



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sept. 16
Saturday

BIRD REFUGE - HARBOR: Half day trip. Meet at Bird Refuge at 8:30 a.m. This area always affords excellent views of shorebirds and water birds.

Leader: Les Cook, 963-4501

Sept. 29
Friday

***REGULAR MEETING:** 8 p.m. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Students from the environmental studies department of UCSB have prepared an audio-visual program on the Black Mesa and the Four Corners area of the Southwestern desert. It is called "Power From The Desert: An Environmental Case Study." The students, led by Penelope Campbell and Barry Schuyler studied the area in seminar for a quarter and then spent their spring vacation in the Four Corners region seeing the matter at first hand. They talked to Hopi and Navaho Indians, local and state politicians, environmentalists, power company officials, Black Mesa defense fund members, and others. It was thought that an academic group like this could move with intelligence through an emotion-filled scene. This report is the result of their work.

Oct. 1
Sunday

GOLETA SLOUGH - DEVEREUX SLOUGH: All day. Meet at 9 a.m. at Goleta Beach State Park. Slough and adjoining areas provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring lunch and scopes.

Leader: Mike Fishbein, 966-6954

Oct. 14-15
Sat. - Sun.

IMPERIAL BEACH - TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY: Meet at Oscar's Restaurant in Imperial Beach at 7 a.m. The restaurant is on State Route 75 at 13th Street, west of Highway 101. A nearby motel is the Imperial Beach Travelodge. This area attracts stray migrants that are seldom seen on the West Coast. Suggested driver donation \$8.00. Take lunch for 2 days. Ruth Stalnaker, past president of San Diego Audubon will help lead. Leaders: Les Cook and Nelson Metcalf. Call Les Cook at 963-4501, or Joy Parkinson at 967-9371 if you plan to go.

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EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for material for next issue: Sunday, 1 October.
Bring or mail to: Miss Lou Dartanner, 5546 Cathedral Oaks Road,
Santa Barbara 93111, or call 967-4859.

*Note that the regular meeting is on the 5th Friday of the month this month.
It is normally on the 4th Friday.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new board welcomes new and old members, and hope you will take part in our programs and volunteer when called upon.

Fortunately, the Bear Creek brush fire just touched the area of the Sespe Condor Refuge. Our condor naturalist, John Borneman, kept a close watch over the area. Waldo Abbott assured us that the young would have been old enough to fly. But the area is still in danger. Secretary of Interior Rogers Morton, recently stated in Los Angeles that he will probably approve the open pit phosphate mining project in Los Padres National Forest. Congressman Charles Teague is strongly opposed to the project.

Recently, condors have been sighted over Santa Barbara.

The Bird Refuge, under the Park Department, needs help. Mayor Firestone has appointed a committee of city officials to submit a report to the City Council for ways and means to correct the problems of stagnation and putrefaction. Let's hope they will decide soon.

Dorothy Martone has been faithfully attending the meetings of the "Save Santa Barbara committee" for the Audubon Society.

We have a new editor, Lou Dartanner, who answered Fifi's appeal for an editor. Send material to her by date requested.

The Board decided to utilize a professional mailing service for the El Tecolote. The committee will assemble and staple and the service will complete the process. This is not progress for conservation, just volume over volunteers.

Bill Ure has agreed once again to undertake the tremendous task of organizing the Christmas Bird count. Sy Kinsell will assist this year and has agreed to undertake it next year.

BIRD NOTES

The fall migration will probably be early this year. A number of warblers (mostly Orange-Crowned, Yellow, and Wilson's) started moving in early August. By the middle of the month many Pewees and occasional Olive-Sided Flycatchers were seen throughout the Santa Barbara region. By the end of the month there were a few Traill's Flycatchers and MacGillivray's Warblers along the coast.

Thousands of Sooty Shearwaters have been seen off the coast during the last week of August. Over 140,000 were estimated between Ventura and Goleta on August 28. Thousands were still offshore on September 3. Many observers have commented on the abundance of Brown Pelicans along the coast. It should be noted that the large number of juveniles does not necessarily mean increased breeding success and may be explained by a larger than normal northward post-breeding dispersal from breeding colonies in Mexico.

A single Golden Plover (*fulva* race) was at the Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE) August 21. More Solitary Sandpipers have been reported than usual. In Goleta two were seen August 12, one on August 15, and two there August 31, with one still present September 1. Baird's Sandpipers have also been seen with greater regularity. Reports include three in the Goleta Sewage Plant August 11, eight there August 12, and three still there August 17. One was at the SCRE August 21. A few oiled Red Phalaropes have been seen along the coast.

BIRD NOTES (Cont)

Parasitic Jaegers are regular along the coast in limited numbers in August and September. There have been numerous reports from places like Santa Barbara harbor and Goleta State Beach Park. Five were seen at SCRE on August 28. Two Black Tern reports include one at SCRE August 21 and two in Goleta September 1.

Three Black Skimmers (1 male, 2 females) at SCRE on August 13 were new for the area. They were found the preceding week by L.A. birders and were seen at least until August 15. There are only five records from the coast of California. A Xantus' Murrelet in the harbor area August 31 was probably driven there by the tropical storm off the coast of Southern California. They are very rarely reported from within sight of land.

Two Eastern Kingbirds have been reported this fall: one in Goleta August 31 and one on Ortega Hill September 3. A Dickcissel on Ortega Hill August 26-28 was the second record for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Regretably, several local birders who had heard about it failed to report it until it was way too late for anybody to see it.

NOTE: There is a "Rare Bird Alert" telephone chain. If you wish to participate, call Jan Hamber, 907-6549.

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

Scofield Park, Rattlesnake Canyon, August 12. It was an overcast day and dripping rain drops as we met at Scofield Park. Since the group was large, we split into two groups, one walking through the park with Virginia Puddicombe and the other up Rattlesnake Canyon with Bob Puddicombe, reversing birding areas around 10 a.m. 41 species were spotted despite the overcast and damp. It was a joy to hear the Canyon Wren, Olive-Sided and Ash-Throated Flycatchers, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and Shrike.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is my first endeavor in the Audubon Society, although I have been a member for several years. One thing that has amazed me is the tremendous cooperation I have received from Santa Barbara Audubon members in getting the information together for El Tecolote. I'm most grateful! And if any of you have had experience in editing a newsletter, you know it's like pulling teeth to get news input. Being fledgling birders, we get twitterpated at our backyard visitors of juvenile Scrub Jays, Mockingbirds, Acon Woodpeckers, and, of course, our families of Mourning and Spotted Doves. So, please have patience with our birding and we'll have patience with your rough drafts. And you beginning birders, don't be bashful; our experts are friendly and helpful. Keep those cards and letters coming, folks!

A FEW FINAL FEATHERS FROM FIFI

Five "F's"! For one who likes alliteration, that is quite satisfying. It is my pleasure to introduce to you our new editor, Lou Dartanner, who actually called me to volunteer to take over the job! She has had experience doing this kind of thing, and I know our EL TECOLOTE is in competent hands. I hope some time she will tell you about the search and rescue work she does; it sounds so very interesting. My thanks to Doris Hughes, who cut the stencils for the last bulletin: I can't type well and have never cut a stencil. Lou will do that, too.

In the last issue we failed to print the telephone numbers of trip leaders, and, as two of them do not live in Santa Barbara, that created problems! (I was called at 6 a.m. on Sunday. Cheers!) Usually the trip leaders do live in this area; remember that Les Cook (963-4501) and Joy Parkinson (967-9371) are Field Trip Co-Chairmen, should you need information and be unable to reach the trip leader. Try to plan ahead so that you need not make a frantic call at an inconvenient hour.

Helen Peteler called, excited about the osprey that she had seen in their canyon (and a Kingfisher, too), at the pool that has formed behind the debris dam recently constructed there.

A pristine saltwater marsh is being transferred from the Navy to the Dept. of the Interior "to assure the continued management of this area for refuge purposes." We hope President Nixon signed the bill regarding a National Wildlife Refuge within the confines of the Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach. Two species of birds on the endangered species list feed there; more than 50 species of fish spawn in the area.

Bill Downey's column in the News-Press of Sept. 3 was all about Newcastle disease, doves and pheasants. So far, all doves checked seem to be free of the disease; there is more concern about the pheasants. (Sports Section)

New book of interest: SANTA BARBARA'S STREET AND PARK TREES, by Will Beittel. Paper, color photos, maps, etc. \$4.35. Can be purchased at Museum Shop, Botanic Garden Shop, and bookstores.

The Senate Commerce Committee is considering an important pesticide bill: HR 10729. There is heavy pressure from the agri-chemical industry to defeat this.

In Mono Lake there is a Negit Island, 197 acres. It is a nesting site for thousands of birds, especially the California Gull and the Caspian Tern. This island has been declared a "natural area" by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

Remember, it is still fire season, and in spite of some gray days and an occasional sprinkle to tease us, the chaparral remains tinder dry.

Oregon's "bottle bill," due to become effective Oct. 1, has been declared valid by a Circuit Court judge. The law, the only one of its kind in the nation, requires a 5¢ deposit on most beverage cans and bottles.

MORE FEATHERS

The L.A. Times for Sunday, Sept. 3, had an article about the financial difficulties of the various environmental groups (Section E, Page 1). Interest and support have waned somewhat; the healthiest organizations are those which have managed to keep their tax exempt status. Audubon proceeds cautiously for a good reason. (Same page, article about arctic oil.)

As I zoomed up to the back door on my two-wheeler, a pigeon (Rock Dove) hurried from the spot, but did not go far. We offered food and water, noting the band on its leg, and admired its attractive colors. It seems to be with us still (at this moment, less than a week), and is able to fly. We have not yet made a serious effort to catch it to read the band number; although it is probably accustomed to being handled, we do not wish to frighten it away from a friendly place. It is as if the house sported a flag "Webster's hostelry for tired, hungry, sick, or injured birds"!

So, a fond farewell... perhaps it will be "Lines from Lou" (she asks me to pass on to her some of the interesting bits I come across in my reading). No doubt I will see you birding now and then, but these days I seem to be more involved with the flora, which was my first interest, many years ago. If there is one last message I have for you, it is this: involve yourself with local land use issues (including Prop. 20 on the Nov. ballot, re: the coastline of California). The decisions that are made concerning land use are the ones that will determine what kind of place this is (with lots of varied habitat to invite many species of birds, or not?). So often, when I work in the Information Office at the Botanic Garden, people from the "slurban" sprawl to the south of us come up to say, "What a pleasure it is to be here for a little while! Down there, it is less livable with each passing year." It is up to you.

Good birding! Fondly, Fifi.

(P.S. You can always call the Community Ecology Center, 15 W. Anapamu St., 962-2210) for information on current issues.)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New members: send application and check made to: National Audubon Society to membership chairman: Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden, Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101. The current El Tecolote will be sent to you.

Change of Address: Promptly notify membership chairman, Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden, Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101.

Non-Member Subscription to El Tecolote: Send \$1.00 per year, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., to Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden, Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101.

FROM THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Through the efforts of Forest Service and Navy Wildlife officials, the Defense Department has issued a memorandum to help protect the endangered California condor from disturbance. Army, Navy, and Air Force aircraft have been requested to avoid flying over designated areas "when at all possible" -- and when such flights can't be avoided, to reduce speed and fly at least 3000 feet above the ground.

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE
FOR 1972-1973 SEASON

Sept. 16	Bird Refuge and Harbor (half day)
Oct. 1	Goleta Slough and Devereaux Slough
Oct. 14-15	Imperial Beach and Tijuana River Valley
Oct. 22	Sandyland Slough
Oct. 28	San Roque Canyon
Nov. 4	Bird Refuge, Harbor, and Arroyo Burro Beach
Nov. 18-19	Morro Bay and Montana De Oro Park
Dec. 2-3	Carrizo Plain
Jan 13-14	Point Lobos, Monterey Bay, Moss Landing
Jan. 28	Ventura County Game Preserve
Feb. 11	Dune Lakes
Feb. 17-18- 19	Salton Sea
Mar. 3	Mission Canyon, Tunnel Road
March 10-11	Los Banos and San Luis Wildlife Refuges
Mar. 18	Steckel and Dennison Parks
Mar. 24	Tucker's Grove and Lake Los Carneros
Apr. 15	Point Mugu Recreation Area
Apr. 20-21- 22	Morongo Valley
Apr. 29	Refugio Pass
May 6	Zaca Lake
May 13	Boat trip to the islands
May 20	North County Ranch

Schedule is subject to change. Always check El Tecolote.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Be considerate of leaders and follow their suggestions. They are volunteering their time and effort to give you a pleasant experience.

Please be cooperative in sharing rides to reduce number of cars.

It is customary to offer the driver of the car in which you ride a donation of 1-1/2 cents per mile. The suggested driver donation is usually printed in the field trip information.

On some trips it may be necessary to limit the number of participants. In such cases a telephone number will be included in the trip information. PLEASE BE SURE to call if you plan to participate. This is especially important for out-of-town trips, or trips onto private property.

HAPPY BIRDING!

Christmas Bird Census

2 counts sponsored by Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Santa Barbara count

Sespe count

Sat., Dec. 16

date to be set

Organizers, Bill Ure

Organizer, Virginia

Sy Kinsell

Puddicombe

Participation: All invited. Inexperienced birders can help as recorders. Volunteers also needed to transport field parties and to prepare post-count dinner Dec. 16.

Fee: Field participants are asked to pay \$1 fee to National Audubon for cost of printing count results.

Method: Many small parties work dawn to dusk for an accurate individual and species census. Most parties have 1 or 2 experienced birders and a recorder. Larger parties are unwieldy.

Please help us plan for the count by registering early. Fill in blank below and mail to William Ure, 2310 Santa Barbara St. Santa Barbara, 93105. Or call 966-5350.

----- Tear off and return -----

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

For: Santa Barbara only ☒ Sespe only ☐ Both ☐
Dinner volunteer ☐

Santa Barbara counters: Please circle areas of preference and cross out areas you would not be willing to work.

Goleta Santa Barbara Mountains Ocean boat

Hope Ranch Paradise Valley Montecito Feeders only

* * *

Sespe counters: Circle your desired level of exertion

Rugged hiking moderate hiking little hiking

and circle preferred date

weekday before Christmas Sat. Dec. 23 weekday after Christmas

Comments: