



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- 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 (See March El Tecolote):** There may still be time to make reservations for this fine trip to view desert birds. Call the leaders for information on motels and campgrounds.
Leaders: Bill & June Gardner, 962-0152
- Apr 27**
Fri **REGULAR MEETING:** 8 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. "The Garden Island: A Photographic Essay on Kauai." Lyle Lovewell of Ventura has traveled to, hiked on, and photographed the island of Kauai and will present a photographic essay on the ecology, economy, and flora of this remarkable and beautiful island.
- Apr 28**
Sat **"Keep America Beautiful Day."** A clean-up morning at the Bird Refuge is planned. Join us at 8:00 a.m. with a large litter bag and of course, binoc's for moments of birding.
Leaders: The Board of Directors
- Apr 29**
Sun **REFUGIO PASS, NOJOQUI PARK:** This trip will cover the lower elevations on the Santa Ynez Valley side of Refugio Pass. Lunch and birding at Nojoqui County Park in the afternoon. Meet at the intersection of Refugio Pass Road and Highway 246 near the town of Santa Ynez at 8:30 a.m. (Don't forget Daylight Savings Time.) Bring lunch.
Leader: Jan Hamber, 967-6549
- May 6**
Sun **ZACA LAKE:** One of our most popular spring trips. A small, beautiful natural lake in a sylvan setting. Wonderful birding at the height of the spring migration. Entry fee to the property is \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for young people 17 and under. You may bring your own lunch (and use the picnic facilities including barbecue pits) OR you may purchase lunch at the Lodge dining room (cost \$3.50 per person). Please notify the Lodge (1-688-4891) if you intend to lunch there. Leave the Museum at 7:30 a.m. OR Mattie's Tavern, Los Olivos on Highway 154 at 8:15 a.m. **IF YOU PLAN TO GO** mail a check for \$1.00 per adult, 50¢ per junior, made payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. PLEASE make your reservations by May 1.

Leaders: Les Cook, 963-4501, and Nelson Metcalf

May 13
Sun

SPRING BOAT TRIP, ANACAPA ISLAND, ETC.: We have chartered the HURRICANE for this date. Some of the birds which may be seen: Black-footed Albatross; Pink-footed, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters; Ashy and Black Petrels; Brown Pelicans; three species of Cormorant; Sabine's gull; Pigeon Guillemots; Xantus' Murrelet and Cassin's Auklet. BE SURE TO WEAR WARM CLOTHING. Bring lunch OR you may purchase lunch in the galley---hamburgers, etc. (Tip from an "old salt": avoid greasy foods if you are not sure of your seaworthiness.) HURRICANE will depart from Santa Barbara Public Dock on the breakwater at 7:00 a.m. Return 6-6:30 p.m. Fare \$10 per person. Minimum age 10 years. Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to: Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017. This trip will be limited to 35 passengers.

Leader: Richard Webster, 687-8168

May 20
Sun

NORTH COUNTY RANCH: This is a very special trip to a ranch of historic interest. It features wooded canyons and the related bird life. The owner has requested that we keep the number of cars to a minimum. Meet at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. OR at the intersections of Highway 101 and 1 at 8:30 a.m. NOTE: The continued cooperation of the owners of such prime areas depends on us. We are fortunate to be able to visit these private properties, and should treat them as if they were our own. Permission to enter the property applies ONLY to the day of the field trip and ONLY to Audubon members and their guests.

Leader: Elizabeth Russell, 962-4736

June 2
Sat

PLAN AHEAD. ANNUAL PICNIC AT SCOFIELD PARK. 1-4 p.m. Details in the May issue of El Tecolote.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Thirty-two members and guests enjoyed a beautiful spring morning birding at Steckel Park and the Ferndale Ranch up Santa Paula Canyon, Sunday, March 18. 23 species were seen at the Park, including three Woodpeckers; Acorn, Hairy and Nuttalls. There were the usual Warblers, Flycatchers and ground birds. This delightful area is soon to be doomed by the Army Corps of Engineers, backed by flood-frightened citizens of Santa Paula. A large (?) debris dam is planned for the stream in the middle of the Park, with a four mile cement lined channel extending to the Santa Clara River. Ferndale Ranch had a like number of species. A pair of Red Tailed Hawks, going to and from a nest were noted. Also a Plain Titmouse was busy at its nest in a hole in a large Live Oak Tree. Swallows--Rough-Wing, Violet-Green, and Tree--were seen as well as White-Throated Swifts. Lunch was eaten at Dennison Park. A few continued birding after lunch. A Red-breasted Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker was seen by a few. -- Beryl D. Moore

On a beautiful sunny day 25 participated in the San Antonio Creek field trip. In all 60 species were sighted or heard. A Red-shafted Flicker posed for newcomers. A pair of California Thrashers were seen and heard. A Hooded Oriole was spotted in Tucker's Grove. We missed the Barn Owl at Stow Grove, but did enjoy lunch. Heard a Spotted Dove and some saw a Hutton's Vireo's nest with fledglings. At Lake Los Carneros, the ducks were few, a Sora was heard and sighted, a Bittern posed nearby and was seen clearly through the scope by all. The Tri-colored and Red-winged Blackbirds were numerous displaying their beautiful bright colors and in song--the Red-winged's song described in Peterson as a liquid gurgling. -- Tomi Sollen with the able assistance of exceptional teacher and birder Les Cook.

ON THE HISTORY OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Since the Santa Barbara Audubon Society celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, this is a good occasion for reviewing our history and past accomplishments and for taking stock for the future.

Our history is quite interesting. Long before the formal beginnings of Santa Barbara Audubon, this city had a long continuous tradition of resident ornithologists. William L. Dawson, first director of the Museum of Natural History, was the author of a four-volume Birds of California (1923) as well as of books on the birds of Ohio and Washington. His successor at the Museum, Ralph Hoffmann, was likewise an author, and his Birds of the Pacific States (1927) is still in print. You will enjoy its vivid descriptions of the behavior of each species in its typical habitat.

It was under the directorship of Mr. Hoffmann that a Bird Study Group was formed at the museum, some forty years ago. After Mr. Hoffmann's untimely death in 1936 (he fell from a cliff on San Miguel Island during a collecting expedition), leadership of the Bird Study Group passed to Egmont Z. Rett and then to Waldo G. Abbott, both curators at the museum. The group grew to a membership of eighty-six by the beginning of 1963. As early as 1961 there had been an annual Christmas Count, and the group was already an "affiliate" of National Audubon.

At the beginning of 1963, several members proposed that the Bird Study Group become the local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Then, as now, Santa Barbara was growing rapidly, with all the problems that development brings for the environment. Housing tracts had begun to replace lemon orchards, and many members of the Bird Study Group felt that the club ought to make its voice heard. It was felt that this could be done better if the club were a branch of a national organization with a broad outlook on conservation. A local chapter of the Audubon Society would attract more members than an exclusively bird-oriented group. There were, of course, some objections that we should stick to our binoculars; but when a vote was taken in April 1963, the great majority favored establishing a local chapter of Audubon. Nelson Metcalf drew up a constitution and was elected first president. Succeeding presidents have been: Richard Miller (1964-67), Joy Parkinson (1967-69), Fifi Webster (1969-71), Jim Mills (1971-72), and Tomi Sollen (1972-73). Membership has reached approximately eight hundred, a tenfold increase since 1963.

A number of conservation projects stand out in the history of the Society. Perhaps the most important effort we made concerned the implementation of the Wilderness Act of 1965. In cooperation with Sierra Club, four Audubon members (Richard Miller, Dick Smith, Fred Eissler, and Robert Easton) testified at the Congressional hearings in Washington, with the result that Santa Barbara County can boast the first wilderness area (San Rafael) set aside under the 1965 act. At the 1968 Western Audubon Conference, Charles Callison, Executive Vice-President of National Audubon, presented to Joy Parkinson, our then president, one of the pens President Johnson had used in signing the act to create the San Rafael Wilderness. Mr. Callison expressed the belief that the wilderness bill would not have passed had it not been for the good job done by our teams at the hearings.

We have shown our interest in the back country of the county in other ways also. Even before the establishment of the San Rafael Wilderness, we helped convince the National Forest not to improve and open to the public the Sierra Madre Road. We campaigned successfully against the building of the Topatopa Dam on the Sespe River, a project which would have necessitated the construction of a wide all-weather road the full length of the Sespe Wildlife Refuge. We had opposed, and still oppose (for the project is not dead yet) the opening of a phosphate strip-mine in the National Forest east of Highway 33 and south of Reyes Peak.

Closer to home, we have been involved in the planning for the improvement of the André Clark Bird Refuge on Cabrillo Boulevard. The refuge has had a checkered history since Mrs. Clark bequeathed to the city a fund to be used to preserve the lake (originally a salt-water slough) as a place where Santa Barbarans could enjoy watching wild birds. No manmade structures were to be constructed and no domestic birds were to be introduced to the refuge. Some years ago, Santa Barbara Audubon approached the City Park Department with the intention of offering its assistance in landscaping the refuge. With the assistance of the landscape

architect John Russell, a plan was drawn up for paths around the entire pond and plantings along the railroad. A model was constructed and shown at the County Horticultural Show, then at banks, then at the museum; and with the approval of the City Park Department plans were started to raise money for the development. Then, however, a dispute developed with the Child's Estate, which claims jurisdiction over the land on the west shore of the lake, and the plans have been in limbo ever since. Our successes at the refuge have to date been limited to preventing the Child's Estate from introducing swans and flamingos (we'll settle for our native coots and cormorants!), and to controlling the number of domestic ducks and geese (Brad Schram has worked manfully to get these pampered geese to the Humane Society before they produce their own population-explosion). Last year we helped convince the city to seek a permanent water supply for the refuge. This led to the opening of an old well (the "Murphy Well"), which should improve the quality of the water at the refuge during the dry season. We hope shortly to be able to offer plans for further landscaping of the area, especially along the railroad.

Perhaps some day one of our members will write a complete history of Santa Barbara Audubon. It will be a long story, thanks to the devoted efforts of the many volunteers who have worked so selflessly for conservation in the Santa Barbara area. Without them, there would never have been an Audubon, and we hope that in succeeding years we shall be able to match their devotion.

The following projects will round out this perforce brief history:

- 1964--Support of a state bond issue of \$150 million for state parks
 - Support of a proposal to establish a Channel Islands National Seashore or Monument
 - Beginning of an annual exhibit by Santa Barbara Audubon at the County Horticultural Society's annual show
 - Support of a state law authorizing large fines for the taking, injuring, or killing of a California Condor
- 1965--Support of congressional action on an Endangered Species Bill
- 1966--Opposition to efforts to rezone Santa Cruz Island from agricultural to residential-commercial
 - Opposition to the Army Corps of Engineers' plan to channelize many coastal streams.
- 1967--Publication in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History of Birds of the Santa Barbara Region, by T. Nelson Metcalf.
- 1968--Institution of a yearly scholarship to the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming
- 1969--Volunteer efforts to save oil-soaked birds after the Oil Spill
 - Funds were raised to finance the legal battle against the oil companies. Victor Yannacone and Dr. Hassell of the Environmental Defense Fund were invited to discuss ways of combating the oil industries. Later, sent Dr. Norman Sanders and Dick Smith to discuss matters with National Audubon in New York.
- 1970--Participation in the January 28th program to commemorate the Oil Spill
 - Participation in Earth Day
 - Support for the newly formed Santa Barbara Ecology Center
- 1971--Opposition to Cessna's plan to locate a large facility at Santa Barbara Airport, which would greatly increase noise pollution near the Goleta Slough
- 1972--Participation in a citizens' committee for the establishment of a Madulce Wilderness area
 - Testimony against the building of a large condominium complex on the Summerland bluffs adjacent to Lookout Park
 - Testimony at hearings before the County Planning Commission on the proposed development of More Mesa, a prime breeding area of the White-tailed Kite.

--Michael Fishbein

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ten years have passed since the S.B. Audubon Society became a part of the National Audubon Society. We are one of 287 chapters.

The April meeting will be an anniversary meeting. I hope all the Audubon members will join us. The program will begin with a short quiz period lead by Vice-Pres. Virginia Puddicombe, followed by the speaker, Mr. Lovewell. A short business meeting then the social period with refreshments. Library books and new patches at \$2.25 will be available.

Michael Fishbein, conservation chairman, has written a short history of Audubon activities. It is an impressive struggle for conservation.

The Board wishes to thank a member for his generous contribution. The Board has plans for his fund. Lacking space, Board activities will be listed next month.

Saturday, April 28, is "Keep America Beautiful Day." A clean-up morning at the Bird Refuge is planned. Join us at 8:00 a.m. with a large litter bag and of course, binoc's for moments of birding.

The S.B. City College Bond Issue is a matter of concern for SB and the Mesa area. This district ranges from Ellwood to the Rincon.

Tomi Sollen

ROGER GILDERSLEEVE. The Santa Barbara Audubon Society sends deepest sympathy to Mrs. Roger Gildersleeve. Mr. Gildersleeve asked to be remembered to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. We feel privileged to receive remembrances from members and friends.

RUTH HOLBROOK MEMORIAL FUND. The Society thanks members for their remembrances.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

From Ventura: Marsha L. Caunt, Susan H. Capraro, Mrs. E. A. Condit, Mr. Steven Clark, Mrs. Monti Riley, and Jeanette Traynor. Camarillo: R. R. Dalzell. Carpinteria: The Lofgreen Family, Debra Rhudy, and June Young. Goleta: John Forester, David Gallup, Mrs. W. F. Hollingsworth, Marla Konish, and David Laur. Ojai: Joanna Diaman, Mrs. Mildred Eads, Miss Kayo Fukasawa, Mr. C. G. Maxwell, and Mr. Frank Noyes. Santa Paula: Mr. Dewey Jim, and Clara Dole White. Santa Barbara: Mrs. Ralph Azlein, Mr. Randy Crimmel, Mrs. Gerald T. Lane, Mr. William Swain, Mrs. David Andre, Barr Leden & Co., Kathryn W. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neidringhaus, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Archbald, Santa Barbara Gardens Club, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Glass, Robert Davis, Dr. B. L. Drinkwater, the J. J. Hollister Family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Janda, Mrs. R. J. Keppeler, Anita Kleinecke, Mr. John McGowan, Steven and Janice Timbrook, Mr. Stephen Horne, Michelle DeCrow, Tod Fitzgibbons. Buellton: Allan Coleman. Santa Ynez: Mrs. Howard Young. Solvang: W. F. Brooks.

EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for the next issue: Sunday, May 6. 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.

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. Change of Address: Send to above. Non-member subscription to El Tecolote: Send \$1 per year to above address.

Along the coast all three loons--Common, Arctic, and Red-throated--have started their northward migration. Many are in breeding plumage and can be observed along with Black Brant, scoters, and all three cormorants at places like the harbor and UCSB point. The rocky areas will also have Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Surf-birds and Wandering Tattlers.

A single Cattle Egret was seen at Lake Cachuma on March 31, and two Ospreys were still there. 5 or 6 White-fronted Geese have also been there off and on during March. At least 6 male Blue-winged Teal have been seen in Santa Barbara and Goleta. The best places to look for this bird are the Goleta Sewage Plant and Lake Los Carneros. A few Common Merganser are still at Lake Cachuma. The White-winged Dove found on the Christmas Count was seen again at Patterson Avenue on March 20. The Yellow-shafted Flicker along the UCSB edge of the slough was last seen March 9th. Both species are hard to find in this area. Late March brought some early spring migrants such as Western Kingbird, Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warblers, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. The rest of the flycatchers, vireos, and warblers will make their appearances in the month of April. This year's heavy rainfall has made the growth in the coastal canyons very lush and birding along creeks like San Antonio, San Roque, Mission, and Rattlesnake should be very enjoyable.

A male Calliope Hummingbird, an uncommon migrant along the coast, was in the Botanic Gardens April 5th. One or two Pygmy Owls have been heard calling along Tunnel Road. A Baltimore Oriole along Arroyo Burro Creek was last seen in mid-March.

ELIZABETH RUSS. One of our founding members Betty Russ passed away early this year. In her memory friends may wish to contribute to the Audubon Society.

EL TECOLOTE
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