



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 11, No. 2  
March 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

- Mar 18 Sun **\*STECKEL PARK AND SANTA PAULA CANYON:** Birding along Santa Paula Creek. Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. OR at the entrance to Steckel Park, about four miles north of Santa Paula on Highway 150, at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch. As the leader lives in Ventura, she will join us at the park entrance.  
Leader: Beryl Moore 643-2913
- Mar 23 Fri **REGULAR MEETING:** 3 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Lee Waian has been studying the White Tailed Kite in the Santa Barbara area since 1965, with the exception of two years when he was in charge of the Wildlife Sanctuary in Orange. Tonight he will show a film and slides and his talk will be a synopsis of his findings to date. There will be a bird call identification class, 7:30 to 8 p.m., led by Les Cook, in the Junior Library of the Museum.
- Mar 24 Sat **SAN ANTONIO CANYON PARK (Tucker's Grove); LAKE LOS CANEROS:** Always an enjoyable trip. Meet at the Museum at 8:00 a.m. OR at Tucker's Grove-- intersection of Cathedral Oaks and Turnpike Roads, at 8:20 a.m. Take lunch.  
Leader: Tomi Sollen 966-4836
- Apr 15 Sun **\*POINT MUGU STATE RECREATION AREA:** A fine trip for woodland birds along unspoiled canyon trails. Meet at the park entrance at 8:00 a.m. The park entrance is on the left on Highway 1, fifteen miles south of Oxnard. Take lunch.  
Leader: Ruth Parker 643-5711
- Apr 20-21-22 Fri-Sat-Sun **\*MORONGO VALLEY (Easter Weekend):** A live stream and small pond in the desert attracts many interesting species, including Gambel's Quail, Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren and Scott's Oriole. Vermilion Flycatchers nest there. **NOTE:** BECAUSE OF LIMITED ACCOMMODATIONS ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 1. Camping (by reservation) is available at Jellystone Park in Yucca Valley. The leaders have information on the campground and nearby motels. Be sure to call them as soon as possible if you plan to go. Take lunch for three days.  
Leaders: Bill & June Gardner 962-0152
- May 13 Sun **PLAN AHEAD - ANNUAL SPRING BOAT TRIP:** Details in April El Tecolote.  
**\*THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS VOTED TO DROP THE SUGGESTED DRIVER DONATIONS FROM THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULES. MEMBERS ARE ASKED INSTEAD TO SHARE IN THE COST OF GAS AND OIL FOR THE CARS IN WHICH THEY ARE PASSENGERS ON OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS.**

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

THE SALTON SEA Trip February 17-18-19, was made by fourteen birders, eight of whom camped at Finney Lake. Major birding stops on Saturday afternoon and Sunday were at the Wister Waterfowl Management Area, the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Ramer and Finney Lakes, Rock Hill and along Imperial Valley roads; on Monday at Borrega Springs and Yaque Wells Wildlife Area. More than 120 species were recorded, including the following that are never or only rarely found near Santa Barbara: White Pelican, Snow and Ross Geese, Common Goldeneye, Gambel's Quail, Common Gallinule, White-winged and Ground Doves, Roadrunner, Burrowing Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Bendire's and LeConte's Thrashers, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Abert's Towhee, Baird's and Brewer's Sparrow. The Baird's Sparrow, in irregular and accidental bird in California, was the best find of the trip. (Nelson Metcalf)

DUNE LAKES, February 25. About 25 members made the annual visit to Dune Lakes at Santa Maria on February 25th, two weeks later than scheduled due to an earlier cancellation. (Our thanks to Joy Parkinson for going through the complicated organizing process.) We had a beautiful day for our visit, sun, a light breeze and no rain! Around 60 species of birds were seen including the Chestnut-backed Chickadees, very good views of Allen's Hummingbirds performing their ritual courting dances, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasbacks, Bufflehead (1), Greater Scaup (1), American Bittern (1) and Canada Geese. We also had a quite good view of the Long-billed Marsh Wren which was busily defending its nest; this bird being so often heard but difficult to see as it moves in the weeds. We wish to express our thanks to Mr. Peter Churchward, under whose auspices we are able to visit this fine piece of private property. (Desmond Jones)

## EAST BEACH PRESENTATION

The Committee for Santa Barbara is hopeful that the City will make no long term commitment yet on any part of the beautiful land Southern Pacific now owns on Cabrillo Blvd, facing the ocean. Both the Committee for Santa Barbara and the developers American Communities, along with city authorities, have spent much time on proposed plans. Further efforts are still needed to coordinate views of architects planners, traffic engineers, housing authorities, economic experts and tax consultants. Before a start is made future patterns should be set up for the entire area including lower State Street and the development of the wharf. The committee is looking for the best solution in terms of economic, social and environmental costs and benefits for the people of Santa Barbara.

In August 1972 the City Council authorized the Committee for this task, and to explore the possibilities of funding on State and National levels as well as from private trusts.

The area from Milpas to Santa Barbara St. has been planned as a natural spot for a park as early as 1924 by the famous Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects. They were hired by a group of concerned citizens to make a Street and Park Plan for Santa Barbara. This group had successfully acquired all the parcels of land from the Bird Refuge to the Wharf on the ocean side of Cabrillo. They were kept in a Trust until the city was able to purchase what is now our famous East Beach. We are continuing this tradition of citizen effort although now we are faced with a proposed large Commercial Development.

The Committee for Santa Barbara is a broadly based group of citizens from 20 organizations such as Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Santa Barbara Citizens for Environmental Defense, Get Oil Out!, League of Women Voters, Community Health Task Force, Concilio de la Raza, Jr. League & Citizens Planning Assn. Thousands of hours of volunteer time have been given and will be in the future; however, current necessary expenses must be met. The Committee welcomes your opinions or suggestions,

and would very much appreciate your tax deductible donation. Make checks payable to Community Ecology Center, Committee for Santa Barbara, 15 West Anapmau St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101. (Dorothy Martone, 969-0444)

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On January 28, 1969, the Santa Barbara oil spill focused the attention of the nation upon its environment. We, in Santa Barbara, who are fortunate to live in such a beautiful environment, were threatened by this disaster. Our concern was reflected in increased membership in conservation groups, by increased individual and group participation in services and offices which affected our environment. Today, after four years, we find even more increased need for vigilance to protect the natural areas around us.

On March 1st, the Board of Directors made the following decisions:

- 1) Contribute \$200 to the Committee for Santa Barbara. Mrs. Dorothy Martone, our representative to this committee for the East Beach area, made an outstanding presentation of the work of the committee at the February meeting.
- 2) Contribute \$50 to Friends of Hammond's Estate.
- 3) Purchase a set of guide books for the planning of a Nature Center, \$14.50--to be used by Mrs. Marjorie Cappiello.
- 4) Allocate \$50 for the purchase of designated books for the Audubon library. Library committee: Mrs. Priscilla Pearce and Mrs. Audrey Ingelsen.
- 5) \$50 for a set (carousel) of slides on Birds of the Santa Barbara Region by Brad Schram--script included. These will be used by our Audubon speakers at schools and clubs.
- 6) Make a check on the oil sumps in Santa Barbara County. Paul Howard, Western Audubon representative, presented a series of slides on oil sumps in Santa Barbara and adjoining counties. Thousands of birds fly into these sumps, which appear like ponds of water from the air, are trapped in the sticky oil and after a period of struggle, sink to the bottom. Copies of this report will be available at the next meeting.
- 7) Field trip costs. Note change (page 1).
- 8) A representative will be sent to the National Audubon Convention in Denver.
- 9) Bird Refuge committee will meet to make plans for the area. The Park Department had hoped to fence in all the domestic ducks and geese--but alas, they have paired off and once again Brad Schram with his aides will undertake the problem of proliferation.

"Some Birds of the South Western U.S." by Brad Schram was a superior program. Excellent slides with informative and humorous narrations. Thank you, Brad.

Fifi Webster, in charge of our speaker's bureau, has had many requests from schools for speakers and some type of show. Joy Parkinson, Ginger Puddicombe, and Florence Sanchez have been active speakers for the society. Les Cook continues to teach his birding class with adult education. Fifi also attended the meeting on airport plans by SCAG as well as the meeting of the SOUTH CENTRAL COAST CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

According to the Feb. 27 News-Press, Zaca Lake's sale was finalized. Earlier, the News-Press reported that the Board of Supervisors "sent to the planning department for action a county counsel decision that the use of Zaca Lake property for overnight stays outside of the existing lodge and cottage is not legal. The operators are expected to apply for approval to expand existing uses, which would be subject to a conditional use permit and public hearing." (Feb. 26, 1973)

Leon R. Powers of Idaho State University is making a study of Ferruginous Hawks. 75 juveniles were color-marked with wing tags of green, blue, red, orange, yellow and white. Some markers are solid color, others a combination of two. In most cases there is a marker on each wing. If sighted, note: 1) color of marker on left or

right wing or both; 2) date of observation; 3) location of observation; 4) if dead bird found, cause of death and if possible band and color markers. Send information to: Leon R. Powers, Department of Biology, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

Tomi Sollen

FRIENDS OF BIKECOLOGY offer a lecture/discussion series on problems and needs of public transportation in Santa Barbara County. The talks will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Louise Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De la Vina St., Santa Barbara.

- March 6: Alan Eschenroeder, Engineer and City Councilman for Santa Barbara, "Air Pollution Potential in Santa Barbara County."  
March 20: Arnold Wasserman, Designer, "Transportation as a System--Santa Barbara's Potential to Become a Model Community."  
April 3: Robert Yaco, Director of the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, "How the Metropolitan Transit District is Responding to the Transportation Challenge."  
April 17: Panel discussion with representatives from Amtrak, Greyhound, and United Airlines. Moderated by Al Runte, Environmental Studies teaching assistant at UCSB, "Inter-City Travel--What Are Out Options?"  
More dates next month.

GET A SPONSOR and participate in BIKE RIDE '73, Sunday, April 1, 1973--a 25 mile casual tour of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Sponsor sheets available at Friends of Bikeology, 1035 E. De la Guerra St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

MALAYSIA AND INDIA BIRDING TOUR 1973 conducted by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. June 23-July 16. Cost from L.A. (double occupancy) \$2285. For information and reservations contact leaders: James W. Huffman, 16856 Edgar Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 (213) 454-4279 or Mrs. Olga Clarke, 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, CA 91208 (213) 249-5537.

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

MINNA E. SMITH  
1600 GARDEN ST. #35  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. 93101



Miss Blanche Balzarette  
593 Parra Grande  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93108



Dear Auduboners:

Senate Bill 633, introduced by Senator Peter Behr (Marin County) will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Monday, June 4 (not May 31).

This bill is virtually identical to last year's SB 1177 which was defeated by the Senate Finance Committee.

According to Senator Behr: "Without a doubt, our efforts to prevent the indiscriminate broadcast of secondary poisons and the slaughter of California's wildlife will face still opposition once again from woolgrowers, cattlemen, ranchers, and irrigation districts. In addition, I am well aware that some of my friends in conservation would prefer that the bill go even further in the reforms it proposes. I cannot see the value, however, in making changes which would certainly seal the fate of a piece of legislation whose prospects for passage are already all too doubtful."

"The best hope for the success of this bill lies with the demonstration of broad support which you and hundreds of other concerned citizens throughout the state were able to provide last year. There will be no easy victories. The membership of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, where this bill will face its first test, has changed since last year."

We are enclosing a flyer from the National Coalition against Poisoning of Wildlife listing the State Senators who will be involved in the hearings: Address for all senators is:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Your Senator Robert J. Lagomarsino is Vice-Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. His office informs us that he would like to receive your letters, postcards, telegrams or telephone calls AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. His Local Telephone Numbers are:

Santa Barbara 963-4249      Ventura 648-5911

NOTE: The National Audubon Society is deeply involved in the predator control problem. See Charles Callison's National Outlook, page 125, and Cynthia Wilson's article on page 119 of the May 1973 issue of AUDUBON.

JOY PARKINSON

Wildlife Committee Chairperson

TOMI SOLLEN

President Santa Barbara Audubon  
Society