



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 9 No 6
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Tomi Sollen
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Santa Barbara
California 93103

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Wed. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 p.m. Jr. Dept. Museum of Natural
July 14 History. All members are welcome.
- Sun.
Aug. 15 MOUNT PINOS: This is the only field trip with a good chance to see
condors. It also provides an opportunity to see several mountain species
usually found only in the Sierra. Meet at the Museum at 6:30 a.m. or in
Ojai at the intersection of highways 150 and 33 at 7:15 a.m. Take lunch.
For those interested in making a two-day trip, there are motels near the
base of the mountain and in Gorman, 10 miles away, also a campground on
the side of Mt. Pinos. Anyone spending the night should meet the main
group at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot at the end of the pavement on the
mountain on Sunday morning. Leader: Les Cook
- Sat.
Sept 11 FALL BOAT TRIP: We have chartered the "Hurricane" for this date during
the peak pelagic activity. The trip will go to Anacapa Island and should
provide good views of such oceanic species as shearwaters and alcids.
Departure time 7:00 a.m. Take lunch. Coffee provided. Checks for \$9.00
each, payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., 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 —

CETOLOGIST ELECTED PRESIDENT OF S B AUDUBON!

Yes, that man whose chief obsession is gray whales is our new president, which may be a bit of proof that Audubon is not just for the birds! Those who know Jim Mills know that he is a dedicated conservationist and will serve the cause well as head of our Chapter. Jim is also a busy man, with a full-time job, so it is to be hoped that there will be many volunteers giving him their support in the ever-expanding activities of Audubon. Congratulations to Jim; we know there is a good year ahead for us all!

Vice-President and Bullitin Editor: Tomi Sollen
Secretary: Tim Whitehouse
Treasurer: Wales Holbrook
Conservation Chairman: Phil Archenbronn
Program: Desmond Jones
Field Trips: Bob Prickett
Librarian: Fifi Webster, assisted by Richard

The new Board members are: Phil Archenbronn, George Imboden, and Desmond Jones.

There are other jobs tentatively filled, or still awaiting some eager applicant. be sure to fill out the attached questionnaire and send it to Jim so that he will know of your abilities and interests.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is not without some apprehension that I step into the spot left by Fifi Webster. Hers will not be an easy act to follow, as we all are aware. She has served our Society with energy and devotion, and leaves now on an extended and deserved vacation with our best wishes and a symbolic and appropriate "feather in her cap (or HATS!)" in exchange for those "Feathers from Fifi".

Beyond my hope that our future will not be marked by a repetition of the necessary responses to the crises that have noted our past (oil and other things) I find, personally, much hope in the gratifying readiness with which your Board has responded in heading up our various committees. If this response can be matched by you, the supporting membership, in our pleas for help, the coming year can only be an exciting and fruitful one!

There is much to be done on the Audubon front for wildlife, people, and the habitat that supports all of us on this shrinking planet.

Your Board and I will be looking forward to working with you. Have a satisfying summer. See you rested and ready this September!

Jim Mills

FAREWELL FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

The future will tell if these are also FINAL feathers----as the continuance of this column will depend on many things. What matters is that the readers of EL TECOLOTE should continue to receive information pertaining to local matters of interest.....and this will surely be the case, with our new editor, president and conservation chairman making their own contributions.

It has been suggested that I produce an annual report (which might properly cover two years, as I did not do so last year). I had good intentions....but as I have in these past two weeks rushed about the city on my bicycle, usually on behalf of Audubon, I have thought "I am too busy with the present, too concerned about the future, to take the time that would be necessary for an adequate recapitulation of the past!" In the minutes of the meetings of the Board, and in the issues of EL TECOLOTE for these past two years, is a fairly comprehensive account of what has taken place, and this will have to suffice. Please accept my apologies.

CONDOR STAMP. Quite a lot of the rushing about that I referred to has been in connection with the new condor stamp. This morning Jim and I were at the Museum for a press conference in connection with the stamp; June 9 we met at KTMS for an interview on the subject. June 10 I went to Jefferson to show a short film on the condor to some very young students. In the past weeks I have also been to Adams to talk to a fourth grade class, and to Peabody, and to S.B. High where I talked to three of Mr. Martin's Social Science classes. (I was very impressed with them and their study of the Santa Ynez River recreation area, with recommendations for its improvement).

There have been other less obvious efforts in this matter, phone calls (to book stores about arranging displays), meetings, distribution of posters and "literature", etc. Certainly wildlife conservation stamps such as these help to call the attention of the entire nation to our endangered species. As I usually pointed out to my audiences, of the four species on the stamps the condor best symbolizes man's concern to preserve other forms of life because there is no obvious economic benefit attached to its existence. We like to eat fish; alligator and polar bear skins are useful; but a condor is to look at, to marvel at----and to treasure.

FEATHERS CONT'D.

Mr. Gene Chamberlain, the S. B. Postmaster, has certainly done all he could to publicize the issuance of this stamp of such interest to us, and it has been a pleasure to assist in this project.

ED. NOTE: The Post Office informs us that those who wish can buy the condor stamps in quantity. However, since it will take time to separate them from the other three stamps in the set, you are asked to make arrangements for the purchase ahead of time by calling the Post Office or ordering them from your favorite postal clerk.

SPEAKING OF CONDORS.....Thanks to Jackie Rogers, staff artist at the Museum of Natural History, we have a stunning condor for the front of our new membership brochure, and also for our arm patch, which we hope to have for sale at our September meeting.

SPEAKING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.....The Bald Eagle has been having a bad time of it, especially in Wyoming. Here in California the State Fish and Game has placed the eagle on a list of 19 endangered wildlife species. This move clears the way for state action to help the bald eagle survive. (It is also on the U. S. Dept. of Interior's endangered species list.) Loss of habitat, scarcity of food, and pollution contribute to the eagle's decline----(Sometimes men kill eagles, too.)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AUDUBON CHAPTERS COUNCIL will meet Saturday June 12 in Pomona, and Phil Archenbronn will attend as our representative. It interested me that the next National Audubon Convention will be in Denver---TWO years from now. I can recall so vividly sitting on a huge cable spool (part of the great lot of litter left in the North) near Barrow, watching the eider fly over and talking with Chap Barnes, assistant to Dr. Stahr, about the Convention which I had attended a few months before. As I had become aware of what was involved in planning for a convention (the staff time and the money), and as I thought of the tremendous amount of work concerning conservation issues that all organizations like Audubon are faced with today, I had wondered if the Convention justified the investment. Having one every other year seems to me very sensible indeed. These regional meetings of Chapters are regarded as a partial substitute for the Convention, and with their workshop format promise to be very productive.

LAKE LOS CARNEROS. We note with interest and approbation that the County is interested in obtaining this land as a park. It is such a beautiful bit of country we certainly hope that somehow it can be kept much as it is. (I am reminded of a recent Dennis the Menace cartoon where two little boys are looking for polliwogs in a pond and one remarks that it is a nice place, to which the other replies: "Yes, the city ought to build more of them". It is a lucky city boy indeed who can find free-flowing streams nearby, and a bit of woodland to roam in.) Which reminds me of: GOALS. I attended the meeting of the City Planning Commission at which the reports of the Citizens Goals Committee was discussed. You may obtain a rather elegant copy of this report at the City Hall, from the Planning Dept., for \$2.00. The meeting was not well attended, but there were three members of the Audubon Board there; Bob Kasson, Alice Rypins and I. I rather think that most SBAS members would agree with most of the goals that the Committee, after prolonged discussion and much thought, has decided upon. The City Planning Commission approved the report; and we watch now to see if the city Council will adopt these goals. BUT----they are GOALS, very generally stated, guidelines for our future. If they are to be implemented there must be citizen interest and support, persistently expressed.

CALIFORNIA TOMORROW PLAN. This also offers goals-----for the state. If your future lies in California it behooves you to study this plan, and partake in the many decisions that must be made, each one determining to some degree the direction in which we will move. It's your land!

HOLLISTER RANCH. As reported in the NEWS PRESS there are many concerned groups and citizens who hope that this beautiful coastal property can be kept undeveloped.

FEATHERS CONT'D.

They have written to Sen. Cranston asking for his support of a National Seashore park for this area. Let your views be known. In case you wondered.. Jim Mills is not also the president of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club! Jim signed that letter on behalf of SBAS.....

I had a letter from our Governor in response to one of mine about the coastline. Mr. Reagan says: "Please be assured that I share your concern for the future of California's coastline and fully recognize the need for achieving a balance between preservation and development." My reaction to that is that the balance was long ago lost-----the coastline is now overdeveloped. For the benefit of the nation every bit of coastline that we can possibly "preserve" for the public deserves all the protection with which we can provide it.

RECYCLED PAPER can now be obtained in the form of paper napkins and towels (if you must use them!). The "Treesaver" brand is available in some of our local stores. If you can't find it where you shop, ask the store manager-----he, like our legislators, doesn't know what you like, or don't like, unless you tell him! Save a tree!

OIL. On behalf of SBAS I appeared before the city's Environmental Quality Advisory Board with a statement concerning a USGS Impact Statement (Draft) regarding proposed drilling platforms in our Channel. It was a great help to me that the latest issue of AUDUBON had just come, for the fine "Black Paper" in it was incorporated into our statement. We repeat: we do not need this oil now!

TRIP LEADERS. There have been problems obtaining trip leaders, to the point that our trip chairman has at times found it difficult to arrange for us all the trips that he would like to schedule. Perhaps it should be emphasized that the trip leader need not be an expert at identifying birds: possibly the thought that such skill is essential has deterred some from volunteering to lead a trip. The leader has certain responsibilities, simple but obvious, sort of "general management". Usually someone with some expertise will be along to help with the birding aspect; if not, then it can be a lot of fun to learn together!

CARPINTERIA HERON ROOKERY. The news looks good-----there is a revised subdivision plan that shows a 2.75 acre park around the trees. This plan will be before the Carpinteria Planning Commission June 21 at 7:30 p.m. Robert Doell is the developer; we are pleased to hear that these plans will protect most of the trees. We trust the herons will remain in their long-established rookery, so that Carpinteria will continue to be a lovely blend of the natural and the man-made. Special thanks to Helen Peteler and Don Shorts who have been so concerned in this matter.

MOUNTAIN LION. By the time you receive this you will probably know the decision of the Senate Finance Committee concerning the lion. We cheered to learn that a four-year moratorium had been approved by the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. Then we learned that there was another hurdle---the Finance Committee. This may be a tough hurdle indeed---with government at every level suffering from severe budget pains, each dollar means a lot, and hunters pay for the privilege of hunting lions. (I find myself wondering about all this, and realizing I do not know answers to many questions---such as, just how much is a mountain lion worth? To the hunter who kills it, to the hiker who looks at it? We know that those who go to Africa to hunt big game in most cases must pay a high price to do so..... Africa's game animals are dwindling in number. So are ours. What price?).

Briefly...my thanks to all who have helped me so much these last two years. There are so many who have done their jobs so well, keeping our essential services operating. It has been a joy to me to come to know better so many wonderful people, to work with them for the Audubon cause. "Audubon is for people....and a better world for them to live in."

Have a happy summer! Take a moment now and then to get a message to someone in Sacramento or Washington, or here in S.B.....someone who needs to know what you want and who, hopefully, will do something about it. And---Good Birding! FIFI

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

There are unlimited opportunities for SBAS to serve the community and help the cause of conservation. Only with the active participation of many of our members can we attempt to do all that we would like to undertake. It will help your officers and committee chairmen if you would please fill out this questionnaire and send it to: James G. Mills, 5326 Berkeley Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Your name _____ phone _____

Address _____

Would you be interested in assisting with any of the following activities?

Programs _____	Youth Education _____
Conservation _____	Bulletin, write, edit _____
Field trips _____	Bulletin, mail-out _____
Social Activities _____	Clipping files (for schools) _____
Telephoning _____	Circulate petitions _____
Membership _____	Write letters _____
Exhibits _____	Pre-meeting field classes _____
Publicity _____	Represent SBAS at out-of-town meetings _____

CLERICAL

Could you: cut stencils? _____ type? _____ run mimeograph? _____

SOCIAL

Would you: help with refreshments once a year? _____
Serve as host or hostess at meetings? _____
Act as community contact for out-of-town visitors? (i.e. people with Audubon interests) (this could involve providing transportation, guide service, perhaps hospitality) _____

SPECIAL SERVICES that we might call on you for, occasionally:

Public speaking (telling groups about Audubon) _____
Fund raising projects _____
As a silent observer _____
As one prepared to speak for SBAS _____
Prepare exhibits _____
Art work and lettering (posters, maps, illustrations) _____

PROGRAMS

Can you suggest any? _____
Can you give any? _____
Have you slides, films? (possibly material for use in schools for youth conservation education) _____

HAVE YOU ANY SPECIAL SKILL that you could contribute to the cause? any ideas? any suggestions or comments on what we do and how we do it? Please use separate sheet, if necessary _____

Are there any interested in occasional middle of the week outings to nearby areas?

Might you be interested in an occasional very special field trip? by this we mean flying some place for a weekend of birding. If there is sufficient interest such trips could be offered.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

MAY BIRD NOTES

A PEREGRINE FALCON was at the Goleta Slough on May 9 & 11 (Ian MacGregor and Louis Bevier). A PRAIRIE FALCON on Montgomery Potrero along the Sierra Madre Ridge Road May 5 (Jim Shipp). An AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER is still on the north shore of Anacapa Island May 9 (Richard Webster); May 15 (Ian MacGregor, Louis Bevier). A LAUGHING GULL on the beach east of Stearns Wharf on May 24 (Kevin Aanerud, Nelson Metcalf). It was gone the next morning and did not get on the Bird Alert. This is the first record for the county. It has been found on the coast a few times south of here and formerly nested in the Salton Sea area. This was an adult bird, very similar to the Franklin's Gull, but without the white bar near the tip of the wing.

For the first spring in many years, large flights of the BLACK SWIFT were observed by at least five birders. They came through every day from May 27 through June 1, most of them flying very low just over the shoreline. The biggest flights reported were 200+ by Kevin Aanerud on May 29 near Carpinteria, and 171 on May 31 in Hope Ranch by Ian MacGregor.

Have you all noticed how late the CEDAR WAXWINGS are still here? Many flocks of 6 to 10 reported in the first week of June.

Richard Webster found a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH on Anacapa Island May 9. This is the second or third record for this area. Sandy Wilbur and John Borneman had a SCOTT'S ORIOLE in the Cuyama Valley near Ozena on May 19. Kevin Aanerud reports finding about 30 BLACK-CHINNED SPARROWS near La Cumbre Peak and along Tunnel Trail for a two-mile stretch below Camino Cielo.

Nelson Metcalf

1970 CHRISTMAS COUNT. The results have been published! 903 counts were recorded. The leaders are:

1. Cocoa, Florida	205 species
2. Freeport, Texas	204 "
3. SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA	195 "
4. Point Reyes, California	193 "
5. San Diego, California	191 "

Santa Barbara led in the number of Anna's Hummingbirds, Acorn Woodpeckers and Common Bushtits counted. It is also interesting to note that of the first twelve count areas, seven are in California.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Those who were able to attend the picnic will surely agree that it was the best ever, by far, and again our thanks to Joy Parkinson for making it so. Joy had some good helpers, but it was still she who did the most of it, making it such a treat for the rest of us. There were at least one hundred there.

The day was gray, but at least there was no wind, and quite a few enjoyed a little bird walk, followed by the chance just to chat with other members. Many enjoyed seeing Toro Canyon Park for the first time. Truly a happy occasion!

Fifi Webster

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