



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Santa Barbara
California 93103

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sun.
Jan. 23 VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE: Several hundred privately owned acres of land, much of it diked and flooded, make it attractive to geese, rails, and shore birds. Meet at the Museum at 7:15 AM or at the Shell pump west of Highway 1 on Hueneme Road at 8:30 AM. If going to the latter place follow Highway 1 through Oxnard and take the Hueneme Road off-ramp. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation \$1.50. Leaders: the Websters, 687-8168.*
- Fri.
Jan. 28 REGULAR MEETING: 8:00 PM. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. "On the Trail of the B-B 3-T W," slides and lecture by Richard Webster from the Websters birding trip across America, Summer 1971.
BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASS before the meeting at 7:30 PM. Meet in the Bird Exhibit Hall. Kevin Aanerud will help you learn to identify.
- Tues.
Feb. 1 SIERRA CLUB MEETING: A film "Wild Rivers", a dory trip down the Colorado River. Also a guest speaker, Ed Henke from the committee of two million on saving the Eel, Trinity and Klamath Rivers. 7:30 PM, Fleischmann Auditorium.
- Sat.
Feb. 5 DUNE LAKES: The sheer beauty of this property combined with the marvelous bird life make this a very popular trip. Because parking is limited every effort should be made to share rides. Meet at the Museum at 7:30 AM or at the intersection of Highways 1 and 166 in Guadalupe at 8:15 AM. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation \$2.50. Leader: Desmond Jones, 962-2407.*
- Sun.
Feb. 13 GOLETA SALT MARSH SURVEY: This monthly bird survey under the auspices of the UCSB Museum of Zoology will be continuing indefinitely at 8:00 AM on the second Sunday of each month. Our assistance on this project is greatly appreciated. We meet at the old bridge at the south-east edge of the airport for instruction and assignment. It takes about 2 hours. For more information call Alice Richardson, 687-4981.
- Sat.-Tues.
Mar. 25-28 ASILOMAR WESTERN CONFERENCE - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. The theme is "Golden Opportunities in Conservation." For advance information send a postcard to: Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA. 95825. Be sure to include your zip code.

*The following two trips are onto private properties and must be restricted to members and special guests. Both trips are subject to cancellation in event of heavy rains, and all members planning to go should notify either the leaders or Mrs. L. A. Cooke at 963-1301. Attendees can then be advised of any change of plans.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two encouraging items in recent days should brighten the start of our new year. The recommendation by the federal Environmental Protection Agency that the Bureau of Land Management postpone the issuing of a mining lease to U.S. Gypsum for its proposed open-pit mining of phosphates in the Sespe-Pine Mountain area was welcome news. The clincher will have to come from the B.L.M., of course, under Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton.

The other item of hope is the encouraging effectiveness of GOO in getting both major political parties to consider including as a plank in their respective platforms giving priority to environmental considerations over others; specifically regarding oil drilling in the channel, but with obvious corollaries in other fields.

Although both of the above items could end up in history as nothing more than rhetoric by the Bureau of Land Management and the political parties they are good and necessary steps.

On our immediate Audubon front another successful bird census is now past. With the poorest possible placing of the season's holidays (we weren't consulted) for expecting volunteers we still saw what was probably our largest turnout. The weather was ideal both days, assuring the success of the Sespe count as well as the Santa Barbara one, details elsewhere.

Special thanks are due the Ure's; Bill for the organizing and seeing through of the count, and Lavelle for giving up her house to our big crowd and providing for the hearty appetites. Kudos also to Richard Webster for much work both in organizing and as compiler for both counts.

Jim Mills

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NOVEMBER FIELD OBSERVATIONS

A flock of 27 FULMARS near the Harbor Breakwater Nov. 8, Kevin Aanerud. A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD near Gaviota Nov. 23, Waldo Abbott. Twelve WHITE-FACED IBIS at Point Mugu Nov. 28, KA. A ROSS' GOOSE at Goleta Nov. 18, Richard Webster. Two WOOD DUCKS at Goleta Slough Nov. 13, Los Angeles Audubon. A female HOODED MERGANSER at Goleta Slough Oct. 30 to Nov. 30. An OLDSQUAW at Goleta Slough Oct. 21 to Nov. 30. Two FERRUGINOUS HAWKS south of Buellton Nov. 23, WA. Two PIGEON HAWKS in the Goleta area all of November. Two or three WHITE-WINGED DOVES along Atascadero Creek all of November. As many as 14 LEWIS' WOODPECKERS reported wintering in the Santa Ynez basin; one along Atascadero Creek Nov. 3, KA. TROPICAL KINGBIRDS remained in the area longer than ever before; one still in Santa Barbara Nov. 30. A VERMILION FLYCATCHER in Goleta Nov. 25, RW. Three November sightings of TENNESSEE WARBLERS in November, two in Goleta, one each in Santa Barbara and Montecito, Dec. 3. A PRAIRIE WARBLER, the first in the County, at the Goleta Slough Nov. 8, RW. A PALM WARBLER, Goleta Slough Nov. 8, KA. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE in Montecito Nov. 23-Dec. 3, Jewell Kriger. A BLUE GROSBEAK at Santa Barbara Sewage Plant Nov. 16, KA. A SWAMP SPARROW at Laguna Lake, S.L.O. Co., Nov. 11, SBAS party. A GRAY-HEADED JUNCO near La Cumbre Park Nov. 16, KA, Louis Bevier. A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW at Goleta Slough Nov. 7,8, RW.

Nelson Metcalf

RARE BIRDS

FULMAR, Nov. 8, 25 around the harbor area. BLUE-WINGED TEAL, drake at Bird Refuge Dec. 17. WOOD DUCK, female at Bird Refuge Dec. 17. BALD EAGLE, Nov. 9, immature flew over Bird Refuge. Two immatures at Cachuma Lake since Nov. 26. PIGEON HAWK, Dec. 5, on La Cumbre Peak (also seen by L. Bevier and Richard Webster).

Rare Birds Continued

GOLDEN PLOVER, one since Dec. 13 at SBCC stadium or harbor sandspit; another at cemetery since Dec. 18 (RW). PARASITIC JAEGER, up to 3 birds between Dec. 16 & 17. LEWIS' WOODPECKER, Atascadero creek, 1 adult Nov. 3-30. 9 along Happy Canyon Road Nov. 26. TROPICAL KINGBIRD, Dec. 8 and still present 2 birds. TENNESSEE WARBLER, Nov. 3 (Hooded Merganser canal) Nov. 23 near cemetery, Nov. 30 Goleta--all single birds. NASHVILLE WARBLER, 1 on Dec. 9, seen on Christmas Count (RW). PALM WARBLER, Nov. 30 Goleta Slough, seen on Christmas Count (RW). BULLOCKS ORIOLE, unusually common in many areas during December; flock of 6 Dec. 14 at demetery. WESTERN TANAGER, at feeder almost daily since Dec. 17, on Christmas Count (RW); Dec. 18, 2 in eucalyptus at Weldon Road (Mesa area). BLACK-THROATED SPARROW, 2 in saddle one mile east of La Cumbre Peak Nov. 6 (seen by L. Bevier also); Dec. 5, 3 birds in same area also seen by LB, RW, Cameron Aanerud. SAGE SPARROW wintering in same area as Black-throated Sparrows in small numbers. GRAY-HEADED JUNCO, Nov. 6 at intersection of Camino Cielo and dirt road going down to Gibraltar Lake. Also seen by LB. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, 4 during December, 2 at cemetery and 2 on Mesa; seen by many others later.

Kevin Aanerud

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On November 7 about 25 members and interested nonmembers spent the morning birding the harbor sandspit, and the Bird Refuge. The walk along the breakwater was especially rewarding with close-range observances of red-breasted mergansers, parasitic jaegers, and a pigeon hawk. Many loons were moving down the coast and all 3 species were seen. Those with sharp eyes and could hold their binoculars steady in the chill wind, found a few distant sooty and manx shearwaters. Altogether 70 species were seen representing a good variety of gulls, ducks and shorebirds. The trip also made a visit to the Santa Barbara Sewage Plant, a new area for many birders. Several rare birds have been found near the plant this fall.

Kevin Aanerud

Twenty-four birders spent two rewarding days at Morro Bay and Montana de Oro State Park November 20-21. Notable among the 138 species seen were a prairie falcon, two peregrine falcons, a ferruginous hawk, a swamp sparrow, and a slate-colored junco. On one rock at Montana de Oro was seen black oystercatchers, surfbirds, black turnstones, and ruddy turnstones.

Bill and June Gardner

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

The DETERGENT DILEMMA. I have a heap of clippings on the subject and intended to attempt to summarize them, when the January 1972 issue of FORTUNE arrived, with such an excellent article on the subject that it seems best to refer you to that.

RECYCLING. ALUMINUM CANS. La Colina Junior High School is collecting these to raise money for buying property in the redwood area. CHRISTMAS CARDS. I still have TK's article of last January on places that can use them; call me if you want the information as it is too lengthy to reprint here. CRAFT SUPPLIES. The S.B. County Sheriff's Dept. could use materials (especially leather and tools for working it; yarns...) for the crafts section of its new rehabilitation program. Take them to 4436 Calle Real, or call Sgt. Piceno, 964-6725, ext. 239. NEWSPAPERS. The bin at Jordano's at Chapala & Anapamu has been abandoned, but papers, bundled and tied, are still accepted at 2701 Santa Barbara St., at Fairview Shopping Center, at Santa Cruz market on Shoreline Drive just below Cliff Drive, and at Disco Fair in Goleta. (I note price of newsprint has gone up; perhaps this will be an incentive to the recycling program). ISLA VISTA. Collection bins on Pardall are out of commission now.

Feathers from Fifi's Desk Continued

New sheds have been built at the Isla Vista Community Service Center, 966 Embarcadero Del Mar & at University Church, 892 Camino Del Sur. Hold off on tin cans. Just newspaper, glass (rings removed), and aluminum cans.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED; SATURDAY REVIEW, January 1, 1972. "National Parks: Pristine Preserves or Popcorn Playgrounds?", p. 40 (that author likes alliteration as much as I do!); also, p. 59, the Environment Section with several good articles. Reviewed on p. 30, a new book by H. M. Caudill, (who wrote NIGHT COMES TO THE CUMBERLANDS, a regional classic): MY LAND IS DYING, about strip mining.

URBAN ECOLOGY SERIES. A series of booklets to be put out by National Park Service. The first is MAN-NATURE-CITY by T. W. Sudia, 20¢ from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash., D.C. 20402.

BOOKS ABOUT BIRDS. NAS has compiled a booklet listing the most desirable books to have in your ornithological library. I have ordered a few copies of this, for the convenience of our members, and expect to have them for sale at meetings.

ENDANGERED ENVIRONMENTS: Southern California Estuaries and Coastal Wetlands. A booklet put out by Fish and Wildlife Service of Dept. of Interior. Good general treatment of the subject. SBAS has been given a few copies which it will give to those who make decisions concerning land use in this area.

LAND USE. To my mind, this is the critical issue, and to learn more about what we need to know to make wise decisions, I am attending the Adult Education class called "The World Game". So called as they intended to use B. Fuller's works, but are finding more satisfactory Ian McHarg's splendid DESIGN WITH NATURE (now available in paperback). Class meets at Ecology Center, Monday 7:30-9:30 PM OR Wednesday, 2-4 PM, Mr. Daniel Sisson instructor.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY. Everyone who visits this interesting place, or reads its bulletins, is impressed with what it is doing in ornithological research. PRBO is elated by "the recent guarantee by the Dean Witter Foundation of San Francisco to provide \$15,000 a year on a matching funds basis over the next three years. These funds will apply to the Farallon operation. Your extra gift, earmarked "Farallon Fund", can help us match this most generous offer." PRBO, P.O. Box 321, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924.

Fifi Webster

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The Institute of Environmental Stress at UCSB need more male volunteers, working or retired, for their study on the effects of volatile air-pollutants.

For more detail, call Dr. Peter Raven or Dr. Barbara Drinkwater at the Institute of Environmental Stress (061-2363).

As conservationists, your volunteer stipend (\$4 an hour) could be put to good use at the above Point Reyes Bird Observatory. (T. Sollen)

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Application forms for "Friends of the Sea Otter" may be obtained from Desmond Jones, 962-2407 or copies will be available at the monthly meeting.

Last November in the process of replacing the Fowler Street bridge in the Goleta Slough, mounds of mud were left next to the pilings. It was pointed out to Jodi Bennett, the UCSB environmental adviser. In two days, at University expense, the mud was removed.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 1971-72 SEASON

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 ---Point 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

In the Calendar of Coming Events on page one, we sometimes call to your attention events that are not directly connected with Santa Barbara Audubon Society. This is not meant to imply that Santa Barbara Audubon Society or National Audubon Society support, endorse or recommend the event. We list them because they may be of special interest to our members.

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.

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For those who plan to travel and would like some birding information, I shall bring the National Audubon Society's Western Regional Directory to the next meeting.

As editor, I receive bulletins from many western areas. If you care to look at them they will be at the next meeting. Some of them are: Humboldt Sandpiper, Redwood Region Audubon Society; The Sanderling, Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society; The California Thrasher, Paso Robles Audubon Society; Sketches, San Diego Audubon Society; Phainopepla, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; The Wandering Tattler, Sea and Sage Audubon Society (Orange County); White tailed Kite, Altacal Audubon Society; The Lagoon Flyer, Buena Vista Audubon Society; The Towhee, Tahoma Audubon Society (Tacoma, Washington); and Utah Audubon News, Utah Audubon Society.

On the Sespe Bird Count held Sunday, January 2, 1972, 108 species were identified. Ten California Condors, 1 Prairie Falcon and 1 Wilson's Warbler were of special interest.

Richard Webster

The Santa Barbara Bird Count had ninety participants. It was a nice sunny day after a crisp morning, followed by dinner at the Ure's home. The Santa Barbara Audubon Society thank one and all for their participation.

On the Sespe count seventeen birders in five parties covered the area on a beautiful sunny day.

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The El Tecolote mailing committee meets at the Museum of Natural History two weeks before the regular meeting to assemble, staple, stick name labels, sort by zip code, tie the bundles and box them for the post office.

Miss Helen Salisbury heads the committee and the following assist whenever they are called: Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Brode, Mrs. L. R. Carter, Mr. Leslie Cook, Mrs. L. A. Cooke, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Dwight, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Gardner, Mrs. Charles Kastler, Miss Erna Maurer, Mrs. Rebecca McClean, Mrs. Helen Nygord, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Noel, Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Reilly, Mrs. Marcella Richards, and Miss Phyllis Wise.

Mr. Ralph Bellamy takes the boxes to the post office for mailing.

The El Tecolote is mimeographed by Mabel Rett of the Museum staff, the name label prepared by Mrs. Rod (Sandy) Nash from data received from Membership chairman, Mrs. Robert (Helen) Peteler.

Thank you -- Tomi Sollen

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