



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 11, No. 7  
September 1973

*phoned for*

Tomi Sollen, President  
825 N. Soledad St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
966-6436

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 15  
Sat Santa Clara River Estuary: Meet at the Museum of Natural History for ride-sharing at 7 am. Take Seaward Ave. offramp in Ventura. Turn left onto Harbor Blvd. and continue to bridge. Park north by sewage treatment plant at 8 a.m. Two miles walking. Take lunch. Emphasis: kites, phalaropes, shore birds, much more. Suggested driver donation: \$1.25.  
Leader: Ruth Parker, 643-5711
- Sept. 19  
Wed McMehemy Trail-Montecito: Meet in pavillion parking lot of Manning Park at 8 a.m. prompt. Car pool to trail. Lunch in Manning Park.  
Leader: Beryl Moore, 643-2913
- Sept. 26  
Wed Santa Barbara Yacht Harbor and Breakwater-Bird Refuge: Meet in front of Harbor Master's office in parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch.  
Leader: Mike Fishbein, 966-6954
- Sept. 29  
Sat Reyes Peak-Sespe Corridor: Meet in the Vons parking lot at Hot Springs and Coast Village Rds, at 6:45 a.m. Drive 71 miles with stops at habitats en route. Hopefully we'll see Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks, White-headed Woodpeckers, and Mountain Quail (& owls?). Terrific view from Reyes Peak, elev. 7,510'. May also join group at approximately 8 a.m. beside the road on Route #33 at Wheeler Gorge Camp Park. Suggested driver donation: \$3.00.  
Leader: Brad Schram, 968-6253
- Oct. 3  
Wed Goleta State Beach Park & Airport: Meet at south end of State Beach parking lot at 8 a.m. Walk 2 miles. Lunch in park.  
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe, 682-1552
- Oct. 6  
Sat Devereaux Slough and Coal Oil Point: Meet in the parking lot of Isla Vista school at Storke and El Colegio Rds. at 8:30 a.m. Walk 3 miles. Good for marsh, shore birds. Take lunch.  
Leader: Mike Goodwin, 963-1265
- Oct. 10  
Wed Santa Clara River Estuary-McGrath Park: Meet at the Vons parking lot at Hot Springs and Coast Village Rds. at 8 a.m. Follow instructions for Sept. 15 trip. Sewage plant 9 a.m.  
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe, 682-1552

Oct. 14      Refugio Pass Rd: Meet in Thrifty's parking lot (5 points) at 7:30 a.m.  
Sun           or in school parking lot at Refugio Pass Rd. and Hwy 246 near town of  
              Santa Ynez at 8:15 a.m. Take lunch. Suggested driver donation: \$1.25.

Leaders: Mary Lou & Jim Hand  
966-2896 (only after 6 PM)

Oct. 16      Sandyland Slough: Meet at Santa Claus Ln at 8 a.m. Marsh birds.  
Tue

Leader: Sey Kinsell, 687-3308

Oct. 20-21-22 Imperial Beach, Tiajuana River Valley, and Point Loma: San Diego  
Sat-Sun-Mon      County.

Leader to be announced

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Pinos--Wednesday, Aug. 29. 30 members and guests enjoyed a fine day with no rain, sleet, snow, heavy winds or washed out roads such as we have sometimes experienced. Sixty species were recorded, but no Condors or Pygmy Nuthatchers. Almost everyone saw the Dusky Flycatchers, Steller Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain Chickadees, Brown Creepers, Mountain Bluebirds, Cassin's Finches and Green-tailed Towhees. Other sightings by some of the party included the Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail, Costa's and Calliope Hummingbirds, White-headed Woodpecker and Brewer's Sparrow. One of the strangest sights was a family of Green-tailed Towhees that showed no fear of people who were only a couple of feet from them. (Nelson Metcalf)

Salton Sea/Arizona--July 6-13. This trip was a glorious safari for Les Cook and myself. Perhaps this report will entice more members into making the trip next year. Our first stop at Salton Sea was highlighted by sighting roseate spoonbill, fulvous tree duck, and the yellow-legged race of the Western gull (probably a distinct species). A tape recorder at Imperial Dam on the Colorado River aided hearing several black rails. Lesser nighthawks were abundant. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument netted a large flock of white wing doves, cactus wrens and curve-billed thrashers feasting on saguaro fruit. Our base camp was the Mile Hi in the Huachuca Mountains. At the feeders we saw 8 hummingbird species--Broad-tailed, Rivoli's, Blue-throated, violet-crowned, and broad-billed among them. Sighted sparrows included Cassins, Botteri's, Grasshopper, Black-Throated and the Five-striped--a bird only recently discovered breeding in the U.S. 165 total species! (Michael Fishbein)

### TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE FOR 73-74 SEASON

September: 9, Hurricane Boat Trip; 15, Santa Clara Estuary-McGrath Park; 19, McMehehy Trail-Montecito; 26, Bird Refuge-Harbor; 29, Reyes Peak-Sespe Corridor.  
October: 3, Goleta State Beach-Airport; 6, Devereaux Slough-Coal Oil Point; 10, Santa Clara Estuary-McGrath Park; 14, Refugio Pass; 16, Sandyland Slough; 20-21-22\* Imperial Beach, Tiajuana River Valley, Point Loma; 24\*, Botanic Gardens, Mission Canyon; 31\*, San Roque Canyon; November: 3\*, Botanic Gardens, Mission Canyon; 17-18, Morro Bay, Montana de Oro; 23-24-25\*, Los Banos Wildlife Refuge. December 1, Sandyland Slough-Toro Canyon, Dec. 15, People interested in the Christmas Count, please get out and "bird". Santa Barbara Christmas Count, Sat. Dec. 15, organizer: Sey Kinsell; Sespe County, Friday, Dec. 28, Organizer, Mike Goodwin. January: 13, Lake Cachuma-Paradise Canyon; 26\*, Ventury County Game Preserve. February 10, Dune Lakes; 16-17-18\*, Salton Sea-Imperial Valley-Yaqui Wells. March: 2\*, Fillmore-Piru Basin; 17\*, Foxen Canyon-Colson Canyon Rds; 27\*, Goleta Slough-Airport. April: 6\*, Pt. Mugu Recreational Area (Air Facility); 13, Lopez Canyon (SLO County) or Ojai Area; 17\*, Lake Los Carneros; 20, Refugio Pass; 27-28, Davy Brown Camping Trip; Easter Vacation, an excellent time to visit Death Valley or Morongo Valley! May: 4\*, Zaca Lake; 11-12, Wm. Cooper Ranch-Figueroa Mtn; 18-19\*, Mt. Pinos Camping Trip; 26\*, Tunnel Road; 29, Nojoqui Falls-Santa Rosa Park. June 1, Annual Santa Barbara Audubon Society Picnic-Stowe Grove Park. June 9\*, Lompoc area "Cojo" Ranch (Jalama). Watch El Tecolote for changes in above schedule--this is tentative! \*Leaders needed. If

you would like to volunteer to lead or co-lead a field trip, or if you have information leading to a possible leader, please contact Virginia Puddicombe (682-1552) or Bill Gielow (687-3466).

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I happily welcome all our members to a new year in Santa Barbara Audubon. I take particular pleasure in welcoming our new Board of Directors. Both Tomi and I are looking forward to a productive and very rewarding year of activities and projects. Also we would like to extend this welcome to those members who have volunteered their services to our various committees. With the support of these people we will be continuing Santa Barbara Audubon's successful program.

While the activities of the chapter were curtailed for the summer months, our board and committees have been very active attending meetings, gathering information on local issues, and planning for the new year.

For several years our chapter has been trying to get some improvement of the existing condition of the Andre Clark Bird Refuge. Now our city council has taken over the issue and we will have a chance to see the refuge become the asset to the city that it should be. Much time and work has been spent by Dorothy Martone and the Bird Refuge Committee studying the different aspects of the development (non-development?) of the refuge and we can soon put forth our recommendations to the city council and Parks Department.

Mike Fishbein has been very active keeping up with local environmental issues--in particular the problem of fencing of the airport property, and in making our feelings known to the people and agencies who are making decisions on the issues. Bob Kasson has been helping us by keeping abreast of the plans that Txxon Oil Co has made for transferring and/or processing the oil from its channel platforms at locations in the Santa Barbara area.

Legislation dealing with oil sumps is being studied by both houses of the state legislature and our representatives will need the urging of concerned people to put together a sound bill.

Nationally there are bills that Congress will be considering this session dealing with strip mining (S. 425), and predator control (S. 819) and (H.R. 38). Our congressmen should know how we feel about these issues.

The Forest Service is under extreme pressure from sportsmen to re-open roads that have been closed to motorized traffic in areas near where the condors roost and nest. Letters to Mr. Robert Lancaster, Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest, 42 Aero Camino, Goleta, CA 93017, and your congressman are vitally important.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings and activities.

Mike Goodwin, V.P. (for Tomi Sollen)

#### SAN BLAS, MEXICO, OUTING

Point Reyes Bird Observatory offers a 12-day outing to San Blas, Mexico and environs (December 7-19, 1973). Let their experienced birders (Bill Clow and Richard Stallcup) lead you through one of the best birding areas in Western Mexico. For details call or write Meryl Stewart, P.O. Box 442, Bolinas, CA 94924, 415-868-0696. Deadline for entry, November 1, 1973.

## TENTATIVE LIST OF PROGRAMS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS, 1973-74

Oct. 26: A slide show by UCSB Professor of Environmental Studies Roderick Nash, on "Wild Rivers." Dec. 7: Members slides; Any member who has slides or knows of a member that has slides that would be of interest is urged to contact Brad Schram, 968-6255, or Mike Goodwin, 963-1265. Jan. 25: Our local chapter has sent Dave Cosby and Bill Downey to Audubon Camp of the West. Both have slides and tales to share with us concerning this most worthwhile program. Feb. 22: Two short films. The first a documentary on how wildlife photographers get those unusual shots. The second a film featuring the Whitethroated Sparrow and other well known birds with an excellent soundtrack as well. Mar. 22: A speaker from EPA with a talk and slides on the 1968 oil spill that have not been seen in this area. Apr. 26: A National Geographic Series Film entitled, "Winged World." June: Annual picnic.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

This year's Christmas Count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15. Contact Sey Kinsell, 687-3308. The Sespe Count will be held Friday, Dec. 28. The Friday date was chosen to get the help of the rangers on this count. Contact Mike Goodwin, 963-1265. We need leaders, recorders, and spotters for both of these counts.

## LECTURES ON THE ENERGY CRISIS

The Continuing Education Division of City College and the Community Environmental Council are sponsoring a series of four Tuesday-evening lectures. The first talk will be on "The Energy Crisis," and will be given on Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Santa Barbara High School. The speaker will be Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior.

## AUDUBON SANCTUARIES OPEN FOR VISITORS

The Starr Ranch in Orange, the newest sanctuary acquired by the National Audubon Society (and by all accounts a beautiful piece of unspoiled country), will be opened to visits by members of the society on the following days: Sept. 16 (Sunday), Oct. 20 (Saturday), Nov. 10 (Saturday), and Dec. 1 (Saturday), from 9 to 3 o'clock. The ranch is quite rough, so visitors are asked to bring their own drinking water. Tomi Sollen has exact driving directions. Visitors to the Bay Area may wish to go to Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in Tiburon. It is now open for visits from 9 to 5, Wednesday through Sunday. Address: 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., just off Tiburon Blvd.

## SANTA PAULA CREEK

The latest stream in our area to be threatened with "channel-improvement" is Santa Paula Creek from Steckel Park to the Santa Clara River. If the present plans go through, a large part of Steckel Park will become a debris-basin, and the vegetation along the creek will be irreparably damaged. The Board of Directors of SB Audubon voted at their July 23rd meeting to donate \$225 to the Friends of Santa Paula Creek to assist them in bringing suit, together with the Sierra Club, against the project.

## INJURED OR DEAD BIRDS

If you find an injured bird you may call Waldo Abbott, Museum of Natural History, 963-7821, for information on how to treat the bird. Dead birds not damaged beyond suitability for mounting should be frozen and tagged as to date and location found and then taken to the Museum of Natural History.

## FENCING THE GOLETA SLOUGH

On August 23, the Regional Coastal Commission approved the building of two fences, which will virtually surround the Goleta Slough. The original purpose of the fence was airport security, and the original plans involved locating a section of the fence within the slough. Audubon opposed this design and was able to get the Airport and the University to agree on placing the contested section of fencing on top of the bluff about the slough. The airport will now fulfill the safety requirements of the FAA and the slough will be protected from the dog-packs that in recent years have almost eliminated successful nesting by ground-nesting birds. Access for birders is to be guaranteed. What is perhaps more exciting is that the Coastal Commission took the opportunity to recommend that the slough be managed as a wildlife sanctuary either by an appropriate municipal agency or by UCSB. Executive Director Casey Buchter deserves our thanks for his far-sighted recommendation. (M. Fishbein)

## SEPT. 28 - REGULAR MEETING - SLIDES BY BRAD SCHRAM

Brad will give us a sampling of the show he has put together for use by Santa Barbara Area schools. As usual the commentary will be informative and witty. The slides are of birds that can be found locally. Farrand Hall. Bird ID class before.

## REMINDER

Any sightings of rare birds or birds that are out of season in the Santa Barbara area, should be reported to Jewel Kirger, 969-4192, so that she can put it on the Rare Bird Alert.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are saddened to announce the passing of Bessie S. Archbald, aunt of Malcom Archbald. Miss Archbald, a long time member of Audubon, wished to be remembered by contributions to the National Audubon Sanctuaries Fund.

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## WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

A highly interesting and varied Wilderness Workshop will be given by the Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society Sat. & Sun., Oct. 13-14. Registration is \$1.50. The program will include speakers from government agencies, seminars and field trips. For more details on this fabulous workshop, please contact Mike Goodwin, 963-1265, or Write Wilderness Workshop, 4220 Patricia Way, Dunsmuir, CA 96025. Registration deadline, Sept. 30.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Paul Fagin, Walter A. Kohl, Marjorie P. Wright, M. & Mrs. Wilbur H. Thies, Jr., Marian L. Phillips, Hilary Dabney, John Gillespie, Sharon Amestoy, Carol Boyce, Mary & Jim Hand, and Miss Margaret E. Gott, all of Santa Barbara; Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Bush, Marie Runte, Dr. M. S. Reese, and R. L. White, Goleta; James W. Miller, Fred B. Frizell, and Joseph D. Hyde, Ventura; Dennis A. Hall and H. E. Rader, Carpinteria; Mrs. Paul J. Leavens, Santa Paula; V. G. Mottarella, Jr., Lompoc; and Kroc Foundation, Santa Ynez.

\* \* \* \* \*

American Birds - excerpts - a loose leaf book with listings of some of the more unusual birds in various states, Mexico and Canada is now available in the Audubon Library.

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS (Continued from August Issue)

On Sunday, bright and early, I attended the Predator Control Problems and Policies workshop. Those of you who have followed our CA Predator Control Bill will probably agree with Dr. Oliver K. Scott, President of the Murie Audubon Society, Casper, Wyo., that "there are so many lies between figures and facts." Dr. Wagner, Associate Dean, Utah State University, stated that coyotes are too smart to be eliminated despite the use of 1080. It was also noted that there is little correlation between sheep loss and coyote population. Tom Lasater, Colo. rancher, stated that insecticides kill ALL predators and that ranchers should "let nature do all the work." His ranch is commended for its completely natural ways. Nat Reed spoke and said that he was against pesticides and that the most successful rancher in the U.S., Mr. Lassater, did NOT use them nor the most successful orange grower in Fla. Another workshop was held on "Meeting the Energy Development Crisis" which Jan Hamber attended.

On Sunday afternoon the Chapter Delegates Meeting was held. To me, this was the highlight of the Convention for stimulating, provocative, thought. It was down-to-earth, let's get busy talking and thinking. On the agenda were a "non-game wildlife research center" (being supported by State Conservation stamps for sale) while S-ream Channelization, Estuaries, Wetlands and Flood Plains, Energy (24 hours of illumination of buildings and freeways to be eliminated and solar energy is economically feasible now) and Falconry (must work for strict Federal regulations with NO permits for falconry advocated by several members). A lively discussion of "Off-Road Vehicles" followed. If you want a copy of proposed rules and regulations of "Off Road Vehicles" write Cynthia Wilson, 1511 K St., N.W. Wash. D.C. 20005. Delegates heard about the \$6 student membership fee started by the National Audubon Society in 1969. No dues were split but the magazine is received. It was suggested that action oriented programs be started for students and that board members participate and not just sit around and watch. Students need "Big Brothers." How to reach the students? Through school, Audubon aids, books, films, sponsor credit for ecology in high school and even jr. high and promote Audubon Wildlife Film lectures. Contests and prizes, awards to Audubon Camps, sponsor essays and competition were some of the educational methods suggested.

Our meeting was to have ended by 5 p.m. but we were so involved in hearing and learning what others were doing that it continued until 5:30 when Ronald Clement disbanded us.

These are a few of the highlights of the convention. I wish each of you had been there. There were 1,059 members present. After returning via air to cool, pleasant Santa Barbara, I did feel strongly that it was a well worth while experience. I should like to see our local chapter budget to send a delegate to each National Convention (the next will be held in Mobile, Ala. in April 1975), Regional and District meetings. These are vitally important to our 800 members in this chapter... and let's all remember Tom Lasater's theme that "nature knows best." P.S. Have you heard this one: "Ignorance is a form of environmental pollution."

Virginia Puddicombe, Deletate, National  
Audubon Society Convention, Denver, Colo.

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS COUNTS - Nelson Metcalf

Here are some statistics and some "trivia" about Santa Barbara's participation in the Annual Christmas Bird Counts conducted by the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1899. The Bird Study Group of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History participated in the Count from 1910 to 1940. The Santa Barbara Count was started in 1961 and has been held for the past 12 years.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Species Recorded	127	140	166	155	170	178	165	165	178	194	202	195
Individual Birds	14036	27843	39161	46520	40666	50074	51723	50486	45059	50358	43800	45736
Count Period But Not On Count Day	12	5	10	6	3	2	8	2	7	10	8	5
Observers	26	29	41	48	47	61	77	56	55	83	97	81
No. of Parties	13	10	13	8	15	18	30	28	23	35	35	30
No. of Highest Count Species	1	5	8	3	6	14	6	5	8	4	11	7
National Rank			5	T-10	6	5	6	7	6	5	2	T-3
Calif. Rank	T-8	4	2	T-6	3	3	5	4	3	1	2	T-1

For the last 10 years Santa Barbara has been one of the 4 communities that has always placed in the first 10 in the number of species recorded. The other three are Cocoa, Fla.; Freeport, TX; and San Diego. These four are the only communities ever to have recorded over 200 species on a Count day. California always makes a fine showing in all phases of the Christmas Counts. In 1972 ten of the top 15 species counts were made in California. 15 of the 44 counts of 150 or more species were made in California. California led all the states with 60 communities making counts, followed by Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania with 54, 46, and 42.

For the first time the report in American Birds has included the all-time highest counts of individual species. Santa Barbara has the All-Time-High for 5 species: Snowy Plover 247 in 1966; Anna's Hummingbird 952 in 1971; Scrub Jay 977 in 1971; Plain Titmouse 285 in 1971; and Warbling Vireo 2 in 1970. Santa Barbara has had the high count of Anna's Hummingbirds in 8 of the last 9 years; Common Bushtits in 6 of the last 7 years. Other high counts have been of the Acorn Woodpecker, Snowy Plover and Black-headed Grosbeak on 5 counts; Western Gull on 4; Allen's Hummingbird, Scrub Jay, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Tricolored Blackbird on 3 counts; Cooper's Hawk, Xantus' Murrelet, Bulloch's and Hooded Oriole on 2 counts and Red-throated Loon, Sooty Shearwater, White-tailed Kit, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Plover, Cedar Waxwing, House Wren, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Brown Towhee on one count.

MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION

Many marine mammals occupy the Channel Islands and the waters adjacent to them. For instance, we have the California sea lion, elephant seal and harbor seal to name a few, and the gray whale migrates through twice a year, all in waters contiguous to our shores. From time to time, man will encounter one of these animals on the beach. Do you know what to do? See next page.

(1) If it is alive and well, leave it alone and keep some distance between you. Remember, it is a wild animal. (2) If it appears to be sick or injured, still leave it alone. This is the law (Public Law 92-522) and is also the best thing for the animal. In the case of illness, marine mammals have to beach themselves when they become too weak to swim and breathe properly. If the animal is in distress, or is causing a problem on the beach, you should report it. Call the State Fish and Game Dept., 964-4631. If there is no answer, call the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, 967-5561. If the animal needs immediate treatment, call the Santa Barbara Humane Society, 964-4777. If the animal is dead, call Animal Control, 967-2311, ext. 381.

The above-named agencies, which have authority to act on behalf of marine mammals together with several concerned organizations (including SBAS), have formed a Marine Mammal Protection Committee. The purpose of this committee is to publicize the fact that marine mammals are now protected by the Marine Mammal Act of 1972. Many marine mammals are endangered, and others are likely to become so if they are not wisely protected now.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: New members, send application and check made out 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.

EL TECOLOTE: Deadline for the next issue: Friday, October 5. Bring or mail to: Miss Lou Dartanner, 5546 Cathedral Oaks, Santa Barbara 93111, or call 967-4859.

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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