



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 1
Friday
FIELD IDENTIFICATION CLASS: 7:30 p.m. Nelson Metcalf, Christmas Count Chairman, will discuss the identifying characteristics of rare or unusual species and tell how to differentiate between "look-alike" birds that may be seen on this year's Christmas Count.
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. John Borneman, Condor Warden for the National Audubon Society, will tell of his "Latest Adventure With Condors."
- Dec. 3
Sunday
FIELD TRIP TO DOS PUEBLOS CANYON: Meet at the off ramp of 101 marked Dos Pueblos, 16 miles west of Santa Barbara, at 8:30 a.m. Possibility of seeing the long-eared owl and wild turkeys. Bring lunch. Driver donation-60¢. Leaders: Ruth and Wales Holbrook.
- Dec. 7
Thursday
BOARD MEETING: Museum of Natural History at 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9-10
Sat. & Sun.
FIELD TRIP TO CARRIZO PLAINS: We were rained out last year, but surely hope our frustration with the Sandhill Cranes will be over this year. Word comes that a few have been sighted there now. Twelve rooms are tentatively set aside for us so get your reservations in NOW! Address- California Valley Lodge, California Valley, Calif. Cost - \$4.00 to \$6.00 per person. Tel- 805-475-2272. Mrs. Cooke at the Museum will help arrange for rides or room sharing. Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. or at the shopping center on 150 and 30 intersection at the edge of Ojai at 8:30. Take lunch for 2 days. Driver donation for 450 miles-\$7.00. Leader: Waldo Abbott. Birds expected: Mountain Plover, Ross' Geese and ?.
- Dec. 30
Saturday
SANTA BARBARA AREA CHRISTMAS COUNT: All members who have not signed up please to do so. Call Nelson Metcalf at Tel-964-3008
- Jan. 13-14
Sat. & Sun.
FIELD TRIP TO MORRO BAY: Meet at the Morro Bay State Park Museum parking lot at 10 a.m. Saturday. Either camp at the Park or make your own reservations at one of the downtown motels. There is a Motel 6 at 298 Atascadero Rd. Morro Bay. Tel- 805-772-8881. Take lunch for 2 days. Driver donation-\$4.00. Leader: Nelson Metcalf.
- Jan. 28
Sunday
FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU: This is probably the best one day field trip we have- so mark this date on your calendar. More information in the January bulletin.

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STATUS REPORT - SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS

On October 16th the San Rafael Bill passed the House of Representatives having been amended to include 2200 acres from Area "F" as proposed by the SBAS, the National Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club and virtually every other letter or statement that was made at the House Hearing in June. The amendment to the House Bill (HR 5161) makes the Bill different from the Senate Bill (S889) passed by the Senate in May. The Area "F" addition represents the difference and requires that the differences be resolved in Conference Committee. On October 25th there was to be a Conference Committee meeting in the absence of Senator Kuchel, sponsor of the Senate Bill and the great supporter of the Wilderness Act. The action to hold this Conference in his absence appears to have been a planned run around Kuchel. The pressure of letters, wires, many telephone calls and personal visits from our members and conservationists across the country, resulted in the postponement of the Conference. The resolution of this matter now appears to be stalled as a result of the Forest Service's implacable opposition to the small 2200 acre Area "F" addition. If you recall, conservation groups proposed the addition, which represents only the portion of Area "F" which has not been subjected to vegetative conversion, to preserve the Chumash Indian sites in the north-west area, to protect more of the vital Sierra Madre Ridge Condor flyway and to add Logan Potrero and parts of Santa Barbara Potrero in the middle and the southeastern potrereros to bring the boundary to the Ridge Road. The Forest Service maintains that they cannot maintain adequate fire protection measures along the boundary so formed. Our position is that the largest portion of the new boundary, on the north-west and the southeast, is the road which is an acceptable boundary further to the west along the ridge; and that our boundary in the middle area is virtually identical with that proposed by the Forest Service at the edge of the vegetative reconversion. Furthermore, most of the high land on the ridge lies along the road or to the north of the road providing perfectly adequate areas for Forest Service fuel breaks and other fire protection measures. In short, we have here a milestone bill, not only because it is the first area to be added under the implementation bills of the Wilderness Act, but also due to the issue of whether or not the Congress has the legislative right to review, discuss, modify and enact a Wilderness which they believe to be appropriate, despite any position the Forest Service may have taken.

In conclusion: we need the Area "F" addition as an integral part of "this" wilderness and we also need Area "F" to establish the legislative review principle. The Bill needs help and the Conference Committee needs to know that you favor the Area "F" addition. Senators Kuchel and Jackson should also be commended on their successful action to increase the Redwood Park proposal above that proposed by the Administration and the lumber companies.

Members of the Conference Committee are: J.P. Saylor, W.S. Baring, H.T. Johnson, M. Udall and E. Reinecke. Udall, Saylor and Reinecke are behind the addition 100% and should be commended for their position. Senate-Chairman H.M. Jackson, T.H. Kuchel, F. Church, C.P. Anderson and G. Allott.

I know that all of those who read this are vitally concerned with the status of the San Rafael and please contact me if you wish any further detailed information and I trust that you will make your views known whenever you have the opportunity..... R.P. Miller, Jr.

EDOUARD JACOT MEMORIAL FUND

The Board of Directors has decided to use the Jacot Memorial Fund for the purchase of books to become the nucleus of a small library for

the use of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. The library will consist of a selection of ornithological books which may be borrowed by its members. The committee has ordered the following items: "The World of Birds" by Fisher and Peterson; "Shorebirds of North America", a new Audubon publication; "Exploring Our National Wildlife Refuges" by Devereux Butcher; and "A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs", an album of records to follow the Peterson "Field Guide to Western Birds."

In addition to these, several volumes have been given us by Mrs. Jacot, and Mr. D.T. Johnson has contributed current issues of the three leading ornithological journals in the U.S., the "Condor", "Auk" and Wilson's Bulletin. These books and records will be on display at the December meeting of the Society and ready to check out.

It is hoped that the library will gradually be expanded through gifts and other means and become a real asset to the local Audubon Society.....Alice Richardson, Chairman

CONSERVATION REPORT

The Ventura Star Free Press recently printed an item of interest to Audubon members. The article stated that the United Water District had abandoned plans to construct a dam on the Sespe near the Condor refuge--however, we still must be vigilant for encroachment, especially from oil and mining ventures.

By now, many people must know about the fine work of the San Diego Audubon Society in creating the Silverwood Sanctuary at Lakeside, Calif. If you are ever near-by, don't fail to visit the 80 acre natural center which employs a resident naturalist..... Tom Follis

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Those who participated in the Carpinteria area outing were exposed to a variety of species numbering just under eighty. An early morning swing up Casitas Pass Road found our caravan making numerous stops to enjoy the aerial maneuvers of many red-tailed hawks, a red-shouldered hawk or two, Cooper's hawk, and an osprey, never seen by this writer after hundreds of trips over Casitas Pass. The beach just east of the new oil platform serving pier beyond Carpinteria revealed among other shore birds, both turnstones. The western half of Sandyland Slough, at low tide in the early afternoon, was productive of a fine variety of waders, and a small assortment of ducks, to go with the more active and fairly numerous Forster's and elegant terns. Two black brant were seen in flight leaving the slough. The greatest treat was enjoyed by those who stayed to the end, when the small drama of a parasitic jaeger performing his act of high-jacking a fingerling from a demoralized elegant tern unfolded before us. He obligingly made his exit from the scene by flying right over our heads..... Les Cook

On Nov. 1, at the invitation of Jim and Nancy Geary, a small group spent the day at the site of the Point Mugu State Park which will open early next year. Jim is the ranger in charge. In the morning, Nancy led us on a birding trip the picnic and camping areas that are in the process of development. After lunch she drove us on a circuit tour of the 6400 acre new park, which is a part of the old Broom Ranch. The picnicking, camping and sports areas will be located not far from the coast highway. The plan is to open the primitive back country only to hikers and horseback riders. There are excellent bird habitats all through the rugged canyon, mountain and potrero areas. This should be a fine place for future field trips..... Nelson Metcalf