



# Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Vol. 2 No. 5 May 1964

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- May 22 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT 8:00 p.m.  
Friday Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. A slate of nominees for the Board of Directors will be presented and voted on at this meeting. A vote will be taken also on a proposed amendment to the constitution, described elsewhere in the bulletin. Jodi Bennett, from Occidental College, will speak on THE MECHANICS OF COLLECTING BIRD CALLS. Miss Bennett will use her own instruments to demonstrate the methods of recording bird calls. If time permits, Mrs. Irma Cooke will relate some of her birding experiences in England at Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust.
- May 24 BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLANDS FOR PELAGIC SPECIES. There are only  
Sunday about a dozen reservations left. The boat leaves at 6:45 from Norms Landing on Sterns Wharf, with or without passengers/Reservations paid in advance are required. 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 Stern's 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. Cost of the trip is \$7.00.
- June 1 SIERRA CLUB SPECIAL SHOW at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Natural  
Monday History. The Sierra Club has extended a personal invitation to the members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society to attend a special program. Mr. Philip R. Pennington of Berkeley will present his dramatic series of color slides of the Glen Canyon area. Arranged with sound, this series of 275 slides shows clearly and dramatically the superb beauty that was Glen Canyon before the filling of Lake Powell last year. There is a most interesting sequence of wild birds of the canyon with authentic birds calls secured from the Audubon Society and dubbed in. The program is free of charge and your friends are also invited.
- June 7 FIELD TRIP TO LOCKWOOD VALLEY AND MT. PINOS. Leave the museum  
Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Travel will be by private car. Please let Mrs. Cooke, phone 6-5520, if you have space or need a ride. Birds that may be seen include green-tailed towhee, calliope hummingbird, white-headed woodpecker, Cassin's finch, and Clark's nutcracker. Bring lunch and warm clothes.
- Nov. 60th NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION to be held in Tucson, Arizona.  
7-11 It is NOT too soon to REGISTER for the exciting 1964 National

Convention, the first in the history of the Society to venture to the West. It will be a noteworthy occasion. Send your Registration fee (\$5.00) to Mrs. Duryea Norton - National Audubon Convention - 613 Riversville Road - Greenwich, Conn.- and you will receive Full information about Convention activities and housing procedures. Make check payable "National Audubon Convention." ACT NOW-- then RELAX.

#### AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

While extending regrets to the many who tried to attend Camp this summer only to find it full, Bill Goodall suggests you let him hear NOW if you are interested in the 1965 program. Already, many have placed their names on a PRIORITY LIST to receive information in advance early in the Fall. We would be glad to add YOU to the rapidly growing roster, so don't delay.

#### AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the meeting on April 24, the Board of Directors proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society increasing the number of Board members from nine to eleven. The Board felt that the increase in Board members would better serve the needs of the Society. The amendment will effect Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution, changing the number from "nine" to "eleven". A vote on this amendment will be taken at the May 22 meeting.

#### BOTANIC GARDEN FIELD TRIP

In spite of the threat of rain, twelve brave souls met at the Botanic Garden April 19 for a treat both in wild flowers and birds. A pair of hooded orioles and a black-chinned hummingbird occupied our attention near the Cactus Garden plot. Along one of the trails we kept hearing the canyon wren call. At long last she flew out of a cleft in a rock ledge, where presumably the nest was hidden, and flashed her russet color at us. On the Ceonothus Trail-burr it was cold here except in sunny patches- we had a good view of the rufous-sided towhee. What a beauty! In all we saw 35 species of birds on our jaunts in both the Botanic Garden and at Rattlesnake Canyon. In the Canyon we heard and saw a covey of California quail and heard the soft note of the mountain quail. Even though it was a long hike, the trip was most enjoyable.

Hazel Leighty

#### ZACA LAKE FIELD TRIP by Lyda Edge

Sunday morning, April 26th, in spite of a short night caused by the shift to daylight savings time, eleven cars met promptly at 8:30 a.m. at the junction of Highway 101 and San Marcos Pass Road. The caravan wound its way through Foxen Canyon and Zaca Canyon to beautiful Zaca Lake. Over fifty five members finally arrived by about 9:45 a.m. and divided into four groups, some going around the lake and others up the canyon. About 11 a.m., after observing many nesting birds, identifying bird songs, enjoying the wild flowers and blossoming apple trees, the hungry bird watchers began a lunch period which continued with occasional time out for more "birding" until 2 p.m. Some of the younger members of the party borrowed a boat and enjoyed rowing around the lake. One nine year old, out by himself, had some trouble getting back to shore. Cars began leaving the lake about 2:30. Bird watching was continued out through the canyon after leaving the lake. Interesting birds seen in the total of 79 were the Steller's jay, rufous-crowned sparrow, MacGillivray's warbler, and lazuli bunting.

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR STUDY

The National Audubon Society announced that a two-year investigation of the population status and habits of the California condor, one of the largest and rarest birds in the world, would be completed by late summer.

It will be the first such thorough study since the original biological research on the condor done by Dr. Carl Koford for the National Audubon Society in the early 1940's. It was the Koford study that resulted in the estimate that not more than 60 to 70 of the big birds remained alive.

The present study, made possible by a National Geographic Society research grant to the Audubon Society, is being directed by Dr. Alden H. Miller, noted ornithologist and head of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Miller also directed the Koford study.

The current field work is being done by two widely-known naturalist brothers, Ian and Eben McMillan, ranchers of Shandon, California, with the cooperation of the U. S. Forest Service.

The central part of the condor range is in the Los Padres National Forest where the Sespe Wildlife Refuge was set aside as a result of the Koford findings. Other protective measures were instituted, and since 1948 the National Audubon Society has provided half the salary and expenses of a special Forest Service patrolman who watches over the condor. A number of local Audubon Societies in California have contributed funds for this purpose.

Audubon President Carl W. Buchheister said a report on the present investigation would be released by autumn, probably in November. He thanked Regional Forester Charles A. Connaughton and Supervisor William H. Hanson of the Los Padres Forest for postponing a decision on whether or not to build the so-called Sierra Madre Ridge Road in the Santa Barbara district of the National Forest. The National Audubon Society had asked that a decision be put off until the condor investigation is completed.

The proposed road, which has generated considerable local controversy, has been opposed by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and the Sierra Club who have argued that increased traffic and human disturbance will further endanger the condor. Others have advocated the road for fire control and to provide public access for recreational purposes.

Mr. Connaughton recently assured Mr. Buchheister that no decision would be made until the research report can be studied. The findings may also result in a revision of the cooperative condor protective program that has been in operation for nearly twenty years.

No announcement of the investigation was made prior to this time, Mr. Buchheister said, because it was feared premature publicity might attract photographers and curiosity seekers in such numbers as to interfere with both the study and the birds. The condor is extremely sensitive to human disturbance. However, the road controversy produced publicity that could not be avoided.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Miss Pearl Chase              | 2012 Anacapa St.    | Santa Barbara |
| 2. Mr. Carl Nichols              | 824 Buena Vista     | Santa Barbara |
| 3. Mrs. John R. Northup          | 915 Cheltenham Road | Santa Barbara |
| 4. Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth St. Oegger | 1040 Monte Dr.      | Santa Barbara |

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CONSERVATION FUND

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|---|----------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Gladys Caprini                  | 2. Mrs. Marie Forman |
| 3. Mr. H. Johansen Meinhardt of Solvang |                      |

Our thanks to you for your help in our conservation work.