



# El Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Vol. 2 No. 9

Nov. 1964

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DEC. 4  
Friday

CLASS IN FIELD IDENTIFICATION 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. As the first class in field identification was so well attended (more than 30 people), we will have it again this month. Waldo Abbott will discuss the field markings of the PLOVERS found in the Santa Barbara area.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 8:00 p.m. in Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. The topic for the meeting will be REPORTS FROM THE TUCSON CONVENTION. We hope to have one of the McMillan brothers speak to us about their recently completed study of the California Condor. Others members will tell about the birding trips and other reports given at the convention. The problem of condor preservation will be the most important project tackled by your society. We urge you to attend this meeting so that you will have firsthand knowledge of the plans being made to protect the California condor.

DEC. 6,  
13 & 20

There are no regularly scheduled field trips for December. These dates will be used for casing trips by Christmas Count parties in all areas. Everyone can help the Christmas Count by keeping alert for rare or unusual birds in the area.

DEC 5  
Saturday

MEMBERS DAY AT EL MONTE NATURE CENTER 8:30 a.m. to noon. Twice each year the members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society are invited to attend a special trip at the Audubon Center in El Monte. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the hot soup provided by the Center. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., left to North Durfee and left at 1000 N. Durfee to the Audubon Center. An invitation to visit the center has been extended for April 3, 1965 also.

JAN. 10  
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU GUN CLUB. Meet at the museum at 8:00 a.m. We hope to have the bus available. If not, travel will be by private car. Donation for car expenses \$1.50. Bring your own lunch. Check with Mrs. Cooke 6-5520 about the availability of the bus or sharing a ride. Last year this trip proved to be one of the best of the season. We saw a multitude of ducks and other waterbirds, many shorebirds and several rare hawks including a peregrine falcon and a rough-legged hawk.

JAN. 3  
Sunday

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT IN THE SANTA BARBARA AREA. Be sure to see the last page of the bulletin for full details on Christmas Count. Come joins us. It's lots of fun!

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## REFUGIO FIELD TRIP

About two dozen observant birders made the October 25th outing to Refugio beach and Canyon, and after lunch stopped at the Goleta marsh and settling basin. In spite of the cool overcast weather 67 species of birds were noted. Among the most striking were 37 common and snowy egrets, 3 red-shouldered hawks, 3 semi-palmated plovers, 3 pectoral sandpipers, a common snipe, a canyon wren and one male phainopepla. Audubon's warblers and ruby-crowned kinglets were among the more common birds in the canyon. ----- Charles Richardson

## SANTA CLARA RIVER FIELD TRIP

A group of 9 people met at the Ventura Marina on Sunday, October 11. After waiting hopefully for a few minutes to see if any others would put in an appearance, we proceeded to the mouth of the river.

The fog, which had apparently discouraged many people from making the trip, turned out to be a blessing in disguise, for it lifted just enough to enable us to see the birds on the ponds and beach, but not enough to encourage them to fly too much, so they were, in effect, "sitting ducks" and we had some excellent views of them.

One of the first birds we encountered was a burrowing owl, which flew up practically under our feet when someone almost stepped into its burrow. It didn't fly far and we watched it for some time, marveling at the way its plumage blended with the background. A few minutes later, Nelson Metcalf spotted a pomarine jaeger. We had hardly begun admiring the graceful, hawk-like flight of the bird when a parasitic jaeger hove into view. Both birds put on a wonderful display of flying and demonstrated their ability to rob the terns of their breakfasts. As if this were not enough excitement for one trip, we next espied a Frnaklin's gull among the western and ringbilled gulls on the beach.

After an early lunch in Ventura, we drove to Goleta where two knots and four pectoral snadpipers were seen. Altogether, a total of 75 species were seen on the trip, including, in addition to the above-mentioned species, a common gallinule, royal, elegant and Forster's terns and 2 spotted doves.

If there be a moral to this story, maybe it is that one should "weather the weather whatever the weather", for the birds will be there whether you are or not.

----Joy Parkinson

## BIRD NOTES

Tom and Mary Hyland have recently returned to Santa Maria from a week-long trip down the coast to the Tijuana River Valley and back home by an inland route as far as Bakersfield. They listed 153 speices, including mountain plover, Franklin's gull, tropical kingbird, Leconte's thrasher, blackpoll warbler, bobolink, Lapland longspur, and rarest of all the red-throated pipit, last recorded in Baja California in 1883.

A male Baltimore oriole returned to Jewel Kriger's yard on Hermosillo Street on October 5th. This is its fourth winter season here.

Waldo Abbott reported a varied thrush on the Museum grounds on the morning of October 29. None were seen on this part of the coast last winter.

A male wood duck is on a pond above the dam on San Pedro Creek at Stow Ranch.

Several pomarine and parasitic jaegers were seen close to Santa Barbara and Goleta beaches in October.

## AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST 1965

With the completion of new Camper Cabins, a new Dining Hall, the expansion of Lounge and Writing Room facilities and a Longer Season, the Camp can now more nearly meet requests for reservations. As everyone knows, many had to be disappointed in both 1963 and 1964, but Bill Goodall is happy to announce that with the new developments he will not have to write many "so sorry" letters. Never-the-less, he recommends early inquiries and requests for reservations if you are considering a Camp experience for next summer. The dates of the four sessions are: Session I- June 27 - July 9: Session II- July 11 - July 23; Session III - July 25 - August 6: Session IV - August 8 - August 20: For full information write: Audubon Camp - P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, California 91733

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program Committee: At present the Board of Directors plans the programs, but we are always interested in hearing of good programs and of people who will help on this committee.

House Committee: Mrs. Cooke      Field Trip Committee: Waldo Abbott  
Field Notes: T. N. Metcalf      Membership Committee: Joy Parkinson  
Christmas Count: Dr. Hildebrand

Conservation Committee: Rich Miller and Kenneth Millar

Parks and Clark Bird Refuge: This committee is in formation now, as soon as we make suitable contact with appropriate authorities.

### TUCSON CONVENTION

Of course, for those of us from Santa Barbara and Ventura who went to the National Convention in Tucson, Arizona, the high spot of the Convention was the long awaited report of the status of the California condor. The NEWS-PRESS faithfully reported the important facts of the study and National Audubon's program to preserve the bird and its habitat. We are presently attempting to get before the public a more reasonable report on the Topatopa Dan situation than that which was recently reported in the Ventura paper. Dr. Alden Miller and Mr. Carl Buchheister, in strong statements underscored what a great responsibility we of the local areas have in being the "sole custodians of a natural resource" and that we must be effective as the focal point of national and world information and action. There will be more on this in the papers and at our meeting on the 4th of December. We will have available then copies of the draft report and copies of the Press Release which covers the highlights of the study.

The nineteen people from our area at the convention soon discovered why Arizona is reknown as a birders paradise. Two all day field trips took us through Nogales, Patagonia and Gardiner Canyon on one day and to Saguaro National Monument and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum another. According to the careful records kept by one group of birders, 159 species were seen on the round trip from Santa Barbara to Tucson.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Thomas Bard           | 760 Mission Park Drive, S.B.          |
| 2. Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Dwight | 3775 Modoc Road, Apt. 219, S.B.       |
| 3. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Johnson    | Box 4068 Santa Barbara                |
| 4. Mrs. Mildred Kellog        | 3775 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara        |
| 5. Prof. Paco Lagerstrom      | Firestone Lab., Calif. Tech. Pasadena |
| 6. Mrs. Josephine Putnam      | 111 El Arco Drive, Santa Barbara      |
| 7. Mrs. Vera Denham Simes     | 1720 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara    |
| 8. Mrs. Maxine Thee           | 1419 Laguna Street, Apt 2, S.B.       |

## SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1965. This date has been chosen rather than December 27th in the hope that on this date we will lose fewer observers because of Christmas Holiday travel.

The COUNT TERRITORY will be the same as before - a circle 15 miles in diameter with its center at the intersection of Foothill and San Marcos Pass Roads. East to west this circle reaches from San Ysidro Rd. to the Devereaux Slough and Glen Annie Canyon. It extends about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles into the ocean and north over the Santa Ynez range to include the Santa Ynez River valley from Fremont Camp to Gibraltar Dam.

### AREA CAPTAINS

1. Dr. & Mrs. C.H. Richardson - Ocean and Santa Ynez mountain tops and valley. Three to five parties.
2. Dr. John Hildebrand - South of U.S. 101 to the ocean. Three to six parties.
3. Richmond Miller - West of San Marcos Pass Road and north into the foothills and canyons. Two or three parties.
4. Margaret and Kenneth Millar - East of San Marcos Pass Road and north of U.S. 101 into the foothills and canyons. Four to six parties.

OBSERVERS - Last year we had 41 observers in 13 parties. This year we need at least 20 parties and about 60 observers in order to cover the territory more thoroughly. Also many observers are needed at home feeders. It is not essential that all observers be expert in field identification. Everyone will be welcome who can drive a car or serve as recorder of birds seen or just furnish another pair of eyes to spot birds for the party leader to identify. If it seems probable that you will be available to spend the day in the field (or even a part of it), please fill out the coupon at the bottom of this sheet and mail it to T.N. Metcalf, 1203 San Miguel Avenue, Santa Barbara, before December 1st or get in touch with the captain for the area in which you think you can serve most effectively.

The National Audubon Christmas Count is not only of great value to the scientist who are studying the changes in bird distribution but is also the greatest of all ornithological sports. Once you have been a participant you will never want to miss it. Last year Santa Barbara rated fifth in North America with a count of 166 species and over 39,000 individual birds. It is a great privilege to be able to "bird" in one of the nation's finest birding areas.

COUNT COMMITTEE: Dr. John Hildebrand, Chairman; Nelson Metcalf and Richmond Miller.

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I shall probably be available to participate in the Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, January 3, 1965.

Check area preference - Area 1 - Mountain \_\_\_\_\_ Area 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Valley \_\_\_\_\_  
Ocean \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you will provide auto (if needed) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Check if you will provide auto (if needed) Yes ☐ No ☐

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_