



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Janet Hamber
4236 Encore Dr.
Santa Barbara
California 93105

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 19
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. or at the park entrance 15 miles beyond Oxnard on 101 alternate at 8:45 a.m. Bring lunch. Entrance fee for cars probably 75¢. Call Mrs. Cooke at 966-5520 for rides. Driver donation is \$1.50. This superb property, of over 6,000 acres is part of the old Broome Ranch. It is ideal for hikers, in fact is only for them. Those who have had a preview feel that this will become one of our regular field trips. Leader: Les Cook

May 24
Friday

ANNUAL MEETING--FAMILY PICNIC AT TUCKER'S GROVE: 6 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 Wales Holbrook, Alice Kladnik, John Knezovich and Robert Shannon. Holdover Board members are: Waldo Abbott, Irma Cooke, Lyda Edge, William Gardner, Arthella Jacot, Helen Peteler, and Mary Roberts. Do join us. This is our one big social meeting of the year.

June 2
Sunday

FIELD TRIP TO REYES PEAK: Some may wish to make a two 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. To get to Reyes Peak, drive 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. Those who need transportation, or those who will take passengers call Mrs. Cooke. Unless otherwise arranged, passengers and drivers meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. or at the shopping center at the south edge of Ojai at 8:30. Take lunch. Driver donation is \$2.50

June 6
Thursday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 4:30 p.m. Junior Library, Museum of Natural History

Sept. 8
Sunday

FALL BOAT TRIP: This commitment is subject to possible change as there is considerable sentiment for taking a faster passage from Port Hueneme or Channel Islands Port making for a closer view of the shore or perhaps a landing. You will be informed well in advance of particulars.

RECEIVED MAY 20 1968

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A man who plays Russian Roulette is risking only his own life, but a nation which plays "Russian Roulette" with nature is risking the lives of millions of people.

"Playing Russian Roulette With Nature" was the theme of the Audubon Western Conference at Asilomar, April 6-9. The Conference was attended by over 700 people, 29 of the 31 western branches being represented.

A variety of conservation subjects was covered by dynamic and forceful speakers. To this observer, at least, the following points were made very clear: we must have more education, and more participation in conservation today. We must strive to educate those who do not understand the value of our natural resources, and we must, each and every one of us, participate in the fight to save these resources for ourselves and for future generations.

One of the most interesting talks was given by a young man, Charles J. Gebler, Regional Naturalist, Western Region, National Park Service. Mr. Gebler spoke on "The Growing Importance of Outdoor Interpretation in National Parks and Other Recreation Areas", pointing out the value of nature interpretation to visitors to parks, most of whom have no knowledge or appreciation of ecological processes. I have a copy of his remarks, and would be glad to loan it to anyone who would like to read it. Mr. Gebler closed his presentation with a poem by Margaret Farrand, entitled "The Seeing Eye".. I would like to share its challenge with you.

A curve in the road, and the hillside
Clear cut against the sky.
A tall tree, tossed by the autumn wind,
And a white cloud drifting by.

Ten men went along that road,
And all but one passed by.
He saw the hill and the tree and the cloud
With an artist's mind and eye,
And he put it down on canvas
For the other nine men to buy.....Joy Parkinson.

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY HONORED

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society was honored at the Western Conference by the National Audubon Society. During his Conference Address on the National Outlook, Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, presented our branch with "one of the pens used by President Johnson, on March 22, 1968, in signing S 889, an Act to designate the San Rafael Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest in the State of California."

The pen was presented to our branch for its leadership in the fight to establish the San Rafael Wilderness. It should be an inspiration to all of us to continue to work for the preservation of our natural resources.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The theme of our exhibit at the Horticultural Show on April 20 & 21 was "Save Our Salt Marshes". The exhibit has received many favorable comments, and we hope to show it in several public places in the future.

Our thanks are due to: Alice Richardson, chairman of the committee and originator of the theme; Ethel Lyans for research on the historical part of the exhibit and for drawing in the original extent of the marshlands: Committee members Dorothy Gildersleeve, Ruth Holbrook and Helen

Peteler for hours of work; Dick Smith, for photographs which he donated Roscoe Lyans for enlarging old photographs; Horace Sexton for the use of old maps, etc; the Gazette Citizen for use of photographs; Russell Ruiz for use of his drawing of Mescalitan Island; the Freeman Advertising Agency; and Dorothy Martone for our sign.

We are also grateful to those who donated their time to man the exhibit at the Horticultural Show: Irma Cooke, Erna Maurer, Dorothy Martone, Mrs. T.M. Raysor, Betty Russ, Mary Roberts, and the Senior Girl Scouts.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On April 27, with Mr. & Mrs. Bob Shannon leading, a party of 28 sampled the bird life of Tucker's Grove and San Antonio Creek. Of great interest was the discovery of a BROWN THRASHER, a species only recorded twice before in California. Richard Webster found it later in the creek area bordering the new picnic grounds a few hundred yards up stream from Tucker's Grove. San Roque Canyon was visited after lunch, netting a chat and several phainopeplas.

Tom Follis met a group of 14 at Steckel Park near Santa Paula on May 5, and helped them record a Golden Eagle, several Western Tanagers, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, an assortment of Flycatchers, and both the Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds.....Les Cook

BIRD NOTES

(Con't from last month).....Other unusual sightings in the past six months include the YELLOW-BILLED LOON (Tomaes Bay), Reddish Egret (Moss Landing), Least Bittern (Pt. Reyes), TRUMPETER SWAN (Pt. Reyes, Pascadero Cr. west of Santa Clara), EMPEROR GOOSE (Pt. Reyes), European* (Golden Gate Park), Barrow's Goldeneye (Berkeley Aquatic Park, Bolinas Lagoon, Lake Merritt), Harlequin Duck (Tomaes Bay), BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Palos Verdes, Morro Bay, Carmel Valley, Santa Cruz, Rodeo Lagoon in Marin Co.), Rock Sandpiper (Pico Creek no. of Cambria, Pt. Pinos, Pt. Reyes, Bodega Head, SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (Pt. Reyes, Pico Creek), Ruff (Pico Creek), Glaucous Gull (Monterey, Newport Back Bay), White-winged Dove (San Diego, Santa Barbara, Morro Bay) Lesser Nighthawk (San Diego in Dec.), GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (Farallons), EASTERN PHOEBE (Capistrano Beach, Carmel), COUES' FLYCATCHER (Palos Verdes), Vermilion Flycatcher (Ojai, Death Valley, San Diego), Cactus Wren (Inland from Pt. Mugu), GREEN JAY (San Diego), BROWN THRASHER (Carmel Riviera, Cabrillo Beach Park), Sage Thrasher (Farallons, Santa Barbara), WOOD THRUSH (San Diego), Solitary Vireo (wintering in Monterey & San Diego), Gray or Bell's Vireo (on Figueroa Mt. in winter), Bobolink (San Diego), Orchard Oriole (Farallons, Monterey), Baltimore Oriole (Pt. Loma, Santa Barbara, Monterey), Rusty Blackbird (Death Valley), Western Tanager (Monterey, Santa Barbara), Hepatic Tanager (Los Angeles, San Bernardino Mts.), Summer Tanager (Orange Co.), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (San Diego, Death Valley, Farallons), Evening Grosbeak (great flocks in Ventura Co.), Dickcissel (Pacific Grove, Farallons), Indigo Bunting (San Diego, S.F. Bay region), GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (Capistrano), Gray-headed Junco (Rolling Hills), TREE SPARROW (Death Valley, Santa Cruz, Eureka), CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (Farallons), SWAMP SPARROW (San Diego, Morro Bay, Ventura, Monterey, Rodeo Lagoon), Lapland Longspur (Farallons, San Diego), Chestnut-collared & McCown's Longspurs (San Diego)

Only about one-half of the species listed above have been found in the Santa Barbara area, but it is reasonable to expect that many of them will occur here sooner or later. Look for them.

Nelson Metcalf

*Wigeon