



El Tecolote

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 16-20 Home Show-Earl Warren Showground The Santa Barbara Audubon Society will have an exhibit at the show.
Wed.-Sun.
- Oct. 19 FIELD TRIP TO TUNNEL RD., ROCKY NOCK, SAN ROQUE CANYON
Saturday Meet at Museum at 8:30. Bring lunch. Leader: Bob Shannon
- Oct. 25 FIELD IDENTIFICATION CLASS: 7:15 p.m. Junior Library.
Friday Nelson Metcalf will discuss "Identifying The Ducks."
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum
of Natural History. Dr. Katherine Muller, Director of
the Botanic Garden will present "Fire In The California
Chaparral", an illustrated slide talk showing the recovery
of the chaparral after a devastating fire.
- Nov. 2-3 FIELD TRIP TO MORRO BAY Meet at the Morro Bay State Park
Sat.-Sun. Museum parking lot at 10:30 am. Saturday. Either camp or
make you 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. Leaders: Waldo Abbott and Nelson Metcalf
- Dec. 7-8 FIELD TRIP TO CARRIZO PLAINS Remember to get your
reservations in to California Valley Lodge, California
Valley, Calif. Tel.- 805-475-2272 now.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The SBAS was one of the conservation groups which testified at the recent hearings of the Assembly Subcommittee on Marine Resources, held in Santa Barbara, September 26-27, 1968. Excellent testimony was presented by representatives of Federal, State and local agencies, most of it concerning oil pollution though several other problems were discussed. The chief point to emerge from the testimony seems to be that there is no single control program designed to protect the public interest in the quality of the ocean waters and their adjacent shores. Each agency is concerned only with that portion of the problem which affects it. It is to be hoped that, when all the hearings are completed, Mr. Shoemaker's committee will be able to recommend appropriate strong State legislation.

We do not have space to print our entire testimony, but some of the more important points are quoted below.

"Our parent organization, the National Audubon Society, has had extended experience with oil operations, both on and off its own land holdings, and assures us that no operation is without its pollution; every oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico and estuarine waters therein trails

oil frequently if not most of the time. For this reason, it is our urgent recommendation that the committee insist on a floating oil boom around every offshore installation, both to contain unavoidable routine contamination, and more importantly, to contain the occasional accidental spill that result from unavoidable human error or equipment failure.

"The committee should also institute a thorough review of the technical practicalities of recovery of oil spills. It is our understanding that a number of chemicals will cause oil slicks to coagulate so that they may be sucked from the surface of the water, reprocessed, and burned as fuel in many cases. Detergents and magnetic sands should not be allowed because they add to the biological damage caused by oil spills.

"We also respectfully state that the public interest is not protected by modest fines, and that the current \$500 fine for oil spilling is not a deterrent to companies doing a million dollar business by exploiting public resources.

"Since it is likely that there shall be an increasing amount of activity in offshore oil exploitation, it behooves the State to develop a strict control program.....The U.S. Coastguard is currently the enforcing agency for federal oil regulations, and State regulations must at least equal in requirement, and preferably more stringent because federal regulations have had to compromise with international difficulties.....

"Another example is that of identifying natural oil seeps, identifying them chemically, containing them where practicable, and not allowing careless operations elsewhere to be confused with these natural occurrences.

"The locations of proposed coastal highways, terminal facilities, etc., requires the most careful integration of planning.....because shore facilities affect alongshore currents, may be sources of marine pollution and certainly affect the esthetic values of the inshore regions. California's coast is one of its principal resources and should be reserved for residence and recreation to the highest degree possible...

"We urge the committee to pay particular heed to the survival requirements of California's nearly unique sea otters which people from all over the world come to see and enjoy. These animals are currently the target of greedy fishing interests who would exclude them from much of their range..."

An article in the October 2 News Press stated that the Channel Oil Advisory Committee is planning a study of natural oil seeps in this area. It is gratifying to learn that this first step in the study of local oil pollution problems is being undertaken....Joy Parkinson, Pres

CONSERVATION NOTES

The 90th Congress has passed some notable conservation legislation. Most important were the bills on the Redwood Park, the Central Arizona Project, the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act Amendments, and the bills on the San Rafael and San Gabriel Wilderness Areas.

The score is quite good but much more needs to be done to maintain conservationist standing and to achieve success on the other bills going through Congress. I would urge that members write their Senators and Congressmen a letter of thanks on the completion of these bills. They need your cheers on a job well done. Also remind your friends of the events taking place. They may not be aware of the need of conservation for their very own existence.

The rapidly deteriorating environment through pollution of air, water and land should be the number one concern of everyone. These events occurring at alarming speed are best described in the books:

The Population Bomb by Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich and The Destruction of California by Dasman. These books may be obtained in paperback form.

The Lompoc Dam- This dam would appear to be a certainty. Do you approve?

Lake Cachuma could be an example of some interesting aspects for dams. Besides providing much needed water for domestic use and irrigation it provides a recreation area for boating and fishing. The runoff water has deposited much fertile silt at the upper reaches of the lake which is due to the water's decrease in velocity when it enters the lake. Thus, it is unable to carry its silt load. This is bad for dams but this condition has made a combination of fertile silt and shallow water, and from this condition has evolved a new eco-system for the area consisting of marsh type vegetation and insect life. In short, an ideal waterfowl habitat has been created. It has also provided enough sub-irrigation to support shelter trees and vegetation on its shores for other wildlife.

If we must have dams let us provide sanctuary for wildlife that would live there.....John Knezevich, Conservation Chairman

FIELD TRIP REPORT

About 45 eager birders, including visitors from the new Audubon branch in Thousand Oaks, were greeted by a beautiful fall morning for the trip to the Santa Clara river estuary. Breaking into three smaller groups to facilitate easier birding, we spent a profitable morning looking at about 50-60 species. Parasitic and pomarine jaegers put on a great show for us as they harried the terns over the beach. Also seen were kites, phalaropes, 4 species of terns, glossy ibis, osprey and several types of ducks.

In the afternoon about 28 people returned to Sandyland slough and took a walk along the ocean side of the area. We had very close looks at semipalmated plover, long-billed curlew, whimbrel, green and great blue heron, and greater and lesser yellowlegs. About 25 species in all were seen at Sandyland. We finished that half of the trip with the sighting of a blacktail jackrabbit and a longtail weasel. The weather was perfect and everyone had a most enjoyable day.....Tom Follis and Bob Shannon, Leaders.

BIRD NOTES

Certainly the fall's most exciting find was a HARLEQUIN DUCK at Goleta slough outlet. Mr. Langford of U.C.S.B. reported it to Nelson Metcalf September 29. The bird is either a female or immature and is the fifth sighting in recent years of this species.

The BALTIMORE ORIOLE has returned to Jewell Kriger's yard for the ninth winter.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"An astonishing illiteracy exists among otherwise intelligent educated people about the workings of public opinion. Letter writing to officials is part of the phenomenon of public opinion.....yet the fact doesn't seem to make a dent in the thinking of many well educated persons. And so they become part of a massive default - a default gleefully exploited by those who are using every trick in the democratic book, as is their right, to give the impression that their view is the dominant one."....Norman Cousins, in Saturday Review.

Have you written your Congressman lately?