



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

FRI.  
JAN. 8

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: Bird Identification class at 7:30 in the Bird Hall. Waldo Abbott will give a class on birds of the Dunes Lakes area. 5:00 P.M. Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Mr. & Mrs. Gandy will show slides as they tell of their work for the Environmental Educational Program of the Santa Barbara County Schools. Their headquarters is the Cachuma Church Camp, and our Les Cook goes there one day a week to assist with the activities (Florence Sanchez also participates).

The Gandys will be our guests for dinner at the Sweden House, 2710 De la Vina, at 6:00 p.m. and all members are invited to come (no host) to enjoy the buffet and a chance to chat. REMINDER: BRING YOUR OWN CUP!! for refreshments after the meeting.

Sunday  
Jan. 24

VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE: Several hundred privately owned acres of land, much of which is diked and flooded, make it attractive to geese, rails and shore birds. This trip must be restricted to members and special guests. Meet at the Museum at 7:45 a.m. or at the Shell pump west of Hiway 1 on Hueneme Road at 9:00 a.m. If going to the latter place follow Hiway 1 thru Oxnard and take the Hueneme Road off-ramp. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation \$1.50. Leaders: Les Cook and Richard Webster.

Jan. 28

Anniversary of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. Watch the Santa Barbara NEWS PRESS for details of the special events being planned.

Sat.  
Jan. 30

CACHUMA RESERVOIR-HAPPY CANYON: Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. or at roadside where 154 first borders Lake Cachuma at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch. Driver donation \$1.25. Leaders: The Gardners.

Sunday  
Feb. 7

DUNE LAKES: The sheer beauty of the property combined with the marvelous bird life make this a very popular trip. Camera fans bring your cameras. Because this is private property with restricted parking area we must restrict the trip to members and special guests and ask everyone to take the bus leaving the Museum at 7:45 a.m. The fare is \$4.00. Checks, payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, should be sent to Mrs. L. A. Cooke, 2960 Ventura Drive, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105. Take lunch. Leader: Bob Prickett. 687 8657

For all trips, contact Mrs. L. A. Cooke if you need a ride, can take someone, or have questions. The number is 687-8657.

Wed.  
Feb. 10

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 p.m. in the Junior Dept. of the Museum of Natural History. All members welcome.

In the Calendar of Coming Events listed here we sometimes call to your attention events that are not directly connected with the Society.

Barbara Audubon Society. This is not meant to imply Santa Barbara Audubon Society (or National Audubon Society) support, endorsement or recommendation. We list them because they may be of special interest to our members. April 23, 24, 25, 30, May 1, 2, Institute on Desert Ecology, in Arizona. For details write to: Tanque Verde Ranch, Route 8, Tucson, Arizona 85710.

On July 29- August 19, 1971, The National Audubon Society has planned an AFRICAN SAFARI WORKSHOP and it sounds "simply wonderful"! I have one brochure which I will bring to the meeting, or, if you think you are really interested in this exciting event, write now to: Cahill-Laughlin Tours, Inc., 655 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021, for information. You would spend approximately a week in each of three different base camps. The NSA staff that will participate, and the African and English leaders who will give special programs, etc., are of such stature and interest that the whole experience is sure to be extremely rewarding in many ways. (Total tour price from New York: \$1500.00)

#### FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

Did you notice? I feel that we commence 1971 in a blaze of glory: this is the first issue of EL TECOLOTE to be printed on our splendid new mimeograph machine, which we were able to purchase as a result of a very generous gift to SBAS. The old machine did not produce good copy, was exasperating and exhausting to work. With our rapidly growing membership and our concern that you should receive a legible bulletin, the new machine seemed a rather urgent item. We continue to be indebted to the Museum, and to Nabel Rett especially, for the assistance rendered in producing our bulletin.

Also, now that we are properly incorporated and a new year has started, we have a bulk mailing permit, which saves us lots of money to be used for conservation purposes. It also saves a lot of "licking and sticking" for the hard working mail-Out Committee.

In various little ways we make progress! and our thanks to our treasurer, Wales Holbrook, who attended so capably to all the business details involved in these matters.

January 28, we will be participating in the events of this day with an exhibit concerning the proposed flood control projects in the Goleta Slough area. Alice Kladnik is in charge of this and already has several helpers, but do let her know if you have something special to contribute. Also, if you would be able to staff the exhibit on Jan. 28, call Alice.

The year did end with a couple of cheering items: the news that the City of Santa Barbara will make the Goleta Slough an ecological preserve, which is certainly something for us all to rejoice about! And concerning the proposed harbor of refuge at Cojo, the news is that the decision is post-poned for a year, pending further study.

We had a table with Audubon literature at the second Market Day at UCSB, and my thanks to Jan Hamber and Bernice Ostrowsky for helping me staff it. It was fun to be out there for such a festive occasion, and it gave us an opportunity to tell some of the students about Audubon.

I went with Bob and Tomi Sollen to Oxnard to attend a hearing held by Mr. Mott on the Point Mugu State Recreation Area. At that time I made a brief statement on behalf of SBAS, opposing the intensive development under consideration. This statement was elaborated and submitted to the State Parks and Recreation Commission for its hearing on the subject Jan. 8 in Palm Springs. This issue has received good coverage in the press; if you have opinions convey them to the Commission in Sacramento.

There was a 3 day Symposium on Oil at UCSB, and I attended almost every session of it, as well as the special EQAB meeting with Dr. Pecora. Oil is certainly our

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biggest local environmental issue, and it behooves us all to be as well informed on this subject as we can possibly be. The Symposium covered every aspect of the topic, offering much of interest. But it did seem that most of the audience was from the industry.....

As I write this I am pondering what we can say that will be effective at the hearings to be held this coming week, two days, one for each of the two new platforms proposed for our channel. It is distressing to consider that this oil is not needed now, and that it will be more than a year before there is anything resembling a satisfactory method of coping with an oil spill. Can't they wait?

Our thanks to Bernice Ostrowsky for all that she has done for the SBAS Library. She has put a lot of time into organizing it for us, and has contributed materials as well. Bernice is retiring from the job; who would like to succeed her? For a long time we have been concerned that members do not have more frequent access to the many fine books that we have. This thought occurs: the books are in a cupboard in the Junior Library at the Museum; this is where the EL TECOLOTE mail-out groups meets once a month on a Friday morning. So the room would be open then, and we suggest that members might like to go there between 10 & 11 a.m. to return and check out books. Next month that will be Feb 12. Of course we intend to have books out at our regular meetings....If there is a member to take charge of this!

On the evening of Jan. 2, as weary bird-watchers gathered at the Jones', I would ask "How did your day go?" and all would reply, "Not too well.. cold and windy and we didn't see a lot". So what a wonderful surprise to find that the total of all their efforts were added up to the best Christmas Count ever! We most especially thank Bill Ure, who took charge with such enthusiasm and efficiency, and all his district captains. Of course everyone who was there that night knows what a fine hot and hearty meal Lavelle Ure had prepared for us; I fear the Ures have set a precedent that is going to intimidate others! Thanks also to Desmond and Monica Jones for inviting us all to their home, where everyone enjoyed the warm fire and the chance to relax with the rest of the Christmas Count crew.

We are pleased to announce that the recipient of the SBAS Scholarship to Audubon Camp of the West for 1971 is the Condor Warden, John Borneman. John has long wanted to attend the Camp, of which he has heard such fine reports, and we are delighted that we can make this possible.

On Dec. 30 four members of the SBAS Board of Directors went with me to Thousand Oaks, where we were met by Dr. Tom Maxwell, President of the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. Dr. Maxwell showed us the great barranca there, which could make a wonderful nature sanctuary. The fate of the barranca is of interest to all who are concerned about open space and wildlife, and we will be considering what our participation in this project might be if this should become Audubon property.

On Jan. 2 Richard asked his sister to help by answering the phone during the noon hours to coordinate information as it was called in. Anne had fun by answering: Tweet-tweet----this is Bird Control!", which somewhat surprised a few of the callers (especially a school friend who chanced to call at that time!). Bill Ure had THE BEST reply: "Hello Bird Control, this is the Hope Ranch Mobile Unit reporting". Maybe next year we'll start using walkie-talkies!

The new Chairman of the City's Environmental Quality Advisory Board is Larry Brundall. The Board meets about twice a month, and I usually attend its meetings, both for my own pleasure and on behalf of Audubon, as I find the discussions very interesting and the contacts are rewarding. The Board has served the City well and will surely continue to fill an important need.

Fifi Webster

Sat.- Sun.- SALTON SEA FIELD TRIP: Note the change in date to agree with the  
 Mon. SCHOOL HOLIDAY. Meet at Salton Sea State Park 10.8 miles beyond  
 Feb. 13-14-15 Mecca on Highway 111 at 12:30p.m. Saturday. Distance from Santa  
 Barbara about 250 miles. Camping at Ramer Lake between Calipatria  
 and Brawley. Accomodations at Desert Motel, 432 W. Main St.,  
 Brawley, Ca. Take lunch for three days. Suggested driver donation  
 \$10.00. Be sure to call Mrs. Cooke at 687-8657 if you are going.  
 Leader: Hopefully, Waldo Abbott.

#### REPORT ON PREVIOUS FIELD TRIPS

On a fine October morning, 8 birders showed up to peruse the Botanic Gardens. We saw Hermit Thrushes in abundance and one of the garden's many dusky Fox Sparrows. Several other birds, such as the Canyon Wren and the Yellowthroat were audible but not visible. We saw a total of 31 species.

Florence Sanchez

Fifteen people met on November 8 for the field trip to the Bird Refuge and Sand Spit. Highlights included several eared Grebes and flocks of fast-flying Canvasbacks at the Refuge. At the Sand Spit the list was topped by a Black-legged Kittiwake and a flock of elegant Terns.

Bob Prickett

The Morro Bay-Montana de Oro- Avila Parks trip of Nov. 21-22, though earlier than usual, netted a good count of 107 species. Of these the more interesting to our group were probably the Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Black Brant and the White Pelican. Reassuring was the sighting of more than two dozen Red-shouldered Hawks along the way. A few found time to visit the new Lopez Reservoir Park near Arroya Grande and were richly rewarded by its beauty. Twenty people participated.

Les Cook

On December 5, 26 people went on the weekend trip to Carrizo Plain. They were rewarded with exceptionally clear weather providing fine views of the mountain country. Several hundred Sandhill Cranes were observed flying at close range, and there were good looks at such other Carrizo birds as Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Mountain Plovers.

Bob Prickett

SESPE WILDLIFE AREA CHRISTMAS COUNT: Dec. 23, 1970. In spite of snow, mud, slides and washed out roads and trails, nineteen people participated in the Sespe Count. They found 103 species (9943 individual birds). A record number of 24 California Condors were sighted, but only twelve went into the report because of probable duplications. The most interesting bird found was the Cactus Wren which was last reported in the Piru Basin more than thirty years ago. Birds that had not been reported on any of the four previous Sespe Area Counts were the Redhead, Pigeon Hawk, Sora, Great Horned Owl, Winter Wren, Cactus Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Varied Thrush and an unidentified Empidonax Flycatcher.

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS COUNT: January 2, 1971. Over 100 members and guests in 35 parties or at home feeders participated in this years count. A record 194 species was recorded, plus nine in the 12-day count period but not in the count. About 50,000 individual birds were reported. The complete list will be printed in the February El Tecolote.

Last year's count of 178 placed Santa Barbara seventh among the North American communities in the number of species seen.

Nelson Netcalf



## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Sydney S. Bryant, 5740 Encina Road, #3, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 Donald W. Burns, 1221 Bath St., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93104  
 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Love, 363 Dorothy Ave., Ventura, Ca. 93003  
 Mrs. Howard R. Moles, 900 Calle de los Amigos, #EG-112, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Joan Mumper, 2914 Fletcher Ave., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Peter W. Percy, 129 Mahoney Ave., Oak View, Ca. 93022  
 Robert L. Roberson Jr. 1035 Flora Vista Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Skelton, 3591 Via Lato, Lompoc, Ca. 93436  
 Mrs. Marion W. Smith, 300 Moreton Bay Lane #3, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 D. Wycoff, 7377A Davenport Road, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 James Aanerud & Family, 311 La Marina Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mrs. H. M. Anderson, 285 Moreton Bay Lane, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 Judge Walter J. Fourt, 315 Manzanita, Ventura, Ca. 93001  
 Mrs. Charles M. Glasgow, P.O.Box 87, Los Olivos, Ca. 93441  
 Mrs. Dorothy J. Hodson, 930 Kellogg Ave., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mrs. Thornton Howell, 2645 Bella Vista Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
 Audrey Ingelsen & Son, 3155 Foothill Rd., Carpinteria, Ca. 93013  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Searcy, 870 Coyote Rd., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
 Carl & Ruth A. Tapper, 144 S. Walnut Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mrs. Harold A. Webb, 143 Northridge Rd., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mary S. Wilson, 4280 Calle Real #30 Santa Barbara Ca. 93105  
 Blanche Balzarette, 319½ W. Sola St., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101  
 Charles Eberle, 326 Santa Barbara Shores, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 Michael Fishbein, 6721 El Colegio Rd #19, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Imboden, 2805 Miradero Dr. #D, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mrs. Garnell D. Nelson, P.O.Box 473, Santa Maria, Ca. 93454  
 Mrs. Kingsley Nicolson, 856 Willow Glen Rd., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Ownbey, 1531 Castillo #C, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101  
 Mrs. E. Pillsbury Pringle, 616 Hot Springs Rd., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
 David T. Shiffman, 805 Rametto Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
 Mr. & Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden St. #35, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
 Mary M. Wilby, 147 W. Harrison, #C, Ventura, Ca. 93001  
 James Black, 8 E. Figueroa St. Suite 300, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93102  
 Anthony Nye Haynes, Box 62, Los Olivos, Ca. 93441  
 Victor J. Thomson, Rancho Felicia, P.O.Box 748, Santa Ynez, Ca. 93460

Bike Day on Dec. 12 found Maggie Millar and me happily riding along with a crowd of about 500 cyclists, and I am sure that there must have been some other SBAS members there, too. We had a perfect day for the special event, which proceeded smoothly and was surely enjoyed by all the participants. Looking back on 1970 I regard the purchase of my bicycle as just about the smartest thing I did all year!

In England a 6 week old house martin, which missed autumn migration after being mauled by a cat, was to be flown by BOAC to North African and released. But alas, at the London Airport, shortly before takeoff, the fine English press agent was displaying the bird for photographers when it escaped from his grasp, flew into a window, broke its neck, and died on the spot. Africa just was not in its destiny!

There is a new international environmental program sponsored by the Peace Corps and the Smithsonian; volunteers will probably come from the post-graduate school group. Application forms may be obtained from the Office of Ecology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D C 20560.

Fifi Webster