

SANTA CRUZ: Annual festival to celebrate monarch butterflies

Celebrating Migration



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

With more monarch butterflies than last year, Natural Bridges State Beach Ranger Steve Elmore, talking with Scotts Valley resident Sian Burckett St. Laurent, is looking forward to the Natural Bridges Migration Festival.

Butterflies

By TERRI MORGAN

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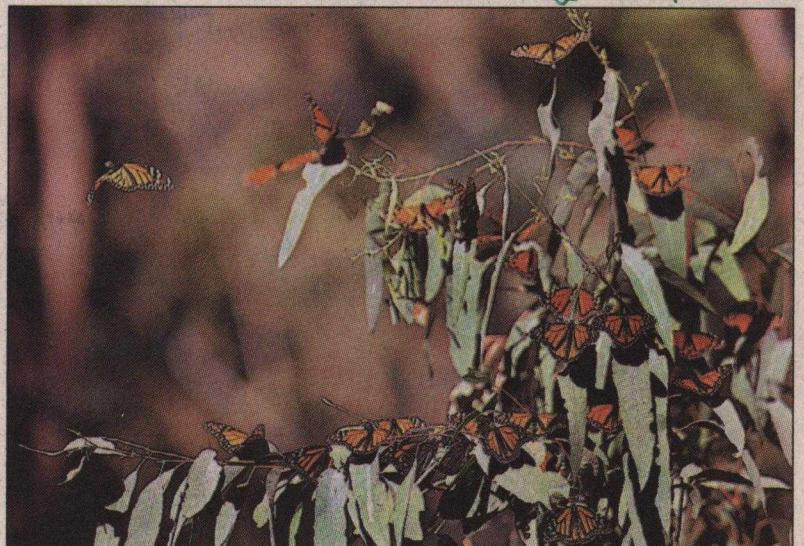
SANTA CRUZ — The long-distance travels of monarch butterflies, California gray whales, migratory birds and other animals will be celebrated Saturday at Natural Bridges State Park.

The 28th Annual Natural Bridges Migration Festival will give visitors an opportunity to learn about the diverse wildlife that migrates into and past the popular state park. The festival also will give visitors an opportunity to bid a fond farewell to the orange-and-black monarch butterflies who have spent the fall and early winter in the Eucalyptus groves inside the park.

The festival will include displays set up by more than a dozen environmental, research and educational groups, as well as guided hikes through varied habitats in the park. There also will be live music, arts and crafts, and the dedication of a new drought-tolerant demonstration garden.

Interpreters will be on hand to share information about migrating bats, salmon, birds, elephant seals,

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Natural Bridges State Beach monarch grove has many more butterflies this year compared to last year.