



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Carpinteria,  
California 93013

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 20-24 National Audubon Convention: Still time to pack your bags and go!

Sat. ANNUAL PICNIC: 3:00 p.m. Toro Canyon Park. (Dinner at 5:00 p.m.)  
May 22 Members and guests who have not made reservations for the barbecue but would like to bring their own picnics are most welcome. Please bring pencil and paper if you plan to play wordy-birdy games, bring some ideas along too.

Directions: Take Padero Lane off-ramp just east of Summerland. Cross freeway to frontage road. East on frontage road to Toro Canyon Road. North on Toro Canyon, follow signs to park.

Sun. SAN JULIAN RANCH: This is a new area for us. It features wooded canyons  
May 23 and the related bird life plus sometimes, an excellent show of wild flowers. Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. or at the intersection of Highways 101 and 1, a couple of miles beyond Gaviota at 8:20 a.m. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation, \$2.00. Leader: Bob Prickett.

Wed. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 p.m. Jr. Dept. at the Museum of Natural  
June 9 History. (Tentative) Summer board meetings will be held at the discretion of the new Board.

Sat. FALL BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLANDS: No boat was available for a spring trip,  
Sept. 11 but we have chartered the "Hurricane" for this date during the peak pelagic activity. The trip will go to Anacapa and should provide good views of such oceanic species as shearwaters and alcid. Checks for \$9.00 each, payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, should be sent to Mrs. L. A. Cooke, 2960 Ventura Drive, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105. Leader: Bob Prickett.  
For information on any trips, call Mrs. Cooke, 687-8657.

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

May 17-18- WOLF: 7:30 p.m. San Marcos High School Auditorium. Jethro, a wolf,  
19 escorted by John Harris, President of the North American Association  
Mon.- Tues. for the Preservation of Predatory Animals, Inc. is expected to visit  
Wed. Santa Barbara at this time. They were recently in New York where they

Wolf Con't.

visited at the National Audubon offices. You will find several articles about wolves in the May issue of NATURAL HISTORY (we have just received from them a recording of Wolf calls--- beautiful wilderness music!) See also Audubon Nov. 1970, for an article on Minnesota's wolves.

May 17, 2:00 p.m. Board of Supervisors, Recreational Vehicles track issue.

#### FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

CALIFORNIA SHOREBIRD SURVEY 1969 & 1970-71 by R. M. Jurek, California Dept. of Fish and Game. This is one of the more interesting items that the mailman has brought to me this past month. Of course this copy is a part of the Audubon Library; first to check it out is Kevin AAnerud.

The mail brings such a variety of items: I wish you could see the note carefully printed on bright yellow paper from a young citizen. "Dear Sirs. Could you please send me some info. on our invironment. Sighned, C G. P S I am very concerned. "(Sic) Of course a letter like that receives my very best efforts in the way of a reply!

Phone calls are varied and interesting, too--- I never know what to expect! As usual spring brings inquiries about swallows nesting under the eaves. Either someone is distressed to see others destroying the nests &/or birds, or someone wants to know how to discourage the birds from nesting--- they can be a bit messy. John Borneman and I had a good laugh as he called me, "This is your Condor Warden wondering what to do about swallows!" (Someone had called him as the birds were rendering her patio uninhabitable.)

Birds and windows. Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Thoren enjoy watching birds and are much concerned by the number that hit a large picture window of theirs. Have you any suggestions about what they might do to cut down the toll? If so, please call: 967-3190.

CONDOR POSTAGE STAMP: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE, JUNE 12, 1971.

THE CONDOR, SOARING SPIRIT OF THE ANDES, an article in the May issue of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, (p. 684,) by Jerry and Libby McGahan; will be of interest to most members.

AUDUBON.. the magazine, that is! We have a appeal for copies of it from a teacher in Merced. Don Woodcock is Chairman of the Environmental Curriculum Committee at Tenaya School, Merced, Ca. 95340, he writes to say that he has found Audubon to be about the best source of information that one can have. Are there any generous members of Santa Barbara Audubon who would care to put their copies of the magazine to good use by sending them to Mr. Woodcock? (a good name for an Audubon member!!) If so, please send them directly to him.....

The Santa Barbara High School "Art of Living" class, taught by Mrs. Joyce Banzhaf, has been learning about Audubon interests from Joan Mumper and Joy Parkinson, Joan went to talk to the class at school, discussing the Off-road vehicle issue among other things, with the result that the class has been attending some of the hearings about this matter. Both Joan and Joy went to the Goleta Slough with the class to introduce them to some of the birds that can be seen there.

Goleta Union School: Joy Parkinson was delighted to deliver to Anne Eissler materials for education in the natural sciences which Santa Barbara Audubon Society has purchased for use with her second grade class. This is just the kind of thing we like best to do with our funds, so it is especially satisfactory when we find a teacher who is enthused about making use of what we have to offer.

Feathers Cont'd.

SHINY RED APPLE AND CERTIFICATE OF AWARD: The Apple is mine and I have put it up where I can see it when I am working at my desk; the Certificate of Award was presented to Santa Barbara Audubon Society by Adams School for the contributions we have made to their environmental education program. It was my great pleasure to attend a meeting of their PTA as an "Honored Guest", and you can imagine my surprise and delight when we were honored in such a way! They had a most impressive array of exhibits that night; it is obvious that the students, teachers and staff of Adams are really aware of our most urgent problems and are exerting themselves to do all that they can to help solve them. It was an inspiring evening.

#### OFF-ROAD VEHICLES:

1. In Forest Lands. The hearing that took place at Frazier Park April 17 was on a Forest Service proposal to limit the areas where off-road vehicles may go. This matter has been continued for 90 days from that date--- til July 17, that is, so there is lots more time in which to consider this matter and express your opinion on it. I have the new map and will bring it to the May 22 meeting.

2. Recreational Vehicle Tracks in Santa Barbara County. I have just returned from a meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which time it was decided to continue this matter until May 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is submitting a statement concerning vehicles in the Forest Lands; we are not participating in the second issue. In both instances you may wish to comment as an individual. #1, address the Supervisor of the Los Padres Forest, 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, Ca. 93017; #2 address the County Board of Supervisors.

Santa Barbara is a very beautiful place and those who live here are fortunate indeed! I knew that, but my appreciation was heightened by a recent trip to the East Coast, the first time in 25 years that I have been east of the Rockies. I was invited to accompany Pres on a business trip to Montreal, but first we went to Cambridge to see two of our children.

The trees had not yet leafed out, which made me especially conscious of being in a different part of the country. New England has great charm and I especially enjoyed short trips into the country: to Cape Cod to see a 96 year old cousin, and early one morning out to the Great Meadows Refuge with my son just to look at the birds. But the city---such a lot of litter, especially in Cambridge! What a garden this is, in comparison!

In Montreal we stayed at a hotel which is part of a large complex with underground shopping malls, etc. I suppose one could live there for days with no need to emerge at all; a taste of life in the City of the Future? that did not really appeal to me.

Two kind women took me birding for a day, in spite of rain and cold winds. The vile weather did not keep us from seeing about 40 different species, although, almost more to their disappointment than mine, we did not find me a "lifer". (I did see a few in the Boston area). I was a bit early for the spring migration...

So I have returned to my home feeling especially grateful that we have been able to enjoy 25 years in this lovely city, raising our children here, and also feeling that I cannot cease to be an "involved" citizen, if I hope for the quality of life here to remain as it is now.

But Spring migration is at its height here, and Operation Transect has been keeping Jon Atwood(UCSB) very busy indeed. For the first ten days of May banders all over the state are putting up their nets and working from dawn to dusk (with a little time out for classes and such!) to assist in a project coordinated by the Western Bird Banding Assoc. A similar effort takes place at the time of the Fall migration.

Data obtained through a period of years will eventually give a good picture of passerine migration. There is interest in the age differential between coastal and inland migrants, as well as in the species composition and timing of the migrations. More details on these fascinating aspects of ornithological study can

Feathers Cont'd.

be found in the NEWSLETTER of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, in AMERICAN BIRDS (formerly AUDUBON FIELD NOTES) and in CALIFORNIA BIRDS.

RECYCLING. I'm told that the collection bins at City College are closed now until Fall, at which time they hope to resume operations and will welcome our support. As they are now approaching the end of a semester they must concentrate on disposing of what has already been collected, and cannot take in any more.

Collection still continues in Isla Vista and if you are in the Goleta area you can take things to the McVickers Car Wash; in Santa Barbara go to the Mormon Church and to Jordanos on Anapamu; Sierra Club collects papers and Aluminum cans but ONLY just before its meetings.

I note that in the first quarter of '71 as much aluminum was collected as during all of '70 (this is nationwide). \$365,000 was collected for the aluminum turned in; 3.6 million pounds of the metal was thus "saved".

#### OTHER FASCINATING FACTS

The number of endangered species in this country rose in 3 years, in spite of increased knowledge about the problem, from 78 in 1967 to 102 in 1970. (This from WHALEWATCHER, newsletter of the American Cetacean Society, which I receive thanks to Jim Mills. It is full of interesting material and written with zest. 4725 Lincoln Blvd., Marina del Rey, Ca. 90291) From the same publication, taken by them from THE SCIENCES "In 1969 major industrial polluters spent \$1 billion to advertise their efforts at pollution control devices in the same period."!!!!

LAKE LOS CARNEROS. Many Audubon members will have a special interest in efforts to preserve this area as a park. Watch the NEWS PRESS for information on developments and lend your support to this endeavor if you can.

PELICANS Did you see the large flock of white pelicans which flew over? Bob Sollen got a picture of them and counted 132 as they circled around in the area of the Municipal Tennis Courts.

Fifi Webster.

#### BIRD NOTES:

Several of our members saw a flock of more the one hundred WHITE PELICANS flying low over Montecito and Santa Barbara on April 25. At least one Osprey was still at Lake Cachuma as late as May 3. A male BALTIMORE ORIOLE was in the Aanerud's yard on La Marina for several days beginning April 3. Richard Webster reported six EVENING GROSBEAKS on Figueroa Mountain on March 21.

THE PUZZLING PLOVER. Mike Fishbein found it April 14 in a flock of Snowys and Semipalmateds on the beach near the mouth of the Devereux Slough. He reported that it must be a PIPING PLOVER. It was the same general color as the Snowy, but with yellow legs and a black band all around the neck.

In the next few days Kim Aanerud and Jodi Bennet got photographs and movies of it and it was seen by Janet Hamber, Waldo Abbott, Bill Ure, Ian MacGregor, Richard Webster, Nelson Metcalf and many others, all of whom agreed that it was the Piping Plover. Later Jon Atwood and Richard Webster studied the bird at length with a telescope and reported that the black and white markings on the head matched the pattern of the Semipalmated rather than the Piping. They felt that, in spite of the very pale color of the back, it must be the Semipalmated, a regular and common winter visitor in Santa Barbara, rather than the Piping which normally winters no nearer than mid-Texas. Others argue that we have had more than 20 other species that breed in Alberta, normally migrate to or through the southeastern states, but occasionally show up in southern California. So why not a Piping Plover? The bird is obviously not an albino. A hybrid of the two species seems most unlikely because their breeding ranges are so far apart. The odds seem to favor its being an off-color Semipalmated rather than a Piping Plover, but we will never know for sure.

Nelson Metcalf.



## GOLETA SALT MARSH SURVEY: Volunteers needed.

The U. C. S. P. Museum would like our assistance once a month for the coming year in counting the birds in the Goleta Salt Marsh. Jodi Bennett is coordinator of the operation. Two participants will be assigned a portion of the slough which can be seen from a single vantage point and will be expected to identify, count and record birds seen in a half hour period. Done simultaneously on the whole marsh it should give an accurate picture of the numbers and species represented in various parts of the marsh.

Total time at the slough need not exceed an hour. Surveys will take place on Sunday mornings. Here is a chance to become acquainted with the salt marsh, sharpen your knowledge of the marsh birds and help in a scientific project all at the same time. If interested, call Alice Richardson (687-4981) for details of the May survey.

Alice Richardson.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS:

Field trip to the Los Banos Area, April 3,4, (5). Thirteen members made the 300 mile trip, meeting in Los Banos Saturday noon. The afternoon was spent at the Los Banos Wildlife Area, where we were surprised to find that the ranger on duty was Roger Wilbur, brother of our member Sandy Wilbur. Sunday we moved a few miles north where we found remarkably fine birding at the recently opened San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. 92 species were recorded at the two refuges and at least 32 others were seen en route. Spectacular sights of the trip included 500 white pelicans flying overhead, amazing counts of 40 American Bitterns, 90 Black-crowned Night Herons, 100 White-faced Ibis, 14 species of geese and ducks, 24 of shore birds and 8 of hawks, including several Swainson's hawks. Our party split up Sunday afternoon, one car leaving for home, one for Yosemite, two to go farther north and one to go home Monday with a stop at the Pinnacles National Monument. All agreed that we should have an annual trip to this fine area, preferably a few weeks earlier, before the Cranes, Swans and so many of the Geese and Ducks have left for the north.

Nelson Metcalf.

On Sunday, May 2, fifty members and guests experienced an interesting day at Zaca Lake. Cold winds and frequent showers drove us back to the huge log fire in the lounge by 11:45 a.m. to dry wet feet and jackets. In spite of the weather and a shortage of warblers approximately 65 species were seen, including the colorful birds we always enjoy in this beautiful area-- Steller's Jays, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a Lazuli Bunting. We saw most of the resident flycatchers- Ash-throated, Black Phoebe, Western, Western Wood Pewee and Olive-sided flycatcher. The highlight for many of us was a female Western Flycatcher nesting on an old door hinge. She paid no attention to us, or to Jodi Bennett's movie camera, as she worked at shaping her nest. Through Jodi's magnificent camera lens we were able to look her "right in the eye".

Joy Parkinson.

## NEW MEMBERS:

Col. D. Lee Betten, 2216 State St., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
Mrs. Arthur R. Dayton, 3300 Padaro Lane, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013  
Dorene Lewis, 401 Calle Dia, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Mets, 78 Alpine Drive, Goleta, Ca. 93017  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon B. Sager, 797 Park Lane W, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl B. Schorach, 1175 Winthrop Lane, Ventura, Ca. 93003  
Mr. & Mrs. Sampson Smith, 2783 Glendessary Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Rufenacht, 2555 Calle Galicia, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105

New Members Cont'd.

Howard D. Wendell, 4400 Carpinteria Ave., #54, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013  
Lana Wood, 3191 Padaro Lane, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013  
Jan Wienpahl, 1489 Tunnel Road, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
Total Membership 602

This issue of El Tecolote will be the last for me as editor. My thanks go to all who have been so helpful, the two years as editor have been a rewarding experience as a result of this help.

Helen E. O'Reilly.

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