



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 10 No. 2
February 1972

Tomi Sollen
825 N. Soledad
Santa Barbara
California 93103

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sat., Sun., JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT: This is our first trip in several years to this location. The trip provides an opportunity to see desert birds not usually found in our areas. Meet at noon on Saturday at the Monument headquarters near Twentynine Palms. Bring lunch for three days. There are motels at Twentynine Palms and camp grounds in the Monument. Be sure and contact the leader, Bob Prickett, at 687-2173 if you plan to go on this trip.
- Mon. 21
- Feb. 19, 20, 21
- Friday Feb. 25
- REGULAR MEETING: 8:00 PM. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. "The Philosophy and Practice of Ecology," a talk by Paul Relis. Mr. Relis is the director of the Ecology Center of Santa Barbara. He is a graduate of UCSB having majored in literature and says that he fell into ecology work intuitively. He teaches a course in adult education called "Design With Nature, a course in environmental planning." He is married and lives on San Marcos Pass. Mr. Relis is deeply involved in the El Mirasol Polyculture Center. The aim of which, he says, is to provide the community with an example of a closed ecosystem which presumes cooperation with nature and is an experiment in how man may balance his life between technology and humanism. As a conscientious objector he did alternative service with the Forest Service.
- BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASS at 7:30 PM. Meet Nelson Metcalf in the Bird Exhibit Hall for more tips on bird identification.
- From 7:30-7:55 PM. your librarian will be in the Junior Library so that you may return and check out books.
- Sat. March 4
- BOTANIC GARDEN AND MISSION CANYON: This trip offers birding along the trails of the Garden and in the canyon beyond Tunnel Road. Meet at the Botanic Garden at 8:00 AM. Leader: Florence Sanchez.
- Tuesday March 7
- SIERRA CLUB MEETING: 7:30 PM. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Maynard Munger, Jr., a director of the Sierra Club is speaking on "Problems of Development."
- Sunday March 12
- 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 new bridge at the southeast edge of the airport for instruction and assignment. It takes about 2 hours. For more information call Alice Richardson, 687-4981.

- Sat., Sun. LOS BANOS AND MERCED WILDLIFE AREAS: The marsh lands of this area
Mar. 18, 19 provide a winter haven for geese, ducks and shore birds. Meet at the
Stardust Motel, 2169 E. Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos, at noon on Saturday.
This trip will probably be extended to include Monday if there is
sufficient interest. Contact the leaders, Bill and June Gardner, at
962-0152 if you are going on this trip.
- Sat.-Tues. ASILOMAR WESTERN CONFERENCE - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. The theme is
Mar. 25-28 "Golden Opportunities in Conservation." For information send a post-
card to: Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA. 95825.
Be sure to include your zip code.

In the Calendar of Coming Events 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 Nation Audubon Society support, endorse or recommend the event. We list them because they may be of special interest to our members.

* * * * *

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good-news-from-bad-department --- Primarily as a result of the flagrant shooting of golden eagles from helicopters last year a federal law now has been signed by President Nixon which provides criminal penalties for shooting of wildlife from aircraft, or for knowingly participating in the use of aircraft for such a purpose. As you may recall, the disclosure of the use of helicopters by a sheep rancher in the mass killing of eagles came as a result of the discovery of other eagles found to have died from eating poisoned antelope carcasses. The perpetrator of that act of poisoning was able to escape prosecution by his stated intent to kill coyotes.

A bill, H.R. 12186, by Representative Dingell, aims to close such a loophole in existing law by holding a person responsible if "negligent disregard of his act" causes the death of an eagle.

On the California front recently enacted into law are prohibitions against killing of sea lions or seals; Tule Elk until the present herd reaches a population of 2,000; any birds or mammals by use of recorded or electronically amplified calls; and another law prohibiting the harassing of any wildlife with a motorized vehicle.

Incidentally, a six nation body, the International Commission for the Protection of Alpine Regions, composed of such countries as France, Switzerland, Austria, and others is moving to place controls on the burgeoning snowmobiles in their countries. Good luck to them. Improvements seem to come slowly.

Jim Mills

* * * * *

JANUARY BIRD OBSERVATIONS

A few FULMARS were seen off the harbor breakwater until Jan. 21 (CA). One CATTLE EGRET spent the entire month on the airport (RW). 2 LOUISIANA HERONS are on Pt. Mugu salt marsh. 2 male BLUE-WINGED TEAL and a male EUROPEAN WIDGEON can be found in the Goleta Slough or in the UCSB Lagoon (RW). A few GREATER SCAUP are occasionally to be found in the harbor (CA). A pair of HOODED MERGANSERS was seen on Lake Cachuma Jan. 15 (CA). COMMON MERGANSERS were also to be found on Lake Cachuma along with over 100 CANADA GEESE, 2 immature BALD EAGLES, an OSPREY, and a PRAIRIE FALCON (CA, KA, RW). Up to 11 BLACK TURNSTONES and 4 RUDDY TURNSTONES have been on the UCSB Point but the big surprise was the BLACK OYSTERCATCHER there Feb. 5 and 6 (Jon Dunn, RW).

January Bird Observations continued

The PIPING PLOVER is still on the little pond one hundred yards from the UCSE point. The 2 AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS on the Christmas Count were last seen on Jan. 3 & 16. A PARASITIC JAEGER was off the breakwater Jan. 29 & 30 (KA,RW,CA). A COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD was seen in Hope Ranch until the middle of the month (LB) and an early migrant was seen in S.B. Feb. 6 (RW). The Santa Barbara Cemetery has been very productive. Birds there this month include 1 TROPICAL KINGBIRD, several BROWN CREEPERS, up to 8 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, 4 BULLOCK'S ORIOLES, 1 BALTIMORE ORIOLE, and 3 SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS (RW, KA,CA). Another BALTIMORE is in the area of the chimney stack by the slough and I know of at least 7 more BULLOCK'S ORIOLES. The orioles in Jewell Kriger's yard have all left. She had 1 BALTIMORE and up to 4 BULLOCK'S. There have also been 3 WESTERN TANAGERS on the Mesa but they were not seen after Jan. 18 (KA,CA). One is still in Hope Ranch (LB). Nelson Metcalf has a staked out LEWIS' WOODPECKER near his place and if you are interested in seeing it call him at 964-3008. A GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE was seen along Camino Cielo Jan. 15 (MF). Maggie Millar continues to have 2 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS in her yard.

Cameron Aanerud, Kevin Aanerud, Mike Fishbein, Louis Bevier, Richard Webster

Richard Webster

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Pt. Mugu. A low overcast burned off to allow 60 SBAS field trippers to enjoy a field trip to the Ventura County Game Preserve. Over 80 species were recorded by the group. Alarming only 1 White-faced Ibis was seen. The Ibis is in trouble, like so many species, due to pesticides and the resulting thin shelled eggs. Other interesting species seen included a dead Whistling Swan, a Blue-winged Teal, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 4 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Barn Swallows, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Good looks were also obtained of Short-eared Owls.

Richard Webster

Dune Lakes. About 25 members including some of us from Lompoc went to Dune Lakes near Guadalupe. In spite of the almost constant rain, we birded the area thoroughly which produced observation of 45 species. These included: White-fronted Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, and Allen's Hummingbird. Most of the land birds seemed to be keeping under cover and most of the water birds seemed to be hiding among the reeds, no doubt because of the rain. Nevertheless, those who went to Dune Lakes thought it was worthwhile!

Our especial thanks again to Mr. Peter Churchwarden for allowing Santa Barbara Audubon Society to visit this delightful preserve.

Desmond Jones

BIRD OF THE MONTH

The LEAST SANDPIPER exhibit may be located in the Public Library, Art and Music Department on the south wall.

Margaret Bolduan

The Museum of Natural History would like copies of the AUDUBON magazine--preferably a set, for student and staff use. Please leave copies at the Museum Gift Shop.

Ethel Lyon

ANNOUNCING -- THE BLUE LIST: AN "EARLY WARNING SYSTEM" FOR BIRDS

(With permission to reprint from "American Birds, incorporating Audubon Field Notes," December 1971, Volume 25, Number 6, pp. 948-949.)

With this issue AMERICAN BIRDS inaugurates the maintenance of a list of North American bird species which are of especial concern, and of which observers are asked to take particular note. The species named to this list are ones which have recently or are currently giving indications of non-cyclical population declines or range contractions, either locally or widespread.

Blue List birds are not to be confused with the very rare or "officially" endangered species, although some of them may be rare and local, while others may be rapidly approaching the endangered status. The Blue List will exclude those species already proclaimed to be endangered, and those extreme rarities, every sighting of which is reported, such as Whooping Crane, Eskimo Curlew, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, or Bachman's Warbler.

This is the list for species more common and usually more widespread -- perhaps even still abundant -- which for reasons of effects of chemicals on breeding biology, reduction of breeding or wintering habitat, predator problems (including man) or other causes, are now -- or seem to be -- substantially reduced in numbers, either regionally or throughout their range.

Since the line between what is endangered and what is as yet merely showing a decline may be somewhat blurred, a few species already listed on the endangered category may be included on the Blue List. Thus the Peregrine Falcon, endangered if not extirpated from the East, would be Blue Listed in the West, where it survives in greatly reduced numbers. Brown Pelican would be on the Blue List for eastern and Gulf coast areas, although it is an endangered species along the Pacific coast. Species like the Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks are typical Blue List birds, since they seem to be almost everywhere declining in numbers.

When a species is added to the Blue List, that is a signal to observers everywhere to be aware that observations (or the lack of them) of that species are especially wanted, and valuable. Observers should make a special effort to report on these birds to their regional editors, to be incorporated in their seasonal summaries. Regional editors too, should solicit information on these species, summarizing in their reports the latest known status of the species listed.

The Blue List is essentially an "early warning system." In itself it cannot prevent the decline of any species in trouble. But by focusing the attention of our thousands of observers on problem species, it cannot help but improve our understanding of their changing status, and alert the scientific community, governmental agencies, and the general public to situations that need action. If successful, Blue List data can help prevent these species from silently slipping onto the endangered list.

Observers are encouraged to suggest additions or deletions to the list, but recommendations should be backed by responsible field work, not merely by superficial impressions.

Finally, there is no significance to the choice of the name. Probably amber, for "caution", would be more appropriate, but "Amber List" has a weak sound; Red List would confuse this list with species in the Red Data Book. Blue List is about as concise and memorable as we can devise.

THE BLUE LIST, JANUARY 1, 1972
(Preliminary -- Tentative)

Brown Pelican	Black-crowned Night Heron	Turkey Vulture
White Pelican	White-faced Ibis	Black Vulture
Double-crested Cormorant	Wood Ibis	Swallow-tailed Kite
(inland populations only)	White Ibis	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Great White Heron	Fulvous Tree Duck	Cooper's Hawk
Reddish Egret	Mexican Duck	Red-shouldered Hawk

THE BLUE LIST (Continued)

Ferruginous Hawk	Sage Grouse	Red-headed Woodpecker
Harris' Hawk	Limpkin	Bewick's Wren
Marsh Hawk	Snowy Plover	Eastern Bluebird
Osprey	American Oystercatcher	Western Bluebird
Caracara	Least Tern	Mountain Bluebird
Prairie Falcon	Barn Owl	Loggerhead Shrike
Pigeon Hawk	Burrowing Owl	Gray Vireo
Sparrow Hawk (Florida)	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Bachman's Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Gila Woodpecker	

The following birds have been reported declining in numbers in certain parts of their range and are being considered as possible additions to The Blue List.

Great Blue Heron (Midwest)	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (S. Plains)
Swainson's Hawk (S. California)	House Wren (S. Atlantic, Midwest, N. Rockies)
Clapper Rail (California)	Bell's Vireo (S. California)
Roseate Tern (Gulf Coast)	Yellow Warbler (Colorado)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (California)	Le Conte's Sparrow (Gulf Coast)
Short-eared Owl (Central Rockies)	Fox Sparrow (N. Rockies)
Red-shafted Flicker (S. California, Central Rockies)	

* * * * *

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

Would you have imagined that the dock strike is hard on birds? I have a newspaper picture of hungry pigeons in Seattle: they are deprived of their usual supply of spilled grain from shipments passing through the port!

The craftsman who wanted tin cans does not need any more, alas! I'd take some in each time I went in town, making quite a racket as I bounced along on my bicycle (usually such a fine quiet way to travel, but not when one has a load of cans!)

Bikecology appreciates clippings from all parts of the country about what is being done in other areas concerning bikeways, legislation re bicycles, etc. Maybe you have correspondents who would send such items to you; if so, I'll pass them on, or please send them to: Bikecology, 1035 E. De La Guerra, Santa Barbara, CA. 93103. Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE RESEARCH CENTER, INC., 2701 Eighth St., Berkeley, CA. 94710. (415) 841-9086. This group has been formed to perpetuate the experience gained at Richmond, where success in saving oiled birds was greater than has yet been achieved elsewhere. In case of some future disaster this center will be able to provide assistance in communications, manpower, supply, and wildlife rehabilitation. It has a library, will coordinate research, plans a periodic news letter. Private donations are asked; they have applied for exemption from Federal Income Tax, and are incorporated under California General Law of Nonprofit Corporations. For one year: Junior \$1. student \$2. regular \$5. family \$10. supporting \$100. sustaining \$250. The Center is separate from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, but is endorsed by it. I will try to obtain brochures to have at our next meeting.

Massachusetts' Governor Sargent has set a nighttime curfew on snowmobiles and has ruled that riders must get permission to use their machines on either private or public lands. Some Swiss cantons have banned the vehicles outright.

Also from Massachusetts: the Massachusetts Audubon Society urges the use of SOAP. If you have hard water add a small amount of washing soda.

(over)

Feathers from Fifi's desk (Continued)

Concerning the "Environmental Crisis": I thought it was all pulled together very well indeed by Loudon Wainwright in LIFE, Jan. 28, 1972, p. 28. (an appropriate date..even the page number, too!) "Won't anybody hear the awful truth?" he asks, and in his article refers to the three recent important, impressive studies that deal with this crucial issue: Dr. Commoner's book THE CLOSING CIRCLE; THE ECOLOGIST (British magazine) study called "A Blueprint for Survival"; and the "Club of Rome" study, "The Limits to Growth". When such prestigious minds express alarm, one cannot consider it hysteria, nor can we let the concern be a "passing fad" (as some suggest it is.)

The Ecology Center, 15 W. Anapamu, (closed on Monday) is resuming its Wed. noon gatherings, a good chance to meet and talk with others in the community who share related concerns. (Bring a bite of lunch to eat while there, if you are "on the run...")

Had a nice thank you from Florida Audubon for stamps ... they raise 100's of \$\$ each year this way. When cutting stamp from envelope leave a wide margin around stamps. They are worthless if the perforations at the edges of the stamps are not intact, or if the stamps are torn, thinned or folded.

Florida Audubon will soak them, dry and sort them...selling them in packets of 100 of a kind to wholesale dealers.

The dealers will not buy Christmas stamps, or any of the regular issues from 1¢ to 40¢. This also applies to Foreign (do not soak) stamps from the countries which use stamps heavily as Canada, Australia, Germany, France, etc.

To those who have the time and are willing to soak the stamps before sending them to us we are very grateful. Place them in container of warm water, do not crowd. When stamps comes from paper easily remove from water, place face down on newspaper to dry, and weigh down with more newspaper to cover. Be sure all mucilage is off, this is important.

Mail to Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Fla. 32751
(Can be sent 3rd class if you enclose nothing else..)

Commemorative Stamp Committee, Marjorie Robertson, Florida Audubon

Fifi Webster

ASSIGNMENT: CAMP CACHUMA

Tuesday mornings finds me at Camp Cachuma at 9:00 A.M. in time to pass out binoculars to ten or twelve youngsters who opt to go on a two hour birding hike. Other group hikes such as Geology, Forestry, Botany, Zoology and Survival are taken.

Ten minutes preparation involves training in the use of the binoculars, rules to be followed such as staying close behind the leader, keeping quiet (stalking) and where and how to look. The excursion is presented sometimes as a game to see which, the boys or girls can spot more species.

The hike involves about a half a mile through the woods, then about a mile through a park bordering Cachuma Reservoir followed by another half mile back. This gives opportunity for a sampling of woodland birds, plus a chance to identify the larger and more easily seen water and shore birds, which is important to beginners.

Of course I have to make most of the identifications except for the more common species seen in nearly everyones yard.

During a short rest period after the first hour, I give a talk on some subject such as the Condor and its problems, or the fantastic migrations of some birds. Young folks hardly realize how much a young bird has to learn in the short time it is trained after leaving the nest.

(Continued Page 8)

SESPE WILDLIFE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1972

Horned Grebe	3	Spotted Sandpiper	1	Mountain Bluebird	1
Eared Grebe	12	Least Sandpiper	25	Blue-gr Gnatcatcher	3
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Western Sandpiper	6	Ruby-cr Kinglet	81
Great Blue Heron	6	Band-tailed Pigeon	7	Water Pipit	146
Green Heron	1	Mourning Dove	5	Cedar Waxwing	221
American Bittern	1	Spotted Dove	13	Phainopepla	6
Canada Goose	4	White-throated Swift	89	Loggerhead Shrike	9
Mallard	10	Anna's Hummingbird	12	Starling	155
Pintail	6	Belted Kingfisher	1	Hutton's Vireo	1
Green-winged Teal	32	Red-shafted Flicker	28	Orange-cr Warbler	4
Cinnamon Teal	1	Acorn Woodpecker	16	Audubon's Warbler	761
American Widgeon	3	Yellow-bel Sapsucker	14	Yellowthroat	79
Shoveler	6	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Wilson's Warbler	1
Redhead	3	Nuttall's Woodpecker	8	House Sparrow	47
Ring-necked Duck	3	Black Phoebe	16	Western Meadowlark	56
Canvasback	7	Say's Phoebe	7	Red-winged Blackbird	516
Lesser Scaup	4	Olive-sid Flycatcher	2	Brewer's Blackbird	319
Bufflehead	1	Horned Lark	15	Brown-headed Cowbird	12
Ruddy Duck	450	Violet-green Swallow	44	Purple Finch	11
Common Merganser	7	Scrub Jay	126	House Finch	506
California Condor	10	Common Raven	8	American Goldfinch	17
Turkey Vulture	1	Common Crow	64	Lesser Goldfinch	26
White-tailed Kite	3	Plain Titmouse	22	Lawrence's Goldfinch	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	Common Bushtit	32	Rufous-sided Towhee	36
Cooper's Hawk	4	White-br Nuthatch	2	Brown Towhee	76
Red-tailed Hawk	17	Wrentit	13	Savannah Sparrow	5
Golden Eagle	4	House Wren	4	Lark Sparrow	48
Marsh Hawk	2	Bewick's Wren	16	Rufous-cr Sparrow	8
Prairie Falcon	1	Long-b Marsh Wren	7	Oregon Junco	251
Sparrow Hawk	19	Canon Wren	4	Chipping Sparrow	3
California Quail	89	Rock Wren	4	White-cr Sparrow	371
Mountain Quail	2	Mockingbird	37	Golden-cr Sparrow	73
Sora	2	California Thrasher	12	Fox Sparrow	11
American Coot	386	Robin	65	Lincoln's Sparrow	56
Killdeer	6	Hermit Thrush	21	Song Sparrow	23
Common Snipe	53	Western Bluebird	196		

TOTAL 108 Species 6,059 individuals

Richard Webster

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. Roderick Nash, 3886 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, CA. 93110.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Camp Cachuma (Continued)

All are ready for the fine lunch awaiting them a short while after arriving back at camp at the end of the second hour. After lunch I am asked to read a list of the number of species seen or heard. It usually is somewhere from 35 to 45.

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Gandy who direct the camp and who are very knowledgeable about environmental problems, but more importantly about young people inspire all of their councilors with enthusiasm.

I have enjoyed my assignment as Audubon representative at Camp Cachuma immensely and hope I may continue as long as I am wanted. Audubon pays ten cents a mile toward my car expenses. The County Schools pay me a stipend for my role as consultant.

Leslie Cook

Editor: The Cachuma Church Camp program is under the County Schools, and is for sixth graders from 14 school districts in the county. The sessions are for five days, Monday morning to Friday afternoon for a period of 27 weeks. Besides the Gandys three naturalists are employed. The councilors are high school students who come from the same district as the sixth graders.

* * * * *

AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY, 2504 East Lee, Tucson, Ariz. 85716. The 1972 program, directed by William Goodall in cooperation with the University of Arizona, will be held April 21-30 -- two successive 3-day weekends, with an optional interim program. Registration information may be obtained from Tanque Verde Ranch, Route 8, Tucson, Ariz. 85710.

WILDERNESS WORKSHOP, Camp Denali, McKinley Park, Alaska. An informal nature study session will be held June 19 thru 29, 1972. Call editor for more information.

EL TECOLOTE
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.
Permit No. 125

50

1972