



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 5 No. 5  
May 1967

Janet Hamber  
4236 Encore Dr.  
Santa Barbara  
California 93105

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Be sure to save this calendar. This is the last issue of El Tecolote until next September.

- June 2  
Friday      ANNUAL MEETING-FAMILY PICNIC AT SKOFIELD PARK: 5 p.m. We have reserved a large area at the park, so bring your family and friends. Each person brings own picnic-we will serve coffee, pop and dessert. The election of the Board of Directors will be held. The Nominating Committee has selected Waldo Abbott, Gordon Fish and Helen Peteler to fill the 3 vacancies. Holdover Board members are: Leslie Cook, Irma Cooke, Lyda Edge, Tom Pollis, William Gardner, Arthella Jacot, Ruth Holbrook and Mary Roberts. Do join us. This is our one big social meeting of the year.
- June 3  
Saturday    CHILDREN'S WALK: This walk is exclusively for boys and girl age 10-15. Parents only if accompanied by a child. Meet at the Museum at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will feature a "Planted Bird" game and a summary of the years activities.
- June 3-4  
Sat.-Sun.    FIELD TRIP TO REYES PEAK: Some may wish to make a two day day camp-out; others will enjoy a day in the high country seeing birds common to the pine covered heights. Some possibilities include: Condors, White-headed Woodpeckers, Green-tailed towhees, Pinon Jays, Steller's Jays, Cassin's Finches, Calliope Hummingbirds and Fox Sparrows. Reyes Peak is reached by driving north on Route 33 out of Ojai until reaching Pine Mountain Summit at 31.5 miles, then turn right and follow a rapidly rising mountain road for 8.5 miles to the top of Reyes Peak, at elevation; 7,510 ft. NOTE FOR ALL TRIPS: Those who need transportation, or those who will take passengers for an event, should call Mrs. Cooke at 966-5520. Unless otherwise arranged, passengers and drivers meet at the Natural History Museum. Riders pay drivers. For the Reyes Peak trip, those going only for Sunday meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Museum, or at the shopping center at the south edge of Ojai at 8:30. Take lunch, Driver donation is \$2.50.
- June 8  
Aug. 12-13  
Sat.-Sun.    BOARD MEETING: Museum of Natural History at 4:30 p.m.  
FIELD TRIP TO LOCKWOOD VALLEY AND MT. PINOS: This trip is also designed to please campers. Birds likely to be seen include those described for the Reyes Peak trip plus a good likelihood of Clark's Nutcrackers, Townsend's Solitaires and Condors especially. Mt. Pinos is reached via Ojai, then Rt. 33 north 37.4 miles to Lockwood-Ozena Road, then right 27 miles, at which point turn left, proceeding 15.1 miles to

the top of Mt. Pinos. Meet at the Museum at 7 a.m. Sunday or at Gjai shopping center at 8:10. Mileage involved about 235. Driver donation-\$3.50. Take lunch.

Aug. 27  
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY: This trip is always very good for terns, phalaropes, gulls and shorebirds. Meet at the Museum at 8 a.m. or the Seward Ave. turnoff, Standard Station, at 8:45. Take lunch. Diver donation-\$1.50. Leader: Tom Follis

### CONSERVATION REPORT

U.W.C.D. Directors Abandon Hope For Sespe Dam- So read the headlines of the April 12 edition of the Ventura Star Free Press. It seems the board is dropping all plans to push for the controversial project in the heart of the Condor country. The board is willing to dissolve the district as it now stands and reform as a municipal type of water district with the same territory, except for the city of Oxnard (which led the fight against the Dam). It may well be that UWCD is fearful of being swallowed by the much larger M.W.D. However, a later press release indicates that the county will press for construction of the dam, and they don't care who builds it, -- so we still must maintain our vigilance.

Good News to Ducks, Coots, Rabbits and Anything Else That Moves Ventura County Supervisors enacted a ban on firing live ammunition in the Santa Clara River basin, including McGrath State Beach Park. Rifles, shotguns, carbon dioxide pellet guns and even bows and arrows are included in the ban--but it does not apply to landowners or residents using the guns to protect their property or kill "predatory or dangerous" animals. The restricted area extends from the Ventura Marina to the Channel Islands Harbor for about 3 miles inland.

CONSULTANT IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION Assembly Bills #479 & #1471 propose to establish a position of Consultant in Conservation Education in the State Department of Education. This recommendation was made at Asilomar in June 1966 which was attended by about 50 educators and 50 dedicated citizens. It was recommended by the Senate Fact Finding Committee last year headed by Senator Fred Farr. If this post is established perhaps our youngsters will get a far better understanding of the world in which they live, through their school system.

Tule Elk On March 9, 1967 the Los Angeles City Council authorized the setting aside of a wildlife refuge in Owen's Valley, the habitat of Tule Elk. After a long struggle for existence, this animal, high on the list of endangered species, will have a real chance of survival. We trust that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which has jurisdiction over the land, will implement the mandate in a way that will give maximum protection to the wildlife habitat in general.

Bolinas Lagoon. Conservationist organizations, using funds advanced by The Nature Conservancy, have purchased Kent Island in the southwest segment of Bolinas Lagoon. The island was the commercial key in an ambitious commercial-recreational development of the lagoon. It was slated for major development--including a hotel, restaurant and a 1000 boat marina. The organizations involved then deeded the island to Marin County on the condition that it be preserved as a wildlife sanctuary. Audubon Canyon Ranch is located at the northeast end of the lagoon.

Redwood National Park The Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, acting on studies of the redwood region by Charles Callison and Roland Clement, passed a resolution recommending the establishment of a Redwood National Park encompassing the Jedediah Smith and Del Norte State Parks and the Mill Creek watershed in Del Norte County. The Society chose this area because it felt that the

area was adequate in size as well as quality; it has great scenic and recreational values; and most important of all, it would preserve a sizeable watershed in its entirety, providing an ecological unit and protecting Mill Creek Valley. The Board also stated, "We wish to make it clear that the Society does not oppose the plan for a National Park in the Redwood Creek-Prarie Creek area, but we believe the best opportunity lies in the Mill Creek area."

Tom Follis, Conservation

#### BIRD NOTES

As Nelson Metcalf may be vacationing right after Memorial Day, he asks all those who are making a report for the Field Notes on the spring migration to please get their reports to him by May 25th.

The spring migration brought a very unusual concentration of warblers and other migrants in the coastal canyons between April 25 and May 7. Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers were reported in far greater numbers than in any recent year. Most remarkable was the unprecedented number of Hermit Warblers. From three to eight of these rather uncommon birds were reported by many observers in Romero, Rattlesnake, Mission and Refugio Canyons. The cold weather may have been responsible for holding the migrants in this area for so long a period.

#### FALL DATES

Be sure to save September 22 for the first Regular Meeting of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society's new season.

The Field Trip Committee is planning a trip to the Tijuana River Valley near San Diego during the last weeks of September or first week of October. It is impossible to set the exact date for the trip as the influx of rare eastern birds is unpredictable. However the Committee would like everyone to keep the trip in mind so that many can share in this most outstanding experience. More details in the September issue.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

A score of bird minded people were fortunate in joining leader Joy Parkinson for a sweep through Refugio Pass and the lush Santa Ynez Valley on April 29th. Seventy-four species were netted. Of particular interest for most were the White-throated Swift, Hermit Warbler, White-tailed Kite, Phainopepla, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Tanager and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Ten cars and 33 members and guests made the Zaca Lake trip on May 7th, and found almost 80 species of birds. Among the most interesting were a pair of Purple Martins along Foxen Canyon Road, three Barn Owls together near San Marcos Pass, a partial albino Acorn Woodpecker (almost entirely white except for his red head) and a very fine lot of flycatchers, warblers, orioles and tanagers. One of the most thrilling experiences of the migration came to the ten lucky members of the Zaca Lake party who sat for 10 or 15 minutes on the bank over-looking the outlet overflow of Zaca Lake. They spotted 23 species of birds, including 8 species of warblers, ash-throated, olive-sided, and western flycatchers, western wood pewee, Anna's hummingbird, Steller's jay, plain titmouse, Swainson's thrush, house wren, warbling vireo, Bullock's oriole, western tanager, Oregon, Lawrence's goldfinch and brown towhee. Most of these seem to have gathered there to bathe in the stream

Junco

San Rafael Wilderness: The Senate approved S.889 by voice vote on May 2nd. We know that Senator Kuchel was there and voted for the bill but we have been unable to find out where Senator Murphy was on that day. As enacted, the Senate Bill did not give us the additional potrero area we asked for. The Report to the Senate from the Committee points out that "such an inclusion can be accomplished later if this proves desirable." The Report also states that "sentiment was overwhelmingly in support of the proposal," and doesn't even mention Curtis Tunnell. Representative Teague assures us that planning is under way for a hearing by the House, perhaps in late June. I am grateful to our Board and to National for splitting the costs of my trip to present testimony. It was very worthwhile and valuable that we were there.

Bird Refuge: Discussions continue with the Childs Estate and the Park Commission. The Park Commission expects they will have a decision from the City Attorney on the western boundary and the "rights" of the Childs Estate by their meeting on June 1st. If the City Attorney determines that the Childs Estate property goes to the water, this will then prevent a walk around the Refuge as stipulated by Mrs. Clark. We will then have to decide how much further we wish to pursue our project in the absence of the right to have a path around the Refuge. These are becoming complicated legal problems. Let us hope the City Attorney determines that the boundary line is, in fact, the recorded boundary line of the original Childs estate.

Trails: Our support of the Santa Barbara Trails Bills AB 1114, 1115 and 1126, which established a Montecio Loop in the San Antonio and Las Positas, is required. Write Assemblymen Winfield A. Shoemaker and Edwin L. Z'berg -- say this is a very important step for Santa Barbara County. These riding and hiking trails should be recognized as part of an expanding and officially designated States Trails System.

Redwoods: I will have copies of the official action by National on this subject at the meeting on June 2nd, for those of you who are interested to see the specific details of Mr. Callison's recommendations and the National Board resolution.

Mountain Lion: The Moratorium on the mountain lion expires this year and we should replace the Moratorium with a permanent repeal of the Bounty. AB 940 is now in the Senate Fish and Game Committee, Chairman, Fred W. Marler, Jr.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary: I have received an urgent personal appeal for funds from Mr. Callison so that additional lands may be purchased to protect the northern arm of the Corkscrew Marsh, and to purchase additional acreage to protect "The Last Great Strand." (See the excellent article in the March/April 1967 Audubon Magazine.) A lot of money is needed; but a lot of money is only the sum of many small contributions.

Audubon Prints: You must go to the Museum of Art before June 4th to see the Exhibition from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Valentine of Santa Barbara and Philip B. Stewart of Colorado Springs. It is marvelous in content and variety and we are unusually fortunate in having such an exhibit in Santa Barbara.

This is my last report to you as President and I cannot express adequately my appreciation of your work, support and enthusiasm in the past three years. It has been exciting, rewarding and a demanding experience for me. I will be happy to continue to serve in whatever capacity your new Board requests, but I do not feel that I can continue to devote all of the time which the Office of President requires. We have a wealth of talent among our membership and we must continue to develop new leadership. My Report for the year 1966/67 will be available at the annual meeting on June 2nd.

*Rich Miller*