



El Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Vol. 3 No. 2 Feb. 1965

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 26
Friday CLASS IN FIELD IDENTIFICATION 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Janet Hamber will discuss the WOODPECKERS of Santa Barbara Co. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Ruth Parker will speak on "Alaska Bird Trails". Miss Parker visited Alaska last summer, spending a week at Camp Denali near Mt. McKinley. She will show slides of the birds, animals and flowers of our 49th state.
- Mar. 6
Saturday CHILDREN'S WALK This walk is exclusively for boys and girls age 10 - 15. Parents only if accompanied by a child. Meet at the west end of Leadbetter Beach at 2:00 p.m.
- Mar 7-14 CONSERVATION WEEK President Rich Miller is already signed up to give several speeches during conservation week. He would like to know of others willing to talk to schools or service groups about the forest, the dam, the condor, etc. Also let him know of any group to whom we should speak during that week or any other time in the near future. He is hoping for a good response to this request as we have a great task of educating the public ahead of us.
- Mar. 21
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO SANTA ROSA PARK. Santa Rosa Park is reached by turning left on Santa Rosa Rd., 1 mile south of Buellton. For those of you who would like to be guided to the park, meet at the Chevron Station at Las Cruces at 8:30 a.m. We will bird at Santa Rosa Park in the morning, lunch at Nojoqui Park and return to Santa Barbara via San Marcos Pass. Those needing a ride or having space available in their car, call Nelson Metcalf 5-0848. Donation for ride \$1.75.
- Apr. 2-3-4 WILDERNESS CONFERENCE at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco. Announcements giving all pertinent information available at our next evening meeting or from Janet Hamber 7-6549.
- Apr. 24-25 COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SHOW. The Santa Barbara Audubon Society will have a display on the California Condor. Dorothy Gildersleeve has already organized a committee to work on the exhibit and would welcome additional volunteers.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A special series entitled "California's Islands, Coasts, Back Country-Prospects for Their Preservation" will be presented during

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March by Adult Education and co-sponsored by the Audubon Society and other conservation organizations.

March 10- "The Redwoods--Our Next National Park?"

March 17- "Channel Islands, Private or Public?"

March 24- "Beaches and Shorelines, Parks or Projects?"

March 31- "Back Country, Last Wilderness?"

Given on Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Recreation Center Auditorium, 100 East Carrillo St.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

On February 3rd we had a very interesting meeting with Roland Clement, Staff Biologist from National Audubon Society in New York, Bill Goodall from El Monte and John Borneman who has been appointed as the Condor Warden. John has been doing interpretive Ornithology work at El Monte for the last 3½ years. We were impressed by his competence, his attitude and believe that it is a fine selection. The appointment of a Condor Warden was one of the key elements of Carl Buchheister's Five Point Program announced at the National Convention in November. We will be seeing a great deal more of John and look forward to having him report to us occasionally on his work, which will consist of working with ranchers on the Condor's range, with the USFS in the field, with the California Fish and Game and in talking to schools, service groups and clubs as well as assisting organizations such as ours in developing and managing an effective public information and education program in our community.

The complete version of the McMillan/Miller Condor study report is expected to be in print in approximately 90 days. National's plans for an educational leaflet for distribution to schools and other groups, is in the final editing stages. National is also going to produce a sheet (4"x6", to fit in your field guide or your pocket), which in addition to a resume of the State Hunting Laws on Condors and birds of prey and other facts, will contain flight silhouettes of all the "big black birds", including the large hawks and eagles, which may be observed in the Condor range. National and El Monte are actively working on the availability of films and slides for use in lectures and speeches and educational programs. I will be working with John Taft to collect some of his footage for use in several speeches which have already been scheduled in Santa Barbara.

We spent a good deal of time discussing the Topa Topa Dam situation. Final decisions on this will be made by the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Interior and the USFS in Washington. The Audubon stands in opposition to construction of the access road through the Sespe Sanctuary and to the huge recreation plans for the dam. Our members and cooperators in Ventura County have developed a great deal of special engineering and economic information which is also being utilized to demonstrate how uneconomic the plans for the dam are. For example, the estimated cost for an acre foot of water from Topa Topa will be approximately double that of water from Cachuma and perhaps 25% more than Feather River water. Our position relative to this dam is under continual fire in Ventura County. The UWCD is committed to constructing this dam even though it may be of marginal economy. Our job is to create a demand for the preservation of the great bird and forest resources- which is our natural heritage- which will surmount the demand which is being created for water, recreation and land development. Large ranchers in the Santa Clara Valley have nothing to lose: their land is appreciating 10% per year, (is now an average of \$7500/acre) and with the cessation of the bracero program their citrus ranching activities will probably become less profitable.

The Sespe Sanctuary has been managed since its inception by a three man Forest Advisory Committee composed of the President of Nationa

Audubon Society, Dr. Alden Miller and Director of California Fish and Game, Walter Shannon. The USFS sits as a non-voter ex-officio member and receives their direction for the management of the sanctuary from the committee. Their next meeting will be on March 1st, at which time further detailed plans will be discussed, including the integration of John Borneman's work with California Fish and Game and USFS.

Another interesting development under discussion by us and Los Angeles Audubon Society, San Fernando Audubon Society, Sierra Club and National is the creation of a patrol program. A form would be developed for visitors in the sanctuary and forest areas, on which would be reported observations of shooting, improper entry, unauthorized off-road travel, wildlife, as well as condor observations. We will provide further details as they develop.

Our membership at this junction should write Governor Brown, Senator Weingand, Assemblyman Shoemaker, Congressman Teague, Senators Murphy and Kuchel, indicating our concern for the future of the Condor, not only as it relates to the Topa Topa Dam, but also as it relates to the preservation of all of the values of the back country; Sespe, Sisquoc Sanctuary, the Sierra Madre Ridge Road, the Potrereros of Santa Barbara County, Mission Pines. They are all part of the problem which we are faced with today. The only bird, wildlife and forest resources which our descendants will see are those which we have here today. The plundering has already destroyed vast areas of California and the nation and must be stopped soon. The loss of these values will leave us and our future citizens with nothing but an urban materialistic sprawl wherever we look. The only land that will be left will be marginal, unsuitable for either recreation or development-----Rich Miller

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is the policy of the National Audubon Society to allow members a six month "grace period" in which to renew their membership. At the end of this time, if they have not renewed, their names are removed from the files and, if they wish to continue, it is necessary for them to rejoin as new members. We feel that this is a generous policy and one that the Santa Barbara Audubon should adopt in sending out the local bulletin. Those who wish to renew their membership and who may have forgotten to send in their dues during the recent holiday period, are urged to do so as soon as possible, so that they will not miss any of the news bulletin, meetings and field trips. If the original statement from the National Audubon Society has been mislaid, forms may be obtained from the Membership Chairman--Joy Parkinson 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta--Phone 7-9371

BIRD NOTES

The field trip to Ranch Dos Pueblos on Jan. 23 produced the promised wild turkeys. These turkeys, which were released at Dos Pueblos some years ago, appear to be thriving in the wild. The sight of 17 of the big birds coming across a grassy field on their way down into the canyon was quite a thrill.

Mary and Tom Hyland, continue to make interesting finds in the area north of us. A sage thrasher was found near Santa Rosa Park on Jan. 17. A one-legged American oystercatcher has been seen regularly on the rocks at Avila Beach.

Alice and Charles Richardson have left on a leisurely trip around the country to "bird" and visit friends. Their plan is to bird in Arizona for a couple of weeks and then move east through south Texas and along the Gulf Coast into Florida. After the weather in the north gets warmer they will move north with the birds and return home by a northerly route.

The wood stork is still at the Goleta Slough as this goes to press.