

EL TECOLOTE

Official Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon

Editor: Janet Hamber

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

October 25, Friday: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT 7:30 p.m. Regular MONTHLY MEETING at 8:00 P.M., Ferrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. The speaker for the evening will be Mr. Allen Ryan, who will show his movie "Channel Island National Monument". The film shows in color and sound the flowers, birds, and tidepool life, including killer whales and sea lions, of Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands. Mr. Ryan is the President of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and is the Chairman of the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club.

October 27, Sunday: FIELD TRIP TO SANTA YNEZ VALLEY AND HAPPY CANYON Leave museum at 8:00 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Travel will be by private car.

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Report From The Board

At the monthly meeting on September 27, 1963, Wales Holbrook, treasurer, reported \$182.00 in our account, with \$20.80 in accounts payable. The board approved payment for flowers sent by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society in memory of Mr. Egmont Rett. It was suggested that a sum of petty cash be kept at the museum to cover incidental expenses. Joy Parkinson, membership, reported a total membership of 98. A letter from Bill Goodall concerning the 1966 National Audubon

A REMINDER

Due to increased mailing costs, this is the last issue of the bulletin that will be sent to non-members. We would like to point out that, even though you cannot attend meetings and field trips, your membership will help in strengthening the Audubon cause on a national and local scale. If you are already a member of the National Audubon Society all you need do is fill out an Application for Joint Membership with this branch. There will be no increase in dues and part of your dues will be returned to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society to help the cause of conservation in this area. If you are not a member of the National Audubon Society, you will need a Membership Application form. Both of these forms may be obtained from the Membership Chairman, Joy (Mrs. E.A.) Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta. Tel. 7-9371.

BOAT TRIP

September 8 and the boat trip around Santa Cruz Island to observe pelagic birds will not be soon forgotten, especially for the first timers. Flying fish were the most airborne "birds" seen on the way out. The weather was varied and capricious; photographly lovely, warm and clear with billowy clouds and fine reflections. There was fog crawling on the top of the hills as we approached the northern portion of Santa Cruz. A few species of birds were seen on the cliffs below. Rounding the tip of the island, the sea became perfectly smooth and so remained until we turned north again around the southern tip. Birding was out then, because of the turbulent sea, so the pilot headed for home. We know what the sailors mean by decks awash from stem to stern! Everyone, although quite damp, would not have missed the day for anything. Although the large, hoped for, flocks of migrating birds were absent, we did find the ashy petrel, pomarine jaeger, Xantus' murrelet, and marbled murrelet among other species. Waldo Abbott thought the fine weather had caused the birds to migrate farther out to sea.

Chas George

ISLA VISTA TRIP

On Sunday, September 29, 15 members met at the home of John Flavin in Isla Vista. After looking at his Cooper's hawk, now splendid in full adult male plumage, they went down the steps to the beach. Waiting there were numerous shore birds. They cut inland to Devereaux Slough and on through chaparral and meadows, circling back to their cars. After a picnic lunch, complete with home made ice cream, most of them went to Ventura and visited the territory near the mouth of the Santa Clara River. Seventy seven species of birds were seen. Of interest was the large number of white-tailed kites seen near Devereaux; and the Baird's sandpiper and pigeon guillemot seen in Ventura.

Mary Roberts

BIRD NOTES

The following birds have been reported through the Rare Bird Alert.

1. Stilt sandpiper	by Metcalf & Millar	Sandyland 8/18
2. 7 species of terns	by Metcalf & Millar	St. Clara River
3. Baird's sandpiper	" " " " " " " "	" " " " 9/16
4. Black & white warbler	" " " " " " " "	Botanic G. 9/15
5. Eastern kingbird	by Metcalf	Bird refuge 9/24
6. Red phalarope	by Millar	" " " " " 9/30
7. Hermit warbler	" " " " "	Botanic G. 10/1
8. Baltimore oriole	by Kriger	Home 9/29
9. Chestnut-sided warbler	by Hylands	Hope Ranch 10/6

Society Convention, to be held somewhere in California, was distributed. Mr. Goodall requested information on the suitability of Santa Barbara as a convention site.

EGMONT Z. RETT

The Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society wish to record formally what each one feels privately, that the death of Egmont Z. Rett is an irreparable loss to our Society. Mr. Rett's talents as a scientist, as an artist and taxidermist, were known to the whole city, indeed to people throughout the country. A somewhat smaller and more fortunate circle knew him as a teacher and friend. Mr. Rett was a great teacher. The fact is, as we look back on his life and the continuous ripple of vigor and virtue that spread out from his lively and courageous presence, we realize that he was a great person. For hundreds and thousands of people, for all of us, he opened a door to the living world to which he now permanently belongs.

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

On October 6, a chestnut-sided warbler was seen by Tom and Mary Hyland in Hope Ranch and their identification of the bird was later confirmed by T.N. Metcalf and others. News of this rare find, the third known instance of the bird in Southern California, would have been happily relayed to other enthusiastic birders in California except for one thing: the other two chestnut-sided warblers had both been "collected," the biologists' euphemism for "killed."

One of these warblers was killed by a young man who has a collector's license but whose objective, which he stated in the presence of myself and others, was to see more birds within a year in California than anyone else ever had. He did, indeed, set a record. He also killed, for a reason I cannot accept as serious, a rare bird, and one of the most confiding and easily-approached of all warblers. The collector for a university or a museum has a better excuse, perhaps, but the result is the same: another dead bird, another chance lost to study it in life. It is easier, of course, to wield a gun than a camera, simpler to kill than to band and make careful scientific observations.

A local and current case in point is the Baltimore Oriole which arrived in Montecito at the home of the Krigers, October 7, 1961. Here was a very juicy find indeed, and when word of it spread, the collectors began salivating over their gun sights. Mrs. Kriger refused to allow the oriole to be shot in spite of arguments that she would be helping science, that the bird could never find its way home to breed, that it would die anyway, from hunger or the elements, cats or other collectors, et cetera, et cetera. The bird lived, to be photographed in color by a local bird-lover and become part of the permanent records of the museum.

He was joined in November by a second Baltimore oriole and the two remained until mid-April. They returned for the winter of 1962. At no time during these two years was any attempt made to band or study these birds. What happened to the collectors who wanted to kill to "help" science? Were they eager for information or simply for dead birds? Was their interest scientific or sick? Indiscriminate collecting seems to most bird-lovers today to be a crass example of the cultural and moral lag in our society.

One of the Baltimore orioles has already arrived for the winter. He is still alive and beautiful. His wings are free to fly, and fly he will, next April, when his love of life must move him on. The collectors would do well to imitate this love of life even if they cannot share it.

Margaret Millar