



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Fifi Webster  
179 Canon Dr.  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105  
687-8168

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

August 27

Sunday

MT. PINOS. All day, 2 miles walking.

Meet at Museum of Natural History parking lot at 6:30 AM or at the Ojai Shopping Center (intersection of Highway 150 and 33) at 7:30 AM. Route: Highway 101 south to Highway 33, left to Ojai, over Pine Mountain Summit to Lockwood Ozena Road, right to Lake of the Woods. Left through Cuddy Valley to Mt. Pinos campground where we will stop for birding. Regroup for assault on the peak. Condors seldom are in flight before 10:00 AM. We should see among other things Green-tailed Towhees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pygmy Nuthatches, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain Bluebirds, Mountain Chickadees and Cassin's Finches.

Suggested driver donation \$3.25 from Santa Barbara, \$2.00 from Ojai.

Leaders: Ruth Parker and  
Beryl Moore

Sept. 9  
Saturday

SANTA CLARA ESTUARY-McGRATH PARK. 2 miles walking

Meet at the Museum of Natural History at 7:30 AM or at Seward off ramp Standard Oil station at 8:15 AM. Take lunch. Here we should see an excellent assortment, including hordes of shore birds, Terns, Gulls, Jaegers, White-faced Ibis, Kites and Phalaropes. Suggested driver donation \$1.00.

Leader: Nelson Metcalf

Sept. 16  
Saturday

BIRD REFUGE - HARBOR: Half-day trip. Meet at Bird Refuge at 8:30 AM.

This area always affords excellent views of shore birds and water birds.

Leader: Les Cook.

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EL TECOLOTE: deadline for material for next issue - Thursday, August 31  
Bring or mail to: Mrs. T.P. Webster, 179 Canon Dr., S.B. 93105

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Les Cook has joined Lee Waian and Frank Trimble on Adult Education's team of expert instructors on "The Common Birds of Santa Barbara".

Les will conduct his classes in the field on Wednesdays, 9-11 AM during the fall. The morning walks will cover field identification with emphasis on calls and songs. If you would like to attend these outdoor classes, call the Continuing Education Division at 962-8144 for information on dates and meeting places.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

San Roque Canyon, June 24. Twenty-seven birders, under the leadership of Florence Sanchez, spotted 44 species of birds. Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Pygmy Owl and Purple Martin were among the most interesting of the sightings.

On July 15, Helen and Dick O'Reilly led a group of 14 birders to Figueroa Mountain and Happy Canyon. The 46 species recorded included Pygmy Owl, MacGillivray's Warbler, Purple Martin and Brown Creeper.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Officers for 1972-1973 chosen by the Board of Directors at their June meeting:

President:	Tomi Sollen
Vice-President	Virginia Puddicombe
Secretary:	Timothy Whitehouse
Treasurer:	Wales Holbrook

The following committee chairmen were selected: Program--Desmond Jones; Conservation--Michael Fishbein and Bob Kasson; Field Trip--Les Cook and Joy Parkinson; Editor--Fifi Webster and assistant, Doris Hughes; Mailing--Virginia Puddicombe, temporary; Membership--Minna Smith; Bird Exhibit--Margaret Bolduan; Librarian--Priscilla Pearce, Audrey Ingelsen and sons; Refreshment--Irma Cooke.

Les Cook and Joy Parkinson plan an active birding schedule this coming year and will need your cooperation. Minna Smith is keeping the membership list up to date, as well as taking care of the mailing labels. Each month the bird exhibit committee prepares a fine display for the public library. The Society purchased some beautifully mounted birds from Dave Chapple for the committee's use. The family librarians volunteered their services at the annual picnic and will be on hand before each meeting in the Junior Library.

Our conservation chairmen, Mike Fishbein and Bob Kasson attended the Southern California Regional meeting of the Audubon Society at Pomona. Mike checked on the fence on the Goleta Slough with airport manager, Mr. Bob Sheker. Do not cross the fence or you will be subject to a fine. Organized field trips will be planned as they must be approved by Mr. Sheker.

The Bird Refuge, which is in dire need of water, aeration, and cleaning up of algae, bread, dead birds, etc. has been of major concern to us. Mike has discussed its problems with some city officials. If and when sufficient data warrants action, Mike will let us know. Bob Kasson and Jim Mills are watching the proceedings by the Forest Service on the Wilderness Areas in Santa Barbara county.

The Save East Beach group, now called Save Santa Barbara, needs our active support. The following committees need volunteers: mailing, plus a typist for mailing labels, a historian, field trip leaders, speakers for the schools, and people to provide refreshments for meetings.

Tomi Sollen

## BIRD NOTES

The official Christmas Count results were at long last released by the National Audubon Society. Santa Barbara placed second in the nation in total species with 202. Freeport, Texas was first with a record setting 226 while Pt. Reyes, Calif. placed third with 200. Bill Ure's tremendous organizational efforts brought out 97 observers for the count. This placed Santa Barbara sixth in the nation in participants.

Santa Barbara had the highest count of individuals for ten species and was tied for first for another. The high counts were as follows: Whimbrel, 47; Elegant Tern, 2; Anna's Hummingbird, 952; Acorn Woodpecker, 548; Scrub Jay, 977; Plain Titmouse, 285; Common Bushtit, 1501; Hooded Oriole, 4; Bullock's Oriole, 11; Brown Towhee, 804; and Black-headed Grosbeak, 1 (tied with seven other counts). Santa Barbara had more Anna's Hummingbirds, Scrub Jays, Plain Titmice, and Common Bushtits last year than any count had ever had before.

The Sespe Wildlife Area Christmas count recorded 107 species and was first in the nation in counts of California Condor (10) and Violet-green Swallow (44).

The usual northward post-breeding dispersal of birds has brought many Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, and Elegant Terns to the beaches. A small number of Least Tern families have arrived on the harbor sandspit.

The most exciting birds along the coast have been the Magnificent Frigatebirds. The first report of one was a bird over the harbor July 9. There have been twelve other individuals since then. Eight different birds were seen August 3-4 along the coasts of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The four together at the harbor on the evening of August 3 were the most ever seen together in the state.

The month of August should bring good birding to the coastal marshes and sloughs. Webster's hot tip for the month is the Santa Clara River Estuary. A field trip is planned for this area and it should be good birding there into mid October. A pleasant way to spend any August day is Condor watching on Mr. Pinos.

Unquestionably the most interesting place in the state this year has been the Salton Sea. Fairly common birds there in the summer include Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Fulvous Tree Duck, Wood Stork, Yellow-legged Gull (almost certainly a different species from the Western Gull), Laughing Gull, and Gull-billed Tern.

Some of the rarer species around this year include several sightings of Frigatebirds, over 40 Blue-footed Boobies, 2 Brown Boobies, 1 Little Blue Heron, 1 Reddish Egret, 7 Roseate Spoonbills, 2 Black-bellied Tree Ducks, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 22 Stilt Sandpipers, 23 Black Skimmers (including 3 breeding pairs), and 4 Franklin's Gulls.

Richard Webster

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DO GO SEE OUR HANDSOME SCREECH OWL EXHIBIT IN ART ROOM OF THE LIBRARY.

FEATHERS FROM FIFI'S DESK

We have very close ties with the Museum of Natural History. Its new Director, Dr. Dennis Power, writes to us of the need for volunteers to assist the Museum staff. "We especially need help in our new Museum Book and Gift shop, and can always use assistance in curatorial duties. The work can be quite interesting for those with a special interest in natural history. Volunteers may contact Miss Debbie Hughey in the Front Office." Be sure to visit the expanded Shop; it would be a pleasant place to work, and has many items of interest for the shopper.

The Garden Guild, which makes things to be sold for the benefit of the Botanic Garden, welcomes contributions of seeds, pods, and dried plant material (only if in good condition!). Please let me know if you have anything that might be useful (or perhaps bring it to me at meetings). Be sure to visit the Kiosk in the Garden, as well as the Shop; some delightful birds are being made from assorted pods, etc. Species you've not seen elsewhere!

"TODAY'S ACTION: TOMORROW'S PROFIT An Alternative Approach to Community Development. A review of the multiple crises facing the South Coast of Santa Barbara County and a proposal for their resolution. A special report on a citizens' symposium held at Santa Barbara, May 1-22, 1972". Published by the Community Environmental Council, Inc. \$2.00; available at Ecology Center, 15 W. Anapamu. As one of the authors, I naturally recommend this to you!

Be sure to watch the newspaper (Adult Education Supplement) for information about a symposium to be given Sept-Oct. on the extremely important topic of WATER.

YOUTH EDUCATION. I need to know who would like to speak to school classes; on which topics (birds, conservation issues), and to which age groups; I have consented to be liaison between the school system and Audubon, so that our resources can be utilized. Something we need: a program of slides of birds, with scripts (could use several, according to age of audience). This is a challenging project; who will help?

Volunteer Questionnaire. We have decided not to mail this out with the bulletin, as so few are returned. (Save paper). Instead these will be handed to those members who attend the Friday evening meetings. Needless to say, if you wish to help S B Audubon in any way, you have only to pick up the phone and call Tomi: 966-4836.

If you have ever thought that it could be interesting to be in charge of a small monthly bulletin, let me know: I am a reluctant editor and will gladly share this privilege with you! I could not say "NO" to Tomi, but I have been meeting this deadline for 3 years.....There are some good new hard workers in S B Audubon, but we need more!

Fifi Webster

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John Borneman writes to thank us all for his fine new binoculars, says he can tell a condor from a turkey vulture with them! and Marjorie Cappiello thanks SBAS for its scholarship to attend the Conservation workshop at UCSB; she knows that her study of rocks and minerals will be helpful to her in her teaching.



## PARTING THOUGHTS FROM YOUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

As my term in office ends I find myself with mixed feelings; there has been much satisfaction in working with your Board of Directors, and with others of you individually. The helpfulness of so many has been a source of great pleasure to me. Disappointment with the "limbo" status of our remnant wetlands, the Goleta Slough, and the foreboding future of open-pit mining in Los Padres National Forest, are debits balanced by our many positive accomplishments in the environmental and educational spheres on the local scene.

Public support of such endeavors is reflected in the growth of our Chapter to over 800 members. Some people have questioned me regarding our achievements in the conservation field. It might not be amiss here to assess our moderate methods. Timidity forms no part of this approach. Our restraint is dictated by the terms of our tax deductibility. Pending the passage of such bills as the original version of HR 13720, which would allow organizations such as ours to participate more fully in legislative solutions to problems facing us, we must be restrained in our efforts to influence legislation.

The main thrust of our efforts has been other than legislative. National Audubon supports some forty wildlife sanctuaries. These are critically dependent upon the maintenance of our tax deductibility. Other organizations of different scope exist to play more active roles in some of those fields where we hold back; I hope that our members support them also. Such groups as the Sierra Club on the national scene, and the Scenic Shoreline Preservation Conference and Santa Barbara Citizens for Environmental Defense locally, merit our support.

For the immediate future, a matter of concern is the inclusion of an area comprising the upper Indian, Alamar and Mono Creeks with Madulce Peak as a possible addition to classified wilderness. There is reason to hope that this will be accomplished. Such efforts, reflecting the concerned stewardship of individuals and organizations such as ours for generations yet to be born, rather than a short-sighted and exploitative approach, are what make working for the Audubon cause an experience that I value.

I expect that your new president, Tomi Sollen, will also enjoy your energetic support.

With my thanks and best wishes,

Jim Mills.

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## GOO RUMMAGE SALE

Get Oil Out, Inc. plans a rummage sale on Saturday, September 16 to raise funds for its continuing fight.

If you have anything to donate it will be gratefully accepted at the GOO office, 111 E. De la Guerra St., Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

If you are unable to deliver your donations in person, or if you have bulky items, such as furniture or appliances you would like to contribute, please call Hilda Volkman, 967-4706 and a pickup will be arranged.