



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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February 1973

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

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Feb. 17-18-19 SALTON SEA (Washington's Birthday Weekend): Several hundred thousand ducks and geese plus lots of other goodies. Always something special. Sat-Sun-Mon 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

Feb. 23 REGULAR MEETING, 8 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Friday Brad Schram, one of our own board members, will be showing a selection of his slides on the southwest called "Some Birds of the South Western U.S." We will begin the evening with a social hour at 7:30 p.m. in the Junior Library.

March 1 BOARD MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. Thursday

Mar. 3 MISSION CANYON, TUNNEL ROAD: Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. Bring Saturday lunch.

Leader: Virginia Puddicombe 682-1552

Mar. 10-11 LOS BANOS, SAN LUIS WILDLIFE REFUGES: The marsh lands of this area Sat-Sun provide a winter haven for geese, ducks and shorebirds. Meet at the Stardust Motel, 2169 East Pacheco Blvd., Los Banos at noon on Saturday. Make own motel reservations. Camping at Los Banos Wildlife area. Driving distance from Santa Barbara approximately 300 miles. Suggested driver donation \$10. Take lunch for 2 days. Call leader if you plan to go.

Leader: Joy Parkinson, 967-9371

Mar. 18 STECKEL PARK AND SANTA PAULA CANYON: Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. OR Sun at the entrance to Steckel Park on Highway 150 near Santa Paula at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Suggested driver donation \$2.00. As the leader lives in Ventura, she will join us at the park entrance.

Leader: Beryl Moore 643-2913

CALENDAR (CONT)

Apr 20-21-22 MORONGO VALLEY (Easter weekend): A live stream and small pond in
Fri-Sat-Sun the desert attracts many interesting species of birds, including
 Gambel's Quail, Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren and Scott's
 Oriole. Vermillion Flycatchers nest there. NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT
 TO PLAN WELL AHEAD FOR THIS TRIP, AS ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE SCARCE.
 If you wish to go, call the leaders for information on motel
 accommodations.

Leaders: Bill & June Gardner 962-0152

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Monterey Bay Field Trip (Jan. 13-14)

This was a new trip for Santa Barbara Audubon; but if this year's results were typical, it will be a "must" in the future. The rocky shore of Monterey Bay from the Coast Guard Pier to Point Pinos attracts many relatively uncommon shore birds, and many of the pelagic species come close to shore. Highlights included a good view of a Rock Sandpiper at Point Pinos, Red-necked Grebe, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants (very close and in large numbers), Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Rhinoceros Auklet. Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches are common in the woods at Point Lobos, and at Moss Landing there was an immense flock of Marbled Godwits. A total of ninety-three species were sighted by fifteen observers.

The mammals also put on a good show: sea otters cavorting no more than twenty feet away from the Coast Guard Pier, and a school of Gray Whales off Point Lobos. And then there was a butterfly tree in Washington Park.

We wish to thank Bill Reese of Monterey, who very kindly offered to be our guide on Saturday. His knowledge of the area (and advice about restaurants!) contributed greatly to the success of the trip. --- Michael Fishbein

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to: Richard Helgersen, 6882 Del Playa, and Karen Sinclair, 6754-8 Del Playa, Goleta; Mark Janorschke, 930 San Pascual E #2; Mary M. Brown, 1221 De la Vina #2B; Jan Barrette, 230 W. Alamar #2; Patricia Dixon, 4175 State Street; Mr. & Mrs. Donovan Hershey, P.O. Box 5396; Marguerite Minten, 100 N. La Cumbre; and Wendy Guild, 4516 Atascadero Dr., all of Santa Barbara; and Robert Lust, Tech. Supt-6, O.L.F. San Nicholas Island, Point Mugu; and Russell & Mary F. Spowart, 33 70 Via Dona, Lompoc.

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.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Ruby-crowned Kinglet is on exhibit at the Public Library. Mrs. Roger Gildersleeve wrote an informative article for the News-Press, Sat., Feb. 3, 1973. Someday, somewhere one looks forward to seeing them during courtship and breeding--to hear the male sing and to see his brilliant crown patch.

Ruth Holbrook Memorial Fund

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge our thanks to its many members for contributions to the fund. The Holbrook family expressed Ruth's wish to begin restoration of the Bird Refuge for wildlife.

National Audubon Society Convention to be Held in Denver, June 7-11, 1973

The Denver Audubon Society Convention Committee has announced a Host Family Program to be run during the Convention. They are currently building a file of DAS members willing to share spare bedrooms, sofas, and backyard camping space with out-of-towners attending the convention. Those volunteering are looking forward to getting to know Auduboners from other parts of the country on a person-to-person and family-to-family basis. For information write: Host Family Chairman, Mrs. Aleon DeVore, Star Rte., Box 75-A, Littleton, Colorado 80120. Trips before and after the convention are offered.

WORKSHOPS

Audubon Camp of the West--Four two-week sessions starting June 24 at Audubon Camp, Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming 82513. Information available at Audubon meeting.

Damp Denali Wilderness Retreat--An educational and wilderness workshop experience is available for Audubon members at Camp Denali. One week Sourdough vacations from June 15, Workshop June 22-July 2; and Tundra Trek Aug. 10-24. For information write to Box D, College, Alaska 99701.

National Audubon African Safari Workshop--July 14-Aug. 5, 1973 and Feb. 9 - March 3, 1974. Write National Audubon Society, Cahill-Laughlin/Orbitair International, Suite 1201, 20 East 46th St., New York, N.Y. 1001-. Price from New York \$1895.

TOURS

Costa Rica Field Trip in April--Seattle Audubon Society has a field trip scheduled to the research stations of the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, from April 14-30. Please write for information to 712 Joshua Green Building, Seattle, WA 98101.

"Down Under" Nature Tour--Golden Gate Audubon Ecological Tour departing for Australia and New Zealand in late Sept. 1973. Trip scheduled at the peak of the "Down Under" Spring, when bird activity and blooming flowers are at their maximum. For information: Golden Gate Audubon, 1973 Tour, c/o Siemer and Hand, Ltd., One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111.

New Book: "Key to Coastal and Chaparral Flowering Plants of Southern California" by Dr. Barbara J. Collins, Associate Professor of Biology, California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. \$5.20 tax incl.

As Alice Palmer showed at the last meeting, "This Fragile Planet" needs much loving care. We have much natural beauty and open space, yet, in this county which need our constant attention.

Congratulations, Joy! I was pleased with the appointment of our Joy Parkinson to the County Park Commission by Supervisor James Slater.

May I urge you to attend the SOUTH CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATION COMMISSION (result of Proposition 20) meetings. Held in Santa Barbara, the 4th Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m., Santa Barbara County Administration Building. Special meetings and hearings on projects in the Tri-Counties will be announced. The next meeting is Thursday, February 22. A show of community backing for Proposition 20 is extremely important.

Poison Ban on predator control. National Audubon again urges members to write requesting support for the poison ban. Pres. Richard Nixon, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500 and Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, Washington, D.C. 20460. Sign your name and address.

Article "The Fight for the California Desert," by Richard A. Grant, Jr., from Cry California, Winter 1972/1973 issue. Reprint will be in Audubon library. Bureau of Land Management and its Desert Plan Program need additional funding. Write: Rep. Charles Teague to support Rep. Jerry Petti's bill H.R. 10305. Write Senators Cranston and Tunney endorsing their bill S 3874.

Porpoises and Tuna Fishermen. "Save the Dolphins," The Animal Welfare Institute, New York and San Francisco group brought about the passage by Congress of the Marine Mammals Protection Act of 1972. This act protects many species of marine mammals, but exempts the American tuna industry from conforming for at least two more years.

The Detroit Audubon Society, 814 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit, Mich. 48203 has begun "OPERATION: DOLPHIN," involving a boycott of all tuna products and a letter-writing campaign both to the tuna industry and to legislators. Write the tuna groups that you are boycotting them until it is publicly proven that no more dolphins are killed accidentally by tuna fishermen. Write to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Comm., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92037; the President, Ralston Purina Co., Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63188; The President, Del Monte Corp., San Francisco, CA 94119; The President, Star-Kist Foods, Inc., Terminal Island, CA 90731.

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Palmer for the splendid slide show last month.

Tomi Sollen

PLEASE NOTE!!

Deadline for the next issue of El Tecolote is Sunday, 4 March 1973. Bring or mail to: Miss Lou Dartanner, 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. IMPORTANT-- we MUST have your items on or preferably before the deadline. We will type El Tecolote Monday morning. This allows sufficient time for other volunteers to complete production. Please don't inconvenience others by waiting to the last minute.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Common Loon	13	Piping plover	1	Red-shafted flicker	423
Arctic Loon	23	Snowy plover	61	Acorn woodpecker	544
Red-throated Loon	15	Semipalmated plover	7	('71, 548)	
Horned Grebe	10	Killdeer	817	Lewis' woodpecker	2*
Eared Grebe	9	Black-bellied plover	134	Yel-bellied sapsckr	28
Western Grebe	1030	Surfbird	1	Hairy woodpecker	5
Pied-billed Grebe	92	Ruddy turnstone	10	Downy woodpecker	27
Sooty Shearwater	x	Black turnstone	55	Nuttall's woodpecker	25
Brown Pelican	39	Common snipe	11	Ash-thr. flycatcher	2
Double-c Cormorant	319	Long-billed curlew	1	Black phoebe	62
Brandt's Cormorant	139	Whimbrel	74	Say's phoebe	34
Pelagic Cormorant	30	Spotted sandpiper	16	Horned lark	33
Great Blue Heron	43	Wandering tattler	1*	Violet-green swallow	18
Green Heron	8	Willet	176	Barn swallow	x
Common Egret	39	Greater yellowlegs	12	Scrub jay	956
Snowy Egret	36	Least sandpiper	67	Common raven	2
Black-cr. Night Heron	75	Dunlin	117	Common crow	646
American Bittern	2	Long-billed dowitcher	67	Clark's nutcracker	1
Whistling Swan	1	Short- " dowitcher	9	('61 last count rec.)	
Canada Goose	4	Dowitcher species?	1	Mountain chickadee	51
Black Brant	1	Western sandpiper	10 (low)	Pain titmouse	214
Mallard	116	Marbled godwit	112	Common bushtit	1047
Gadwall	14	Sanderling	547	White-br. nuthatch	56
Pintail	219	American avocet	14	Red-breasted "	126
Green-winged teal	104	Red phalarope	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	30*
Blue-winted teal	3	Glaucous-winged gull	3	Brown creeper	8
Cinnamon teal	27	Western gull	668	Wrentit	319
American widgeon	261	Herring gull	3	House wren	6
Shoveler	164	California gull	132	Bewick's wren	52
Redhead	83	Ring-billed gull	349	Long-billed marsh wren	16
Ring-necked duck	21	Mew gull	141	Canon wren	4
Canvasback	180	Bonaparte's gull	233	Rock wren	7
Greater scaup	6	Heermann's gull	37	Mockingbird	304
Lesser scaup	97	Black-legged kittiwake	x	Calif. thrasher	72
Bufflehead	33	Gulls, species ?	47	Robin	2753
White-winged scoter	4	Forster's tern	24	Varied thrush	45
Surf scoter	32 (low)	Royal tern	4	Hermit thrush	150
Common scoter	1	Elegant tern	2	Western bluebird	43
Ruddy duck	490	Common murre	5	Townsend's solitaire	4
Hooded merganser	1	Cassin's auklet	1	Blue-gray gnatcatch.	18
Common merganser	38	Band-tailed pigeon	1296	Golden-cr. kinglet	24
Red-breasted merganser	15	White-winged dove	1	Ruby-cr. kinglet	485
Turkey vulture	2	Mourning dove	885	Water pipit	192
White-tailed kite	25	Spotted dove	10	Cedar waxwing	2111
Goshawk	1	Roadrunner	1	Phainopepla	2
Sharp-shinned hawk	8	Barn owl	3	Loggerhead shrike	33
Cooper's hawk	13	Screech owl	1	Starling	1692
Red-tailed hawk	102	Great horned owl	2	Hutton's vireo	22
Red-shouldered hawk	11	Burrowing owl	2	Tennessee warbler	1
Golden eagle	1	Short-eared owl	1	Orange-cr warbler	13
Marsh hawk	10	White-throated swift	75	Nashville warbler	1
Pigeon hawk	1	black-chinned hummgbrd	1	Myrtle warbler	36
Sparrow hawk	98	Costa's hummingbird	1	Audubon's warbler	2181
California Quail	346	Anna's hummingbird	746	Black-th. gray warb	3
Virginia rail	2	Allen's hummingbird	4	Townsend's warbler	33
Sora	4	Belted kingfisher	9	('71, 34)	
American coot	1929	yellow-sh. flicker	2		

Yellowthroat	60	Brn-headed cowbird	92	Savannah sparrow	<u>251</u>
Wilson's warbler	<u>3</u>	Western tanager	x	Vesper sparrow	<u>1</u>
('67, 4)		<u>Evening grosbeak</u>	<u>10</u>	Lark sparrow	18
House sparrow	252	Purple finch	181	Rufous-cr. sparrow	4
Western Meadowlark	570	House finch	3628	Sage sparrow	3
Yel-headed blackbrd	1	<u>Pine siskin</u>	<u>40</u>	Slate-colored junco	<u>4</u>
Red-wng blackbird	1669	American goldfinch	<u>307</u>	Oregon junco	<u>2298</u>
Tri-color "	412	Lesser goldfinch	<u>548</u>	White-cr. sparrow	<u>3705</u>
Hooded oriole	1	Lawrence's goldfinch	<u>208</u>	Golden-cr. sparrow	552
Baltimore oriole	x	<u>Red Crossbill</u>	<u>1</u> *	white-throated sparrow	x
Bullock's oriole	6	Rufous-sided towhee	286	Fox sparrow	<u>92</u>
Brewer's blackbrd	11223	Brown towhee	790	Lincoln's sparrow	<u>21</u>
				Song sparrow	125

Note the remarkable influx of mountain species, including the nuthatches, chickadees, nutcrackers, golden crowned kinglets, evening grosbeaks, and the goshawk. (This is the first goshawk in coastal Santa Barbara county since 1918.) Speculative reason for this influx is the extremely cold winter in the north and relatively dry conditions in the northern mountains of California for the past three years, which has cut down the food supply.

Total: 195 species, about 45,725 individuals. Underlined numbers equals or is greater than previous Santa Barbara high for that species, except as noted. Underlining denotes especially rare Christmas Count birds. *first time on count.
x seen in the count period but not on count day.

Brad Schram

EL TECOLOTE
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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5546 CATHEDRAL OAKS
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