



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan. 26
Friday

FIELD IDENTIFICATION CLASS: 7:30 p.m. Waldo Abbott will discuss the birds we might see at the Point Mugu marshes.
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Dr. Richard Pimentel, Professor of Zoology, California State Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo, will present a program "Western Wyoming And Audubon Camp". A member of the staff at the Audubon Camp of the West for several years, Dr. Pimentel will show slides of camp life, the flora, fauna and scenery of western Wyoming, the ghost towns and Indian dances.

Jan 28
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU MARSHES: Leave Museum at 8:00 a.m. or meet the group at the Standard Station at the Seward Ave offramp in Ventura at 8:45. Take lunch. Notify Mrs. Cooke, 966-5520, if you are going. This is private property, so we prefer having members only and their special guests. Point Mugu nearly always provides several exotic sightings in addition to great numbers of south coast winter birds.

Feb. 1
Thursday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 4:30 p.m. Museum Junior Library

Feb. 10-12
Sat.-Mon.

FIELD TRIP TO THE SALTON SEA BORREGO AREA: We found this a tremendously exciting outing last year, when we recorded 10 species in the area and 127 round trip! Among the more interesting were Cattle Egrets, Blue Goose, Gray Partridge, Scott's Oriole and Abert's Towhee. This array added to hundreds of thousands of geese and ducks left us all gasping. Meet at Salton Sea State Park 10.8 miles beyond Mecca on State Highway 111 at 12:30. Mileage to the park is about 250. There are camping spots in the area. For motel arrangements call the Desert Motel-432 W. Main St. Brawley, phone-714-344-2620. We will be there two nights, Feb. 10, 11. Make your reservations promptly. We will have lunch in the field all three days. Total mileage will be 700 or more, so the suggested driver donation is \$10.00. Be sure to call Mrs. Cooke if you are planning to go. Leader: Waldo Abbott.

Apr. 6-9
Sat.-Tues.

NATIONAL AUDUBON WESTERN CONFERENCE AT ASILOMAR: Pacific Grove, California. The conference begins with an International Exhibit of Nature Slides and closes with a Conservation Film Festival. Speakers will address themselves to the Conference Theme: "Playing Russian Roulette With Nature". For information write: National Audubon Western Conference, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, Cal. 91733. Everyone welcome.

RECEIVED JAN 1968

Congratulations to Rich Miller on his appointment as Vice-President of the Equipment Division of the Raytheon Corporation in Waltham, Mass. Though we are sorry to lose him, we are happy that he has received this well-deserved recognition.

His dedication and leadership during his three years as president of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and in the past six months as Vice-President for Special Projects, are deeply appreciated by all of us.

We wish Rich and Elinor every success and happiness. We will miss them.
.....Joy Parkinson, President

CARRIZO PLAINS REPORT

On Dec. 9 and 10 less than a score of us tapped the abundant resources of this inland wintering place for numerous bird species. Chief item in our list was the estimated 10,000 Sandhill Cranes, seen in flight, feeding in the fields and in Soda Lake, their over night assembly place. A never to be forgotten sight was the gossamer-like necklaces floating up from the valley floor miles away gradually emerging as a living chain of birds when each bead on the chain developed wings. Soon the rich vibrant calls of the cranes were heard and finally with heads up, feet thrust forward, wings and tails set for braking, here they were on the ground. Second only to the cranes for dramatic interest was the sighting of an immature Golden Eagle at close range, as it arose from a stock watering trough shedding glistening drops of water as it rushed off in the morning sunlight. Add to these attractions a melanistic Rough-legged Hawk, a Prairie Falcon, hordes of Mountain Bluebirds and hundreds of Mountain Plover and you get an idea of how richly endowed Carrizo Plains can be in mid-winter.
Les Cook

SESPE WILDLIFE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 23, 1967 --- Fourteen observers in four parties found 69 species and 3,241 individual birds. Dick Smith led a group on a 15 mile hike into the mountains east of the Refuge; Tom Follis' party hiked up Sespe Creek; Alice Kladnik's group covered the lower Piru Basin, the Santa Clara River bottom and parks near Piru and Fillmore. Waldo Abbott led the hard luck party up the Sespe Corridor. The big Museum station wagon got stuck in the mud between Squaw Flat and Cow Springs. His party of four were most fortunate to get a ride after hiking quite a ways down the road. It looked for awhile as if they would have to spend a night along the road someplace. If Waldo's party could have birded rather than muddled, they might have bettered last years count mark of 78 species. Sixteen California Condors were sighted but only six were reported because of possible duplications. The best find of the day was a Cassin's Kingbird right in Fillmore.

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 30, 1967 --- Seventy-eight observers in 30 parties covered the count circle more thoroughly than ever before. The total individual birds was our best ever but the 165 species seen was 13 below last year, and will probably not place us in the first ten in North America where we have been in three of the last six years. The most unusual sighting was of a Sage Thrasher at Toni Shibutani's home on the Mesa. Five species appear on our count for the first time-- White-face Ibis, Virginia Rail, Cassin's Kingbird, Sage Thrasher and Vesper Sparrow. Thanks to all the District Captains for their work.

CHRISTMAS COUNT-SANTA BARBARA CAL., DECEMBER 30, 1967

Common Loon	5	Black-b. Plover	258	House Wren	5
Arctic Loon	7	Black Turnstone	4	Bewick's Wren	5
Red-throated Loon	18	Common Snipe	8	Long-b. Marsh Wren	7
Horned Grebe	15	Long-billed Curlew	1	Cañon Wren	3
Eared Grebe	72	Whimbrel	30	Rock Wren	5
Western Grebe	414	Spotted Sandpiper	25	Mockingbird	272
Pied-billed Grebe	56	Willet	561	California Thrasher	56
Brown Pelican	23	Greater Yellowlegs	3	Sage Thrasher	1
D-c Cormorant	477	Least Sandpiper	125	Robin	499
Brandt's Cormorant	3	Dunlin	15	Varied Thrush	1
Pelagic Cormorant	6	Short-billed Dowitcher	15	Hermit Thrush	21
Great Blue Heron	81	Long-billed Dowitcher	22	Western Bluebird	53
Green Heron	5	(Dowitcher sp.?)	37)	Mountain Bluebird	21
Common Egret	47	Western Sandpiper	67	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
Snowy Egret	29	Marbled Godwit	118	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	32
B-c Night Heron	45	Sanderling	937	Water Pipit	5
American Bittern	2	American Avocet	14	Cedar Waxwing	577
White-faced Ibis	1	Glaucous-winged Gull	19	Phainopepla	4
Canada Goose	1	Western Gull	4249	Loggerhead Shrike	36
White-fr Goose	1	Herring Gull	48	Starling	262
Mallard	66	California Gull	2298	Hutton's Vireo	28
Gadwall	7	Ring-billed Gull	1158	Orange-cr Warbler	6
Pintail	1232	Mew Gull	79	Myrtle Warbler	12
Green-winged Teal	40	Bonaparte's Gull	204	Audubon's Warbler	3736
Cinnamon Teal	33	Heermann's Gull	53	Black-th Gray Warbler	2
American Widgeon	358	Forster's Tern	22	Townsend's Warbler	17
Shoveler	265	Band-tailed Pigeon	234	Yellowthroat	31
Redhead	3	Mourning Dove	1936	Wilson's Warbler	4
Ring-necked Duck	25	Barn Owl	9	House Sparrow	254
Canvasback	27	Screech Owl	4	Western Meadowlark	657
Greater Scaup	4	Great Horned Owl	13	Red-wing Blackbird	5727
Lesser Scaup	222	Pygmy Owl	2	Tricolor Blackbird	119
Bufflehead	3	White-throated Swift	43	Baltimore Oriole	1
White-winged Scoter	13	Anna's Hummingbird	563	Brewer's Blackbird	2196
Surf Scoter	155	Allen's Hummingbird	2	Brown-h Cowbird	11
Ruddy Duck	722	Belted Kingfisher	29	Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Red-br Merganser	18	Red-shafted Flicker	231	Purple Finch	45
Turkey Vulture	8	Acorn Woodpecker	290	House Finch	4035
White-tailed Kite	22	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	9	Pine Siskin	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	Hairy Woodpecker	17	American Goldfinch	39
Cooper's Hawk	29	Downy Woodpecker	28	Lesser Goldfinch	510
Red-tailed Hawk	178	Nuttall's Woodpecker	20	Rufous-sided Towhee	96
Red-should Hawk	15	Cassin's Kingbird	2	Brown Towhee	624
Golden Eagle	6	Black Phoebe	94	Savannah Sparrow	33
Marsh Hawk	4	Say's Phoebe	24	Vesper Sparrow	8
Pigeon Hawk	1	Horned Lark	9	Lark Sparrow	29
Sparrow Hawk	141	Violet-gr Swallow	2	Rufous-cr Sparrow	5
California Quail	595	Scrub Jay	557	Oregon Junco	569
Virginia Rail	2	Yellow-billed Magpie	2	Chipping Sparrow	46
Sora	1	Common Crow	450	White-cr Sparrow	2002
Common Gallinule	1	Mountain Chickadee	1	Golden-cr Sparrow	327
American Coot	5623	Plain Titmouse	198	White-thr Sparrow	3
Semipalm Plover	41	Common Bushtit	882	Fox Sparrow	16
Snowy Plover	93	White-br Nuthatch	13	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Killdeer	784	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	Song Sparrow	98
		Wrentit	134		

Seen in count period but not on Count Day: Common Merganser, Osprey, Royal Tern, Roadrunner, Brown Creeper, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager Sage Sparrow. Total-165 species...Number of Individuals-51,706