



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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California 93013

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- March 27 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Mr. Anton Money will be our guest speaker. Mr. Money is a retired Mining Engineer and has spent 42 years in the Canadian and Alaskan Arctic. He will bring two films of 20 min. each, Mr. Money has shown this in the Adult Education program and it should not be missed, this is essentially on wildlife.
- March 28 POINT MUGU STATE RECREATION AREA: Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 a.m. where as true conservationists we will make do with as few cars as possible to drive to the park, the entrance being on the left 15 miles beyond Oxnard on Route 1, a trailer camp is on the right. This is a fine woodland bird trip along unspoiled canyon trails. Orioles, both Bullocks and Hooded have always been abundant. Suggested driver donation \$1.75. Leaders will be our Ventura Member friends. Take lunch.
- April 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History, Junior Wednesday Dep't. Room 3. Interested members always welcome at meeting.
- April 12 SAN ROQUE AND TUNNEL ROAD: Meet at Museum of Natural History at 8:00 a.m. Sunday The two canyons provide good woodland, chaparral and grassland birding. Migration is coming on strongly. Take lunch- no driver charge suggested. Leaders: The Gardners.
- April 18 MONTECITO AREA: The Holbrooks will take us into areas new to most members Saturday Meet at Manning Park, entrance on the west side of San Ysidro Road just north of Union School and just south of East Valley Road at 8:00 a.m. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation 75¢.

SALTON SEA FIELD TRIP REPORT: Seven cars carrying nineteen people found excellent weather and 116 species of birds at fabulous Salton Sea or along the way. Of particular interest were the sightings of three Prairie Falcons on the way down, (two between Morongo Valley and Indio and one within forty yards between Mecca and Salton Sea Park.) Other special birds were a Ross' Goose, Crissal Thrasher, Golden Plover, Goldeneye Duck, about 15 White Faced Ibis, Stilt Sandpiper, White-fronted Geese, Ring-necked Pheasant, Abert's Towhees and many Ground Doves. Guests from Arlington Virginia were Mr. & Mrs. James Stewart.

The Redwood Region Audubon Society invites all interested birders on an ocean trip Sunday April 26. (\$5.00) This will be in the Humboldt Bay area. Call Les Cook for details.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify promptly; send to Mrs. Robert G. Peteler 7000 Gobernador Canyon Road, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013. Please give name, old address and new address.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You probably have read in the NEWS PRESS that the Jan. 28 Committee will be incorporated under the name of Community Environmental Council; this endeavor had a fine editorial March 6. The Council deserves all the support that we can give it.

If you can offer it time, talent, energy, \$\$\$\$\$, an office or furniture or equipment for an office.....anything! ... let me know, please, or call: Marc McGinnes, Pres., 965-5967; John Meengs, Vice-pres., 968-8644; or Selma Rubin, Secy.-Treas., 964-1246. We can expect this Council to make great contributions to the community.

There is a great deal of rhetoric about the environment these days, and we can expect such a proliferation of books on the subject that it will be impossible to keep up! Almost every magazine has an article on the subject; with its Mar. 7 issue SATURDAY REVIEW started a monthly section on this topic, which could be one of the better offerings.

Fortunately, there are some good paperbacks. Watch for HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, due in early April, a reprint of the issue of FORTUNE which was soon sold out. THE ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK for the Teach-in, 95¢, is good; look also for ECOTACTICS (Sierra Club and Pocket Books). We will continue to try to have books for sale at our evening meetings.

Hopefully, all the words, spoken and printed, will lead to constructive action. Certainly, a well-informed electorate is essential, so read as much as you can..... and be sure to convey your thoughts to those who have been elected to represent you.

Attention all clipper-uppers and cutter-outers! We can make a contribution to Conservation education in the City Schools by assembling pictures and articles for big study cards, and for files or scrap-books, on the subjects of: natural history (to know about the plants and animals leads to a concerned interest in their protection), pollution, environmental problems, etc.

I would suggest that you clip and save, with the idea that in a couple of months we might have a gathering at which we could commence to assemble these materials in the best way for their use.

Coo's Beer will pay 10¢ a pound for old aluminum cans (any brand). Any ideas as to how we could take advantage of this? Are you as careful as you could be to SAVE resources?... Water, Electricity; do you ever put in the waste basket a piece of paper that has not been used on both sides? Do you throw out paper bags that could be used again? All these little things matter, and if millions learn to be less wasteful it will make a difference. Fifi Webster

BIRD NOTES

A Cattle Egret was seen along Modoc Road opposite the new Lutheran Church from January 27 to February 10.

Los Carneros (Stowe Ranch) Lake has provided excellent birding this winter, in spite of a great deal of motorcycle, auto, boat and foot traffic. One immature and one adult Whistling Swan were there January 11-13. A Blue-winged Teal was reported January 17. American Bitterns have been flushed regularly. Those visiting the Lake in the early morning and late afternoon have seen about 10,000 blackbirds leaving and coming in to their roosting areas in the reeds. The morning flight is most spectacular because all the birds leave en masse in a period of about eight minutes.

A Yellow-shafted Flicker was at Tucker's Grove Park January 10. Jewell Kriger had a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeder in Montecito as early as January 19, almost a month ahead of its normal arrival.

Many have been asking where the Robins and Waxwings are this winter. Only 94 robins were reported on the Christmas Count: 2268 the previous year. Christmas Count parties found only 60 waxwings compared with 2753 in 1968.

BIRD NOTES CON'T.

The following data may indicate the effect of the OIL WELL BLOW*OUT and of DDT in the ocean.

	Average counts 1965-68	1969 count
Loons and Grebes	492	321
Western Grebes only	271	139
Scoters	292	104
West., Calif., & Ring-billed Gulls	6904	3332
Pelicans and Cormorants	825	247

Pelicans and Cormorants have declined annually since 1966: 1227 in '66, 509 in '67, 378 in '68 and 247 in '69.

Nelson Metcalf.

CONSERVATION NOTES

URGENT! Did you tell Secy. of the Interior W. J. Hickel how you feel about the Golota Slough? Secy. of Transportation J. Volpe is also interested.

ALL Californians should be concerned about efforts to create two National Wildlife Refuges in the State:

1. Humboldt Bay. A hearing will be held in Eureka, April 13. Address Communications to Mr. Don Peterson, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.
2. San Francisco. Actually two: one in the southern part of the Bay, and one in San Pablo Bay. Those now are interested in your opinions: W. J. Hickel, Secy. of the Interior; Dr. L. L. Glasgow, Secy. for Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Natural Resources, Dep't. of the Interior; Dr. Lee DuBridge; and Pres. R. Nixon.

The Board of Supervisors, on the afternoon of Mar. 16, will hear an appeal on a request for a zoning variance in the Ellwood area. The availability of the coast to the public in the future is at stake, as is a density issue. Innumerable variances in the County Master Plan can only serve to invalidate it.

We who live on this lovely coast can regard ourselves as its custodians for the whole country, for now and forever. The shoreline is really such a limited area, and one of such great appeal, that it deserves every protection. The pressures on it are increasing, and ill-considered development could ruin much of it forever; ideally, the coast should be a wonderful seaside park, affording recreation of many kinds to all who visit it. This can be accomplished if enough people care to urge that it be done.

We hope that this session will be well attended, and that concerned citizens will also express their opinions in letters to the Supervisors.

Fifi Webster.

A spring bird count, similar to the Christmas Count, is being planned for April 25. The area included is all of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. If interested call Richard Webster at 687-8168

Dead birds. Whenever you find one in "decent condition" remember that the Museum of Natural History might be interested. You could freeze it til convenient for you to take it there. (Some very common species may not be desired; call Waldo Abbott if you have questions.)

These are some of the books we already have in our Library:

- Bodsworth- Last of the Curlews
- Peterson and Fisher- The World of Birds
- Tinbergen- The Herring Gull's World
- Peterson and others- A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe
- Audubon- The Birds of America
- Easton and Smith- California Condor: Vanishing America
- Roberts- Bird Portraits in Color
- Peattie- A Natural History of Western Trees

Bernice J. Ostrowsky.

CACHUMA LAKE- HAPPY CANYON FIELD TRIP REPORT: On February 7, 43 persons joined in the field trip to Cachuma Lake and Happy Canyon. Conditions for bird watching were ideal. Fifty six species were seen in all, among which were Common Mergansers, 2 Osprey, and Mountain Bluebirds. There were also 2 Surf Scoters seen on the lake.

Cameron (Kim) Aanerud

OPEN HOUSE. AUDUBON CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Staff of the Audubon Center of Southern California have arranged for an Open House, just for members and friends of our Southern California Audubon Chapters. A completely informal affair to greet our many members and let them see the Center in its (hopefully) Spring raiment.

The announcement below can be clipped and used as a Gate Pass on arrival at the Center.

WELCOME TO A MEMBERS' OPEN HOUSE

AT THE

AUDUBON CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 1970

from

10 A. M. to 3 P. M.

Bring a lunch Browse the trails

1000 North Durfee Avenue,
South El Monte, California 91733
Tel: 444-1872