



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 11, No. 1
January 1973

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan. 26
Fri.

REGULAR MEETING: 8 p.m., Farron Hall, Museum of Natural History. Alice Palmer, a four-star nature exhibitor with the Photographic Society of America and a past president of the Channel City Camera Club, will present a nature slide show of her own photographs entitled, "This Fragile Planet," which is a personal photographic essay on the balance of nature. There will be a bird identification class starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Bird Hall, with emphasis on preparation for the Ventura County Game Preserve field trip, Jan. 28. Nelson Metcalf will present the class.

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 Heuneme 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 687-8168

Feb. 1.

BOARD MEETING.

Feb. 11
Sun.

***DUNE LAKES:** The sheer beauty of this private property combined with the marvelous bird life makes this a delightful trip. **NOTE: AT THE REQUEST OF THE CARETAKER, THIS TRIP WILL BE LIMITED TO 25 MEMBERS.** It is important that every effort be made to share rides. Suggested driver donation \$2.50. Take lunch. Call Joy Parkinson, 967-9371 for information if you wish to go.

Leader: Desmond Jones 962-2407

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

SALTON SEA (Washington's Birthday Weekend): Several hundred thousand ducks and geese plus lots of other goodies. Always something special. Meet at the Salton Sea State Park at 12:30 p.m. Sat., 10.8 miles beyond Mecca on State Highway 111. Camping sites at Ramer Lake between Calipatria and Brawley. Good accommodations at Desert Motel, 432 W. Main St., Brawley (714-344-2620). We will be there two nights, Feb. 17 & 18. Take lunch for three days in the field. Mileage one way approximately 250. Total mileage over 700 miles. Suggested driver donation \$10.00. Call leader if you plan to go.

Leader: Nelson Metcalf 964-3008

***THESE TWO TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IN THE EVENT OF HEAVY RAINS ON OR JUST BEFORE TRIP DATES. BE SURE TO CHECK WITH LEADERS.**

CALENDAR (CONT)

Mar. 10-11 LOS BANOS, SAN LUIS WILDLIFE AREAS: Details in the February El
Sat-Sun Tecolote.

Apr. 20-21-22 EASTER WEEKEND IN MORONGO VALLEY: Details in the March El Tecolote.
Fri-Sat-Sun

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SESPE CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Sespe Christmas Count, held on Friday, Dec. 29, was attended by 32 individuals, four of them National Forest Ranger representatives, John Bornman, Sandy Wilbur, Dean Carrier, and Monty Montagne. We certainly appreciated their help in gaining access into remote areas. Sighting a California Condor (10) was the highlight of the day for many, along with another endangered species, a Prairie Falcon (1). 119 species were tallied, among the unusual being Virginia Rail (5) and a Bohemian Waxwing (1), Golden-crowned Kinglet (2), Vesper Sparrow (1), Sage Sparrow (3), Golden Eagle (11), and Great Horned Owl (2). Large numbers of Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Audubon's Warblers, American Goldfinches, Lesser Goldfinches, Rufous-sided Towhees and Brown Towhees were counted. It was a good day, clear, sunny, and with a light wind. It was the highest count for the Sespe area and the largest number of species recorded. Compiler, Virginia Puddicombe.

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. Do not send changes of address to the President or the Editor.

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.

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EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for the next issue: Sunday, 4 February 1973. Bring or mail to: Miss Lou Dartanmer, 5546 Cathedral Oaks Rd., 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.

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FOR SALE

Bauch & Lomb 7 x 50 Ind. Focus Binoculars, new condition \$125 (\$350 new).

Carl Zeiss 8 x 30, C.F., \$10.00.

Bushnell Featherlight 7 x 35, I.F., \$25.00.

Call Walter Hirt, 962-3639, anytime.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the January Board of Director's Meeting, the following was discussed:

(1) We thank leaders Bill Ure and Sy Kinsell for the excellent Christmas Bird Count, especially Bill for the organizing. After a full day of birding, more birds--chicken dinner. We were pleasantly surprised by the results of the count considering the weather conditions early in the week; (2) Thanks to Brad Schram and his committee for compiling the many observers' results; (3) Thanks to Brad, the Park Department and the Humane Society for their (partial) success in the population decrease of our "feathered friends" at the Bird Refuge. We wish him continued success--to zero population; (4) Thanks to Virginia Puddicombe for the organizing and compiling of the Sespe Bird Count. Ten condors were sighted. What a treat for the observers!

(5) *Congratulations Nelson Metcalf! "Birds of the Santa Barbara Region" is now available at the S.B. Museum of Natural History for \$1.50.*

(6) The society became supporting members of the International Bird Rescue Center in Berkeley. Its newsletter can be read at our regular meetings.

(7) The Board endorsed the "Anti-harvesting" statement by the Society for the Preservation of Birds of Prey, to be presented at the North American Raptor Conservation Conference at Fort Collins, Colorado, next March.

(8) *Frank & Jean Noel sent in a detailed report on the extensive grading and development planned for the Carpinteria State Beach Park. They met with the Committee for Open Space, Mrs. Dorothy Campbell, chr. We will hear more from this committee.*

(9) "The Falcons of Morro Rock," The New Yorker, Dec. 23, 1972. If and when needed, the Board hopes members of our chapter may be of some assistance.

(10) *Mrs. Priscilla Pearce has catalogued the books and records in our library. A copy will be left in the bookcase with the books, located on the two lower shelves in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History. Feel free to browse and take books home to read.*

(11) Mrs. Elizabeth Russell reported the David Chapple note cards were selling well. A few more will be available at the next meeting.

(12) Take note of four meetings next month. Illustrated lectures titled "World Environmental Survey, 1973" by Continuing Education Division and Sierra Club.

Feb. 6 "Earth Citizenship" - Dr. Roderick Nash

Feb. 12 "Disneysea: Can the Oceans Survive Us?" - Mr. Wesley Marx

Feb. 20 "The World's Wildlife: Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder" - Mr. Lee Waian

Feb. 27 "Population and the Limits of Philanthropy" - Dr. Garrett Hardin

Tuesday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Fleishmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History.

Preregistration: January 22 at the Adult Education Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.

Our last meeting of 1972, members' slide night, was a joy to see. The slides were excellent--a good variety. Brad Schram did a perfect job of projecting. Thank you members and Brad. The social period before the meeting was enhanced with name tags for better acquaintance and delicious coffee and cookies for a comfortable feeling.

At our January meeting, the social period in the Junior Library follows the Bird Identification Class, after which program chairman Desmond Jones promises a beautiful photo essay.

Referendum Petition: To save Santa Barbara County from overdevelopment--as active conservationists--sign the referendum petition protesting adoption of S.B. County Zoning Ordinance No. 2396, permitting residential development by Insignis, Inc., of certain agricultural land between Solvang and Santa Ynez, in S.B. County.

Thank you. Tomi Sollen

MRS. RUTH HOLBROOK

A beautiful memorial service was held for Mrs. Ruth Holbrook at All-Saints-by-the-Sea, January 6, with Rev. George J. Hall and Rev. John A. Crane officiating. Mrs. Holbrook's request to be remembered to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is deeply appreciated. We thank all members for their remembrances and a memorial fund has been established.

Our deepest sympathy to the family, especially Wales (Hobie), her husband and the treasurer of our society.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

New members from Santa Barbara are: David Brokensha and Dr. Bernard W. Riley, 33 Loma Media; F. Claudette Richard, 1259 Calle Cerrito; Dian Burroughs, 1901 Bath St.; T.G. Hodge, 100 Terrace Vista Ln.; Mr. Carl Nichols, 824 Buena Vista Rd.; Mrs. Dale Powell, 3730 State St. #6; Mr. & Mrs. John P. McEvoy, 905 Estrella Dr.; Janet C. Lawler, 810 Anza Dr.; Bruce Oettel, 310 "O" Barranca; C.M. Losso, 615 E. Sola St.; Mr. & Mrs. Ward D. Thomas, 1600 Garden St., #7; From Goleta: Sheryl Hughes, 6647 El Colegio. Also: T.W. and M.C. Fortney, 2207 Sunridge Dr., Ventura; Mr. A.I. Teasley, Box 202, Buellton; Dr. E.R. Wallace & Family, 413 N. 3rd St., Lompoc; Miss Hillary Andrews, 1551 Refugio Rd., Santa Ynez; Dr. L.T. Coy, 608 Fordham, San Mateo; and Alice O. Warren, Rancho Trailer Lodge Sp. 30, Ojai.

HOUSE FINCH ABNORMALITIES

I want to thank those who responded to my note in El Tecolote. To date, about 20 cases of abnormal finches have been reported: 2 in Ventura, 7 in Summerland, and the remainder in Santa Barbara. The growths seem to be located: on the legs; on the bill; on top of the head; on one side of the face, which gives the eye a lop-sided appearance.

I have not heard from anyone who knows what might be causing the problem. There may be a very few finches affected--a small, local occurrence. I talked with Bob Fordice of Fish and Game and he has not observed any abnormalities. He suggested that should we discover an abnormal specimen bring it to Waldo Abbott at the museum, where it can be frozen and then taken to the lab for analysis.

I am still interested in hearing of abnormalities, and would appreciate a note. -- Gerrie Human, P.O. Box 287, Summerland, Ca 93067.

EVENING GROSBEAKS

Les Cook reported that flocks of beautiful Evening Grosbeaks were seen in the Magnolia trees on San Andres Street. An uncommon sighting.

CARRIZO PLAINS FIELD TRIP (Dec. 2-3, 1972)

Those who took this bus trip to Carrizo were richly rewarded. Estimates of from five to ten thousand Sandhill Cranes were seen, either standing in the margins of Soda Lake or in flights of various sizes overhead. Their bugling calls are delightful to hear. Our driver was well aware of our needs and knows what to do when someone shouts, "Cranes at 2 o'clock!" We should continue to call for him. Among the other species seen worthy of mention were about 10 Golden Eagle sightings, Ferruginous, Marsh, Red Tail, Red Shouldered Hawks, a Prairie Falcon, Mountain Plovers, Mountain Bluebirds, Pipits, and Horned Larks galore. Stopping at California Valley Lodge is always pleasant and the restaurant across the road is good. The cranes may still be there! Joy Parkinson Planned and led this fine outing.--Les Cook

DISCUSSION (From Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Santa Ana.)

Although we may never have all the biological knowledge we would like about the California condor, we cannot wait to take corrective action where we think it is needed. The low percentage of immature birds observed throughout the year still indicates a low reproductive rate. The "just leave them alone" approach to condor preservation will no longer suffice in the light of the complexities of the economic and social pressures that now bear on the condor's habitat. Just this year nearly 100,000 acres of condor feeding habitat have been rendered useless by second home developments in Kern County.....the potential breaking up of large land holdings that are now in cattle grazing.....the suspected lack of a year-round food supply for nesting condors.....the demands being made on the U.S. Forest Service by oil companies, off-road vehicle clubs and other groups.....all of these pressures add up to the need of pooling the expertise of disciplines outside of the biological field if we are going to give the condor a fighting chance to survive. Alert to these needs, the National Audubon Society with the assistance of the Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics and the Charles E. Merrill Trust is underwriting a 30-month study of the political economy of condor conservation by Dr. Richard Bishop, with the advice of Dr. S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup, noted conservation economist at the University of California, Berkeley. A report is expected in July, 1973.

A CENTER FOR WILDERNESS STUDIES (From "Chaparral Naturalist," Pomona Valley Audubon)

A group of dedicated persons has been meeting regularly during the past month for the purpose of generating interest in wilderness experience and study. Naturalists from the Mt. Baldy District of Angeles National Forest have attended and offered much support and assistance. In the course of these meetings we learned that an acreage of almost untouched wilderness, now in private hands, was available for purchase.

The Chapman Ranch is a 33 acre section of land just north of the town of Mt. Baldy in the San Gabriel Mountains of San Bernardino County, approximately 50 miles from downtown Los Angeles and only a 30 minute drive from the Pomona Valley. The Ranch includes portions of three major California plant communities: yellow pine forest, foothill woodland, and chaparral.

Ownership of the Ranch is divided between two brothers: C.L. and R.E. Chapman. The land is appraised at \$4,500 per acre. The R.E. Chapman family lives on property adjacent to that portion for sale, and it has always been their hope that the land could ultimately be used for wilderness education. Mr. R.E. Chapman has expressed willingness to serve as caretaker for the property and for any facility that might be built there, and to participate in the construction of a rustic facility.

We hope that you will share with us the opinion that this land is of highest value to the principles of conservation education of the National Audubon Society. It will not be easy to raise such a large sum of money, but we are confident that many of you will be able to make small gifts to our cause, and perhaps some of you can make large ones. We will also gratefully accept pledges to be paid in small monthly amounts. Checks should be made payable to the Pomona Valley Audubon Society-Chapman Ranch Fund, and all donations are fully tax-deductible. Please call Bill Wirtz at 626-8511, Ext. 3074 (985-1557 evenings) if you have questions or would like to see the property. Bill has an illustrated talk available for persons or groups who would like to know more about the property or the goals of the wilderness group.

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Thought for the day: Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head and keeps pecking away until he finishes the job he starts. - Coleman Cox

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A CENTER FOR WILDERNESS STUDIES (YONKONAT NATURALIST, YONKONAT VALLEY, YONKONAT)

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