



Bulletin of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
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### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 25  
Friday  
CLASS IN FIELD IDENTIFICATION: 7:30-8:00 p.m. Joy Parkinson will discuss the habits, identification and calls of the OWLS of Santa Barbara County.  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. For this meeting we have secured the film THE BALD EAGLE, OUR NATIONAL BIRD. The film shows the habits, behavior and seasonal movements of the eagle. It includes dramatic scenes of the vast concentration of Alaskan eagles, as well as close-ups of the Florida nesting birds. A very short film showing the releasing of the recently ill condor from Griffith Park Zoo will be shown.
- Feb. 27  
Sunday  
FIELD TRIP TO DUNE LAKE Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 8:00 a.m., or at the intersection of 154 and 101 four miles north of Bullerton at 9:15. Call Mrs. Cooke at the Museum if you need transportation. Cost \$2.50. Bring lunch. This trip takes the place of the originally planned Santa Clara River trip, literally washed out. Waldo Abbott thinks highly of Dune Lake as a new experience for our organization, courtesy of the Ranch owner and Mr. Chase. The lake is near Pismo Beach.
- Feb. 28  
Monday  
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND ZONE CHANGE HEARING at the County Board of Supervisors. Conservationists are asking the Board to endorse national park protection for the island. All interested people please attend. County Court House 2:00pm.
- Mar. 3  
Thursday  
BOARD MEETING at the Museum of Natural History 4:30 p.m. Save May 7 for a Leadership Conference at Cal. Poly. San Dimas. Details at meeting.
- Mar. 7 to  
14  
CONSERVATION WEEK Watch for special events sponsored by the Audubon Society during this week.
- Mar. 13  
Sunday  
FIELD TRIP TO LOS PRIETOS AND RED ROCK Gather at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. or meet at the store at Los Prietos turn off in valley at 8:30. Drive or arrange with Mrs. Cooke at the Museum for transportation. Donatinn for car \$1.50, you pay driver. Bring lunch.

### CONSERVATION REPORT

By way of "The Avocet" from Santa Clara Valley Audubon, comes good news that wonderous things are happening in Conservation. In the past, conservationists have, for the most part, "reacted" to matters of concern to them rather than trying to "enact" some definite program.

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As an example, reaction against a freeway that will cut a grove of red-woods is often too late, when the alternative would have been to foster legislation to forbid such desecration. Of course, with California growing at such a rapid rate, we have little enough time to "react", much less "enact". But here is where the wonderful things are starting to take place.

In April, 1965, the Planning and Conservation League for Legislative Action was formed for the primary purpose of lobbying for state legislation in the fields of planning and conservation. A full time legislative advocate (lobbyist) by the name of John Zerold is employed to go to Sacramento to be with our legislators, furnish information to them, and try to persuade them toward our viewpoint.

The League is supported by the American Institute of Architects, The Roadside Council, The California Freeway Association and many cities. It hopes to solicit funds through members and member organizations. I am sure we will hear more later on this important topic.

Tom Follis, Conservation

### EDOUARD C. JACOT. MEMORIAL

It has been proposed that a small memorial be set up at the Bird Refuge in some pleasant place to remind us all of Ed Jacot. Where birds were, Ed was happy. Probably few of us knew much of his work in bird study in the Arizona mountains during his youth and middle age. He was a quiet man. In our chapter he was as active as he could be, and in the preceding Museum Bird Study group, he was a leader. A remembrance such as this would have pleased him because it came from his own people.

Friends who wish to remember him may mail contributions to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, marked for the Ed Jacot Memorial, and mail to Mrs. C.H. Richardson, Box 195, Santa Barbara.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On February 28th, at 2 p.m. in the County Board of Supervisor's chambers, there is to be a Hearing on the application of the Gherini family to secure approval of a housing-marina-recreation-subdivision complex on the East end of Santa Cruz Island. The "General Plan Studies" for Santa Barbara County, adopted as the County Master Plan, recommends that the present agricultural uses of the Island be continued "until that time when detailed studies can be prepared to determine what areas, if any, are appropriate for development for recreational or other purposes". It seems to be clear that such detailed studies have not yet been made, despite the fact that the National Park Service has issued a preliminary study on the feasibility of a Channel Islands National Park. I urge that you write the Supervisors, and come to the Hearing, to urge that no action be taken to alter the present land use until more thorough study can be made. The island must be kept in its natural state until a suitable plan for its protection can be worked out. I do not personally support the demand for a National Park, but this does not mean that you cannot. I do not feel that the problems of a National Park, as they relate to water, preservation of wilderness and indigenous flora and fauna, transportation, introduction of "foreign" (i.e. mainland) plant and animal diseases and pests, have been adequately investigated. In addition, the positions of the Santa Cruz Island Company, the Stanton family, and the University of California, must be thoroughly understood and respected. The power of the public interest is high in our society today but it should not be permitted to trample private, educational and scientific interests in the process. Unless the potential of the island is fully understood and appreciated, the values we wish to save may disappear through hasty or ill-guided acts of "preservation". I urge you again to act now to stop the reclassification.

The Bureau of Reclamation has released a preliminary feasibility study on the Topa-Topa Dam. In short, it acknowledges the fact that the area has both a water problem and a condor problem, and states that the community should not fear: the inscrutable wisdom of Uncle Sam can solve both! It does not analyse objectively what has now become the central issue: the cost of water from the dam. The United Water Conservation District is pressing for a vote in March to authorize them to execute a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. The time has not arrived when such a contract should be executed because Congress has not approved the dam. However, such a vote would be a powerful weapon in the hands of the Bureau. Two of our members, E.D. (Gene) Marshall and John Earl Taft are leading the activities in the Ventura area to reject the dam on an economic basis. They need help for mailing and money for advertisements and brochures. Please help as much as you can. Gene's address is 403 Court Avenue, Ventura.

The Department of Interior, as part of their Endangered Species Program, has assigned Fred Sibley to our area. Mr. Sibley, Fish and Wildlife Service, is a condor ecologist. He will be studying the habits, nesting areas, roosting areas, and sensitivity to disturbance, of the California Condor. We will be hearing more of him later.

The response to Joy Parkinson's call for workers on the Bird Refuge model, and fund-raising, and the hundred of other tasks, has been very good. We have secured the formal approval of our written program from the Park Commission and we go to the City Council in mid-February to secure their approval. This project is without parallel in its broad appeal and impact on the total Santa Barbara community, and although it may take years, it will achieve its goals. Your help in working and giving is needed and appreciated.. Rich Miller, Pres.

#### ISLAND BOAT TRIP?

The Santa Cruz Island trip, January 15 & 16th, turned out to be a short but exciting one. Duration-- three hours. Birds seen-- none. Fish seen-- one dead ratfish. Swells-- tremendous. We are glad that Capt. Henshaw was smart enough to turn in mid-channel and return to Santa Barbara on hearing radio reports of the very foul weather and the boats in trouble off the islands. Full refunds are being made to all the passengers. Another boat trip is being planned for the spring.

TREASURER'S NOTE: Mr. Holbrook has all the boat trip checks and will void them by tearing them up. If you would prefer to have yours returned to you, call him at 9-7441 Nelson Metcalf

#### CARRIZO PLAINS TRIP

A group of twenty-four Audubon members and guests found birding a most pleasurable experience last weekend when they motored to the Carrizo Plains Saturday morning for a two day outing. Using the California Valley Lodge as headquarters, sorties in all directions resulted in discovering many birds not commonly seen along our coast. In all 64 species were counted. Heavy rain Friday night caused little inconvenience and, of course, was most welcome to the dry farm ranches of the area. On Sunday, Mr. & Mrs. Eben McMillan hosted the group with coffee in their ranch home, ideally located to get the impressive sweep of the green-tressed hills of their grazing land. Mr. McMillan, an authority on the California condor, became our guide for the afternoon. An exceptional treat was had at a neighboring ranch where a reservoir served as the wintering home for numerous waterfowl. Here were several hundred Canada geese, a few white-fronted geese, and one rare Ross' goose. Two albinos, considered to be rare, were among the Canada's. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the sighting of two golden eagles soaring over the hills near their nest. Les Cook