



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 15-17
Sat.-Mon FIELD TRIP TO SALTON SEA See January bulletin for full details. Let Mrs. Cooke 966-5520 know if you are going.
- Feb. 28
Friday FIELD IDENTIFICATION CLASS: 7:30 p.m. Helpful hints for spring birding will be given by Les Cook this evening.
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall Museum of Natural History. Tonight we are privileged to hear Dick Smith's A WEEK OF CATASTROPHE, as he relates his many experiences during the disastrous oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel. (Ed. Note 2/4/69. Let's hope that it's only a week of catastrophe!)
- Feb. 23
Sunday TENTATIVE RESCHEDULING OF POINT MUGU MARSHES FIELD TRIP
Note the date, Feb. 23. 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. Driver donation is \$1.75. Notify Mrs. Cooke, 966-5520 if you are going.
- Mar 1
Saturday FIELD TRIP TO POINT MUGU PARK : CANCELLED CANCELLED
- FEB. 21
FRIDAY MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY invites us to hear Dr. Neushul's "Oil Pollution and Marine Plants & Animals" at 7:30 in Farrand Hall. Slides will be shown.
- Mar. 6
Thursday BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 4:30 p.m. Museum Junior Library. Interested members always welcome at meeting.
- Mar. 16
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO REFUGIO PASS: Meet at Museum at 8:00 a.m. or at the parking lot in Refugio Park at 8:30. Bring lunch. Driver donation is \$1.25.
- Mar. 30
Sunday FIELD TRIP TO BIXBY RANCH & JALAMA BEACH : This trip replaces the Victorville field trip on the schedule. Check next month's bulletin for full details.
- May 18
Sunday SPRING BOAT TRIP: The Audubon Society has reserved 25 spaces aboard the Sierra Club chartered Swift. The cost will be \$11.00 per person. Leader: Waldo Abbott

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past week has been so hectic that it has been impossible to find time to report to you earlier. I have received literally hundreds of telephone calls from people in Sacramento, Los Angeles and points

between, all of them asking what they could do to help. This has been
a heart warming but frustrating experience.
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Feb. 1, the SBAS in a press release called for the cessation of the use
of chemicals to breakup the oil slick in the Channel.

During the weekend and after, members assisted the State and Federal Wildlife officials in setting up the several bird treatment centers, giving advice, walking the beaches in search of oiled birds, and in some instances actually treating and feeding the birds brought in.

On Wed., Feb. 5, Mr. Fred Ross, Warden-Manager of the NAS's Richardson Bay Refuge near San Francisco, drove to Santa Barbara at the request of Charles Callison to give a first-hand report of the situation here to our parent organization. Mr. Ross spent Wed. studying the Santa Barbara area and then on Thurs. visited Anacapa Island by boat with John Borneman. They reported that the littoral zone is a complete loss. There were a few seals on the island and some gulls, but no sign of life in the intertidal zone. When talking with me later, Mr. Ross told me that he had already telephoned Dr. Stahr, NAS President, and would be sending a full report immediately.

The SBAS Board met Wed, Feb. 5 to discuss what action might be taken by our local branch. It was agreed that the present disaster demonstrates the utter lack of planning and the fact that the oil industry and government have not been sufficiently careful. We believe that all oil drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel should be permanently terminated.

If you have not already done so, let your legislators know your personal feelings regarding this disaster.....Joy Parkinson, President

PETITION

A petition is enclosed which those who care to may circulate and return to Studio "G" El Presido, Santa Barbara, California 93101

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

A team of U.S. Fish & Wildlife service employees is in Santa Barbara. One of its assignments is to get documentary evidence of the effect of the oil catastrophe on the fish and wildlife populations. They will welcome some help from the Society. A summary of the Christmas count numbers of water and shore birds found in various areas along the shore and in the lagoons and reservoirs will provide reliable figures on our normal winter populations. The semi-weekly censuses taken two years ago by Leslie Cook, the Gardners and Mary Erickson's students at Sandyland Slough, the Bird Refuge and the Goleta Slough for California Fish and Game will give additional base figures.

A further contribution can be made if we can now make a series of repeat counts of water and shore birds in each of the coastal areas covered by our Christmas Count parties. The best way to do this would be to have the same teams work the same areas for the same number of hours. This would be quite difficult for some of them. It is suggested that those of our members, who know the birds and can take the time, pick one of the areas and make a count a lot of times between now and May first.

Our coastal count areas are: 1- Fernald Point to S.B. Cemetery, 2- Cemetery to Stearns Wharf, including the Bird Refuge, 3- Harbor, breakwater, sandspit and Leadbetter Beach, 4- Mesa Beach, Arroyo Burro Beach, 5- Hope Ranch beach and Laguna Blanca, 6- More Mesa to Fairview Ave., 7- Goleta Slough, Goleta Beach Park & others. Call Nelson Metcalf phone 964-3008 for full details and additional information.