



# El Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Vol. 2 No. 4 April 1964

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April 19  
Sunday

### FIELD TRIP TO BOTANIC GARDEN AND RATTLESNAKE CANYON

Meet at the garden at 8:00 a.m. After birding there, we will drive to Rattlesnake Canyon Trail, about a mile away, and hike up it a short distance. This can be a morning trip, or bring lunch if you wish to bird in the afternoon.

April 24  
Friday

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AT 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Robert O. Easton, the son of that Robert E. Easton who was instrumental in getting the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary set up, will speak on the history of the conservation of the California Condor at the April 24 meeting of our Society. Mr. Easton is a well-known novelist, biographer and historian. His novel about California ranch life, The Happy Man is a classic of western Americana, soon to be reissued. His new novel, The Hearing, will be published in the fall, as will a shorter book about the condor on which he is collaborating with Dick Smith. Mr. Easton is a lifelong student of the condor and its habitat, and a leader in the present campaign to preserve both.

April 26  
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO ZACA LAKE \*\*\* FOR MEMBERS ONLY\*\*\* Meet at the junction of Highway 101 and San Marcos Pass Road to Los Olivos. THIS JUNCTION IS 5.5 MILES BEYOND BUELLTON. Travel time 1 hour. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. We have obtained special permission to visit Zaca Lake, a private resort near Figueroa Mountain. We would like to keep the car caravan to a minimum, so please double up. Call Mrs. Cooke 6-5520 or Velma Stevens 6-0131 if you are going. Let us know if you have space available or if you need a ride. Bring lunch

May 10  
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO REFUGIO CANYON We have two options for this trip--

1. If you like back country driving, meet at Refugio Beach State Park 22 miles west of Santa Barbara, at 8:00 a.m. This group will alternately walk and ride from the beach, over the pass, to the Santa Ynez Valley.
2. If you prefer smoother roads, meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30. This group will drive over San Marcos Pass to the Santa Ynez side of Refugio Road and bird along the road.

The two groups will get together for lunch.

May 24  
Sunday

BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLANDS FOR PELAGIC SPECIES. The boat leaves at 6:45, with or without passengers. The cost of the trip will be \$7.00. Reservations paid in advance are required. Only the first 35 will be accepted. Make your checks payable to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and mail to Mrs. L.A. Cooke, Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta Del Sol, Santa Barbara. Sorry, no refunds. The restaurant at Sterns Wharf opens at 6:00 a.m. for those who would like to eat breakfast out. Bring warm clothing and lunch. Return about 5:00 p.m. Embarkation from Norm's Landing on Sterns Wharf.

### CONDOR FIELD TRIP

Sunday morning, March 15, over a dozen cars carrying fifty-three birders descended upon Fillmore. Because Janet Hamber is confused on eastern and western varieties of Gasolina stationia, some people had difficulty in locating the western variety. However, since Janet had become the mother of a beautiful month old daughter only four days before, after only two days notice, this small error was readily forgiven. Mr. Metcalf's group reported seeing over fifty species during the ride from Santa Barbara--a bit embarrassing to the occupants of our car; we had seen less than fifty, just how many less we refuse to say!

The caravan proceeded into the Sespe Wildlife Refuge over fourteen miles of mountainous road. Cars were parked on a plateau from which the crags that house the nesting condors could be seen. After a short delay--just long enough to give their entrance the proper dramatic touch--condors appeared as billed. We were rewarded with as many as six condors in view at one time. On how many field trips can you see ten per cent of the estimated total number of living individuals of a species? Some birds came close enough so their markings could be clearly discerned through binoculars. Also, for convenience in comparison, a few turkey vulture came on stage and a beautiful red-tailed hawk made an appearance.

Just about the time we were starved out anyway, the condors disappeared and we all proceeded to the picnic area for lunch. Several cars made the two mile trip and some industrious individuals walked. The weather, which had been uncomfortably cool when we arrived, was now very pleasant. Some Bewick's wrens and California thrashers entertained us during lunch.

If anyone needs to be convinced that expending energy is NOT rewarded when bird watching, this trip should prove it. A group of stalwarts, including the Millars, spent most of the morning walking in search of condors and they saw nary a one. Margaret Millar insisted that Waldo produce at least one before we left, which he did--at such a distance she insisted it could have been a sparrow! Now we can ponder--Did he conjure up that condor up yonder?

Blanche Canaday

### NEW MEMBERS

- |                          |                     |               |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Miss Esther Hake      | 1617B Chapala St.   | Santa Barbara |
| 2. Mr. & Mrs. A.C. Vance | 220 W. Carrillo St. | Santa Barbara |

To those new members we say WELCOME! We hope that you will come to our meetings and join us on our field trips.

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The March 27 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society was devoted to a discussion of methods of improving our Society. Many comments on the operation of the group and suggestions for improving it were made. Some of the more important comments were:

1. The Society's continued health is largely dependent on getting a maximum number of qualified members active in the work of the organization. This past year a few people have been carrying most of the load. The work should be spread out so that many people will do a small part.

2. In the long run it is desirable to have committee work done by the entire committee rather than by the chairman alone.

3. As a general rule most of our officers and committee chairmen should change every year or two. This brings in more workers and new ideas and prevents the group from falling into a rut.

4. It is not absolutely essential that all officers and committee chairmen be members of the board of directors, but since they hold important places in the organization it would be better if they had voting power in the board. With about a dozen standing committees, it might be well to enlarge the board to 12 or 15. It was suggested that an amendment to the constitution be submitted to the membership ten days in advance of the next meeting substituting "twelve" for "nine" in article V, section 1, provided a majority of the present board agrees with the idea. (A formal vote was not taken on this proposal)

Among the ideas suggested for improving our program were:

1. Two regular field trips in every month of the year. Perhaps one would be close to Santa Barbara and the other at some distance from town.

2. A series of bird walks (or nature walks) for Beginners with the emphasis placed on education, perhaps one for adults and one for young people and families each month.

3. A class meeting regularly from 7:30 to 8:00 preceding our regular meetings, devoted to instruction in field identification marks, behavior, habitat, etc. of birds.

If any of our members have any suggestions to make, the board would be happy to receive them.

## THANKS

At our last meeting and in the March El Tecolote a plea was sent out for funds to enable our Society to carry on its conservation work. The membership responded generously and the board wishes to thank the following contributors:

Mrs. George Andrews

Mrs. Marie Beals

Mrs. Albert Case

Mrs. T. Herbert Cofelt

Miss Mary Erickson

Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Ferry

Mr. John Flavin, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Gardner

Mr. & Mrs. R. Gildersleeve

Mr. & Mrs. H.F. Hamber

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Higman

Mrs. Russell Kriger

Mrs. Thomas Maier

Mr. T.N. Metcalf

Col. T. Logan McMenemy

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Millar

Mr. & Mrs. Richland Miller

Mr. J. Northup

Miss Ruth Parker

Dr. & Mrs. Chas. Richardson

Dr. Mary Roberts

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Schlagel

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Stevens

Mr. John Westwick

Mr. & Mrs. Hal Wilkins

Mr. Anthony Zozzora

Mr. Ed Reed

And to Mrs. George Kladnik, thanks for hours of typing service!