



# El Tecolote

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sept. 9 HURRICANE BOAT TRIP - All day outing to islands. Leave Santa Barbara Marina 3 at 7 AM and return around 6 PM. Limited to 30 persons! Get your reservations in IMMEDIATELY. Make checks payable to Santa Barbara Audubon Society. Mail to Virginia Puddicombe, 74 La Cumbre Cr., Santa Barbara, CA 93105. (Suggest you avoid eating greasy foods before trip and take lunch and snacks.) If you make a reservation, we expect you aboard at 7 AM. No confirmation. If we are over-subscribed, you will be notified. Pelagic birds guaranteed!!!

## NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

The 67th National Audubon Society Convention was held in Denver, Colo., from June 7 through June 11 and the theme was "Public Lands: Our Margin of Environmental Quality." With excellent exhibits of photography, paintings, a sales booth by the Denver Audubon Society, all Convention information available, a hospitality room, reams of information pamphlets and the national staff available to greet us, we (Jan Hamber and I) arrived at the Hilton Hotel.

The first day was a field trip and early rising was imperative since breakfast was served at 6 AM! A trip to the "Pawnee National Grasslands" was stimulating and exciting. With two Longspurs to see, the McCowan's and the Chestnut-collared, for birders, the excitement ran high. Lark Buntings were everywhere and, many other species of birds were seen when we lunched in the shade of cottonwoods (amid cow dung!) beside an almost dry stream. It was a scorching hot day and a relief to return to the air conditioned hotel and swimming pool on the 5th floor. The annual meeting of members was held that night with Mr. Setzer presiding. Our National president, Dr. Elvis J. Stahr spoke and emphasized the increase of our membership from 86,562 members in 1968 to 264,973 in April 1973! What an increase! The renewal rate is 83% which is outstanding. We also have 301 chapters as of June 1, '73. Our job, as Dr. Stahr sees it is to put laws which have been passed on environment to work. We must act as the "watch dogs."

At 8 AM on Saturday the real work of the Convention began...The Honorable Floyd K. Haskell, U.S. Senator, Colo., an outstanding speaker, spoke on "Public Lands and Environmental Values, A View From Congress." With a quote from Will Rogers "Land, that's one thing there ain't no more of," Haskell opened his speech. He feels that we have not established national policies on land use and must do so, pointing out Boca Raton, Fla., which holds to a "no growth" projection. If we are deeply concerned, we should support and write our senators on the 1973 Land Use Bill, Senate Bill S-268. The Mr. Charles F. Luce, Chairman, National Water Commission, spoke on "Toward A National Water Policy." He stated we must shift from "Water Development to Water Quality." He also stated that "0" pollution is Not possible but it was time the "polluter" pay the cost, and that economics should not be the criteria for water benefits, the preservation of wild rivers, etc.

In the afternoon we heard the Honorable Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary, US Dept. of the Interior. A positive thinker, dynamic speaker with a strong personality, he advocates turning over small refugees to conservation organizations for protection and care, would like to see conservation stamps sold and is against refugees being used as recreational areas.

Mr. Merrick, Southwestern Regional Executive of the National Wildlife Federation and editor of two magazines was rather cynical in his analysis of National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges. He felt that people pressures were only helped so far by the "pill" and that second home sites which he called FIFO, "Fast In Fast Out" were creating additional land use problems. Mr. J.R. McGuire, Chief, Forest Service U.S. Dept. of Agriculture made a good point: "We need to pass a Wilderness Act. Our country is 200 years old. It has taken us 100 years to form the government and the next 100 years to dispose of Public Lands." The Honorable J.F. Turner, Rep. Wyoming State Legislature spoke on multiple use and the responsible use of public lands by Congress, the President and Society. He stated that too often we have "tunnel" vision and we need an inventory of land and resources, budgeting and stewardship of the same.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT TIME

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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