



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

Vol. 11, No. 5  
May 1973

## Calendar of Coming Events

- May 14      SAN ROQUE: Meet at Cater Water Treatment Plant, 1/4 mile above  
Mon, 5:15 p.m.      Foothill Rd. on San Roque.  
Leader: Bill Gielow, 687-3466
- May 16      MUSEUM GROUNDS, ROCKY NOOK PARK: Meet in the Museum parking lot.  
Wed, 5:15 p.m.      Leader: Mike Goodwin, 963-1265
- May 20      NORTH COUNTY RANCH: This is a very special trip to a ranch of histor-  
Sun      ic 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 intersection 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
- May 22      LAKE CANEROS: Meet at north end of lake on Covington Way by "swim  
Tue, 5:15 p.m.      club."  
Leader: Jim Hand, 968-3276
- May 24      ELWOOD BEACH DR: Take 101 to Storke Rd. exit. Right on Hollister,  
Thu, 5:15 p.m.      left on Entrance Rd. before "7-11 Store", left to dead end of Elwood  
Beach Dr. Hike marshy area to beach.  
Leader: John Arnold  
Information call Bill Gielow, 687-3466
- June 1      SCOFIELD PARK, RATTLESNAKE CANYON: Meet in Scofield parking lot on  
Fri, 5:15 p.m.      Los Caneros Rd.  
Leader: Brad Schram, 966-1364

(Note: At the last board meeting it was suggested that some evening field trips be held during May. Leaders: Please keep list of attendance, time birding, birds recorded and submit to Field Trip Leader, Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, 93017. Are there any OWL EXPERTS available who would take a quiet group out some evening? Call Virginia Puddicombe, 682-1552.)

Calendar Continue Pg. 2

EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for the next issue: Sunday, June 3. Bring or mail news items But not circulation matters, 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.

June 2                    ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC, SCOFIELD PARK, 1-6:00 p.m. Meet at 1 p.m.  
Sat                      for birding and socializing. Dinner at approximately 4:00 p.m.

MENU

Red Wine	Antipasto	Sweet Cider
Charbroiled Steak, Santa Maria Style		Ranch-Style Beans
Tossed Green Salad		Hot French Bread

Cake      Coffee

\*\*\*\*\*

PRICE: Still only \$2.50 per person!!! Bring own table service (cup, plate, silverware, wine glass, napkin). If you would like to join us but would prefer to bring your own picnic you are most welcome.

Please make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc., and mail to Joy Parkinson, 568 Beaumont Way, Goleta, CA 93017.

IMPORTANT - DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: SATURDAY MAY 26. Please cooperate. Last year we served over 100 people; and we must know a week in advance in order to "forewarn" our wonderful butcher who gives us extra-special service. Without his cooperation we could not offer the above menu for \$2.50. (We will need volunteers again-- someone on Friday afternoon to help with the washing and cutting of the antipasto "goodies" and salad greens; and several people on Saturday for final preparations. Last year, thanks to many efficient helpers, everything went very smoothly. Please call me at 967-9371 if you would like to help. Thank you. Joy.)

June 10                    FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN: Leave Museum 7:30 a.m. OR Mattie's Tavern, Los  
Sun                      Olivos at 8:15 a.m. Return via Cachuma Saddle and Happy Canyon. Call  
leader if you plan to go.

Leader: Les Cook, 963-4501

June 16                    CARPINTERIA RANCH: A visit to the Peteler's delightful property on  
Sat                      Gobernador Canyon Road. THIS TRIP WILL BE LIMITED TO 25 MEMBERS.  
(See May 20 NOTE) Meet at the east end of Santa Claus Lane at 8:15  
a.m. Bring lunch. Suggest you wear hiking boots. Call Joy Parkinson at 967-9371 if you wish to go.

Leader: Les Cook, 963-4501

July 13-14-15            PLAN AHEAD - CAMPING TRIP: (Quaking Aspen in the Sequoia National  
Fri-Sat-Sun              Forest with the Gardners.) Details in June El Tecolote.

FIELD TRIP NOTES

Morongo Valley, April 20-21-22: Ten birders from Santa Barbara, plus two from Florida who accepted our invitation to join the group, enjoyed fine desert weather; exceptionally beautiful wild flowers; the hospitality of June Gardner's sister, Mrs. Ann Driscoll; and, most of all, good birding on the Morongo Valley trip. A pair of Vermillion flycatchers; a Great Horned Owl's nest with three young; a pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers preparing their nest in a yucca stalk were highlights. Sixty-four varieties, seven of which are seldom found in our region, were seen in that desert area. -- Bill and June Gardner.

On Sunday, April 15, about 21 Audubon members and guests met at Pt. Mugu State Recreational Area entrance to spend the day birding. The day was cool and overcast but bird songs and calls drifted in from all directions. Ranger Jim Geary, wife Nancy and son Mike joined us for a short walk. A large number of Bullock's and Hooded Orioles were flying about but none seemed to be carrying nesting material yet. The sycamore trees were still quite bare of leaves offering little nest protection. By 12:30 we returned to the picnic area for lunch. Some left for home while others headed for the rock quarry to look for the canyon wren. Up the

canyon the streams were more lively and lovely. The wren showed himself and sang his down-the-scale song. About 48 species of birds were seen in the canyon including a motionless scrub jay on her nest almost over the trail to a picnic table.--Ruth Parker

Fourteen birders made the March 10-11 trip to the Los Banos area. Saturday afternoon was cold and windy. San Luis and Los Banos Refuges proved somewhat disappointing as the birds were not there in their usual numbers. Shorebirds were noticeably absent and there were few ducks on the ponds. We were rewarded by the sight of several dozen Sandhill Cranes, and exciting flights of several thousand Snow and Canada Geese. Sunday morning was much better--bright and clear. We drove to the Merced Wildlife Refuge, stopping at the casual ponds along the way. The wet winter has created many such ponds all over the valley so the birds are not concentrated in the refuges as they are in drier years but are scattered throughout the farm fields. Again we saw magnificent flights of Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese. Altogether, a total of 79 species were seen (though it seemed to me we had to work harder than usual to find them). After returning to the Los Banos Refuge for lunch, and a walk through that part of the Refuge closed to automobiles, the party broke up to return home. The rains, which created the myriad ponds making birding more challenging, have also caused the lushest green growth seen in years. This, combined with the gorgeous wild-flowers and magnificent cloud formations and rainbows, made a trip that would have been worth while even if we had not seen a single bird. It truly is a most beautiful Spring! -- Joy Parkinson

#### SIERRA CLUB RAFFLE

The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club is holding a raffle at its June 5 meeting to raise funds for purchase and maintenance of conservation films. Tickets are \$1.00 each and prizes include: a sleeping bag; a trip for two aboard the "Swift;" hiking boots; a backpack and frame; a camp stove; etc., etc. You do not have to be present to win. We will have tickets available at our own June 2 picnic. Here is a chance to add to your camping and outdoor equipment and help our fellow conservationists at the same time. (By the way, the \$1.00 ticket is good for \$1.00 discount on a Family-size pizza at a well-known local pizza parlor, so how can you possibly lose?)

#### ANTELOPE VALLEY BIRDING

On Tuesday, April 17, a friend and I went to Antelope Valley to see Joshua trees and fields of flowers--beautiful! En route back to Hiway 5 we came to a flooded area (possibly irrigation work) where several horses were out in middle of the water area--flat country. Birds were out in water--quite shallow--miles from marshes and ocean we saw: 5 black necked stilts; 6-7 dowitchers and a lot of what we decided must be Western Sandpipers all merrily feeding--must have been migrating and found that water area for rest and food. Here we were looking for desert birds and hawks, etc., and were greatly surprised to see those shore and marsh birds. (Incidentally we did see some eagles later nearer the mountains.) -- Louise Rounds.

#### New Members

Frank E. Davis, Perry A. Owen, Jr., and Ecology Action, c.o Bill Thieman, all of Ventura; W. L. Dehnke, Mrs. Robert Looker, and W. J. Travers, Carpinteria; Richard L. Haan, Janet Johnston, Richard A. Kentro, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon B. Quetin, and Robert Kvaas, Goleta; John P. Caulfield, and Mrs. William C. Ulrich, Ojai; Mrs. Marian Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis R. Gray, and Elizabeth A. Malloy, Santa Barbara; P.D. Kilgore, Carpinteria; Mrs. Eyving Earle, Solvang; Mrs. J. Jane Glover, Santa Paula; and Mrs. Marian W. Smith, Goleta.

The Board was pleased to hear from the Audubon Camp of the West that a spot was found for our scholarship recipient, Bill Downey of the S.B. News-Press. We thank Mr. Paul Veblen of the S.B. News-Press, who too was pleased with our selection of Mr. Downey and agreed that some time be given to Bill to attend the Camp.

The Bird Refuge Committee met with directors Doug Willsie of the Parks and Recreation Dept., and Bob Puddicombe of the Water Dept. They were most cooperative and are looking forward to working with us on a feasible plan.

Brad Schram and Lana Wood of the S.B. Museum of Natural History collected about 150 geese eggs from the islands on April 28. Members assisting in the clean-up of the Bird Refuge found little visible trash, but enough to half fill the Park Dept. pick-up. The Ruddy Duck in full plumage was a beautiful sight in spite of the gloomy morning.

Virginia Puddicombe will represent the society at the National Audubon Convention in Denver in June.

Books were purchased by the Library Committee. Priscilla Pearce requested members to return books before June to the office of the Museum of Natural History or bring them to the picnic on June 2nd at Scofield. \$5.00 was allocated for a subscription to "Birding" by the American Birding Association.

18 bird houses were set up in Nojoqui Park and 8 at Cachuma. Audubon bought the lumber \$30.00, the County Park Dept. made the bird houses and set them up under the guidance of Waldo Abbott. It may be too late for nesting this year but we are hopeful. Next year, we hope to add some Purple Martin houses for Nojoqui as they were observed nesting in the sycamore trees at Nojoqui.

To assist the Dept. of Fish and Game enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act we authorized Joy Parkinson, our representative, to spend \$25.00 for materials to make signs which will inform the public about mammals on the beach.

\$25.00 was sent to the Audubon Committee working with the Sierra Club to purchase materials for its annual exhibit booth at the Los Angeles County Fair.

Mike Fishbein and Bob Kasson attended the land management meeting at the Los Prietos Ranger Station.

Nominating Committee--Elizabeth Russell, Desmond Jones and Bob Kasson nominated for the Board of Directors: Minna Smith, Bill Gielow and Mike Goodwin, as new directors and Michael Fishbein, June Gardner, Desmond Jones, C.S. Kinsell, Helen O'Reilly, Virginia Puddicombe, Elizabeth Russell, and Bradford Schram. Nominations will be open to members. Election will be held at the Annual Picnic on June 2.

OIL SUMPS. Part of the study made by Philip P. Schaeffer is in the May 1973 issue of Audubon Magazine. Write your concern to:

Western Gas & Oil Assn., National Oil Bldg., 6th & Grand, Los Angeles, CA. J. F. Matthews, Sr., State Oil & Gas Supervisor, Director of Oil and Gas, 1419 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.



NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST POISONING OF WILDLIFE. California Senate Bill SB-633 (Behr) will be heard in the Senate Natural Resources and Conservation Committee on May 31. This bill represents a large step forward on behalf of wildlife in this state. It protects predators, outlaws poison, outlaws traps with saw-toothed or spiked jaws. Write to Senator Robert Lagomarsino, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA.

As your outgoing president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board and committee members for their active participation in Audubon activities. It has been a busy year for me, the contact with you has been gratifying, the field trips enjoyable and educational. Although I feel we have worked hard for the Audubon cause, there is still much to do. I will look forward to working as a member.

Thank you.

Tomi Sollen

#### 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.