



# El Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Vol 3 No. 5 May 1965

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 16  
Sunday

SPRING ISLAND BOAT TRIP A reminder....room may still be available. Make advance reservation by calling Mrs. Cooke Phone- 6-5520. The boat fare will be \$8.00 per person, for 40 passengers. Make checks payable to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. The Lorayne, a 68' x 24' boat, will leave from its new slip at the foot of Navy Pier at 6:15 a.m. and return by 5:00 p.m. Park your car at the Harbor parking lot at the foot of the breakwater. Those who wish to have breakfast on board may do so at reasonable prices. Bring snacks and lunch unless you prefer to purchase them from the galley.

May 19  
Wed.

BOARD MEETING 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. sharp, Koeford Junior Library, Museum of Natural History.

May 21  
Friday

ANNUAL MEETING NOTE CHANGE OF DATE to avoid conflict with Memorial Day Weekend. For our annual meeting we will have as our special speaker John Borneman, Condor Warden for the National Audubon Society. John will give us an up to date STATUS REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR. The meeting will be held in the big Fleishman auditorium so come and bring a friend. Election of the Board of Directors will be held on this evening.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Rich Miller has appointed Ruth Holbrook chairman of the Nominating Committee to select candidates for the Board of Directors for the year 1965-66. If there are any names you wish to submit for the slate of candidates, or if you would be interested in serving on the Board yourself, please call Ruth Holbrook at 9-7441.

June 6  
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO REYES PEAK - to see birds of the higher altitudes. Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and warm clothing. Notify Mrs. Cooke if you need a ride or if you can carry extra passengers. Ride donation \$2.25. Venturans may join the group by meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the shopping center on highway 33 (old 399) just west of the town of Ojai where 33 turns north toward Wheeler Hot Springs. Be sure to park on the ~~outer~~ edge of the parking lot so as to be easily seen by the cars from Santa Barbara.

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### REFUGIO TRIP

A small group of birders in two parties chose the warmest day of the year to explore Refugio Road. One party met at Refugio Beach and drove over the pass. The other group travelled over San Marcos Pass and through the Santa Ynez Valley. Both groups met for lunch in the welcome shade of the tall trees near a cool stream. After lunch, the two parties proceeded in opposite directions. Sixty four species were recorded, including a red-throated loon on Lake Cachuma, a golden eagle carrying a ground squirrel, purple martins, canon wrens, blue-gray gnatcatcher, phainopepla, solitary and warbling vireos, Nashville and yellow warblers, yellow-breasted chats and lazuli buntings.

### ZACA LAKE TRIP

A caravan of eleven cars met on Highway 101 for the drive to Zaca Lake. We made one brief stop along the road to view a beautiful lazuli bunting. At the lake we joined a small group who had spent the night at the resort there. Over forty members finally arrived. We divided into small groups, some going around the lake and others walking up the canyon. At noon we assembled for lunch on the grassy lawn and heard a report of the number of species sighted so far. After lunch there was an opportunity for more birding until the group left around 3 o'clock. Eighty five species were seen, 82 land birds and 3 water birds. The birders who spent the night at Zaca Lake were rewarded with views of ring-necked ducks, mountain quail and the call of the poorwill. The harmit warbler, chipping sparrows and golden eagle were seen the next day. Steller's jays, ash-throated flycatchers, western tanagers, lazuli bunting, Lawrence's goldfinches, and Nashville and Wilson's warblers were unexpectedly abundant.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

The Audubon Booth, featuring the California Condor, at the County Horticultural Show on April 24 and 25 was a great success. Our thanks go to the many people who gave so generously of themselves and their time. Dorothy Gildersleeve headed a committee consisting of Blair Joujon-Roche, Ruth Holbrook, Janet Hamber and Lyda Edge. All spent many hours planning, painting, lettering, typing, gluing, cutting out, assembling and manning the booth, not to mention coping with all crises.

Other Audubon members who contributed were Nelson Metcalf, Marie Beals and Joy Parkinson, who manned the booth, Hank Hamber who deserves special thanks for the display panels which will be a permanent asset for future exhibits, and Richmond Miller for his contribution of the flyway maps as well as flight silhouettes.

Dick Smith and Robert Easton permitted us to use material from their book, California Condor: Vanishing American. Dick Smith also deserves special thanks for his beautiful hand-lettered captions for the 35mm slides, and for arranging the slide show that attracted so many people to our booth.

John Borneman, Condor Warden, loaned us slides and photographs of condors in all stages of development. The Forest Service provided us with the projector, slides, screen and three men to help in setting up the exhibit and supplying the greenery that went around it.

The Museum of Natural History let us use the Lab to work in and Waldo Abbott, Jerry Abbott and June Hopkins to help with advice and trucking the exhibit down to the Court House. They would like to use the exhibit temporarily in the new Bird Hall. If you missed seeing it at the Court House perhaps you will be able to see it when the new Bird Halls opens, hopefully sometime in June.

## UP FROM THE EGG- THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER

Bird watchers top my honors list	And inspect the gallery inside,
I aimed to be one, but I missed.	But a bird in the open never loo
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,	Like its picture in the birding
My aim turned out to be erratic,	books--
And I, bespectacled and binocular,	Or if it once did, it has chang
Exposed myself to comment jocular.	its plumage.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we	And plunges you back into igno-
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;	rant gloomage.
Yet I cannot, and never will,	Which is why I sit here growing
Unless the silly bird stands still.	old by inches,
And there's no enlightenment in a tour	Watching the clock instead of
Of ornithological literature.	finches.
Is yon strange creature a common	But I sometimes visualize in my
chickadee	gin
Or a migrant <u>alouette</u> from Picardy?	The Audubon that I audibin.
You rush to consult your nature guide	Ogden Nash

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### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Peter Cooper Bryce      1555 Robles Dr., Santa Barbara  
Mrs. W.F. Kelly              1111 Mission Ridge Rd., Santa Barbara  
Mrs. Roy V. Miller            2515A Orella Ave., Santa Barbara  
And thanks to Mr. Hank Hamber for his contribution to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Conservation Fund.

### BIRD NOTES

A female BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was seen at the Botanic Garden on April 17.

Jewell Krieger had a BALTIMORE ORIOLE in her yard on April 4 and a HARRIS' SPARROW on April 24.

There was a COMMON MERGANSER at Lake Cachuma on April 22.

A PEREGRINE FALCON was seen at Goleta Slough on April 11 and at Dos Pueblos on April 22.

The first week of May brought both WILSON AND NORTHERN PHALAROPE to Goleta Slough while the sewage ponds hosted both a SOLITARY AND STILT SANDPIPER on May 3.

Puzzle of the month was a large all-white gull on the beach at the foot of Santa Barbara Street almost daily from April 6 to 25. Was it an albino herring gull or a two-year old of the small Point Barrow race of the glaucous gull? After study of color photographs and repeated close-up observations by Waldo Abbott, Rich Miller, John Hildebrand, Dick Smith, Ed Moody, Joy Parkinson, Maggie Miller and others, the consensus favors the glaucous gull. The most striking field marks were the completely white primaries, the very large heavy bill and the extremely long pink legs. The behavior of the bird was quite peculiar in that when flushed from the beach with other gulls he never joined the others on the water but invariably flew to the highest available perch on some boat or piling or pole, or to some other part of the beach.

A new observation blind at Audubon Center of Southern California was dedicated during Conservation Week last March. It consists of a room, one side of which is screened and faces a patio with bird feeder and a little pool. One sits in the dimly lighted room to observe the birds unobserved.