**EA110**) starts February 9 and ends March 22; Part B (**EA115**) starts March 29 and ends May 17.
- **Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American land birds including thrushes, thrashers, pipits, waxwings and warblers. Part A (**EA120**) starts February 10 and ends March 23; Part B (**EA125**) starts March 29 and ends May 18.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$100 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call (415) 561-1860 or see the instructors web site at <http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmorlan/>

Big Applause for GGAS' Adult and High School Volunteer Environmental Educators

Amy Mayeno, Leora Feeney and Jean Lucken

This fall, Volunteer environmental educators (docents) alongside naturalists and rangers successfully led a wide variety of activities at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline Park (Arrowhead Marsh) and the Alameda Wildlife Refuge. The activities included bird watching, water testing, plant monitoring and conservation activities to name a few. Additionally many volunteers led slide show presentations and interactive activities in fourth grade public schools classrooms.

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their outstanding contributions:

- Mike Richter, who coordinated most of the field and classroom visits in Alameda;
- Kay Bloom, who coordinated the transportation of High school students and participated in more classroom and field visits than any other volunteer;
- John Luther, who consulted on a daily basis on the development of new curriculum for MLK Jr. Shoreline Park and;
- Cathy Hubbard whose creative energy was essential in the development and field testing of our new educational activities.

The following volunteer environmental educators did an incredible job turning students onto birds, nature and local ecosystems:

Engene Abellon, Shanika Anderson, Catamaron Bobino, Hien Bni, Maité Botel McClnen; Pat Gannon; Barbara Hakala; Dorothy Kakimoto; Melissa

Mayfield; Vivian Pon; Ann Riditer; Saude Smitli; Neta Villalobos-Bell, and Dayou Wiltshire.

Students from the Environmental Resources Academy at Castlemont High in Oakland, Encinal High in Alameda and Piedmont Millenium High volunteered as docents this fall. The following students did a tremendous job leading field and or/classroom activities:

Clara Ackerman; Kathleen Barrett; Byron Bartie; Erin Carey; Rosa

Cooper; Audre Calilung, Mary Costales; Marina Delatorre; Mike Dinh; Christina Elder; Jimmy Heitz; Andrew Jung; Ronika Lewis; Kerry Ly; Robert Martinez; Mercedes Meza; Iesha Miller; Thuan Nguyen; Hung Nguyen; Amy Ponce; Juan Quiroga; Ben Richards; Amber Ronzitti; Francisco Salazar; Nick Salcedo; Tiffany Thompson; Audrian Torres; Dora Tran; Reid Wedding and Jessica Wolford.

For information about volunteering contact Amy Mayeno at 748-2129.

Education Committee Needs Your Help!!

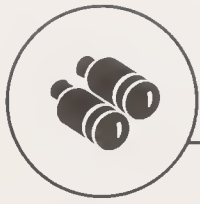
You can help us by recycling your Audubon magazines through your local schools and libraries. Teachers and librarians should welcome this informative and attractive material. If this is not convenient, drop them at the our GGSA office and we will distribute them.

You can help us by contributing your old, used, bird guides, Audubon poster, natural science books, and binoculars (working or not). Deliver all to our GGSA office.

You can help us construct slide shows to introduce Audubon to adults/children. We'd like your extra slides of birds, birding trips, scenic locations, etc. - any sight that has caught your interest over the years and helps to tell our story. We will keep your slides unless you wish them returned to you. Please be sure to indicate those you want returned. We will do so after making copies of the originals.

Please attach your name and address to all contributions so that we can send you a very hearty Thank You!

Jean Albrecht Lucken,
Education Chair



October 29 - November 29, 1999

The number of vagrants and interesting migrants reported in Northern California seemed much reduced compared to the last two month's reports, which had been especially rich in rare Wood Warblers. Still, we had a more-than-respectable total of eight CBRC species. According to Jim Booker of BSOL, overall fall migration capture rates were down at least 50% during 1999 as compared with the last 5 years, with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Fox Sparrows being particularly low. Another interesting comment on the migrant scene from comes from the SF Chronicle Outdoors section that according to Ducks Unlimited, the expected record flight of ducks and geese down the Pacific Flyway will be the largest since 1955, encompassing 26-31 million birds. Even so, the migrants have tended to linger in the north due to the unusually warm weather in the prairies of south Canada, but should be coming our way in full force when the northern winter begins in earnest.

Loons to Ducks

A Red-throated Loon was seen away from the coast in Salt Pond A10, Alviso, Nov. 6 (MD) and another was much farther inland at Folsom Lake SRA, PLA, Nov. 11 (CH), where a Pacific Loon was also observed Nov. 4 (BW). At least 20 Laysan Albatross were seen on an Oct. 31 Bodega Bay PT (DLSH), a Nov. 12 Bodega Bay PT picked up 9 (AD), and another 8 or 9 were recorded from a Nov. 14 deep-water PT out of Bodega Bay (AD). Five Black-footed Albatross were seen on a MTY PT Nov. 1 (DLSH), and 28 and 16 of this species were observed on the aforementioned Nov. 12 and 14 Bodega Bay excursions (AD).

High count for Northern Fulmars was 200 on the Nov. 12 Bodega Bay PT (AD). Pink-footed Shearwaters numbered 46 on a SCZ PT Nov. 7 (DLSH), and there were 25 on the Nov. 12 Bodega Bay PT (AD). The Bodega trips also recorded two Flesh-footed Shearwaters on Nov. 12 and one on Nov. 14 as well as 15 and 18 Short-tailed Shearwaters on those two dates (AD), with another Short-tailed Shearwater reported from N. Jetty, HUM, Nov. 13 (ABB). A female **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) was reported from the SE Farallones during the week of Nov. 1-7 (PRBO). A male of this species, a rare and irregular late summer and fall post-breeding visitor (Small, 1994) was seen in the same location in October. An immature Magnificent Frigatebird was reported from Bodega Bay, SON, Nov. 14-15 (DN, JF).

DN county was an unusual location for a White-faced Ibis Nov. 6 (ABB). Pt. Isabel, CC, and Crab Cove, ALA, were uncommon stopping-off points for one and 7 Brants, respectively, on Nov. 13 and 20 (AKr, JH). Five Tundra Swans were reported at Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek, CC, Nov. 6 (BW). A total of 16 Wood Ducks were reported from SOL and MRN counties. Approximately 40 Eurasian Wigeons were observed over 10 counties with the highest count of 11 at Gray Lodge NWR, BUT, Nov. 26 (CC). The largest group of Blue-winged Teal was a flock of 16 at Schoellenberger Park, Petaluma, SON, Nov. 20 (AW). Individual Tufted Ducks were reported from three locations: at Charleston Slough, SCL, Nov. 6-8 (J-MS, MR, BR), at Shoreline Park, San Rafael, MRN, Nov. 21 (KSw), and at Clifton Court Forebay, CC, Nov. 26 (SG). Single Harlequin Ducks were at Fairhaven, HUM, Oct. 30 (ABB), at Kings Salmon, HUM,

Nov. 6 (ABB) at Pigeon Pt., SM, Nov. 13 (AWi), at Table Bluff, HUM, Nov. 14 (ABB), at Fieldslanding, HUM, Nov. 17 (ABB), and near Wharf #2 in Monterey Harbor, MTY, Nov. 25 (MPRBA), but eight of them congregated off Glass Beach, MEN, Nov. 23 (DT). An inland White-winged Scoter was at Folsom Lake, PLA, Nov. 5 (BW). Two Oldsquaws were in Princeton Harbor, SM, Oct. 30-Nov. 2 (MH, AnW), another two were at the O'Neill Forebay, MER, Nov. 11 (SG), and a single bird was off Candlestick Point, SF, Nov. 22 (KM). More than 82 Hooded Mergansers were seen over 12 counties, with the most birds (20) at the Carmody Rd. Ponds, SON, Nov. 8 (TE).

Raptors to Skimmers

A Golden Eagle was spotted again at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, Nov. 24, stooping after a ground squirrel (CP). Hawkwatch Hill, MRN, reported a Northern Goshawk, rare on the coast, Nov. 12 (TB). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was found near the same location favored by a dark-morph last winter in Watsonville, SCZ, Nov. 11-21 (CK, LG, MOB). A juvenile Swainson's Hawk was seen at the Marin Headlands, MRN, Nov. 22 (TB). Most exciting raptor of the period was an adult gray-phase **Gyrfalcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) sighted near Tule Lake, MOD, Nov. 13 (DH), and found again in SIS county on Nov. 14 (KS). This Arctic bird is an extremely rare visitor, with only a few CA records, mostly from Northern counties (Small, 1994).

A **Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) was found dead in DN county Oct. 30 (ABB). This species is an exceedingly rare visitor to CA (Small, 1994) and breeds mostly in Canadian Provinces east of BC. There were several reports of Pacific

Wood Warbler Sightings

Blue-winged Warbler

Nov. 18 Hookton Rd., HUM ABB

Tennessee Warbler

Oct. 30 DN ABB

Nashville Warbler

Oct. 29 Big Sur, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 5 Carmel R. mouth, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 5 Fairhaven, HUM ABB

Nov. 9 BSOL, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 13 Big Sur, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 19 HUM ABB

Nov. 26-29 Stowe Lake, GGP, SF JC

Nov. 28 Middle Lake, GGP, SF KM

Nov. 27 n. of Ano Nuevo SR, SM AG

Virginia's Warbler

Nov. 3 Ferndale, HUM ABB

Lucy's Warbler

~Nov. 24 Farallones PRBO

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Oct. 29 Watsonville Sewage Facility, SCZ DS

Nov. 5 Tyee City, HUM ABB

Nov. 26 Merced NWR, MER KK

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Nov. 2 Owl Canyon, Bodega Bay, SON DE

Black-throated Green Warbler

Nov. 10,11,15(5) BSOL, MTY JB

Blackburnian Warbler

Nov. 29 Laguna Grande Park, Seaside, MTY SRv

Palm Warbler

Oct. 29(2) Pajaro R., SCZ DS

Oct. 29 Pajaro Dunes, SCZ DS

Oct. 30 DN ABB

Oct. 31-Nov. 3 (2-5) Tyee City, HUM ABB

Nov. 1 Mendoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN VM

Nov. 1 Drake's Corner, PRNS, MRN VM

Nov. 3(5) Ferndale, HUM ABB

Nov. 4 Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN RS

Nov. 5-6 Half Moon Bay, SM AE, AWi

~Nov. 1-7(5) SE Farallones PRBO

Nov. 5(2) Arcata, HUM ABB

Nov. 6(5) Eel R. bottoms, HUM ABB

Nov. 7 Tyee City, HUM ABB

Nov. 11 Capitola, SCZ DS

Nov. 11 Manila, HUM ABB

Nov. 11 MEN ABB

Nov. 13(2) Carmel R. mouth, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 14 Crescent City, HUM ABB

Nov. 15 L. Merced, SF JC

Nov. 15 Ft. Funston, SF JC

Nov. 17 Antonelli Pond DS

Nov. 17 Arcata Marsh, HUM ABB

Nov. 20(5) Ano Nuevo State Reserve, SM RT

~Nov. 24 Farallones PRBO

Nov. 29 Buena Vista Rd. Co.Landfill, SCZ DS

Blackpoll Warbler

~Nov. 1 Carmel R. mouth, MTY MPRBA

Black-and-white Warbler

Oct. 30-Nov. 5 Tyee City, HUM ABB

Nov. 2 AMSP, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 6 Pillar Point, SM AWi

Nov. 15-20 Princeton, SM AE, AWi

Nov. 13,28 Big Sur, MTY MPRBA

Nov. 25 (2) Pescadero, SM RT

American Redstart

Oct. 30 Pajaro R., SCZ SRv

~Nov. 1-7 SE Farallones PRBO

Nov. 5 Manila, HUM ABB

Nov. 15-25 Pescadero Creek, SM RT

Prothonotary Warbler

Oct. 29 Eureka, HUM ABB

Nov. 6-11 Noyo Harbor, Ft. Bragg, MEN DT, ABB

Ovenbird

Oct. 29 Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN KM

Golden- Plovers, with 5 or 6 birds alternating between the Drake's Beach turnoff and the Spaletta Plateau, PRNS, MRN, Oct. 29-Nov.13 (MOB). Two more Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Eureka, HUM, Oct. 29 (ABB), one was at Moss Landing, MTY, ~Nov. 10 (MPRBA), one was at Schollenberger Park, SON, Nov. 20 (AW), two were seen at the Lodi Sewage Ponds, SJ, Nov. 21 (JT), another two were at Asilomar Beach, MTY, Nov. 22 (MPRBA), and a single bird was at the Consumnes R. Preserve, SAC, Nov. 28 (JT). Two late Pectoral Sandpipers were reported: one at Moonglow Dairy, MTY, Nov. 11 (MPRBA) and the other at Paicines Reservoir, SBT, Nov. 14 (MPRBA). A Rock Sandpiper was at Pillar Point jetty, Princeton, SM, Nov. 15-20 (KHi, RH, MOB), and another was at Ano Nuevo State Reserve, SM, Nov. 23-27 (PM, EP). The prize for Rock Sandpipers went to Virgin Creek Beach, MEN, (DT), where one reported Nov. 19-23 was joined by two others Nov. 26 (DT). Single Ruffs were reported from Pacific Grove, MTY, Oct. 29-Nov. 10 (MPRBA) and at the Merced NWR, MER, Nov. 11-25 (SG, JT, JL).

A single South Polar Skua was found on the SCZ PT Nov. 7 (DLSh), and there were two seen on the Nov. 14 PT out of Bodega Bay (AD). A rare inland sighting of a Parasitic Jaeger was reported from Lake Berryessa, NAP, Oct. 30 (RT), and one or two late Long-tailed Jaegers were spotted on the Nov. 14 Bodega PT (AD). A Franklin's Gull was at Folsom Lake, PLA, Nov. 5 (BW), another was near Moon Glow Dairy, MTY, Nov. 10 (MPRBA), and single birds were also reported east of Williams, COL, Nov. 13 (BB) and at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, SF, Nov. 21 (John Trochet). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

(*Larus fuscus*), now in 4th winter plumage, returned to Lake Cunningham, SCL, for a 3rd winter, Nov. 1 (MR, AE, SR). Single 1st winter Glaucous Gulls were reported from Doran Park Marsh, SON, Oct. 30 (DW), Mt. Davidson, SF, Nov.15 (PS), and at Monterey Bay Academy Beach, MTY, Nov. 29 (David Suddjian), while 2nd winter birds were seen in Princeton, SM, Nov. 25 (LH) and at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, SAC, Nov. 27 (KK). The first Black-legged Kittiwake of the season was found on a Nov. 1 MTY PT

(DLSh). Eleven Black Skimmers were reported to be in their habitual location at Charleston Slough, SCL, Nov. 7 (MR), while single birds were seen at Schwan L. Beach, SCZ, Nov. 5 (DS), and at the San Lorenzo R. mouth, SCZ, Nov. 15 (CE).

Woodpeckers to Pipits

Twenty-eight or more Lewis's Woodpeckers along L. Berryessa, NAP, Nov. 14 must have been a colorful sight (SG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Mirror Lake Trailhead, Yosemite NP, MAR, Nov. 6

Continued next page

(KB), another was near the E. Branch of Soquel Creek, SCZ, Nov. 15 (DS), and a third was at Rancho Del Oso/Big Basin, SCZ, Nov. 20 (AK, DS). One Red-naped Sapsucker was found on private property in HUM county Nov. 25 (ABB). A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen on Acampo Rd., SJ, Nov. 20 (JT). Five reports of Eastern Phoebes were received: near North Lake, GGP, SF, Nov. 1 (KM), on the SE Farallones ~Nov.1-7 (PRBO), at the MCI Station, MRN, PRNS, Nov. 13-14 (ME, ES), near Gazos Creek Rd., SM, Nov. 13 (RT), and at the Merced NWR, MER, Nov. 23-26 (RF, JL, KK). Tropical Kingbirds were found in fair numbers again this period, with 10 birds seen over HUM, MRN, SF and SCZ counties.

Four Northern Shrikes were reported, at Doran Park Marsh, SON,

Oct. 30 (DW), at the Sacramento NWR, GLE, Nov. 6-27 (RR, CC), in High Valley, LAK, Nov. 12 (Jerry White), and at MacKerricher SP, MEN, Nov. 15 (DT). A Plumbeous Vireo was found at Mt. Davidson, SF, Nov. 5 (PS). There were two reports of the **Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*), both from HUM county. The first was at Eureka Nov. 10 and the second at Crannel Nov. 14 (ABB). This bird breeds in the Eastern U.S. and Canada and is a recent split from the Plumbeous and Cassin's Vireos (all formerly one species, the Solitary Vireo). A Red-eyed Vireo in a private yard in Santa Cruz, SCZ, Nov. 1 may be a 6th record and the latest date for SCZ county (DS). A very late Cliff Swallow was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, SJ, Nov. 21 (JT). Two Rock Wrens, mentioned in last month's report, continued at Rockaway Beach, Pacifica, SM, Oct. 30 (MH). A Red-throated Pipit was spotted at Tye City, HUM, Nov. 3 (ABB).

Wood Warblers to Orioles

Warbler reports were fewer by 200 compared to the previous period (see Chart). However, 3 Black-throated Green Warblers were banded during the same week at BSOL. The best sighting in the category was a **Blue-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora pinus*). This bird of the Eastern U.S. is an extremely rare transient to CA with very few previous winter records (Small, 1994). A Summer Tanager was found at Fortuna, HUM, Nov. 10 (ABB), and another was observed at Van Damme State Park, MEN, Nov. 13 (AD). A **Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga olivacea*), another Eastern U.S. species and a very rare transient on the Central CA coast with most records from MRN and the

Farallones (Small, 1994), was discovered near Marshall Beach, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 28 (KSw). A Green-tailed Towhee was on the SE Farallones ~Nov.1-7 (PRBO).

Five reports of American Tree Sparrows occurred during the period, with four from PRNS, MRN, locations: the MCI station Nov. 4 (RS), the Fish Docks Nov. 4-8 (RS, BL, DvN), Olema Marsh Nov. 13-27 (ME, CL, MOB), and Muddy Hollow Nov. 13 (DWi); another was recorded at Table Bluff, HUM, Nov. 13 (ABB). Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were seen over DN, HUM, MRN, MTY, SM, SF, and SCZ counties, and a Brewer's Sparrow was reported from Freshwater, HUM, Nov. 16 (ABB). There was a Vesper Sparrow Oct. 29 at Carmel R. mouth, MTY (RoF) and a Black-throated Sparrow at Loleta, HUM, Oct. 30,31 (ABB). Six to eight Grasshopper Sparrows were at the Consumnes R. Preserve, SAC, Nov. 6-28 (JT). Other single Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at Half Moon Bay, SM, Nov. 14 (AWi), at Olema Marsh, PRNS, MRN, Nov. 15 (KH), and at Roads 16 and 90B, YOL, Nov. 26 (SH). Two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported: one at Eel R. Bottoms, HUM, Nov. 10 (ABB), and the other near Harkins Slough, SCZ, Nov. 14, said to be 2nd county record if verified (MF). At least 20 reports of Swamp Sparrows came from 8 Northern California counties. White-throated Sparrows were also well-represented, with as many as 35 reports coming from 10 counties and the Farallones.

Calcarinus species were also notable, with 3 McCown's Longspurs at Roads 16 and 90B, YOL, Nov. 26 (SH), up to 4 Lapland Longspurs south of the N. Beach turnoff, PRNS, MRN, Oct. 29-Nov. 13 (KM, RS, ME). Lapland Longspurs were observed in 6 other locations, with one at Loleta,

Abbreviations for Observers: TB, Tim Behr; JB, Jim Booker; BB, Bob Brandriff; KB, Ken Burton; JC, Josiah Clark; CC, Chris Corben; GD, Gary Deghi; AD, Al DeMartini; MD, Matthew Dodder; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; TE, Ted Elliot; DE, Doug Ellis; CE, Chris Emmons; MF, Mike Feighner; JF, Joe Ferrera; RF, Rick Fournier; RoF, Rod Fowler; AG, Alexander Gaguine; SGe, Steve Gerow; SG, Steve Glover; LG, Lois Goldfarb; KH, Keith Hansen; MH, Merry Havemen; CH, Cliff Hawley; SH, Steve Hampton; JH, Joel Herr; KHi, Kevin Hints; DH, Dennis Holmes; LH, Lisa Hug; RH, Ralph Hunter; AJ, Al Jaramillo; CK, Clay Kempf; AK, Anna Kopitov; AKr, Alan Krakauer; KK, Keith Kwan; WL, William Legg; BL, Bill Lenarz; CL, Cindy Lieurance; JL, John Luther; VM, Velmar Marco; KM, Kevin McKereghan; PM, Peter Metropulos; DN, Dan Nelson; DvN, David Nelson; BN, Bess Nericcio; CP, Courtenay Peddle; EP, Eric Preston; RR, Richard Redmond; BR, Bob Reiling; MR, Mike Rogers; SR, Steve Rottenborn; SRv, Steve Rovell; PS, Paul Saraceni; DLSH, Debra Love Shearwater; KS, Kevin Spencer; J-MS, Jean-Marie Spoelman; RS, Rich Stallcup; ES, Emily Strauss; DS, David Suddjian; KSw, Kirk Swenson; RT, Ron Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; JT, John Trochet; KVV, Kent Van Vuren; BW, Bruce Webb; NW, Nat Weber; AW, Alan White; JW, Jerry White; AnW, Anna Wilcox; DW, Dan Williams; DWi, David Wimpfheimer; AWi, Adam Winer; BW, Bob Wisecarver; AWo, Alan Wolfchuck.

Observations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; BSOL, Big Sur Ornithology Lab; BC, British Columbia; BUT, Butte; CBRC, California Bird Records Committee; COL, Colusa; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; MOB, Many Observers; MRN, Marin; MAR, Mariposa; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MOD, Modoc; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; NAP, Napa; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PI, Pelagic Trip; PLA, Placer; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SAC, Sacramento; SBT, San Benito; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo.

Annual Bird Count

Continued from page 1

HUM, Oct. 30 (ABB), six at Tyee City, HUM, Nov. 3 (ABB), one at Hayward Shoreline, ALA, Nov. 4 (NW), one at Pigeon Point, SM, Nov. 9, 13 (PM, AWi), up to four east of Hwy. 1, SM, Nov. 8-13 (GD, AE), and another at Roads 16 and 90B, YOL, Nov. 26 (SH). Twenty Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen at that same YOL county intersection Nov. 26 (SH), and single birds were at Half Moon Bay, SM, Nov. 29 (AJ) and north of Pigeon Point, SM, Nov. 25-27 (RT, AD).

Two **Snow Buntings**

(*Plectrophenax nivalis*) were recorded on the SE Farallones ~Nov.1-7 (PRBO), and single birds were seen South of Half Moon Bay, SM, Nov. 7 (RT) and at Clam Beach, HUM, Nov. 14-15 (ABB). The Snow Bunting is an Arctic species and a very rare late fall and winter visitor to our state. Most records are of single birds and are from the Farallones (Small, 1994). There were only two reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, both from HUM county, one at Arcata Nov. 14 (ABB), and the other at Sunnybrea Nov. 20-21 (ABB). An immature Indigo Bunting was at Harkins Slough, MTY, Nov. 11-15 (SRv, KVV, MOB), a female was in Pacifica, SM, Nov. 16-18 (BN, AWo), and another of the species was reported from the Farallones around Nov. 24 (PRBO). Reported to be a 2nd county record was a Dickcissel at a feeder in Santa Cruz, SCZ (SGe). Arcata, HUM, hosted a Bobolink Nov. 11 (ABB). The Great-tailed Grackles continued at Roberts Lake, MTY, with 3 males and 3 females there as of Nov. 29 (Steve Rovell). One Great-tailed Grackle was spotted as far north as Kings Salmon, HUM, Nov. 28 (ABB). Last but not least was a male Orchard Oriole near the Palace of Fine Arts, SF, Nov. 14 (WL).

Red-shouldered Hawk—Nearly wiped out by shooting, now definitely re-established. First found on '36 count in S.F., then reappeared in '58. It became regular after '84 and has numbered 20 or more yearly since '94. It became annual in Hayward this decade and now is in double-digits. Oakland's first: '74; the bird has been annual since '83, now in double-digits.

Mourning Dove—Reflecting a national trend, this bird is far more numerous than it was fifty years ago. Some early counts in this survey had none. Hayward: population still growing.

California Quail—Breeding Bird Survey shows our Quail fairly stable over much of its range. It's hurting here. San Francisco had over 300 in '47 and '49. The high this decade was 131 despite greater area covered. Hayward is also trending down. Oakland had over 800 Quails in '74, '75, '78, '79, '81. There was a crash in '82 and the count has not recovered. Every Oakland count since '91 has found under 200.

Crow, Raven—Steady growth and expansion. Ravens have been seen in Hayward count last 3 years. They became annual in Oakland in '80s, by '97 they reached a peak of 54. S. F. was in single digits forty years ago; the high was 166 in '95 CBC. Crows now seem at their highest level in the Hayward count, having leveled off in S. F. and Oakland.

Bushtit, Chackadee, California Towhee—These local nesters seem to be fairly stable. The Towhee is

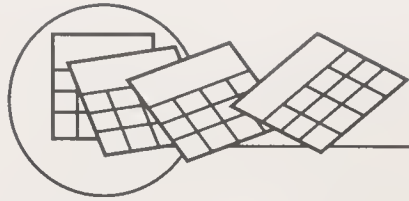
actually more common in San Francisco now than it was forty or more years ago.

Yellow-rumped and Townsend Warblers—The Yellow-rumped has always been abundant and prone to explosive single year numbers. The Townsend either has increased considerably, or our birders now are more thorough and numerous. '98 was record year of 32 in Hayward. S. F. had a record 361 in '97.

Pygmy Nuthatch—Still not in Hayward count. Peaked in Oakland with 66 in '93 after debut in '81. Unheard of in S.F. before the 70s apparently. During the period with no counts in S.F. these tykes moved in...and are now counted in the hundreds. It remains to be seen how their population will survive the disease that is killing Monterey pines.

American Robins—Prone to broad fluctuations of annual populations, but show no sign of average decrease. San Francisco had its highest count in '95, Oakland in '97 with over 12,000.

Editors Note: For more details on past Christmas counts click on "CBC History" at the Golden Gate Audubon Website in the chapter section at www.audubon.org. The GGAS site also includes a glossary of archaic species names to help you go through those old lists on the Cornell site listed above. Results of this year's bird count will be published in a future GULL.



January Meeting

Facts and Fear: The Story of the Africanized honeybee

This month we will explore another avenue of our natural world, in a unique program about the much publicized and little understood Africanized honeybee. "Africanized honey bees are not something to be feared, but they are to be respected. By understanding how they behave, you can avoid close encounters with AHBs or respond appropriately if a problem develops". So says Dr. Eric Mussen, our guest at the January 20, 2000, general membership meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Mussen, a nationally renowned entomologist from U.C. Davis, will entertain us with his slide show and talk about the infamous Africanized honeybee. He has published over a hundred papers on the subject and also writes a bi-monthly beekeeping newsletter, which you can visit on the Internet at: <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/mussen/briefs>.

Thursday, January 20, 2000

Refreshments 7:00 p.m.

Program 7:30 p.m.

The Josephine Randall Museum

199 Museum Way, San Francisco

Dr. Mussen is a member of the Yolo County Audubon Society, as well, and will surprise us with some "interfaces" of bee and bird. Dr. Mussen is a member of various beekeepers associations and has been the U.C. Extension Apiculturist at Davis since 1976. Come find out the facts and fears about the africanized honeybees, as well as ask all the questions you ever had about the challenges and rewards of beekeeping.



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As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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