



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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California 93103
966-4836

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Saturday May 20 SPRING BOAT TRIP: We have chartered the "Hurricane" for a trip to Santa Cruz Island where we will cruise along some of the shore. Departure time is 7:00 AM from the dock by the Harbormaster's office. Take lunch. Coffee is provided on the boat. Checks for \$9.00 each, payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, should be sent to Bob Prickett, 120 N. La Cumbre Road, Apt. 13, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93110. Leader: Bob Prickett.

Saturday June 3 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC: Toro Canyon Park
Meet at 3:00 PM for birding and/or socializing. Dinner at approximately 5:00 PM.

MENU

Red Wine
Charbroiled steak
Tossed Green Salad

Antipasto Tray

Sweet Cider
Ranch-style Beans
Hot French Bread

Cake -- Coffee

PRICE: \$2.50 per person. Bring own table service (cup, plate, silverware). Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. and mail with number of dinner reservations required to: Joy Parkinson 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA. 93017. (If you wish to join us but would prefer to bring your own picnic you are most welcome to do so.)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, May 30. Earlier reservations would be appreciated to help us plan ahead.

Wednesday June 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: 7:30 PM Junior Dept. at the Museum of Natural History. All members are welcome.

There will be some local birding trips this summer. Please watch the News-Press for an announcement, or call the Junior Department at the Museum of Natural History. Dave Cosby will probably be working with Audubon's Les Cook to provide some birding activities.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

History is replete with examples of man's inhumanity to man. Forgetting killing in self defense and other brutalities short of death such as chopping off of hands to stop stealing, death itself has been inflicted by society by many methods of torture including drowning, which in fact is suffocation. As our affluence and relative ease of survival have interdicted demands for death except for the gravest of

President's Message Continued

crimes (and even this seems on the way out) we have seen, particularly in recent decades, a sympathetic appreciation of the plight of many non-human animals which have suffered at the hands of man. Wildlife sanctuaries established by our government, such as the condor sanctuaries locally as well as many others of the National Audubon Society, reflect this concern of society. Increasing protective legislation such as California State Senate Bill 1177 for wildlife protection now being considered further reflect that concern.

While the whaling industry would no longer openly kill a whale calf to attract a frenzied mother within harpoon range, or orphan a calf by the thoughtless killing of a lactating female, such activities are dwarfed by the insensitive methods of the tuna fishing industry today.

As schools of dolphins and porpoises run with schools of tuna in following their respective niches on this planet they are trapped in the nets of tuna fishermen where they are of course unable to reach the surface to breathe. Death, of course, results by drowning. Lest one salve one's conscience by considering this a minor occurrence please reconsider. Not ten or 100 or 1000 but in excess of 200,000 of these warm blooded, air breathing mammals die annually as a by product of our demands for tuna. No effective legislation exists and none is in sight.

Consider again the next time you consume a tuna salad or sandwich.

This particular message has been bothering me too long. The next one should be more pleasant.

Jim Mills

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BIRD NOTES

April and May are the months of spring migration. To date the water bird migration has been above par and the land bird migration below normal.

From shore in Santa Barbara flocks of migrating Loons, Black Brant, Phalaropes, and Bonaparte's Gulls were seen throughout April. Many groups of 20-30 Surfbirds and lesser numbers of Black & Ruddy Turnstones and Wandering Tattlers were seen on rocky areas such as the harbor breakwater and Goleta Point. A few Red Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaegers, and Least Terns were seen in the area of the harbor.

The land bird migration has been poor so far. While all the regular western migrants have been present; numbers of some have been low. The twelve western warblers have all been seen, but some, such as Yellow, have been relatively scarce.

Banding has provided much information on the relative abundance of the Empidonax flycatchers. Banding in San Diego has shown that the ratio of Western to Hammond's is roughly 2:1. The break down on 4 Empidonax banded this spring along the edge of the Goleta Slough is as follows: 2 Traill's, 1 Hammond's and 1 Western. An additional Hammond's/Dusky type flycatcher was seen there.

Calliope Hummingbirds are more common along the coast than most people realize. 4 have been netted or seen in Goleta in the last two weeks, 2 are in a yard near the municipal tennis courts, and 1 has been in the Botanic Garden. An adult male American Redstart on the Rancho Dos Pueblos property April 22 was undoubtedly the one there in December.

By far the best bird of the spring migration was a singing male Hooded Warbler found by Waldo Abbott on the grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The bird could not be relocated later (if it was, please let me know at 687-8168). There are only 10-12 records for Hooded Warbler in the state, only one of which was local (Goleta Sewage Plant, May 29, 1970).

Richard Webster

FIELD TRIP NOTES

On Saturday, April 15, about 25 members and guests gathered at the entrance to Big Sycamore Canyon in the Point Mugu State Recreational Area. We were greeted by Nancy Geary and little son, who walked with us up the creek a short distance to where Ranger Jim Geary was on duty at a camp site.

The sky was clear and weather warm and calm. Many Orioles were busy nest building in the Sycamores. Bird songs were constantly within ear shot. After an early bag-lunch at the old cattle loading chute, the party divided. Some went on to the old rock quarry while others birded their way back to the cars.

About 50 bird species were recorded in the canyon and another 22 species were seen en route.

Ruth Parker (leader)

Manzana Creek trip, Sunday, April 30

Eighteen birders gave up an hour's sleep to enjoy a trip we have not taken in several years. A short hike into the San Rafael Wilderness rewarded us with the sight of a Raven being harassed by a Cooper's Hawk, and three beautiful Lazuli Buntings drinking from the stream. After lunch at Nira campground we backtracked to Davy Brown and hiked up the cool, shady Davy Brown Trail. Nesting Wrens were everywhere. ^{the} Western Tanagers, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks were more colorful and melodic of the 63 species recorded. Everyone agreed that we should make this trip more often.....maybe an overnight camp out ???

"Fearless Leader" (Joy)

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ASILOMAR CONFERENCE

"Golden Opportunities in Conservation" was the theme of the NAS Western Regional Conference at Asilomar, March 25-28. An interesting innovation was that the speakers at the main morning session were all representatives of Federal and State agencies; then, in the afternoon, "rap" sessions were held giving conferees an opportunity to question the speakers directly.

There was a faint note of hope at the conference. Agency representatives appear to be listening more to environmentalists. (Whether or not they act on suggestions made remains to be seen. Public agencies are created to serve the public, and need to be reminded of this fact from time to time).

One remark made by several speakers was that, usually, the only people these agencies hear from initially are developers, etc. Only after the permits are granted for building and development, stream channelization or whatever, do the conservationists "get into the act". They emphasized that it is important for us to be ever alert at the local level, to know what is being proposed by our local governing bodies and to let them know our wishes. (This remark drew some wry and bitter smiles from many in the audience.)

There are opportunities, however, and we must take advantage of them. As Roland Clement stated in his address to the Conference, "Man is Nature made aware of itself." Only Man is aware of his total environment and can foresee, if only dimly, the possible consequence of his actions. We have to keep trying.

Joy Parkinson

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

I've just returned from a meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which the General Plan was discussed. Note: this matter will be on the agenda again on Tues. May 30 (Mon. is a holiday) at 2:00 PM. This is to give all interested parties time in which to study the 10-page commentary provided by the County legal staff. It is a complicated matter, and a most important one. In essence, are we to have a plan for land use that will be adhered to? or it going to be so disregarded that it might as well not exist? Such a Plan needs periodic reassessment, with an opportunity for all to comment on it; in between such re-evaluations, the Plan should be a respected guide to all land use decisions, and the general public must have confidence that it will be treated as THE guide, protecting the quality of life in the county.

My thanks to Dorothea Fox, Maureen Jarrell, and Tomi Sollen, who staffed our exhibit on Sat. at the Bikecology Environmental Fair in De La Guerra Plaza. The location was not such as to attract the attention of most shoppers, and perhaps such events are no longer of much interest; through the various media the public is informed of environmental issues. The need now is for ACTION.

As for action----is Prop. 9 the right kind of action? As you know, the Audubon Western Regional Office does not support Prop. 9; the Board of the Sierra Club took no stand. I read with great interest Ellen Stern Harris' column in the L.A. Times Sunday, May 7, Sec. I, p. 16). She suggests that the puzzled voter might wish to get a copy of AN IMPARTIAL IN DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT ACT by T. V. Tung; \$1.25 from Del Mar Publishers, 429 Carolina Rd., Del Mar, CA 92014. (The Ecology Center will soon have a copy in their library.)

We thank the Bellamys, Terence and Nancy, for a gift of \$10.00 to our library. The money was given some time ago, but your delinquent librarian has not spent it yet. Perhaps if there is a lull in activity this summer she will do so, or, better yet, the spending of such munificence could be the pleasurable duty of your new librarian.

During this last month Pres and I had a treat----3 days of birding in Puerto Rico! We saw 25 "lifers"! which is rather a thrill, to say nothing of the general interest afforded by a new land, new flora and fauna. The tiny tody was especially enchanting, but the blue-hooded euphonia (its mellifluous name delighted me) eluded us. So we will have to return to the Caribbean someday.

The once-numerous Puerto Rican parrot now numbers less than 15 birds and is headed for extinction within this decade, according to a report received by the World Wildlife Fund in Morges, Switzerland. The report was made by Dr. Cameron B. Kepler, of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md. The only known captive pair of this parrot breed has been taken to the Patuxent center in the hope that they will reproduce. L.A. Times, Tues, May 9.

The 1972 BRITANNICA BOOK OF THE YEAR has feature articles on: The future of American cities, p. 182; Nuclear power---promise or peril? p. 321; Automobiles of the future, p. 372; Population growth and America's future, p. 567.

BINOCULARS. The need for binoculars for children, beginners at birding, guests, etc. continues. Have you old ones you no longer use? Or can you give Blue Chip Stamps? Please call Les Cook, 963-4501.

In the Junior Dept. at the Museum, I met a delightful baby Tecolote that had been brought in that morning, in a state of shock (it had fallen from its nest, was cold and hungry). It was being given "intensive care". All eyes and beak and fluff it was; I hope it will thrive and grow.

Fifi Webster

BIRD OF THE MONTH

The YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE is on exhibit at the Santa Barbara Public Library in the Music and Art Department.

The Yellow-billed Magpie is a California resident ranging from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and east of the Coastal Range south to the Santa Ynez Valley. No other bird, except the Black-billed species which is rarely seen west of the Sierra, has a tail longer than the body.

Margaret Bolduan

From AUDUBON CONSERVATION TOPICS, WEST---April 1972

KEEPING POSTED --STATE

Identical bills---AB 200 (Sieroty), SB 100 (Grunsky) on Coastal Protection. Unless there is prompt groundswell of support from the public, the Coastal Alliance reports these bills will be lost.

AB 1561 (Z'berg)---makes it unlawful to cause or permit the existence of oil sumps into which wildlife may enter.

"A recent investigation into the oil field operations in the southern San Joaquin Valley shows that at least 35,000 waterfowl are killed annually in 'oil sumps' located at oil production facilities. This represents more than a third of the migratory waterfowl population using this area as part of their flyway."

Aside from waterfowl and mammal losses, the estimate of songbird fatalities may number into the hundreds of thousands.

SB 107 (Behr)---Wild River Protection---establishes the California Wild and Scenic River System to include the Klamath, Trinity, Smith, American, and Eel Rivers.

SB 1177 (Behr)---Predator Control---enacts the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. This will revise and restate provisions relating to predator control, prohibit the use of designated chemicals for predator control, provide for fines or imprisonment for violations, prohibit the use of saw-toothed or spiked-jaw traps to take any mammal or bird, and prohibit authorizing or offering to pay a bounty for any bird or mammal.

KEEPING POSTED -- LOCAL

Monday, May 15 and May 22. The last two sessions of the forum LAST CALL FOR SANTA BARBARA: A GOOD LIFE OR MEGALOPOLIS? 7:30-9:30 PM, Planning Commission Chambers, County Administration Bldg., 123 E. Anapamu. Free.

Tuesday, May 30. Board of Supervisors on the General Plan. 2:00 PM

Monday, June 5. The Army Corps of Engineers has presented eight flood control designs for Mission Creek that will be discussed at the meeting of the city's Environmental Quality Advisory Board. 7:30 PM City Hall.

Monday, May 15. The Ventura City Council will meet at 7:30 PM to determine if the Ventura River will be channelized by the construction of a rock levee; if a new freeway interchange will be constructed in the Ventura River flood plain and if an Assessment District will be formed to provide water and sewers for 115 acres of the flood plain which will: a. Open the area for highway-oriented development; b. Threaten HOBOJUNGLE and the nearby lagoon; c. Virtually guarantee eventual concrete channelization of the Ventura River.

John Borneman, condor naturalist for the Audubon Society, has joined the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County in opposing the project. Wildlife habitats, including HOBO JUNGLE of local fame and a nearby lagoon, will be destroyed, Borneman and the coalition assert.

OPERATION NATURE GUIDE DIRECTORY received from Tahoma Audubon Society, 34915- 4th So. Federal Way, Washington 98002.

Operation Nature Guide is people serving each other as knowledgeable guides -- each in his own habitat.

Participants share their time and enthusiasms for birds with travelers visiting their areas. Some Auduboners, however, are interested in other fields as well and we are listing some of these.

(Audubon Societies listed by cities: Arizona, Tucson; California, Chico, Thousand Oaks, Fresno, Berkeley, Santa Rosa, Los Osos (Morro Bay), Oroville, Pasadena, Eureka, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Fernando Valley, Costa, Stockton, Whittier; Colorado, Colorado Springs; Hawaii, Honolulu; Montana, Billings, Bozeman; Oregon, Westfir, Portland, Medford, Salem; Washington, Seattle, Spokane, Federal Way, Yakima; Wyoming, Sheridan, Casper.)

Tomi Sollen

NOMINATIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The nominating committee (Les Cook, Jim Mills and Tomi Sollen) propose the following slate for Board of Directors:

Michael Fishbein, June Gardner, Desmond Jones*, Bob Kasson*, Seybert Kinsell, Helen O'Reilly, Virginia Puddicombe, Elizabeth Russell, Brad Schram, Tomi Sollen*, and Tim Whitehouse*. (The *asterisk indicates holdovers).

Election will be at the June meeting, at which time nominations may be made from the floor. Retiring: Phil Archenbromm, Margaret Bolduan, George Imboden, Jim Mills, Alice Rypins, Bill Ure and Fifi Webster.

EL TECOLOTE
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WILDLIFE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Santa Barbara County Wildlife Protection Committee is open to all interested citizens. Its purpose is the protection of wildlife, especially the much maligned and misunderstood predators. The Committee has the support of several conservation organizations. Members are asked to write letters to legislators, etc. when informed of legislation pertaining to wildlife protection and to attend occasional hearings.

The present priority of SBCWPC is to try to persuade the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to terminate its annual agreement with the Federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and undertake a County program of control.

Investigation has shown that counties conducting their own control programs effect a considerable saving in both wildlife and taxpayers' money. For example: In 1965-66 in Santa Barbara County, 836 animals were trapped under the Federal program while in San Luis Obispo County, 36 animals were trapped under a county-controlled program. The annual cost of the program in Santa Barbara County is over \$30,000; San Luis Obispo's costs run between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per year. Ventura County also conducts its own control program.

On April 17, 1972, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors considered a request from the Agricultural Commissioner for a continuation of the cooperative agreement for predator control.

Present in support of the program as it now stands were Thomas E. Nichols, Sacramento, Assistant State Supervisor, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Division of Wildlife Services; Riley D. Patterson, Bakersfield, District Supervisor; Dr. Joseph T. Nardo, County Health Officer; Graydon B. Hall, Jr., S.B. County Agricultural Commissioner; Roger W. Allen, Deputy Commissioner; Lamar Johnson, Cuyama area; William Chamberlin, Cattlemen's Association; and Roy Smith, Los Alamos.

Letters in opposition to the execution of the contract were received from: Carpinteria Conservation Society; Santa Barbara County Wildlife Protection Committee; Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club; Mrs. Anna Laura Meyers; and Ian McMillan.

There was also a communication from Dr. & Mrs. Richard Page who felt that the Federal program is unwarranted and that the County could exercise more accurate control, thus saving taxpayers' costs and reducing the number of wildlife destroyed.

At the request of SBCWPC, Mr. Everett H. Black, Director of Animal Control in Ventura County, wrote to S.B. Co. Board of Supervisors explaining how Ventura County conducts its own program and stating that Ventura's program provides good service to the general public. (The program includes relocating some of the animals).

Space does not permit a detailed report on the testimony presented, but briefly:

All of the agency representatives insisted that the present program was necessary to control rabies and protect livestock. The Federal program has no lasting effect on the local environment. Trapping is done only after investigation and only if it seems justified. However, the work needs two full time and one part time field men, as one man could not possibly handle the work load (as is the case in Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties under county control). Only the most humane methods are used.

The ranchers claimed that the program was necessary to protect livestock. One rancher stated that the trapper caught 40 coyotes in 30 days on his ranch, and has been asked to come back every year. However, he only uses the trapping service during calving season.

Representing Santa Barbara County Wildlife Protection Committee, Joy Parkinson pointed out that in 1969-70 there were 133 requests for trapping services resulting in the trapping of 874 animals (an average of 6 to 7 animals per request). She suggested that the County obtain the "Hunters Weekly Itinerary and Report of Activities", to determine which ranchers make these requests and what is the value of the livestock loss. Since over \$30,000 of taxpayers' money (40% County funds, 40% State funds, 20% Federal funds) is being considered to destroy these animals, the Board should obtain information to determine whether or not too much money is being spent on this program before signing the contract.

On the subject of the rabies threat, Mrs. Parkinson pointed out that, according to State Health Department figures, in 1969 in California, a state comprising 158,693 square miles, there were only 321 cases of rabies reported: 19 domestic animals; 241 skunk; 46 bat; 8 fox; 3 bobcat; 1 opossum; 2 coyote; and 1 raccoon. (None of these animals was found in Santa Barbara County. There were 5 skunk in San Luis Obispo, and 8 skunk and 1 bat in Ventura counties).

E.D. (Gene) Marshall of Ventura and Carpinteria spoke in support of SBCWPC and asked for a public hearing. He stated that he had been instrumental in eliminating the Federal program in Ventura County.

William Cooper, Lompoc Valley rancher, disagreed with the comments of the other ranchers present and said he thought they were "Hysterical at times" about predators. He has been running cattle for years around a lot of wild animals and, to his knowledge, has never lost a calf because of the coyotes. He felt that they do more good than harm by destroying the "real pests". "Raccoons and foxes are beautiful animals and should not be killed", he said.

The Board voted unanimously to refer the matter to Raymond D. Johnson, County Administrative Officer, for budget consideration, and instructed him to request further information on trappers' activities from Malcolm M. Allison, State Supervisor, BSWF, Sacramento, for report back to the Board on June 12, 1972.

The Board also stated that it would welcome further information and correspondence on the subject.

Since Mr. Johnson has to compile all information received into a recommendation to the Board by June 12, he has requested that all correspondence be addressed to him:

Raymond D. Johnson, County Administrative Officer
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

and that he receive it no later than May 25, 1972.

It is important that everyone who can do so express their opinion on this matter. Further information and figures may be obtained from Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. Telephone: 967-9371.

Let your elected officials know how you feel.

Thank you,

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WILDLIFE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

NOTE: Anyone who would like to join the Committee in their fight to protect our priceless wildlife heritage may do so by notifying Joy Parkinson, address and phone above.