
letters

To the Editor:

I have enjoyed reading *Park Science* and have received a lot of useful information over the years. As the Marin Monarch Butterfly Project Coordinator I read with particular interest "Monarchs' Migration Is Concern" (p. 7) in the Winter 1987 issue and I write now to clarify a point: there are two North American monarch butterfly populations, those that overwinter in California do not continue on to Mexico.

The butterflies overwintering in California make up the western North American monarch population. They summer in the Pacific Northwest, southern British Columbia and all the western states to the Rockies. Driven by cooling fall days to take refuge along the moderate California coast, monarchs cluster in 45 known roosting sites. These sites, crucial in the life cycle of the monarch, are currently threatened by housing and commercial construction as well as agricultural development along the spectacular California coastline. The National Park Service coordinates site surveys, tagging efforts and protection projects in Marin County, GGNRA – part of a statewide effort to learn more about the monarch butterfly.

There is also an eastern monarch population. It ranges between New England and parts of Canada, north to the Great Lakes region and they migrate south to overwinter at the famous mountain winter havens in Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration of this clarification.

Mia Monroe, Park Ranger

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