

The Cheep Thrills CBC count was held today. It was a good day for Golden Eagles as several groups throughout the count area had multiple sightings, the Hicks Valley team with Ed Nute had more than four. Nicasio Reservoir area, led by Bob Battagin had 9 species of raptors. Jules Evans team noted a record of 24 Black Rails at Day Island. The prettiest duck of the count was first seen by Susan Kelly, a Mandarin Duck. The Mandarin Duck was seen in the Novato Wetlands, the ponds behind Costco. This bird is in a triangle shaped pond north east of the other ponds, near an island at the north east corner. 38.0962N, 122.5508W. Also seen was the Indian Peafowl in Olompali State Park by the group lead by Rich Cimino. The Indian Peafowl is now accepted by the ABA for the region. The preliminary count total was 156 species, not bad for a gray Dec day.
David Sexton, co-compiler