



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 8 No. 4
April 1970

Helen O'Reilly
5700 Via Real Sp. 101
Carpinteria
California 93013

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 24 **SPRING WILDFLOWER EXHIBIT:** 7:30 p.m. in Fleischmann Auditorium.
Friday This display will help you to know the flowers you see when you go birding. **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING:** 8:00 p.m. Fleischmann Auditorium. Staff from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will be here to present an illustrated talk on their activities. SBAS supports them and has their interesting bulletin in its library. A great deal of fascinating work in ornithology takes place at PRBO; this is a good chance to learn about what they do there. When next you are in the Point Reyes area you will want to plan to visit the observatory to see for yourself. Remember to bring them any blue chip stamps you may have for them! (Note: at our last meeting our growing society was bursting the walls of Farrand Hall, so it may well be that we will henceforth require the larger hall, which we scarcely fill. Bring a friend!)
- April 26 **REFUGIO PASS:** Joy Parkinson will lead us in our annual Spring
Sunday excursion through lovely and historic Refugio Pass. The time is right and the birding is always very rewarding. Meet at the Museum of National History at 7:30 a.m. /at the Refugio State Park about 23 miles west of Santa Barbara at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch; suggested driver donation \$1.25.
- May 3 **CASITAS PASS ROAD AND ENVIRONS:** This very scenic road is a treat
Sunday any time of the year. We will make numerous stops. We will lunch at the attractive acreage, upon which former board member Tom Follis has a new home, near Casitas Reservoir. He and his wife Joan promise coffee. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 a.m. or at the east end of Santa Claus Lane, 10 miles east of Santa Barbara at 8 a.m. Take lunch; suggested driver donation \$1.25. Leaders Tom Follis and Les Cook.
- May 9 **ZACA LAKE:** This privately owned property lies in a secluded area
Saturday north of Los Olivos in the Santa Ynez mountains. The setting, enhanced by its usual abundant bird life, has great appeal. Reservation for the luncheon is a requirement for admittance. The price for what is actually a dinner is \$3.75, which is all inclusive--no extras. Send checks for your reservations, payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, to Mrs. L. A. Cocke at 2559 Puerta Del Sol, S.B. Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7 a.m. or at the intersection of 154 and 101 four miles north of Buellton at 8. Call Mrs. Cooke if you need a ride. We should double up. Leader Les Cook; suggested driver donation \$1.50.
- May 13 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** 7:30 p.m. Museum of Natural History,
Wednesday Junior Dept., Room 3. Interested members always welcome at meeting.

May 17 BOAT TRIP: The Hurricane--along coast to Gaviota and back. We have Saturday a most reasonable charter for the 40 passenger Hurricane. Waldo Abbott feels that a trip such as this, going along outside the kelp, and making a loop of a few miles out into the ocean after passing Gaviota, will provide a worthwhile outing. We should record more alcids than we get on our island trips. The first 40 members to get their checks or cash to Mrs. L. A. Cooke at 2559 Puerta Del Sol, and payable to Santa Barbara Audubon, will be accepted. The price--only \$7.50. Take lunch. Hopefully Waldo Abbott will lead us.

The Dunes Lakes trip March 18 found a whopping crowd of 59 enjoying the delightful dunes lakes and birds as guests at this lovely Harold Chase property. Eighty-two species of birds were listed, perhaps the most interesting being: Chestnut-backed Chickadee (at its southern-most limit), Cassin's Finch, Cassin's Kingbird, Great Horned Owl, Sora, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Canyon Wren and Allen's Hummingbird.

Twenty-one appeared at Pt. Mugu Recreation Center where about half of them being Ventura County folks, we Santa Barbarans were royally hosted. Hooded and Bullock's Orioles arrived there just in time to greet us. House Wrens abounded. Orange-crowned warblers, Purple Finches, Plain Titmice and House Finches provided continuous orchestration. Thank you, Ventura.

"FEATHERS FROM FIFT'S DESK"

Reading of interest:

SUNSET April 1970, p. 46-50. "The teeming marshes and lagoons along California's urban coast." There is a good bit on our Goleta Slough.
ATLANTIC MONTHLY, April 1970. An article on the Army Corps of Engineers.
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, March 16, 1970. An article on snowmobiles; their increasing use is a threat to the winter wilderness.
SATURDAY REVIEW, April 4. "SR/Environment."

EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO CONSERVATIONAL LIVING. This is an excellent booklet put out by the Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation. It contains many practical suggestions which will help you to avoid wasting our national resources; there is detailed information about where to take newspapers, bottles, etc. We urge you to obtain copies, and to "spread the word." Also, should you have any suggestions, that might be of use to them, please tell them as your offering could be included in the next printing. These are sold at GOO office, and The Ark Bookstore (all profits go to SBUF).

TIDEPOOLS. Fortunately for the life of the tidepools along our coast, there is NOW IN EFFECT a State Fish and Game Dept. regulation prohibiting collection of tidepool invertebrates. Between the high tide mark and a point 1,000 feet beyond the low tide mark offshore from any beach, recreation area, reserve, or state park, you may collect no invertebrates except abalones, chiones, clams, cockles, crabs, lobsters, mussels, and scallops; in order to collect those you must have a valid California fishing license. All of us who have noted in recent years the rapid depletion of tidepool life welcome this protection afforded the inhabitants of the tidepools. "Look, and let live."

S. B. Artists' Co-op

Do you like handmade things? If so, when you are in the Montecito area you would enjoy visiting the S. B. Artists' Co-op at 1213 Coast Village Road, which is the location of Leather Ltd. of Montecito. Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m..

All profits from the sale of wares are donated to organizations which you, or the Co-op, feel are most effective in the struggle to improve both the human and environmental condition.

Used commemorative stamps. Save them and turn them in to me to send to the Florida Audubon Society; thus they raise funds for the Bald Eagle Program. Such a simple thing to do, and it will help to save a noble bird.

Santa Clara River. There is a plan to create a natural lagoon at the mouth of the Santa Clara River; the Ventura County Oceanographic Foundation will be recommending this to the Ventura City Council for further consideration. The nearby sewage plant may be expanded and improved so that it can reclaim water, which could then be used for the lagoon and for irrigating the Olivas Park Golf Course in that area. This is the type of project which should be receiving serious consideration in every community in southern California.

SEA OTTERS. Calif. Senate Bill #442, introduced by Sen. Donald Grunsky (R. Central coast counties). In effect, this bill would permit the State Fish and Game Dept. to "manage" otters; the animals could be "taken" outside the Calif. Sea Otter Refuge, which covers 100 coastal miles. The otters now range over 145 miles or so; "taking" them means that they could be "hunted--pursued--caught--captured or killed." There are now 100-1200 otters; for an animal thought to be extinct, this is an encouraging comeback. Oddly enough, otters are not aware of the boundaries of their reserve; their diet appears to be 60% sea urchins, 35% mussels, and only 5% red abalones. That information I obtained from Fish Bulletin No. 118, Dept. of Fish and Game: CALIFORNIA ABALONES, FAMILY HALLIOTIDAE by K. W. Cox, 1962.

Quoting from this Bulletin: "Abalone are no longer abundant along the southern California coast. Pollution has destroyed some of their habitat as have high school biology classes, shell collectors, aquarium enthusiasts and the general public who indiscriminately turn over rocks in the intertidal zone at every opportunity."

Some fish, crabs, and urchins also prey on abalone. In 1957 5,044,718 pounds of abalone were taken along the California coast! The number of fishermen, both commercial and sport, increases with the years. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising if the abalone harvest should diminish somewhat.

If you have any opinions on this subject write now to Sen. D. Grunsky, author of the bill in question; Sen. R. L. Lagomarsino, Chairman of the Senate Committee, Water, Wildlife and Natural Resources; and Assemblyman George Milias, Chairman, Assembly Committee, Conservation and Wildlife.

WHALES. If they interest you, watch for more information in the Santa Barbara NEWS-PRESS (or call the Biology Dept. at UCSB) concerning a lecture on May 11 by Dr. Paine from Rockefeller University.

Be sure to browse at Osborne's "Terracide Table."

Bird-of-Month Exhibit is now in Music Room at Public Library. This is the fine work of Jewell Kriger and her committee.

Fifi Webster

BIRD NOTES

More CATTLE EGRETS have been reported this winter than ever before. Most of the sightings have been in grassy areas along roads and the railroad, with only a few in the sloughs. A BRANT, the eastern cousin of the Black Brant, was found at the Goleta Slough on March 7 by Richard Webster and seen by many of our members as late as March 27. Frank Trimble reported a FULVOUS TREE DUCK in the pond below the Lake Carneros Dam on February 10 and 11. This species is a very rare visitor in the winter. One has also been found at the south end of San Francisco Bay. A EUROPEAN WIDGEON, first seen by Richard Webster, has been at the Goleta Slough March 8 to 20. Two immature BALD EAGLES were seen over Lake Cachuma by Kim Aanerud on March 23. One to six BLUE-WINGED TEAL have been at the Goleta Sewage plant for the past three months. Joy Parkinson reports that on the "Swift" trip to Santa Cruz Island March 22 she saw six BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES, one SABINE'S GULL, quite a few COMMON MURREs and a RHINOCEROS AUKLET. One WHITE-WINGED DOVE and one RINGED TURTLE DOVE were seen March 29 on the upper level of Vista Del Mar Drive west of Arroyo Burro Creek. At least four WHITE-WINGS and two TURTLE DOVES have been reported there occasionally over the past year. Several CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES were seen at Dune Lakes March 4. This species seems to be extending its range to the south. The only report we have of a sighting this far south was by the Hylands in Suey Canyon in the Cuyama watershed. ROBINS and CEDAR WAXWINGS continue to be hard to find. Very few large flocks have been reported. Kim Aanerud found a male SUMMER TANAGER in Rocky Nook Park on March 14.

The Websters have birded every day of the spring vacation and have recorded 180 species. The last two were a WHITE-WINGED DOVE and a RINGED TURTLE DOVE seen March 29 on the upper level of Vista Del Mar just west of Arroyo Burro Creek.

LIBRARY LOG

Santa Barbara Audubon wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Millar, Les Cook, Nelson Metcalf, Ruth Cramer, and the T. Preston Webster family for their generous contributions to the library. As soon as necessary supplies are received each book will indicate who gave it to the library; in this way we will truly have a members' library. Also, for those of us who are income-tax minded, all donations of books or cash will be acknowledged by a written receipt.

Many of us accept rides on Audubon trips from persons who refuse to accept payment. If you still desire to "pay" for the ride, why not donate that amount to the library fund? We have received several contributions of this sort and of course would welcome more.

Try to keep books out of the library for only a month; that will give others a chance to enjoy it also. Soon we will begin to mail reminder cards to those who may have forgotten to return their books when they were finished reading them.

Bernice J. Ostrowsky 687-4776

Have you noticed the ever-increasing number of "no-return" bottles sprouting like weeds on our beaches, along the edges of our highways, and even in the woods and mountains? They represent a unique form of pollution. Paper and cardboard cartons, though unsightly, will soon decay; "tin" cans will rust; aluminum cans can be returned to the manufacturers for salvaging. But glass bottles will last for literally millions of years, a permanent reminder of our wasteful ways. Even if they are carefully placed in the trash can, they represent a growing problem to municipal disposal agencies: what to do with these imperishable, unburnable objects.

Recent experiments have shown that pulverized glass from bottles that have outlived their usefulness can be utilized as construction material in road-building, which would seem to answer the question. But the cost of

collecting the bottles littering our land, or even the cost of separating the bottles from other trash at municipal dumps, far exceeds the salvage value as building material. So, as things stand now, this solution is not economically feasible.

It seems obvious that "no-return" bottles must be turned into "yes-return" bottles somehow. People must be motivated to hang onto their used bottles and turn them in to some central collection agency. Unfortunately, not enough people are conservation-minded enough to take this trouble merely for the sake of a cleaner environment. What can we, as Audubon Society members who care about conservation, do to help?

1. Don't buy or use products that come only in no-return bottles. Let your grocer know that you are doing this and why. Write to the manufacturers and suggest that they should market their products in returnable bottles if they wish to continue to have your patronage.
2. Write to your congressman and state representatives, requesting legislation to prohibit or tax no-return bottles; the receipts from such a tax could be used to pay for collecting the litter.

Howard S. Ostrowsky

NEW SBAS MEMBERS -- March 1970

Mrs. Herman Baer, Santa Rosa Road, Lompoc, Ca 93436

Mrs. Mavis Boyes, 998 Church St., Apt. 34, Ventura, Ca 93001 643-8062

Mrs. O. T. Braselton, 2701 Foothill Rd., Santa Barbara, Ca 93105

Hall of the Mt. King, Roy King, 1229 State St., Santa Barbara, Ca 93104
965-8413

Ruth E. Henderson, 925 Ladera Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca 93103

Home & Garden Club, Mrs. Frank C. Pundt, Islay Terr #4, 205 W. Islay St.,
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101 963-4172

Jay Johnson, 746 Westmont Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca 93103

Matthew W. Klope, 278 Crestwood Ave., Ventura, Ca 93003 642-4955

Richard S. Lee, 2559 Puerta Del Sol, Santa Barbara, Ca 93105

Miss Stacy Moore, 4910 Cervato Way, Santa Barbara, Ca 93105

Kristofer Rollinson, 7 Calle Capistrano, Santa Barbara, Ca 93105 687-3160

Arent H. Schuyler, Jr., 3239 Cliff Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca 93105 962-4726

Robert Walker, P. O. Box 1803, Ventura, Ca 93001

Sanford R. Wilbur, 405 Park Road, Ojai, Ca 93023

Ed Boucher, Box 354, Summerland, Ca 93067 969-2069