



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Santa Barbara,
California 93103

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sunday
March 12** **GOLETA SALT MARSH SURVEY:** This will be the last monthly bird survey under the auspices of the UCSB Museum of Zoology. At 8:00 AM 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.
Mar. 18-19** **LOS BANOS AND MERCED WILDLIFE AREAS:** The marsh lands of this area 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. Make own motel reservations. Camping available at the Los Banos Wildlife Area. Contact the leaders, Bill and June Gardner, at 962-0152 if you are going on this trip.
- Friday
March 24** **REGULAR MEETING:** 8:00 PM. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. "Australian Potpourri, --- the Australian Barrier Reef and the Australian Outback (Wilderness Area)," a film by Larry Brundall.
- BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASS** at 7:30 PM. Cameron Aanerud will lead the class on "Spring Migrating Birds," at the Bird Exhibit Hall.
- Sat.-Tues.
Mar. 25-28** **ASILOMAR WESTERN CONFERENCE - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.** The theme is "Golden Opportunities in Conservation." For information send a post-card to: Audubon Conference, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA. 95825.
- Tuesday
April 4** **SIERRA CLUB MEETING:** 7:30 PM. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Joint presentation by the Sierra Club and the Santa Barbara Continuing Education Program on the "Everglades," the first in the series of lectures by Dr. Roderick Nash.
- Saturday
April 8** **STECKEL AND DENNISON PARKS:** This trip provides an opportunity for birding along the Santa Paula Creek and in the hills above Ojai. Meet at the entrance to Steckel Park at 8:00 AM. The park is about four miles north of Santa Paula on Highway 150. Take lunch. Leader: Ruth Parker.
- Saturday
April 15** **POINT MUGU STATE RECREATION AREA:** This is a fine outing along canyon trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00 AM. The park is on the inland side of Highway 1 about fifteen miles beyond (south) Oxnard. Take lunch. Leader: Beryl Moore.

Saturday Boat trip to the Islands. Note change of date. More information in
May 20 the next issue of El Tecolote.

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 National Audubon Society support, endorse or recommend the event. We list them because they may be of special interest to our members.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As part of President Richard Nixon's 1972 Environmental Message to Congress (from which derived his Executive Order banning use of poisons for predator control on government lands and elsewhere by federal government employees) he pledged his and his administration's support "toward keeping the momentum of (environmental) awareness and action."

I personally feel it extremely important that his action and stance on that matter be acknowledged by letters of support and encouragement. He will be under continuing pressure from others with a vested interest in the continued indiscriminate, callous and largely useless killing of so much wildlife. Let him know he has read the American pulse correctly in taking such action.

For those of you who have read Theodora Kroeber's, "Ishi in Two Worlds," another letter writing effort is at hand. The Bureau of Land Management is inviting public comment on management plans which include Deer Creek and adjacent Lassen Mountain lands under BLM jurisdiction. Letters, I feel, should encourage that type of management closest to wilderness as possible for that area and should be sent to:

Robert E. Wilber, District Manager, Redding District Office,
Bureau of Land Management, 2460 Athens Avenue, Redding, CA. 96001

Those of you who are not familiar with Mrs. Kroeber's sad but excellently told biography of the last surviving member of the Yahi tribe of the Yana people have missed one of the real classics of our time. Read it.

And lastly, a request. In offering of help in whatever way possible to Mr. R. Arnett, head of State Parks, Audubon's Western Regional Office was extended an opportunity to serve. Due to an extreme shortage of personnel at the State Parks, Audubon volunteers would be welcomed to act as interpreters of the natural values in the parks. Any of our members who might like to perform a valued service in such a capacity should keep an eye out for forthcoming announcements.

Jim Mills

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BIRD NOTES - LOCAL

For some birds it's spring already. The first ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD arrived by mid-January, COSTA'S by the beginning of February, and RUFOUS by the middle of the month. VIOLET-GREEN, TREES, ROUGH-WINGED, BARN, and CLIFF SWALLOWS had all arrived by the end of the month.

FULMARS were last seen off the harbor Feb. 8 (KA). A LOUISIANA HERON was at Pt. Mugu Feb. 18 along with a CLAPPER RAIL and 3 KNOTS (RW). Lake Cachuma continues to provide some of the best birding in the county. 3 female COMMON GOLDENEYES were there Feb. 26 (CA,LC). A few COMMON MERGANSERS and an OSPREY are still present. 4-5 BALD EAGLES have been seen at one time. This is a very large number and it is encouraging to see so many (LC,CA). An immature male GREATER SCAUP was in the Goleta Sewage Plant Feb. 27 (RW) and 2 female HOODED MERGANSERS were along

Bird Notes - Local (Continued)

Atascadero Creek on Feb. 9 (KA). 3 FERRUGINOUS HAWKS and a PRAIRIE FALCON were seen on the Carrizo Plains March 4 (RW). The BLACK OYSTERCATCHER and the PIPING PLOVER are still in the area of Goleta Point. The plover is beginning to come into breeding plumage. 2 PARASITIC JAEGERS were off the harbor Feb. 14 and a few BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES have been there off and on throughout February (KA).

4 WHITE-WINGED DOVES are now on the fields along Patterson just south of Hollister (KA, LB). The LEWIS' WOODPECKER is still present along Calle de Los Amigos (NM). The TROPICAL KINGBIRD in the S.B. Cemetery was last seen close to the bird refuge Feb. 13. Another one has been found around the little league complex between Hollister and the railroad tracks (near San Marcos High School) and was still here on Mar. 4 (KA, RW). A number of BULLOCK'S, a few HOODED, and 2 BALTIMORE ORIOLES are still in S.B. and Goleta. Several WESTERN TANAGERS are also in town. This has been an amazing year for wintering orioles and tanagers (RW, KA, LB). A female LARK BUNTING was seen in Maricopa on March 4 (RW).

Nelson Metcalf, Les Cook, Cameron Aanerud, Kevin Aanerud, Louis Bevier

Richard Webster

BIRD NOTES - STATE

The Salton Sea again proved to be one of the best birding areas in the state. Some of the better birds seen there over Lincoln's birthday were a BLUE GOOSE, a BROWN THRASHER, a PYRRHULOXIA, and McCOWN'S (3) and LAPLAND (10) LONGSPURS. The Sea also provided good looks at many other interesting birds. A few WHITE-FRONTED and ROSS' GEESE were among the hundreds of CANADA and thousands of SNOW GEESE. WHITE PELICANS and a few MOUNTAIN PLOVERS were seen too.

Good looks were also obtained of many desert species. Around the Sea GAMBEL'S QUAIL, GROUND DOVE, LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER, VERDIN, CACTUS WREN, CRISSAL THRASHER, and ABERT'S TOWHEE can be found with little difficulty. A quick trip to Cottonwood Springs provided BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHERS and SAGE and BLACK-THROATED SPARROWS.

Monterey was excellent birding over the same weekend. The two outstanding birds there were a YELLOW-BILLED LOON and a female KING EIDER. Other interesting birds included RED-NECKED GREBE, FULMAR, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, GREATER SCAUP, COMMON GOLDENEYE, COMMON SCOTER, COMMON MURRE, PIGEON GUILLEMOT, ANCIENT MURRELET, and CASSIN'S and RHINOCEROS AUKLETS.

A little known but outstanding birding area is Honey Lake, near Susanville, California. Birds seen there Feb. 19 include 850 WHISTLING SWANS, a few WHITE-FRONTED, hundreds of CANADA, thousands of SNOW, 1 BLUE and 2 ROSS' GEESE, 30 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS, 2 GOLDEN and 5 BALD EAGLES, 12 SAGE GROUSE, 20 SANDHILL CRANES, a LONG-EARED OWL, 3 NORTHERN SHRIKES, and a half dozen each of CHESTNUT-COLLARED and LAPLAND LONGSPURS.

A pair of HOODED MERGANSERS and 3 BARROW'S GOLDENEYES were seen the same weekend on Lake Merritt, Oakland along with COMMON MERGANSERS AND COMMON GOLDENEYES. An immature male TUFTED DUCK has been found on Stowe Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco and was seen again on the 20th. Interesting birds seen in Monterey the next morning were a female HARLEQUIN DUCK, 3 POMARINE JAEGERS, and 2 PYGMY and 3 SAW-WHET OWLS.

Richard Webster

In Switzerland, where migrating frogs and toads have refused to use special subway pipes to hop under a roadway blocking the way to marshes where they usually breed, nature lovers are carrying the creatures in buckets so that they won't be killed by vehicles. News like that can make one's day---just to think that a subway was built for them! (FW)

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

CAMPING. What kind do you like? That is, do you wish it to be a social, or an environmental experience? William Penn Mott, Director, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Box 2390, Sacramento, CA 95811, would like to know your opinions.

EARTH WEEK, 1972----April 17-23.

BIKECOLOGY WEEK, May 1-6. Watch for many interesting local activities in which you may wish to participate.

When you're down by the harbor you might like to visit the new office of the S.B. Underseas Foundation. Open week days 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM; they will try to have it open during the afternoon on weekends.

The creatures of the sea certainly need all the help we can give them. Did you read that the crab catch in the San Francisco area is way down? (Yet there is a great reluctance on the part of municipalities, industries, to comply with the laws against water pollution. Too expensive, can't meet deadlines---give us more time!)

It's good to think of the reprieve granted all the small animals of the tide pools ---those that are left, that is, and they are few. For the state now prohibits collecting marine life from tidepools; henceforth we look, and leave to live, and eventually the tidepools should be somewhat replenished.

Audubon members have been busy. Alice Rypins represented us at a meeting of the S.B. Wastewater Facilities Committee. Bob Kasson went back to Potrero Seco with the Forest Service to consider the environmental impact of their work in that area. Tomi Sollen, Alice Rypins, and I went out to see the eucalyptus trees in Goleta that have aroused the concern of residents of that area who hope that they will not all be cut down. It was a lovely morning, monarch butterflies by the dozens flitted about, and the grove seemed to us a perfect park.

There was a meeting in Carpinteria concerning coastal protection (representatives of the tri-counties, and coastal cities of the 3 counties). Helen and Dick O'Reilly, Tomi, Helen Peteler and I were there. (I took my picnic lunch out to eat with the Petelers, and was delighted to find Les Cook there too...the Petelers are playing host to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is busy building a debris dam RIGHT THERE!)

Please watch for announcement (should be in the Adult Education section in the NEWS PRESS) concerning a series to be held in May about the future of the South Coast area. This should be very informative. Fateful decisions are being made now that will determine the quality of life here henceforth. It is essential to have a well-informed citizenry taking part in these decisions. You have probably read that both San Luis Obispo and Carpinteria are planning to curtail their growth to some extent, and it will be interesting to hear the outcome of San Diego's current crisis regarding growth.

READING OF INTEREST....In NATURAL HISTORY magazine, Feb. 1972, p. 56: "A New World for the Cattle Egret." This title is intriguing: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY MATERIALS USEFUL FOR PRESERVING PERSONAL SANITY WHILE BRAVING THE GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL WILDERNESS. (Harper & Row...\$2.95, ill.) Edited by Theodore Roszak. For a bit of fiction, one might try a novel about our bio-ecological attitudes: MUTANT 59 --THE PLASTIC EATERS, by Pedler, K & Davis, G. (I've not read them so can offer no personal comment.)

A BOOK FOR BIRDERS....HIGH ARCTIC by George M. Sutton (P.S. Eriksson, \$12.50.) A book about his experiences observing the wildlife of the Arctic.

Feathers from Fifi's Desk (Continued)

U R G E N T ! ! R E : A L A S K A

Write immediately to the Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Building, Washington, D. C. 20240. Ask him to preserve the best of Alaska for the public to the full extent of his Congressional mandate.

The future of millions of acres in Alaska (where a third of all North America's waterfowl rest, nest and feed) is in Mr. Morton's hands. Which should be National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Scenic and Wild Rivers? Let him know you care --- it's your land too!!

I put on the wall in my kitchen a lovely picture of a stream flowing through snow-covered rocks. There is an accompanying statement: "Through the troubled world, a thin stream of serenity still runs for those who will seek and save it." When I look at it I think, "Yes...the serenity can be found in places----but it can be an awful hassle today to get to such places. (Really, you either have peace of mind, or you don't----but still, some places encourage that peace to blossom.) And if one wishes to save those places---what a contentious matter that can be! The endless hours one can spend indoors, trying to save the outdoors....."

Fifi Webster

CONSERVATION WEEK -- March 7-14

Audubon's participation under Joy Parkinson includes:

March 7 - Dos Pueblos High School - field trip to the Goleta Slough with Joy Parkinson, Alice Kladnik and Leslie Cook

Leslie Cook leads the following:

- March 8 - Slide talk at Kellogg School
- March 9 - Bird walk with the Adult Education Class (Mr. Trimble)
- March 10 - Bird walk with the children from the Museum of Natural History
- March 11 - Goleta State Park
- March 12 - Goleta Salt Marsh Survey
- March 13 - Canolino School, Carpinteria to Sandyland Slough
- March 14 - Cachuma Church Camp
- March 15 - Canolino School, Carpinteria to Sandyland Slough
- March 14 - Goleta Union with Joy Parkinson

BIRD OF THE MONTH

The AMERICAN COOT -- a pair is on exhibit at the Main Public Library in the Art and Music Department.

Jewell Kriger, active once again with the committee, plans bird displays for Montecito Schools. The first exhibit is now in the library at Cold Springs School.

Margaret Bolduan

HONOR AWARD from the CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL

CONGRATULATIONS -- JOY PARKINSON ! !

ACTION

Birds in cramped quarters, without water, will be relieved of their discomfort by the concern and action of Audubon member Wilbur Jacobs.

On a holiday weekend he had observed and been very disturbed about the conditions under which W.T. Grant was selling birds. The birds were in cages 5"x5"x8", as many as 3 or 4 to a cage, some without water. Mr. Jacobs called the manager's attention to the situation and was assured the birds would have water but there wasn't anything which could be done to relieve the crowding.

A call to the Humane Society, however, resulted in pressure on the manager to correct conditions, who now gives assurance that new, larger cages are on the way.

Audubon members will do well to concern themselves with such inhumanities and follow through to see that they are discontinued. Dandy Lion is a good example.

Alice Kladnik

Autographed, first editions of "THE LEAF BOOK, A Field Guide of Plants of Northern California", \$4.75, by Ida Geary, author of "Marin Trails", are being sold for the benefit of Audubon Canyon Ranch. THE LEAF BOOK is illustrated with 360 of what John Thomas Howell calls "your wonderful prints", the plant prints which have appeared in Audubon Magazine, Pacific Discovery, etc. The prints, like the book itself, combine scientific accuracy and artistic beauty. THE LEAF BOOK covers Marine Algae; Fungi, Lichens and Mosses; Ferns and Fern Allies; Grasses, Sedges and Rushes; Wildflowers; Shrubs and Trees. It is an original and effective guide for students and naturalists of all ages.

Signed copies will be sent post-free to our members or as gifts to their friends by Audubon Canyon Ranch, Coast Highway 1, Stinson Beach, CA. 94970. Only orders accompanied by a full payment at the rate of \$4.75 plus 24¢ tax (\$4.99) per copy will be accepted.

Audubon Canyon Ranch

EL TECOLOTE for non-members-- \$1.00 per year. Send subscription to: Mrs. Roderick Nash, 3886 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, CA. 93110.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS---Send change of address promptly to our new membership chairman: Mrs. Maxim (Minna) Smith, 1600 Garden Street, Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, CA. 93101.

March 24--Regular meeting night. From 7:30-7:55 PM your librarian will be in the Junior Library so that you may return and check out books.

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