



# **El Tecolote**

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 1968  
Vol. 6 No. 3

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Mar. 22  
Friday FIELD IDENTIFICATION CLASS: 7:30 p.m. Junior Library. Alice Richardson will continue her discussion of PIRD SONGS using recordings of the songs of some of our familiar birds.
- REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Our program for this evening will be The Private Thoughts of John Muir; An Illustrated Excursion presented by Jamie Wilkie, Conservation Education Chairman, Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club.
- Mar. 24  
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO DUNES LAKES: Meet at Museum at 8:00 a.m. or at intersection of 154 at 101, four miles north of Buellton at 8:45. Call Mrs. Cooke at 966-5520 if you plan to go on this trip. Let her know if you need a ride or can take passengers. Driver donation is \$2.50. Bring lunch. This area, under great development pressures, still affords excellent birding. Mr. Harold Chase, who owns and cherishes a fine property here, is kind enough to permit us a close-up look on this date.
- Apr. 21  
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO REFUGIO PASS: Meet at Museum at 8:00 a.m. or at the Refugio turn off about 23 miles west of Santa Barbara at 8:30. Bring lunch. Driver donation is \$1.25. Leaders: Joy Parkinson and Janet Hamber.
- Mar. 28  
Thursday BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 4:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History.
- Apr. 27  
Saturday FIELD TRIP TO ROMERO CANYON OR MUGU STATE PARK: Watch for details in the next bulletin.
- Apr. 20-21  
Sat. & Sun. COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SHOW: Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum, De La Guerra and Santa Barbara Sts. Alice Richardson is chairman for this event and would enjoy having volunteers to help her with the exhibit.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

An Instant Wildlife Sanctuary: Most travelers passing through Ventura in the area of the Pierpont Inn never even noticed the small pond between the freeway and the Inn. This pond, however has been noticed by the Sierra Club. Plans have been submitted to the City Council ( who received the proposal with "reservations") to beautify and otherwise improve this area which is a natural wild life sanctuary. Sixty-two types of birds and several animals, including muskrats, have

been observed in the area.

Color-Marked Shorebirds: Point Reyes Bird Observatory is still marking shorebirds caught at Limantour Estero regularly each month. Observers in other areas are requested to look for birds with painted tail feathers and report to the Observatory the location on the tail and the color of the paint. The breast feathers are also painted, but this color wears off in one or two weeks. The colored tail feathers are best seen when the birds are in flight. Report observations to PRBO, Mesa Rd., Bolinas, Cal. 94924..... Tom Pollis, Conservation Chairman

### FIELD TRIP REPORT

Salton Sea Trip-- Though hampered by the slippery conditions of the dyke roads due to a spotty rain the night before, all got to see a spectacular assortment of ducks and geese, in the air, and on the ground.

About fifteen bird species, rare or never seen on our coast, were recorded. Among them were, rough-legged hawk, peregrine falcon, ground dove, African white-wing, ladder-backed woodpecker, crissal thrasher, Abert's towhee, Ross' goose, verdin, cactus wren and black-throated sparrow

Of great general interest was the huge concentration of blackbirds around the feeding lots, especially the generous number of the yellow-headed variety..... Les Cook, Field Trip Chairman

### BIRD NOTES

GREEN-WINGED CINNAMON TEAL? On the Feb. 4th field trip to the Bird Refuge, Les Cook pointed out a strange-looking male cinnamon teal in full breeding plumage---- strange because it had the bright green speculum of the green-wing. An interesting hybrid!

DIPPERS and EVENING GROSBEAKS-- Fred Sibley reports that in March, August and October 1966 he sighted dippers in four locations in or near the Sespe Wildlife Area. On Feb. 8th, John Borneman and he located a pair of dippers apparently building their nest in Santa Paula Canyon four or five miles up from the Ferndale Ranch.---In January 1967, Fred saw flocks of 10 to 20 evening grosbeaks on the Tejon Ranch and on the Dennison grade east of Ojai; in Oct., '67 20 to 40 of them on the Tejon Ranch; on Jan. 17-18 this winter he found hundreds of them over the Tecuya Ridge on the north side of Cuddy Valley and in Fleito Canyon north of the Y.M.C.A. Camp off the Mount Pinos Road.

Two BALD EAGLES have been seen regularly at the upper end of Lake Cachuma.

Several GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULLS in ADULT PLUMAGE have been on the breakwater sandspit. Almost all glaucous-wings wintering here are "first year" birds.

Connie and Bob Shannon have found an excellent spot to observe a BURROWING OWL. Drive up San Marcos Pass Road. About 3/8 of a mile above Foothill, park on the right shoulder, just opposite La Paloma Rd. Don't leave the car. Just look for the owl on the dirt ridge running east from San Marcos.

Gordon Fish reports that there are now three LONG-EARED OWLS near the reservoir at Rancho Dos Pueblos.

Brad Schram reports a full-blooded YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER back of Grace Church on San Andres Ave.

Dick Smith and Dr. John Yak found two HARRIS" SPARROWS at Cow Springs Camp in the Sespe Corridor on Feb. 28.

Winter visitors at the Kriger's feeder on Hermillo Rd; a male BALTIMORE ORIOLE (7th season) HOODED ORIOLES, a WESTERN Tanager and a BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK----- Nelson Metcalf