



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 9 No. 7
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California 93103

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sun. SANTA CLARA RIVER ESTUARY: Meet at the Standard Station at the
Sept. 19 Seaward Avenue off ramp in Ventura at 8:15 AM. Bring lunch. Rider
donation will be \$1.50. Leaders: Ruth Parker and Beryl Moore.
- Fri. REGULAR MEETING: 8:00 PM. Fleischman Auditorium, Museum of Natural
Sept. 24 History. "Santa Barbara Channel Islands" a conservation conversa-
tion. Slide program compiled by Nevis Fortney. To be narrated by
Joy Parkinson.
- Sat. GOLETA AND DEVEREUX SALT MARSHES: This is an opportunity to see those
Sept. 25 marshes under the leadership of Jodi Bennett, museum scientist at UCSB,
and some of her associates. Jodi has been conducting monthly surveys
of these areas and is very familiar with the fauna. Leave cars in
Goleta Beach State Park and meet at the old bridge at the end of
Fowler St. (the continuation of Fairview Ave.) at 7:30 AM. The bridge
can be reached from the park by following the bike trail under Ward
Memorial Blvd.
- Sat. Sun. IMPERIAL BEACH AND TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY: Meet at Oscar's Restaurant
Oct. 2,3 in Imperial Beach at 7:00 AM. The restaurant is on State Route 75 at
13th St., west of Highway 101. A nearby motel is the Imperial Beach
Travelodge. This area attracts stray migrants that are seldom seen on
the west coast. Suggested driver donation \$8.00. Take lunch for two
days.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to what we anticipate will be an enjoyable and productive year. With much help from your board and others, this past summer has produced its bit toward maintaining, if not improving, our little part of this planet.

With the accent now on regional meetings to partially replace the function of national conventions, Conservation chairman, Phil Archenbronn represented us at the Southern California Coordination Council in June. From that meeting our chapter will be supporting in a modest way an educational exhibit at the Los Angeles County Fair. Although at first glance seeming a bit out of our area of interest, the theme will relate to the California Condor. Such an effort should reach many people who will be sharing our condor country with us. Also of particular interest to us is word of pending restrictions on elevations of over-flights by aircraft in the Sespe Condor refuge area.

In July, of course, was the culmination of a long concern of ours, the U.S. Gypsum proposals for open pit mining of phosphates and related activities on the upper Sespe-Pine Mountain area.

National Audubon Society, as it did previously in successfully working toward the defeat of the Sespe-Topatopa dams proposal a few years ago, attacked this mining proposal from a different angle than that of the possible effects on the condor.

In what was reportedly a strong and effective statement based on a hard look at phosphate-use economics, National's testimony was given by Richard Bishop. He is presently doing work as a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley under a grant by National Audubon (as did Carl Koford in his monumental work on the condor). While his testimony at the hearing was restricted to the economics of the U.S. Gypsum proposal, his work under this grant is being directed to the socio-economic pressures that impinge on the condor. We all eagerly await the fruits of his continuing work.

Our chapter's testimony was effectively presented at the hearing by your Vice-president, Tomi Sollen, who had previously worked in coordination with the Sierra Club locally and the Ventura Environmental Coalition, a group of concerned Ventura county residents, and a group that probably will be heard from more in the future, as the depth of its awareness and commitment would indicate.

John Borneman, National's condor naturalist, met with Tomi and others of us in clarifying certain aspects and issues and helped to direct our statement. It stressed the "uncertainty factor" of the proposed mining activities as they might relate to the condor and aimed for its restoration to a more stable population. The potential for re-use of the nearby Pine Mountain nesting and roosting area was one of our concerns. Our thanks to Tomi for her work and to John.

Further strong environmental concern was shown in the welcome testimony of our new Los Padres National Forest Supervisor, Robert G. Lancaster, who also opposed the granting of the mining lease.

I was privileged to meet later with him jointly with Sierra Club representative, Anne Van Tyne and Trails Advisory Committee secretary, Bob Easton in a candid exchange of ideas and concerns. Our particular concern related to the Big Pine-Madulce area; not just as wilderness but again as historic nesting and roosting areas of the condor. Our goal is to increase the number of condors, not to maintain them on the brink of extinction. With irrevocable human intrusion in the national forests of the Sierra, Los Padres is the only area available to the condor. This constitutes a tremendous responsibility and challenge, as well as opportunity, to administering agencies in this, the only condor country our nation has.

Our chapter, under former president, Rich Miller, in cooperation with other conservation organizations and individuals, with nearly unanimous and gratifying support of our county's press had proposed the inclusion of the Alamar Creek-Madulce Peak as an integral part of the San Rafael Wilderness. It was due only to the expressly stated need for fire protection purposes of the Big Pine (Buckhorn) Road that this area was excluded as well as portions of the Sierra Madre Ridge. The Chief Forester stated at the Congressional hearings that the Forest Service was able to protect such areas without resorting to reclassification as wilderness. Legislative history shows Congress left that responsibility with the Forest Service; but with a further stipulation that a portion of the Big Pine Road be a "temporary road" under the definition of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The assumption was that a re-routing around the roosting areas would be constructed and that explains the foregoing resume. With the approach of possible funding for such construction and the inevitable and unfortunate scarring of the southeast face of Big Pine Mountain that would be glaringly visible from the Santa Ynez Mountains to Ventura County, alternatives should be considered. Just what we don't know, but of such were our discussions with Mr. Lancaster.

While recognizing both need for fire protection and the fact that Big Pine Mountain is the crowning jewel of the San Rafael Wilderness, we hope that some

alternative could be found.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with Mr. Lancaster.

EAGLE SHOOTINGS

You have all undoubtedly read of the nearly incredible mass shootings of eagles, both bald and golden, from helicopter in Wyoming and Colorado, which turned up as a result of investigations of poisoning of eagles. Whether the stated killing of over 700 eagles is an exaggeration, the finding of more eagle carcasses by government investigators is giving substance to the statement by the helicopter pilot involved. See Life magazine August 20. Saddening from the previous mass poisoning case is the thinking represented by the prosecutor, who stated: "I admire and respect Irvine (the rancher convicted of the poisonings) for accepting full responsibility --- predator losses are a problem --- and predator control is more important than the loss of a few eagles."

As staggering as the losses of eagles were the total mismanagement of "predator controls" may come closer to correction. Research Report No. 6 of the National Audubon Society, "The Current Status and Welfare of the California Condor" pointed to this same problem. Condors have been shot by uninformed imported sheepherders; the shooting of eagles has been a calculated crime. Consider the impact upon wildlife in the American west, if such callous disregard continues to prevail.

National Audubon is bending every effort to overhaul the entire predator control problem. Certainly, an outraged public will support such. Follow future Audubon Magazines for full reports.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Dr. Bill Ure has consented to organize the winter bird census again. Although firm dates have not been received from National Audubon, try to keep your plans open for that important work. Bill set a high standard to follow in his efforts last winter.

Jim Mills

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SAVE THE MOUNTAIN LION

According to Senator Lagomarsino's office the amended bill A.B. 660, providing a four-year moratorium on hunting the mountain lion, will not be considered by the Senate Finance Committee soon after it reconvenes about September 13.

This watered-down version of Assemblyman John F. Dunlap's fine bill, though not providing the complete protection for the lion of the original, will, at least, afford an opportunity for further study.

Senator Lagomarsino and the other members of the committee should be informed of your wishes. A postcard will do. Address: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, STATE CAPITAL, SACRAMENTO, CA. 95814.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: State Senators Collier (Chm), Teale (Vice-Chm.), Beilenson, Burnener, Cusanovich, Grunsky, Holmdahl, Lagomarsino, Marler, Rodda, Short, Stiern, Way.

Joy Parkinson

GOO RUMMAGE SALE

GET OIL OUT, Inc. is planning a rummage sale on September 18 at the Culinary Alliance Hall on Chapala Street to raise funds to continue the fight against oil development in the Santa Barbara Channel.

If you have anything (clothing, jewelry, toys, games, small appliances, even furniture, etc.) which you can donate, PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE GOO OFFICE, 111 East De la Guerra Street, between 10 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday; OR call Joy Parkinson, 967-9371 and arrange to have it picked up.

Joy Parkinson

REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

A copy of our beautiful new membership brochure is enclosed with this month's bulletin. Please pass it on to a prospective member. Thanks to Fifi Webster, Joy Parkinson, and Alice Rypins who did outstanding work on design and text. The increased membership fees set by National Audubon will mean more money for our treasury as SBAS receives a portion of all dues paid by local members.

In the past it has been necessary for National Audubon members to indicate in writing that they wished to belong to a local branch. At long last, National has changed its policy and all members who live in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties automatically become members of SBAS. Thousand Oaks is an exception in that it has its own branch.

Membership figures for SBAS are truly astonishing. In 1969 we were a small branch of 336 members; 1970 ended with 531 members; 1971 is out of hand with 719 as of August 1. Our membership has grown so large that we are regretfully discontinuing the practice of listing new members in the bulletin.

Sandy Nash is a one woman committee for typing the labels for El Tecolote-- a tremendous job that requires careful attention to detail. And for the third year Helen Salisbury heads the committee that folds, labels, and mails El Tecolote. She works closely with the Membership Chairman and her cooperation is appreciated.

Helen Peteler

SUMMER SEASON BIRD NOTES

July 12 was one of those rare days when huge flocks of SOOTY SHEARWATERS come very close to shore. Kevin Aanerud estimated 10,000. An immature MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD was seen feeding off the harbor sandspit in late July. Alice Richardson and Janet Stevens found three WOOD IBIS near the mouth of the Santa Clara River July 18. This is the first summer record for this region. At least one CATTLE EGRET has been in the Goleta areas all summer. One to three STILT SANDPIPERS were in the settling ponds at the Goleta Sewage plant August 26-31; first reported by Kevin Aanerud; later by Cook and others. Bob Fordyce, Waldo Abbott and Leslie Cook counted 20 adult and young LEAST TERNS (now on the rare and endangered species list) on the beach at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River July 19. Kevin Aanerud and Leslie Cook report that from one to twelve have been on the harbor sandspit since July 31. One YELLOWBILLED CUCKOO was seen on Veronica Springs Road, June 14. BLACK SWIFTS, which came through in surprising numbers late in May, continued to be found by Kevin Aanerud in smaller numbers on June 1, 2, 10, and 23. CEDAR WAXWINGS remained much later than usual. Six were reported as late as June 26. A BLACK and WHITE WARBLER flew into a window at Brad Schram's house June 26. Brad picked it up, photographed it and released it after it recovered. A CARDINAL, doubtless an "escape", was found south of Atascadero Creek near Patterson Avenue July 4 and 5 by Ian MacGregor and Louis Bevier. Kevin Aanerud reports that SAGE and BLACK-CHINNED SPARROWS have been breeding in considerable numbers on La Cumbre Peak and Little Pine Mountain.

Nelson Metcalf

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAST TERNS: Miss Louise Rounds wrote a letter to Camp Pendleton about her concern over the nesting sites of the LEAST TERN on one of their training beach.

Reply from Lt. Col. N. Kavakick, Director of the Base Natural Resources Section: "As a bird watcher, you might be interested in the least tern census being conducted by Captain Swickard.... This year it was determined that approximately 600 adult least tern inhabited the site. Some 340 nests were counted, yielding 325 chicks at present count with more expected to hatch. All in all, a very productive colony of least terns." July 22.

EVENTS TO COME

- Sun. GOLETA SALT MARSH SURVEY: This monthly bird survey under the auspices
Sept. 12 of the U.C.S.B. Museum of Zoology will be continuing indefinitely at
7:00 AM on the second Sunday of each month. Our assistance on this
project is greatly appreciated. We meet at the old bridge at the
southeast edge of the airport for instructions and assignment. It
takes about 2 hours. In August, 41 species and over 1100 individual
birds were counted. For more information call Alice Richardson,
687-4981.
- Began KABC RADIO: Dr. Irving Bengelsdorf to air his Ecology Reports twice
July, 19 daily at 8:55 AM and 5:55 PM, Monday through Friday.
- Mon.-Mon. KABC-TV: Eye Witness News - Special Report. BLACK MESA documentary
Sept. 13- (4 corners controversy).
Sept. 20 4:30 - 5:30 PM for six days.
- Sat. The Sea and Sage Audubon Society's CHANNEL ISLANDS BOAT TRIP, Anacapa
Oct. 2 and Santa Cruz Islands. Send \$10.00 between Sept. 15 - 24 to: Miss
Margary Ernst, 14781 Hillsboro Place, Tustin, Ca. 92680. Phone:
(714) 838-9082. Check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon Society.
In case you missed our boat trip and would like to know more about
this trip, call Tomi Sollen, 966-4836.
- Tues. SIERRA CLUB MEETING: Movie THE PEACE GAME, produced and directed by
Oct. 5 Mr. John da Silva, for the South African Tourist Corporation - 1963.
Mr. & Mrs. James Higman saw this film at a meeting of the Wildlife
Conservation Society in Durban, South Africa earlier this year. Sue
Higman immediately arranged to have a copy sent to the U.S.
7:30 PM. Museum of Natural History.
- Oct. National Panorama of Conservation Action," a pictorial exhibit display
26-30 of citizen conservation action. The show, organized last year in
Phoenix, Arizona, gives a view of eight nationally known conservation
groups--The National Audubon Society, The American Forestry Associa-
tion, The Environmental Defense Fund, The Fund for Animals, The Nation-
al Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Club, The
Wilderness Society--their present activities and their future plans to
stop pollution, to conserve the remaining natural beauty of our land,
and to protect the other species that share the earth with us.
- The display is going to shopping malls in large cities across the
country.
The Esplanade Mall, Oxnard, California
- Nov. 3-7 Montclair Plaza, Montclair, California
- Nov. 10- Valley Plaza, Bakersfield, California
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- Nov. 6- AUSTRALIAN BIRD TOUR: The Los Angeles Audubon Society sponsored
27 Australian Birding Tour, led by James Huffman and Mrs. Herb Clarke,
assisted by local Australian birding experts, has only a limited num-
ber of openings remaining. For information write immediately to:
Mrs. Herb Clarke, 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, Ca. 91208.
- 1972 ASILOMAR WESTERN CONFERENCE - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. For informa-
Mar. 25-28 tion, write: Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Pl., Sacramento, Ca. 93825.

PROGRAM NOTES

We hope that the 1971-72 program will provide a varied fare for members both in the areas of wildlife and of conservation. Programs will usually be held on the fourth Friday of each month at 8:00 PM at the Museum of Natural History. On September 24th Joy Parkinson will be narrating a slide show "The Santa Barbara Channel Islands - a Sierra Club Conservation Conversation" which has been compiled by Nevis Fortney.

Future programs will include a talk and films by Waldo Abbott; Paul Relis of the Ecology Center will address us on the philosophy of ecology; Margaret Owings (we hope) of Big Sur promises to tell us of the Sea Otter; Michael Benedict will speak on the Natural History of Santa Cruz Island. These are just a few of the coming years programs.

The meeting for November/December will be an evening devoted to slides and perhaps films which members themselves might have taken during the summer. If you have offerings please call Desmond Jones at 962-2407 so that a program can be arranged in good time.

Desmond Jones

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

This summer we enjoyed a really wonderful trip that took us all the way to Nova Scotia; we were gone nine weeks, traveled some 14,000 miles, and saw 300 species of birds. We will be happy to share with anyone planning to go to places we visited, any helpful information that we garnered as a result of our trip.

It was in Sydney, Nova Scotia, that I learned with delight of the existence of a paperback copy of a book that has been out of print: T. H. WHITE's THE GOSHAWK. (White is the author of THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING, on which "Camelot" was based.) Several years ago in an anthology I had read a portion of this account of his experiences with a goshawk, and had found it tantalizing. Now it is readily available: Viking/Compass, N.Y., 1971, 214 pp. \$2.95. (I have suggested this title to the Museum Gift Shop and the Ark Bookstore, if you are interested.)

At a bulletin board in a tourist center in Nova Scotia we saw the name of a man who would be pleased to meet birders, so Richard called John O'Connell. We met him in Sydney on a cool, damp morning and enjoyed his expert guidance of the environs for several hours. For us the highlights were White-rumped Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwits, a Black-headed Gull and Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

A most satisfactory morning's birding was followed by lunch with both O'Connells. As John teaches English literature (and an adult education course about birds) there was naturally talk of books, especially bird books. We not only learned from him of the existence of this new edition of THE GOSHAWK, but got one as well, as he had a couple of extra copies---my impatience was quickly quelled!

Our visit to Nova Scotia was especially enjoyed as we spent several days at one of our now favorite-for-the-trip camp sites (many of our one night stops were in very noisy locations). We were at a beach that was well off the highway and offered good swimming; from a bluff we had a fine view of the adjacent coast with its receding capes and bays, and of Cape Breton in the distance.

Exploration of Cape Breton Park was cut short by heavy rain, but we did have a lovely walk around a lake where the forest floor looked like Christmas wrapping paper: dwarf dogwood with its bright red berries grew everywhere. We went out on a small boat to some nearby islands where we saw the Great Cormorant and Common Puffins.

Of course we went to Bonaventure Island; indeed, it was one of the highlights of the trip, with the drive along the beautiful Gaspé Peninsula. We left the Maritime Provinces for Maine via the big ferry the Bluenose. For almost every minute of the six hour trip, blessed by clear, calm weather, the three of

(continued Page 8)

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 1971-72 SEASON

Sept. 11	- - - -	Boat trip to Anacapa Island
Sept. 19	- - - -	Santa Clara River Estuary
Sept. 25	- - - -	Goleta and Devereux Salt Marshes
Oct. 2, 3	- - - -	Imperial Beach and Tijuana River Valley
Oct. 16	- - - -	Paradise Valley (Santa Ynez River Valley)
Oct. 30	- - - -	San Roque Canyon
Nov. 7	- - - -	Bird Refuge and Sand Spit
Nov. 20, 21	- - - -	Morro Bay and Montana De Oro Park
Dec. 4, 5	- - - -	Carrizo Plain
Jan. 8	- - - -	Lake Cachuma and Happy Canyon Road
Jan. 23	- - - -	Ventura County Game Preserve
Feb. 5	- - - -	Dune Lakes
Feb. 19, 20, 21	- - - -	Joshua Trees National Monument
March 4	- - - -	Mission Canyon (Tunnel Road)
March 18, 19	- - - -	Merced National Wildlife Refuge and Los Banos Game Management Area
April 8	- - - -	Steckel and Dennison Parks
April 15	- - - -	Pt. Mugu State Recreation Area
April 23	- - - -	Refugio Pass
April 30	- - - -	Matilija Canyon
May 7	- - - -	North County Ranch
May 13	- - - -	Boat trip to the Islands

Schedule is subject to change. Always check El Tecolote.

It must be emphasized that when we visit an area on private property it is only after obtaining express permission from the owner. Such permission applies only to the Audubon chapter, and only to the one day of the field trip. There is no suggestion that individual members have permission to visit at other times. Specifically, no one should venture onto these properties without prior permission, and such requests should be kept to an absolute minimum. Failure to observe these courtesies will inevitably lead to the exclusion of Audubon from some of our choicest field trip areas.

Bob Prickett

NOTICE CONCERNING EL TECOLOTE

All members of the Santa Barbara Branch of the National Audubon Society receive El Tecolote without charge. Those who are affiliated with other branches or non-members who would like to receive El Tecolote can become subscribers by paying \$1.00 per year. Please send subscriptions to: Mrs. Robert G. Peteler, 7000 Gobernador Canyon Road, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send change of address promptly to: Mrs. Robert G. Peteler, 7000 Gobernador Canyon Road, Carpinteria, Ca. 93013.

us were right up in the bow eagerly watching for birds. Sometimes our excitement as we pointed birds out to one another would bring others hurrying to see a whale (how could a bird generate such enthusiasm?). We did see whales; also one Cory's and one Audubon Shearwater, lots of Greater Shearwaters, and Wilson's Petrels.

We saw and did a great deal, but have still so much more to see and do---- another grand trip! Nowhere did I see a city where I would rather be than this one yet, upon our return, we became once again all too conscious of the threats to its beauty and tranquillity: trees have been cut down, noisy industry may be welcomed, and there are plans for stream channelization. We will indeed sadly resemble L. A. if we do not work mightily to resist such changes.

(Our route took us into Texas, where we spent a lot of time; more or less up the Mississippi River Valley to Upper Michigan; over into New York and through New England into Canada; back down into Maine and Massachusetts; briefly into New Jersey; then home via Kansas. We have lots of pertinent literature....)

Do you feed the birds at the Bird Refuge? If so, it may be best to cast bread, etc., only on land----NOT into the water. At Buena Vista Lagoon there is concern about dead birds; the cause is not clear but there is speculation that yeast in the warm water could have something to do with it. Best to take no chances! (Thanks to Polly Thomas for the news clipping on this subject).

Special Christmas gift for a stamp collector you know: when the California Condor stamp was issued the California Academy of Sciences and the Western Regional Audubon office arranged for a special first day cover (note: This is not quite the same as the Post Office cover). I ordered a few and will have them for sale at meetings: \$1.00.

Fifi Webster

Our thanks to Mr. Charles Z. Haley, Jr, Systems Representative to the 3M Business Products Center, for the use of their Thermofax duplicating machine. Sandy Nash, in search of a Thermofax, was offered the use of their machine and duplicated a years supply of El Tecolote address labels.

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