



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Carpinteria,
California 93013

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sunday**
March, 21 DOS PUEBLOS RANCH: This well-wooded canyon and the reservior provide habitats for good birding. Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. or at the Dos Pueblos off ramp on highway 101 sixteen miles west of Santa Barbara at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation, 60¢. Leaders: the Holbrooks.
- Friday**
March, 26 REGULAR MEETING: 8:00 p.m. Farrand Hall. Probably a film! Please watch Santa Barbara NEWS PRESS for details. Bird class- 7:30 p.m. Richard Webster will talk on interesting birding areas and the birds he has seen. Meet in the Bird Hall.
- Sat. &**
Sun.
April 3&4 LOS BANOS AND MERCED WILDLIFE AREAS: The marsh lands of this area 300 miles to the north provide a winter haven for geese, ducks and shore birds. We have not made this trip since 1967. Motels in Los Banos include the Bonanza at 349 West Pacheco Blvd. and the Stardust at 2169 East Pacheco Blvd. Both are rated excellent by AAA and price of rooms for two from \$11.00 to \$14.00. Be sure to contact Mrs. Cooke at 687-8657 if you are going on this trip. Meet at the Stardust at noon on Saturday. Driver donation, \$10.00. Contact Bob Prickett for information at 687-2173.
- Wed.**
April 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 p.m. Junior Dept. Museum of Natural History. All members welcome.
- Sat.**
April 17 POINT MUGU STATE RECREATION AREA: Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. or at the park entrance at 8:45 a.m. The park entrance is on the left on Highway 1, 15 miles beyond Oxnard. This is a fine wooded bird trip along unspoiled canyon trails. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation \$1.75. Leaders: Beryl Moore and Ruth Parker.

EL TECOLOTE is published monthly (except July and August) by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month (November-December meeting usually combined; no meetings June, July or August.) Museum of Natural History, 8:00 p.m. Visitors welcome. Field trips. Usually at least two a month: except during the summer. Non-members welcome.

Membership: in the National Audubon Society entitles you to affiliate with the local chapter, without additional dues. You receive AUDUBON six times a year, a beautiful and informative magazine; also the local bulletin. If interested call (or write) Membership Chairman Mrs. R. Peteler, 7000 Gobernador Canyon Road, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013,

Membership Con't.

Telephone No. 684-4488; or Mrs. T. P. Webster, 179 Canon Drive, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105, 687-8168. Please send your change of address to Mrs. Peteler also, send name, old address and new address.

FEATHERS FROM FIF'S DESK

BADGE DESIGN The sealed ballot box was opened by Mr. & Mrs. Lyans and me and the tally is as follows: California Condor 50, Brown Pelican 10, California Quail 5, Owl 5 Red-tailed Hawk 3, Cardinal 2, ; one each: White-tailed Kite, Western Grebe and Mountain Lion. Eighty members voted. Jackie Rogers will design a badge with the condor on it and we will then send the design to two companies for prices.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE We are planning our own membership brochure, which will be of value for several practical reasons. It seemed desirable to have on the brochure the same insignia that we will have on our arm patches, so we have been awaiting the closing of the polls to procede with it, and hope soon to have it ready for distribution. Joy Parkinson and Alice Rypins have been assisting me with this project.

EL TECOLOTE The library at UCSB would like to have, in order to bind as a permanent record, a complete set of our bulletin! Is there anyone who has cherished and preserved every issue since it first was published, who would be willing to contribute them? Whatever you have that you would be willing to give for this purpose, please somehow convey them to me and I will deliver them to UCSB.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT has come in this past week from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, for Blue Chip stamps I sent their way, and from the Florida Audubon Society for used commemorative stamps to help with their bald eagle program. Both are causes deserving our support. Addresses: Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, Ca. 94924; Florida Audubon Society, P O Drawer 7, Maitland, Fla. 32751, Attention Mr. C. R. Mason.

DETERGENTS. Information comes from National Audubon Society that a detergent called ECOLO*G is "essentially phosphate free" and does not contain NTA. I do not know where this is available locally, but I just checked with the Ecology Center and they have it in their display, so presumably it can be obtained here.

PHOSPHATE MINE You probably noticed that the tentative hearings for March have been indefinitely postponed.

MORRO BAY HERON ROCKERY Your support is asked in urging the California State Department of Parks and Recreation to acquire the "Fairbank Property" as a Nature Preserve. The property is a logical and desirable addition to the nearby golf course, camp grounds, and Museum of Natural History. Please write to: Mr. W. P. Mott, Jr. Director, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento Ca. 95814 Governor Ronald Reagan, Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, Ca. 95814 Mr. W. M. Ketchum, Assemblyman, 29th District, 1155 Marsh St. San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401. I have heard from Mr. Ketchum that state funds are not available for immediate purchase of this property. Feeling concerned, I called Mr. Bickford, President of the Morro Coast Audubon Society, and he explained that the bulldozers are not poised at the property line, but commercial development is a possibility, so that it is most desirable to get this property on the State list of acquisitions. Public opinion supporting this is needed for the land to be given any priority.

BIRDS OF PREY NATURAL AREA Snake River Canyon, Idaho. There is a proposal to set up a sanctuary for hawks and owls and the largest concentration of prairie falcons and golden eagles in the U. S. The area is threatened with disruption by a dam, as well as by incursions from a proposed irrigation project. A hearing has already been held; the record is open for written statements or letters until March 27.

Feathers Cont'd.

Send comments to: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Room 334, Federal Bldg., 550 West Fort Street, Boise, Idaho 83702.

STATE LEGISLATION Often news items report on proposed legislation offered in the California Legislature. However much one may favor the purpose of the proposed law, it is essential to know if the law is a "good one" as far as that issue is concerned. Passage of a poor law, perhaps encouraged by uninformed public support, can give the illusion that desirable progress has been made, when actually it would be better to have no law on the books.

Therefore it is desirable to obtain a copy of the complete law and this can be done only when you know its number. (It does not suffice to ask for Mr. Pope's law on the protection of the pale-footed pocket mouse!). If you look for the DAY IN SACRAMENTO item in the Santa Barbara News Press, you will eventually find the essential information, and can then write for the bill, but not too soon---- give them time to print it! (In eager haste I have written immediately, forgetting that nothing is likely to happen overnight anyway.) If you are asking for more than one law, you should list them in numerical order, the Senate bills separated from the Assembly bills. If you plan to order often, you may ask for a special pad to facilitate ordering. Address: Legislative Bill Room, 212 State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

MOUNTAIN LION Assemblyman John Dunlap and Senator Peter H. Behr have both proposed legislation which would give the lion greater protection.

TRAIL VEHICLES. Assemblyman Leo J. Ryan has proposed legislation to confine snowmobiles, "minibikes", and all-terrain vehicles to specially marked trails on state and county lands and to require them to be registered. Riders going off marked trails would be fined \$50.00

MERCURY. Requires industrial mercury users to register with the state (SB 309.... Nejedly (R), Walnut Creek).

AIR. Prohibits owners and employees of firms that pollute the air from serving on regional air pollution control boards. (AB 557.... Roberti (D), Los Angeles).

PESTICIDES. Prohibits use of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons in California. (AB 522.... Ryan (D). Burlingame).

If you write to a legislator about a law that he has proposed, send copies of your letter to your own Assemblyman and/or Senator, or Representative.

PESTICIDES DISPOSAL. Dump sites in 32 farm counties have been provided by the State Agriculture Department's Pesticide Advisory Committee. There will be a drive this next month to dispose of all used pesticide containers in California. I have just checked with the local office and at present there are no sites in Santa Barbara County. Perhaps later one will be established in the Santa Maria area, and possibly one on the South Coast.

IMPACT NEWSLETTER, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST. Santa Barbara Audubon Society is pleased to be on the mailing list for a newsletter to be issued on occasion by the Forest Service "to keep the interested public informed of the various activities taking place, or proposed, on the Los Padres National Forest."

See the March issue of Sports Illustrated, page 80 for the first in a series of articles on the Poisoning of the West.

News from the Exhibit Committee.

The remaining members of the 1969-70 Exhibit Committee are Dot Gildersleeve, Ethel Lyans and Margaret Bolduan. They are happy to announce that Paula Carter, Carolyn Hawley and Alden Johnston have joined the group.

Feathers Cont'd.

(Men take note: this Exhibit Committee is not just for girls!) At present they are meeting on Monday from 10-12 in the Exhibit Lab at the Museum, where they have some storage space allotted to them, are able to use the special facilities of the Lab, and, above all, benefit from the assistance of the skilled staff: June Hopkins, Jackie Rogers and Mable Rett.

The Committee misses Jewel Kriger, who was chairman, Maggie Millar, and the Alices—Richardson and Kladnik, and hopes they'll soon return: "We need a chairman!"

At first the exhibits were prepared for the annual Flower Show, going from it to the Home Show and sometimes to other places (banks and schools). Through Jewel the Bird-of-the Month exhibit at the Public Library was started (look for it in the Music Room). These exhibits have received good coverage in the Santa Barbara NEWS PRESS, with a picture and an article. The exhibits have been welcomed by the schools and now ten of them are available for such display. The Director of elementary school libraries, Mrs. Mescall, and Carol McMillan of the Junior-Education Center at the Museum, are in charge of the arrangements for their use.

Fifi Webster.

BIRD NOTES:

A Common Scoter was seen from the pier at Goleta Beach Park February 16. An immature Franklin's Gull was found by Richard Webster on the Montecito Country Club golf course on January 30, and seen by others the next two days. Several Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen February 7 by the Dune Lakes party. This location is at the southern limit of the species' range. The Winter Wren was still in the canyon at the Botanic Garden on March 1.

Nelson Metcalf.

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Dune Lakes, on Sunday February 7, fifty-nine of our members and guests visited the splendid Chase owned property near Arroyo Grande. Travel was by bus for fifty-four of the fifty-nine who participated. The driver of the large bus was hard put to make the turns through the eucalyptus groves at the entrance, but this only added to the spirit of adventure that prevailed.

Noteworthy of the seventy-six species observed on the premises were the Nuttalls race of the White-crowned Sparrow, Sora, Bittern, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Marsh Hawk.

Les Cook.

Salton Sea- Imperial Valley- Yaqui Wells, February 13, 14 and 15, 1971, eighteen people made the trip. 119 species of birds were found in the three areas visited, plus 25 others seen en route, for a fine party total of 144. Highlights of the trip included a Saw-whet Owl (a first for most of the group), 200 Cattle Egrets, 25 White-faced Ibis, a Blue Goose, many Ground Doves, Roadrunners and Burrowing Owls, a Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Costa's Hummingbirds, Verdins, Cactus Wrens, Bendire's, Crissal and Sage Thrashers, Mountain Bluebirds, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Abert's Towhees, Black-throated and Brewer's Sparrows. Prairie Falcons were seen en route by two parties, a Ferruginous Hawk by one.

Nelson Metcalf.

NEW MEMBERS, FEBRUARY, 1971

Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Dewar, 50 Miramar Ave., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103
Mrs. Wm. H. Harville, 2329 Oak Park Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105
Mrs. Alice F. Kerr, 363 Imperial Ave., Ventura, Ca. 93003
Mr. David B. Sutton, Box 13464 UCSB, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93106

New Members Cont'd.

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Vincent, 4055 Naranjo Drive, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105
Mrs. Helen Wolfe, P O Box 681, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93102
Winona Wright, 3458 Richland Drive, # 11, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105