



El Tecolote

Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Vol. 3 No. 7

Sept. 1965

Calendar of Coming Events

- Sept. 19
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO SANDYLAND Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the south end of Santa Claus, outside the entrance to Sandyland. Bring lunch if you care to continue birding in the afternoon. Leader: Leslie Cook
- Sept. 22
Wed. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History
- Sept. 24
Friday CLASS IN FIELD IDENTIFICATION 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Topic to be announced. Watch the Santa Barbara News-Press for details.
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Opening our 1965-66 series of meetings will be Waldo Abbott, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Museum of Natural History. Mr. Abbott will relate his experiences on "Museum Expeditions to Anza-Borrego Desert Park" Two very short films on nesting killdeer and the little blue heron will be shown also.
- Sept. 25
Saturday CONDOR COUNT Figueroa Mt. 9a.m. - 5 p.m. Volunteers needed. See details on next page under Condor News.
- Sept. 26
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO LAKE CACHUMA, Refugio Road (south of Santa Ynez) and Nojoqui Falls Park. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: To be assigned.
- Oct. 10
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO DOS PUEBLOS RANCH Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m., or join the group on the frontage road leading to the ranch at 8:30. The bus may be available. Check with Mrs. Cooke at the Museum- phone 6-5520. Bring lunch. Leader: Waldo Abbott

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

Board of Directors

Mr. Waldo Abbott	Dr. Mary Erickson	Mrs. Kenneth Millar
Mrs. Marie Beals	Mr. Thomas Follis	Mr. Richmond Miller
Mr. Leslie Cook	Mrs. Harvey Hamber	Mrs. Edwin Parkinson
	Mrs. Wales Holbrook	Mrs. Charles Richardson

President: Richmond Miller	Conservation: Tom Follis
Vice-President: Alice Richardson	Field Trips: Leslie Cook
Secretary: Nelson Metcalf	Membership: Joy Parkinson
Treasurer: Wales Holbrook	Editor: Janet Hamber

Information Officer: Mary Erickson Bird Classes: Margaret Millar

Board members will be telephoning you soon to tell you of committee assignments we have made.

Copies of an up-to-date membership list will be available at the September meeting for those who want one.

Junior Bird Walks

Last year your Society presented several bird walks for boys and girls age 10 - 15 at such areas as Goleta Beach, the Botanic Gardens and the Bird Refuge. The response was excellent. Each walk attracted more than twenty children and parents. In order to continue this community service, we need many volunteers. If you are willing to help for about two hours on a Saturday morning call Leslie Cook, phone-684-3215. It is a very rewarding experience

CONDOR NEWS

The battle to save the rare California condor has moved into high gear with counts, conferences and laws taking place this past summer.

Condor Conference: A Condor conference, in Sacramento Calif., was called together July 20, by Resource Administrator Hugo Fisher. Representatives of the proposed Sespe Creek, Topatopa dam project attended, as did your Society's President Carl Buchheister. "It is not just an issue of water versus condors," Mr. Buchheister pointed out, "but also the relative costs of obtaining water from sources other than the Topatopa reservoir." "We cannot afford to gamble" with the one small population of birds that is "utterly depending upon this single, relatively undisturbed area of nesting habitat," he emphasized. On July 15, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife issued a "Management and Research Plan for the California Condor," which states: "Based solely on likelihood of disturbance and the welfare of the condor, authorization of this potential project in the immediate future is not recommended.... A delay of two years is recommended." In addition to gaining more accurate data on the condor, "the two-year delay would also provide an opportunity to investigate alternate sources of water such as the desalinization program and the California Aqueduct project," the bureau report explained.

Condor Count: Under the leadership of the Los Angeles Audubon, a Condor Count is being held this summer, on July 24, August 28 and September 25. Our site, one of nine from Figueroa Mt. to Piru Lake, is Figueroa Mt. One condor was seen by our group on July 24 and three, all cruising eastward along the Sierra Madre Ridge, on August 28. On July 24 there were a total of 13 condors seen from all points, after discounting obvious duplicates. Volunteer observers willing to participate on September 25 should telephone Nelson Metcalf, ph. 5-0848, or Rich Miller, ph. 7-2996. A very formal and more widespread count is being planned for later this fall, under the sponsorship of the State Fish and Game and Audubon. It will cover a much greater area and observers from Fish and Game will be specially trained by John Borneman, the Audubon Warden.

Condor Law: The killing or injuring of California Condors will now result in tougher penalties. California Senate bill 261 has been passed by the legislature and was signed by Edmund G. Brown, July 23. Maximum penalties would be from six months to a year in jail or a fine of \$500 to \$1,000, or both.

New Members

1. Mrs. Margaret Boise	413 A Montgomery St., Santa Barbara
2. Mr. E.D. Marshall	403 Court Ave., Ventura
Mr. James G. Mills	5326 Berkeley Rd., Santa Barbara
Mrs. D.K. Sorgendal	203 Laguna St., Santa Barbara

Conservation Notes

California's Redwoods: Beauty vs. Bread and Butter In the small coastal pocket where the last of the tall trees still survives, two sparsely populated counties, Humboldt and Del Norte, are bitterly fighting a plan to be heard publicly next month that would add 45,000 acres to the 100,000 acres of redwoods already owned by the state. Some of the trees in this area are 3,000 years old and the tallest known tree is 367.8 feet. The plan is to acquire land to link most of the existing state parks, forming a national park chain.

Grand Canyon Dams The Bureau of Reclamation wants to build two massive dams in the Grand Canyon. While these dams would despoil spectacular gorges and forever alter the natural river flow, they would save no water nor add any to the already overdeveloped Colorado River. The Citizens Committee on Natural Resources urges interested parties to write Congressmen, Senators and Members of the House and Senate Interior Committee. The bills are known as the "Lower Colorado Storage Project. Tom Follis-Conservation Chairman

Bird Notes

The Botanic Garden field trip on the morning of July 25 found only 25 species, all but one of which, the Wilson's warbler, probably nested there. Phainopeplas, Oregon Junco and House Finches were observed feeding young.

Only ten members reported for the Goleta area trip August 15th, but they had a fine day. Forty six- species were recorded. These included three species of plover, ten of sandpipers, avocet, 18 black-necked stilts, and both northern and Wilson's phalarope.

Arne Albertson reports having had a fine view of a nighthawk, first in flight and then perched lengthwise on a horizontal branch after the fashion of its relatives, the whip-poor-will and the chuck-wills-widow.

Dick Watkins says a canon wren is back at the Botanic Garden, and singing. He found it on a big boulder between the dam and the footbridge. This wren has been missing from the Garden for several years.

Dr. Charles and Alice Richardson have returned home from their 20,000 mile journey, largely in search of birds, across the United States. We hope that we may hear some of their experiences at a meeting this year.

The area around the mouth of the Santa Clara River provides especially good birding at this time of year. Nelson Metcalf found hundreds of brown pelicans, six species of terns, (least, Forster's, common, royal, elegant and Caspian), snowy plover, both ruddy and black turnstones, a Baird's sandpiper, many black-necked stilt and most of the commoner shorebirds there on two afternoons in August. A flock of over 125 northern phalarope was there August 17.