



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- May 14  
Wednesday **SPECIAL LECTURE AT UCSB:** Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr., renowned biologist and key witness in the Wisconsin DDT case, will speak on "DDT... THE INSECTICIDE THAT WORKS TOO WELL". The time and place of the lecture has not been set as we go to press, so please check your newspaper for further details on this interesting program, or call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.
- May 18  
Sunday **SPRING BOAT TRIP:** There are 4 spaces left on the "Swift" for our annual Spring birding trip in the Channel. We will also visit Painted Cave on Santa Cruz Island. Fare \$11.00 per person. Please make checks payable to "Channel Island Cruises" and mail to Mrs. E. A. Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta 93017. Bring lunch. Coffee provided. Leader: Waldo Abbott.
- May 23  
Friday **ANNUAL MEETING AND FAMILY PICNIC:** Manning Park in Montecito, 6:00 p.m. We have reserved a large area at the park so bring your family and friends. Each person brings own picnic. The election of the Board of Directors will be held. Do join us, this is our one big social meeting of the year.
- June 5  
Thursday **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** 7:30 p.m. Junior Library, Museum of Natural History (NOTE TIME CHANGE). This will be the first meeting of the new Board. All interested members are welcome.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of another year of Audubon activity, we find ourselves looking back to see what has been accomplished. The past year is one we review with mixed feelings. We started our 1968-69 season with joy in the establishment of the San Rafael Wilderness. We end it in sorrow over the continuing oil leak in the channel.

Last September, the SBAS testified before the Assembly Subcommittee on Marine Resources, pointing out the hazards to the environment of submarine oil exploitation and the need for stringent controls, and cooperation between enforcing agencies. We also recommended the immediate institution of emergency procedures to recover oil spills. (In view of the catastrophe which occurred four months later, our then "strong" testimony now seems somewhat mild.)

Our membership continued to grow steadily throughout the year. Several new members were welcomed as a result of the "Save our Salt Marshes" exhibit we displayed at the Home Show in October. This exhibit has been shown in several places and has received much favorable comment.

Our meetings and field trips have been well attended. Our Christmas Count, though rained out by noon and "bugged" by Hong-Kong 'flu, discovered a respectable

165 species, placing us 8th in the nation.

We continued to fight the destruction of our environment, opposing the Lomax Dam, the harbor expansion plan, the rapid loss of our coastal wetlands, particularly the Goleta Slough.

For the second year, we provided a scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West. Last year the recipient was Stanley E. Allgoier, Recreation Assistant with the Angeles National Forest. This year, the scholarship has been awarded to Dean Carrier, Wildlife Biologist with the Los Padres National Forest, who will attend a session in August.

The tragic events of January and February demanded and received the utmost effort from our membership. As a group and as individuals our members performed yeoman service. We do not know how many wrote letters, circulated petitions, attended hearings, rescued birds, paraded with picket signs--did all the many things that helped to make the world aware of our tragedy--but we are grateful to all of them. Officially we protested the use of detergents to break up the oil slick, demanded the cessation of all oil operations in the Channel, wired and wrote to all involved officials, and submitted testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution.

We helped form and raise funds for the Santa Barbara Citizen's Committee for the Environmental Defense Fund and, with the cooperation of the National Audubon Society-Rachel Carson Fund, the committee arranged for Victor J. Yannacone, Jr. and Dr. Joseph Hassett of EDF to visit Santa Barbara to explore avenues of litigation in defense of our ocean environment. The committee later sent its chairman, Dr. Norman Sanders of UCSB and Dick Smith to New York for further discussion with NAS and EDF.

After long deliberation, taking into account the enormous cost of filing suit and maintaining a legal battle, possibly lasting for years, the Committee decided that the best interests of local citizens would be served by its support of the County of Santa Barbara in its case--helping with funds, providing scientific staff, expert witnesses, research lawyers, etc.

Since the beginning of March, the SBAS has been taking a weekly census of the shore and water birds, from the Rincon to El Capitan. This census includes birds living or dead; oil-soaked, oil-stained and clean. The information is forwarded to the State Department of Fish and Game, which is compiling a report on the effects of the oil spill on the marine and bird life of the channel area.

We are grateful to the many people who worked to make the past year successful: the Board members, committee chairmen, field trip leaders, field identification class leaders--those who helped in so many ways, typing, mailing, providing refreshments, etc.--our thanks to all of you.

As we look back we realize that though last year was a difficult and frequently frustrating one for conservationists it was rewarding in many ways. We have made new friends and strengthened our relationships with other conservation organizations as a result of our common goals.

Now it is time to look ahead to the challenge of the coming year--a year in which the help of every member will be needed in our continuing efforts to protect our priceless natural resources.

Joy Parkinson

#### SIGNS OF SANITY

Michigan has banned DDT. Wisconsin proposes to follow. Canada has ceased using it in National Parks. Sweden has banned its use country-wide. The failures in the peregrine falcon hatch on the Queen Charlotte Islands and the pelican hatch on Anacapa Island are attributed to the contamination of the land and ocean's food chain by DDT.

John Knezevich

"The eagle's fate and mine are one." -- Edmund Waller

## THE GOLDEN SLOUGH-IN

A "slough-in" must surely be a rare, probably an unprecedented, event. Therefore one might have expected to see more than about 200 at the affair held on the campus the morning of April 26. Probably the perfection of the summery day, or duty elsewhere, kept many away.

In any case, those who were there, although they surely learned a lot, no doubt already knew a good deal about the value of the special habitat which the Slough provides, and did not need to be sold on the urgency of trying to preserve it.

Items mentioned that especially interested me: the Army Corps of Engineers would like to pave all creek beds flowing into the Slough, from the base of the hills to the sea--but they do not as yet have complete plans for this projects: if they did the the State Dep't of Fish and Game would have something definite to oppose! And another: the proposed freeway would be what is called a "dead-end" freeway, which is illegal. This is circumvented by the highway planners pretending that they do indeed----someday--- plan to continue this freeway!

Certainly it is to be questioned that such a freeway is necessary or desirable. Consider the noise and fumes so close to a lovely campus. Just as our cities are now clogged by too many cars, so some day the campus may be, and perhaps UCSB should start now to consider the desirability of more mass transportation, both to and from the campus, and within it (maybe an on-campus fleet of mini-buses for those who must quickly get from one end of the campus to the other, which will be even more needful when there is a part of the campus at Devereux).

We thank the enterprising members of the student body and the faculty who organized and presented such an informative program. It certainly did give those who care about the Slough a chance to become acquainted with one another, and to discuss the matter in hand. To quote one of the slogans painted on the mock-up of a "slough-killer" (i.e., a tractor): "Audubon, not Autobahn"!---J.H. Webster

## REFUGIO CANYON

The Refugio Canyon re-alignment project and fill on U.S. 101 and the Ward Memorial Freeway extension are closely integrated. It is proposed to use the excess earth from the Refugio project for fill on the Ward Memorial Freeway extension--a very uneconomic transference of earth--not even the ants would move earth a relative distance in their engineering projects. Those wishing to write someone on this subject should address letters to : District Engineer E.F. Gregory, Dept of Highways, San Luis Obispo; Supervisor Dan Grant, S.B. Co. Courthouse; and Sen. Robert Lagomarsino, State Senate Office, Studio 121, El Paseo, S.B. While protesting the present plan, request that a Hearing be held on it in this area, with a chance for "the natives" to see the plan.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

San Roque Canyon: Saturday, April 12, a group of 18 went up San Roque Canyon in the morning. There we saw Ash-throated flycatchers, Western wood peewees, a Townsend's solitaire, and black-headed grosbeaks, among others. We had lunch at Tucker's grove and then a few went up San Antonio Creek. A Western kingbird and a Phainopepla were the birds of most interest. A total of 57 different species was seen during the day.....Richard Webster

Point Mugu Park: On the 20th of April, a large group of people found 43 species of birds at Point Mugu Park. Some of the more unusual birds spotted were: Black-headed grosbeaks, California thrasher, Ravens and a few Western tanagers. Both Bullock's and Hooded orioles were seen everywhere as we hiked up the canyon. The best find was a pair of Cassin's kingbirds which were nesting.....Cameron Aanerud