



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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November-December 1972

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Nov. 18-19  
Sat-Sun

**MORRO BAY - MONTANA DE ORO:** Meet at Morro Bay State Park 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. Suggested driver donation \$4. A fine opportunity to observe a great deal of wintering shorebirds and some inland species. Call leaders if you plan to go.

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

Dec. 1  
Fri

**REGULAR MEETING:** This is the November-December meetings combined, 8 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Tonight is our annual members' slides night. This has proven to be great fun in the past and is the occasion of our members bringing 4, 5, or more slides from their summer vacation to share with others. So far, though, only one person has promised to show his slides. If we are to have a program we need more people. These slides don't have to be of outstanding professional quality, so if you would like to join in, please call Desmond Jones at 962-2407. Please help and make this annual affair the usual success it has been.

There will be a bird identification class at 7:30 p.m. in the bird hall. Also, don't forget that the Audubon Library will be open from 7:30 to 8 p.m. for members.

Dec. 2-3  
Sat-Sun

**CARRIZO PLAINS:** Sandhill Cranes are already there! This area is rich in wildlife: Eagles, Hawks, Falcons, Mountain Plovers, Coyotes, Badgers, etc. We plan to charter a bus to eliminate the long line of cars and give everyone an equal opportunity to see the birds and animals. The bus fare is \$10 per person--for a minimum of 30 passengers. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, Ca 93017. If we are unable to fill the bus, your check will be returned and we will have to make other arrangements. We have deposited \$100 to hold 18 rooms at the California Valley Lodge. Room rates vary from \$8.40 for a single room to \$16.80 for a room for 4 persons (tax included). We must notify the Lodge of the number of guests by November 20.

**IMPORTANT!** Call 967-9371 or write Joy Parkinson if you plan to go. You can pay for your room when you arrive at the Lodge, but we MUST know how many are going so that the Lodge can release any rooms not required by our group and we can get our deposit back. The bus will leave from the Museum at 7:30 a.m. and, for Ojai-Ventura area passengers, from the shopping center at the intersection of 150 and 33 in Ojai at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch for 2 days.

## CALENDAR (CONT)

CARRIZO PLAINS (Cont): Leader: Waldo Abbott. For further information on the trip, call Joy Parkinson, 967-9371.

Dec. 7  
Thu

BOARD MEETING: This month the board meeting will be at the home of Tomi Sollen, 825 N. Soledad St., Santa Barbara. Members are always invited to attend. 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 13-14  
Sat-Sun

MONTEREY BAY, POINT LOBOS, ETC.: This is a new field trip for us. Many shorebirds and pelagic birds may be seen from Point Pinos and Point Lobos. Possibly Gray Whales and, of course, Sea Otters. A member of Monterey Audubon will assist us in finding the best places. We hope to be able to stay at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, which is comfortable, convenient, and very reasonable. Details have not yet been worked out, however. Those who would like to go on this trip should notify Joy Parkinson, 967-9371. When plans are completed a postcard will be mailed to those interested. Driver donation \$8.

Leader: Mike Fishbein 966-6954

Jan 28  
Sun

VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE: Our best one-day field trip for waterfowl, rails, shorebirds and hawks. As this is private property the trip must be limited to members and special guests. Meet at the Museum at 7:15 a.m., or at the Shell pump on Hueneme Road, just west of Highway 1, at 8:30 a.m. To reach the latter place follow Highway 1 through Oxnard and take the Hueneme Road offramp. Turn right on Hueneme Road. The pump is just that--a Shell pump NOT a Shell station. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation \$1.50.

Leader: Richard Webster 967-8168

Feb. 17-18-19  
Sat-Sun-Mon

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY TRIP TO SALTON SEA: Details in the January El Tecolote.

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### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

*San Roque Canyon: On October 28, a group of 21 birders enjoyed a beautiful morning up San Roque Canyon. The area was not as productive as usual, with only 26 species sighted, probably because of the extreme dryness. One member reported seeing a yellow-bellied sapsucker, and the whole group was treated to find flight displays by Anna's hummingbirds. Flickers and wrentits were commonly sighted. (Doris Hughes)*

*El Estero (Sandyland Slough), always providing excellent birding, was more spectacular than usual the morning of October 22 when 26 members and friends were treated to a walk down Spindrift Lane. This limited habitat produced 31 species in less than three hours. Most exciting was the remarkable and precedent setting sighting of five light phase Parasitic Jaegers in the air at one time, doing their harassing and highjacking of Forster and Elegant Terns. Notable also were excellent views of a Bittern in its classic pose and in flight. Relatively high tide meant few small sandpipers, but the larger ones were very well represented. A White-tailed Kite gave an added touch of elegance to the scene. We are indeed fortunate in being able to arrange a permit for us to visit this unique area as guests of the residents each fall. (Les Cook)*

*Bird Refuge, Harbor: 10 hearty souls appeared for the outing. After 2 abortive attempts to bird, we abandoned the refuge to the rain and adjourned to a member's house for hot coffee. (Virginia Puddicombe)*

#### NOTES

The Bird Exhibit Committee's November exhibit will be on the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. The latest news on the status of the Refuge is most encouraging. The Murphy well problem has been solved. Mr. Michael Pahos of the City Park Department has been most cooperative and his plans are underway for more water, aeration, dredging, overflow pipes leading to the ocean and planting along Cabrillo Boulevard. He would like our cooperation in capturing the domestic ducks for removal to the Humane Society. A sign will be placed at the refuge, requesting the public to leave their domestic ducks at the Humane Society.

It is gratifying to know that the U.S. Forest Service, Los Padres Forest, is undertaking the cost of retaining the essential telephone poles in the Sierra Madre Mountains for the use of birds of prey. The poles set in open fields are perfect substitutes for tall trees.

Christmas Bird Count--Last year under the leadership of Dr. William Ure, Santa Barbara Audubon Society placed second in the number of species in the U.S. This year, let's give Dr. Ure our cooperation for another successful count.

At our last program, Mr. James Joslyn presented us with slides on a historical view of the environment. Unfortunately, the group was small. It was a thoughtful program. Our Dec. 1st member's slides night will be held in the smaller Farrand Hall with a change in schedule. The social hour--coffee, tea, and cookies--will be held before the meeting, starting at 7:45 p.m. in the Junior Library. Our librarians will be there and the Bird Exhibit Committee will exhibit the mounted birds the society purchased from Mr. David Chapple.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tom Sollen

#### HOUSE FINCH ABNORMALITIES

Since Sept. 19, 1972, I have had four deformed house finches in my garden. Two males had growths on their upper legs. One female with a large growth on her leg fell out of my cottoneaster, and died within a few seconds (Oct. 3). A female with a deformed face came twice to my feeder (Oct. 23, 26). One side of her face was normal; the other was quite swollen and her eye was located very close to her beak and much lower than the normal one. If anyone has noticed deformities in this bird or has information about the cause, I would appreciate hearing from them. (Jerrie Human, P.O. Box 287, Summerland, 93067). *The Editor has also noticed house finches with growths on their legs and one with a growth on its head, however, we have had no deaths.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Sespe Christmas Count will be conducted on December 29.

EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for the next issue: Sunday, 31 December. Bring or mail to: Miss Lou Dartanner, 5546 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, Ca 93111, or call 967-4859. There is an "Audubon Box" on the front porch, so if we are not home, put your items in the box.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society is happy to welcome the following new members: Brian Glenn, 6124 Shearton Way, Goleta; Mrs. Carolyn H. Selzer, 4550 Grand Ave., Rt. 1, Ojai; and Miss Elizabeth Thacher, 4831 Thacher Rd., Ojai; Mrs. Harry E. Bronson, 1007 Virginia Ter., Santa Paula; Mrs. B. Everett, 26 W. Arrellaga; Mrs. Charles J. Rothdeutsch, 513 E. Sola St.; Mrs. John W. Stewart, 1920 Las Tunas Rd.; Gerald Rounds, 1414 Schoolhouse Rd.; Mrs. Rogers K. Butz, 998 Estrella Dr.; Dr. David Swimmer, 820 Puente Dr., all of Santa Barbara; and Arthur W. Wilson, 120 S. O St., Lompoc. Also, Linda Jaffe, UCSB, David Kays, 341 Princeton Ave., Ventura; Mrs. John Rex, 841 Spendrift Ln., Carpinteria; Zoltan Fuzessery, 5753 Aguilla, Goleta; Jeanne Copeland, 1721 Bath St., Santa Barbara; and Mike Moser, UCSB.

## 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. *El Tecolote* will not be forwarded by the Post Office. Please notify Mrs. Smith promptly of any change of your address.

**Non-member Subscription to *El Tecolote*:** Send \$1 per year to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden St., Apt. 35, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101.

## CORRESPONDENCE CARDS

*Beautiful correspondence cards, suitable for Christmas, will be available at the December 1 meeting. The cards are in color and there are eight birds to a set. David Chapple, a familiar figure around the Museum, designed the cards. Santa Barbara Audubon is very excited that we were able to obtain them. They will sell for \$1.25 per set. For further information call Mrs. Ernest Russell, 962-4736, or come early to the December 1 meeting.*

## BIRD NOTES (Richard Webster)

On Wednesday, October 18, Ruth Parker found a White Wagtail at the Santa Clara River Estuary. On Friday it was again observed closely by several birders. Unfortunately, the bird left and the small flock of birders who looked Friday afternoon could not find it. The result was the same for a huge flock of birders from all over Southern California who arrived at the break of dawn Saturday.

If a first state record in the form of White Wagtail is insufficient to convince people that the S.C.R.E. is excellent birding, some of the other birds seen there should do so. A stunning Red Phalarope in full breeding plumage was found on Friday and was seen for the rest of the weekend. Saturday produced a Manx Shearwater very close to shore, a Pigeon Hawk, a Pectoral Sandpiper, the phalarope, at least 3 Parasitic Jaegers, a Western Gull banded on the Farallon Islands, a Short-eared Owl, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur (third area record). On Monday the 23rd, a Philadelphia Vireo was well seen. This is the first area record for the species.



## MORE SIGHTINGS

In the case of White Wagtail (first state record), Philadelphia Vireo (first area record), and Chestnut-collared Longspur (third area record) detailed descriptions should be taken. The description should include date, location, observer(s), detailed notes on every part of the bird, actions, size (compare with other birds nearby), general impression (slim, fat, stubby, etc.), reasons for identification, and circumstances under which it was observed. This should be done while watching the bird or at least immediately upon getting back to the car. At all cases, make the description before looking in the bird book. These descriptions can then be submitted to the California rare bird committee. *Editor's note: this method is also helpful to us fledgling birders who, with bird book in one hand and binoculars in the other, find that by the time we get to the right page, the little rascal has fled!*

Mountain birds have been everywhere. Chickadees are omni-present. Pygmy Nuthatches are still in Hope Ranch. Pine Siskins are in every canyon from Goleta to Carpinteria, with especially large flocks in the area of Westmont College. Evening Grosbeaks, in recent times unrecorded on the coast, are in San Roque Canyon, Goleta, and Montecito. A Green-tailed Towhee was seen on Mountain Drive in early October. A Pinyon Jay, probably unrecorded on the coast in our area, was found in a state of exhaustion in Goleta, October 18. A few Golden-crowned Kinglets have been found in Goleta and Santa Barbara. A Sage Thrasher was in Goleta in mid-October.

The UCSB lagoon has produced up to 3 male Blue-winged Teals since the beginning of October and there was a Cattle Egret there November 4. A couple of Ospreys have shown up on Lake Cachuma and should winter there. A Prairie Falcon in Goleta was the fourth recent coastal record.

An American Golden Plover was at Sandyland Slough October 15. Up to 5 Pectoral Sandpipers were on a wet lawn at UCSB October 8-18. Others were seen in Goleta on Oct. 29 and 30, and several have been reported at S.C.R.E.

The only Yellow-shafted Flicker reported this fall was one along the edge of the Goleta Slough Oct. 6. The only Tropical Kingbird this fall was one along the edge of Devereux Slough on Oct. 30.

Individual Black-and-white Warblers were seen in Goleta Oct. 4, 15, and 30. Tennessee Warblers were seen in Carpinteria Oct. 15 and in Santa Barbara Nov. 1. A Virginia's Warbler was in Winchester Canyon Oct. 8. A Chestnut-sided Warbler, the third area record, was in Goleta Nov. 4. Blackpolls were seen in Goleta Oct. 3 (2) and Oct. 6, in Santa Barbara Oct. 9, and in Carpinteria October 23 (2). An amazing total of 4 Palm Warblers were in Goleta Oct. 29, with 2 still there Oct. 30, and another 3 were there Nov. 4. The first area record of Canada Warbler was one at Rincon Point Oct. 23. A single American Redstart was in Santa Barbara Oct. 15.

Single Baltimore Orioles were in Carpinteria Oct. 23 and in Goleta Oct. 30.

Deserving of a paragraph by itself is a report of 10 Cattle Egrets from San Nicholas Island. That number would be remarkable for any location along the coast, but for an island which is 65 miles south of Pt. Mugu and 110 miles directly west of the California coast, that number is simply incredible.

I would appreciate any details on any rare birds so I can include them in the Bird Notes. My phone number is 687-8168. I need to know the information by the first of the month for inclusion in the bulletin. (Richard Webster)

YOUNG HAWK SEEN

*The Editor had a most unusual experience recently. A large, dark form swooped across the back yard and I thought perhaps it had been an owl. As I was still staring in disbelief after it, it flapped its way back to the walnut tree. And there, not 50 feet away, a young Cooper's Hawk proceeded to devour its breakfast (what appeared to be a female blackbird). It didn't seem to be very experienced, for it dropped its bird three times and had to come to the ground to retrieve it. Oddly enough, the little birds that regularly visit the yard went about business as usual, simply ignoring the hawk. I guess they figured if he had his belly full, he was no longer a threat. It was an interesting experience, but I hope he doesn't eyeball our flock of Spotted Doves!*

Christmas Count Notice

If you have not registered for the Christmas Count and would like to do so, contact Bill Ure, 966-5350. After-count dinner and tabulation at Museum of Natural History. Bring your own supper or order Col. Sanders chicken by sending name and \$1.40 to Bill Ure at 2310 Santa Barbara St. by Dec. 10

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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