



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Tomi Sollen, Pres.
825 N. Soledad St.
Santa Barbara, Ca 93103
966-4836

Lou Dartanner, Editor
5546 Cathedral Oaks
Santa Barbara, Ca 93111
967-4859

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 14-15 IMPERIAL BEACH-TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY: Driving time from
Sat-Sun Santa Barbara about 3-1/2 hours. Meet at restaurant near
Imperial Beach Travelodge, 7 a.m. Saturday. The motel is
at 525 State Highway 75, west of US 101. For reservations
at Travelodge call 800-255-3050 (toll free). Suggested
driver donation \$8. Take lunch for 2 days. IMPORTANT --
Call Les Cook, 963-4501, or Joy Parkinson, 967-9371 if you
plan to go.
Leaders: Les Cook and Nelson Metcalf
- Oct. 22 SANDYLAND SLOUGH: Half day trip. Meet at east end of
Sun Santa Claus Lane at 9 a.m.
Leader: Les Cook, 963-4501
- Oct. 27 REGULAR MEETING: 8 p.m. Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of
Fri Natural History. James Joslyn, doctorate student in his-
tory at UCSB will be giving an illustrated lecture entitl-
ed "History of American Attitudes Towards the Environment."
There will be a bird identification class at 7:30 p.m. in
the bird hall, led by Les Cook.
- Oct. 28 SAN ROQUE CANYON: Half day trip. Approx. 2 miles walk,
Sat. 3 hours. Meet at water treatment plant, San Roque Road,
1/4 mile above Foothill Rd. at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Doris Hughes, 965-9386
- Nov. 2 BOARD MEETING: Museum Jr. Library, 7:30 p.m. Members
Thu invited.
- Nov. 4 BIRD REFUGE - HARBOR: Half day trip. This area always
Sat affords excellent closeups of shorebirds and water birds.
Meet at Bird Refuge at 8 a.m.
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe, 682-1552
- Nov. 12 BOTANIC GARDEN: Half day trip. Meet at Botanic Garden at
Sun 8:30 a.m. for a walk along Garden trails to observe winter-
ing woodland birds.

Continued on page 2.

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EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for next issue: Sunday, 5 November. Bring or
mail to: Miss Lou Dartanner, 5546 Cathedral Oaks Road,
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93111, or call 967-4859.

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CALENDAR (CONT)

Nov. 18-19 MORRO BAY -MONTANA DE ORO: Meet at Morro Bay State Park
Sat-Sun Museum parking lot at 10 a.m. Saturday. Allow 2 hours driving time from Santa Barbara. Either camp at the Park or make your own reservations at a local motel. There is a Motel 6 at 298 Atascadero Road, Morro Bay. Tel. 805-772-8881. Take lunch for 2 days. Driver donation \$4. A fine opportunity to observe a great variety of wintering shorebirds and some inland species. Call leaders if you plan to go.

Leaders: The O'Reilly's, 684-2076

Dec. 1 REGULAR MEETING: Members' slides night. All those who
Fri have slides from summer vacations, etc., and would like to show them on this meeting night, please call Desmond Jones at 962-2407.

Dec. 2-3 CARRIZO PLAINS: Plan ahead. Sandhill Cranes, Eagles,
Sat-Sun Hawks, and many other unusual varieties. We have tentatively reserved 18 rooms at the California Valley Lodge for Saturday, Dec. 2. For information on room rates call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Pinos

The August 27 trip to Mt. Pinos was enjoyed by about 28 birders. Some 31 non-shorebird species were seen, but no Condors. Condors had been seen the day before by a Sacramento Audubon party. There was but little remaining smoke from the Sespe fire, which could have discouraged the Condors.

Sunshine, beautiful clouds, cool gusts, and later sprinkles of hail gave a variety of weather to the day. Spotted rain storms across the valley in the Topatopa Range could be seen.

A few of the more exciting birds seen were 3 kinds of Nuthatches, Green-tailed Towhees, Mountain Bluebirds, White-headed Woodpeckers, and Clark Nutcrackers.

Those who lingered on the mountain top, found a road block to Ventura due to flash flooding and were rerouted via 101 Castaic Junction. - Ruth Parker.

Goleta-Devereux Sloughs

On October 1, a group of 20 birders had a beautiful day to explore this always productive area. At Goleta Beach we were greeted by two Parasitic Jaegers on their way to harrass the many Elegant Terns that were fishing in the ocean or resting in the slough. The slough itself appears to be in good shape now that it is open to the sea. Tidal action keeps the water flowing and prevents many sections from drying out. The water is full of small fish to attract waders such as Snowy and Common Egrets (the former in good numbers) and Great Blue Herons. At Devereux Slough, where we spent the afternoon, a Whitetailed Kite and a Marsh Hawk were sighted. All told, 54 species

were counted. We thank Mr. Robert Sheker, Airport Manager, for providing a guard to escort us on airport property. - Michael Fishbein

Santa Clara River Estuary and McGrath Park

The trip to the Santa Clara River Estuary and McGrath Park on Saturday, September 9, was made by 41 members and guests. 42 water and shore species and 32 land birds were identified. Highlights of the trip were fine views of one Black Skimmer, several Black Terns and three Parasitic Jaegers that were robbing Elegant Terns of their fish. Leaders were Ruth Parker and Nelson Metcalf. - Nelson Metcalf

BIRDER'S DREAM TRIP

Here's a birder's dream trip: to see 650 to 700 species of East African birds with John Williams, author of THE guides; to travel 3 weeks in Land Rovers under Root & Leakey operation; party limited to 15 people to leave USA August 15, 1973, and return September 9.

If anyone is interested in further details, please call Alice Kladnik at 967-5209 (afternoons or evenings, please). I've recently returned from a similar trip and am high on the thought of going back. - Alice Kladnik

WILDLIFE FILMS

The Ventura Audubon Wildlife Films will be shown starting Nov. 4 at the Buena High School Auditorium, 5670 Telegraph Rd., Ventura. Color slides precede each film and start at 7 p.m. Season tickets or pay at the door. The schedule is:

Sat., Nov. 4, 1972: John Earl Taft, "The Yosemite - An Ecological Visit." Sat., Feb. 3, 1973: Robert E. Fultz, "Sky Island." Sat., Mar. 10, 1973: Jeffrey Boswell, "Wildlife Safari to Ethiopia." Sat., Apr. 4, 1973: Tom Sterling, "Twentieth Century Wilderness."

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Thanks to program chairman Desmond Jsnes for the "Black Mesa and Four Corners Area" program. Penelope Campbell filled in the audio gap extremely well. As Bob and I plan to visit the area, the slides and talk were informative and answered many questions we had in mind.

Our new editor, Lou Dartanner, edited and typed an excellent first bulletin. This one is always the most difficult as it includes the field trip schedule and the Christmas Count sheet.

We shall miss Fifi's Feathers, but hope she will continue to send Lou pertinent data and readings of interest. Call Fifi if you have a special field of interest you would like to present to school students.

On our local scene, the result of the Friends of Mammoth case will affect areas in which we are involved: Carpinteria--growth; Santa Barbara County--More Mesa and Atascadero Creek, an area of White-tailed Kites, Zaca Lake, Lake Los Caneros; Santa Barbara City--

Bird Refuge, Southern Pacific plans for East Beach; Ventura County-- Santa Paula and Mud Creeks debris basin planned by the Corps of Engineers.

And on the State level, the Coastal Initiative, I feel, needs our support.

To save the few open spaces we have left, consider our growth-oriented candidates. The birds need open spaces as much as we do.

Tomi Sollen, President

MISS YOUR COPY OF "EL TECOLOTE"?

Our new mailing service had some key punch errors and computer problems. If you missed your bulletin, call the membership chairman, Mrs. Maxim Smith, 966-7971.

NEW MEMBERS

Santa Barbara Audubon Society is happy to welcome the following new members: Mrs. Helen O'Connor Wright, 1307 Danielson Rd., Santa Barbara; Connie J. Heindahl, 289 Elwood Beach Rd., Goleta; Edith M. Geertz, 1218 San Miguel Ave., Santa Barbara; Hilda M. Compton, 21 W. Padre St., Santa Barbara; and Kevin De Waay, 820 Flora Vista Dr. Santa Barbara.

NOTES

Volunteers are needed for: 1) Mailing Chairman for El Tecolote, 2) Bird Exhibit Committee, and 3) Historian. Interested? Call Tomi Sollen.

If you have not yet completed the questionnaire on the Christmas Bird Count (last month's issue), please do so as soon as possible and return the forms to Dr. Ure.

PELICAN BANDING

The July-August issue of Outdoor California (published bi-monthly by the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game) contained an article entitled "Pelicano" by Howard R. Leach. It describes banding of Baja California brown pelicans as part of a program designed "to learn as much as possible concerning pelican biology and reproduction in general. Of particular interest was the condition of Mexican populations and their contribution to the population of birds appearing along the California coastline and up into Oregon."

If you spot a brown pelican with a colored ribbon attached to a leg, note (1) the date the pelican was seen, (2) location, (3) color of ribbon, and (4) any remarks of interest. Report the information to: Dr. Daniel W. Anderson, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box C, Davis, Calif. 95616. Collected data will augment scientific information used as a basis for "management" of this endangered species. The color of the ribbon varies with the origin of the bird: dark green, Isla San Luis; light green, Puerto Regugio; pink, Isla Piojo; orange, San Lorenzo Norte; lavender, San Pedro Martir; white, Bahia Pavillon.

Bill Gielow

SEEN AROUND TOWN

Mention of "The area" will be made in the following paragraphs. "The area" is composed of a circle, centered in Santa Barbara with a 50 mile radius as detailed in Birds of the Santa Barbara Region and "A Checklist of Birds to be Found Within Fifty Miles of the City of Santa Barbara, California." Both are publications of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Sooty Shearwaters decreased in numbers from August (when over 140,000 were seen from shore in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and over 500,000 were seen in the Morro Bay area) but were present throughout the month near shore. A Manx Shearwater was seen from shore with Sooties on Sept. 16. Elsewhere in S. Calif. this traditionally inshore species has arrived early and in large numbers. The observer visiting beach areas frequently or going a few miles offshore should have an excellent chance of seeing this small shearwater. ~~Caution should be exercised~~ when watching shearwaters from a distance as a surprising number of Sooties are partial or complete albinos.

A Magnificent Frigatebird over Devereux Slough Sept. 5 was as late as the species usually occurs. We have had a remarkable number of this rare species during the summer.

Lesser Yellowlegs and Knots, two of our less common shorebirds, were seen in small numbers during the month. A Solitary Sandpiper was in Goleta Sept. 27-Oct. 1 and represents the 5th this fall. Only 4 had been seen in the area in the past 4 years. Conversely, Pectoral Sandpipers have gone unreported with the exception of one in Goleta Sept. 5. Three Golden Plovers were also in Goleta Sept. 5.

An Eastern Kingbird was present at the Bird Refuge Sept. 18. This species has not gone unrecorded in recent falls but the three this year are more than are usually reported.

Remarkable is the only word to describe this year's invasion of mountain birds. The first Mountain Chickadee along the coast was seen on Sept. 4. Since then there have been numerous reports. Red-breasted Nuthatches made a big push along the coast Sept. 16-17 and are now fairly common in areas having many pines. Incredible are a few Pigmy Nuthatches in Hope Ranch since the end of Aug. White-headed Woodpeckers and Clark's Nutcrackers have been reported in Los Angeles and can be expected here this winter in addition to Steller's Jay.

Much of the interest in fall migration comes from the vireo and warbler migration. Warbling Vireos have been common and there have been several reports of Solitary Vireo, a relatively rare species in the fall. Noteworthy was a Red-eyed Vireo in Goleta Sept. 4. This is the second record for the area.

Yellow Warbler is the commonest warbler in Sept. with Orange-crowned and Wilson's close behind in abundance. In October Audubon's takes over as the "trash" warbler (the first Audubon's this fall was here Sept. 21). Townsend's and Hermit Warblers were here in small numbers by the 1st of Sept., which is early. MacGillivray's Warbler was less common than usual and Nashvilles were seen with greater regularity than in most falls. Very few Chats are present after the 1st of Sept. An amazingly early Myrtle was in Goleta Sept. 14.

A female Black-and-white Warbler was in the Santa Barbara Cemetery Sep. 21-23. We average one report a fall of this species. Tennessee Warbler is one of our most common vagrants or rare migrants. This year individuals have been seen in Goleta Sept. 16, 20-24, 20, & 24. An amazing total of five different Virginia's Warblers have been recorded this fall. All were in Goleta and the dates were Sept. 4, 14, 17, 20, & 22-24. While this is a larger number than should normally be recorded, this species must be more regular than the two previous area records would indicate.

A Parula Warbler, the first for our area, was in Goleta Sep. 25. This is only the fourth fall record in the last five years for Parula in So. Calif. A Magnolia Warbler along Tecolotito Creek in Goleta Sept. 20 was the third area, second fall, record. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, both female, have been seen; one in Rocky Nook Park (Sept. 14) and one in the Santa Barbara Cemetery (Sept. 21). A Blackburnian Warbler in Goleta Sept. 14 provided the 2nd area record. Blackpoll Warblers have been recorded in small numbers again this fall. One was in Goleta Sept. 16, three were there Sept. 24, and one Sept. 25. Individuals were on the Mesa Sept. 22-23 and in the Santa Barbara Sewage Plant Sept. 21.

Palm Warblers, regular vagrants, were seen in the Santa Barbara Cemetery Sept. 30, and on the Mesa Sept. 22. A Northern Waterthrush was found in Goleta Sept. 16 and remained until the 20th, thus giving the area its third fall and fifth overall record. Four American Redstarts have been found this fall. A female was in Stow Grove Sept. 23, another was in the Devereux Gardens Sept. 16, and adult males were in San Roque Canyon Sept. 16 and 23.

Two Bobolinks in the fields off Patterson Avenue make it three consecutive years that Bobolinks have been seen in Goleta. There were no previous records. An Orchard Oriole (female) in Goleta Sept. 21 was the first seen in several years. A female Summer Tanager in Goleta on Sept. 16 was also the first in several years.

An Indigo Bunting in Goleta Oct. 1 was the fourth area record. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Goleta Sept. 21 was the first on the coast in many years and the first since 1968 in the area. A Sage Sparrow was in Goleta from Sept. 24 until at least Oct. 1. They are very rare on the coast and it is possible that its presence is due to the conditions driving mountain birds to low altitudes. A Clay-colored Sparrow in Goleta Sept. 14 was the third record for the area and a Brewer's Sparrow in Santa Barbara Sept. 21 was one of the very few coastal records for the area. White-crowned Sparrows first showed in small numbers Sept. 17-18. Golden-crowned Sparrows followed a little over a week later.

September heralded the arrival of many of our wintering waterbirds. The first loons were seen migrating offshore by the end of the month. Common and Snowy Egrets made their appearances in the coastal lagoons in September with the Snowy being the first to arrive and the most common.

Most of the puddle ducks -- Mallard, Pintail, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, and Shoveler -- showed up in small numbers in Sept. They will become increasingly common in October. Diving ducks traditionally arrive in October and don't reach their peak of abundance until November.

Migrating shorebirds arrived first in early July. By the end of September the migration was well over half finished. All of the common wintering gulls and terns, with the exception of Mew Gull and Royal Tern, have arrived and will be in full numbers by the first of November.

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DO YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING SLIDES?

The regular meeting of Santa Barbara Audubon on Dec. 1 will feature slides taken by its members. If you have slides from summer vacation, etc., that you would like to show during this meeting please call Desmond Jones at 962-2407 as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New members: send application and check made to: National Audubon Society to membership chairman: Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden St., 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 St., Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101.

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

SEAL BEACH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ESTABLISHED

President Nixon has signed legislation creating a new Federal Wildlife Refuge on 700 acres of salt marsh within the US Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach, Ca. The Refuge protected the last pristine estuary on the California coast from the threats of development. The Refuge is a natural spawning and nursery area for a variety of fish. It is a feeding and nesting area for migratory shorebirds.
--Chaparral Naturalist, Claremont.