



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 12, No. 1  
January 1974

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Jan. 13  
Sunday

Cachuma Lake-PARADISE CANYON: Wintering ducks, raptors, canyon residents. Meet at Natural History Museum parking lot promptly at 8:30 am to arrange transportation--4 to 6 persons per car will be mandatory. Pack a lunch and bring spotting scopes if possible.  
Leader: Bill Gielow, 687-3466

Feb. 2  
Saturday

VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE: Wintering ducks, geese, marsh birds, hawks and shorebirds. Excellent opportunity to view a great variety of species. Meet at Natural History Museum parking lot for car-pooling (4-6 per car). Pack a lunch and spotting scopes if able. Return to Santa Barbara at 3 pm or so.  
Leader: Jan Hamber, 967-6549

Feb. 9  
Saturday

DUNE LAKES: A fantastic area for ducks, geese, marsh birds. We are privileged to be able to make this trip again this year. It is necessary to limit the trip to 24 members & 6 cars. Suggested driver donation \$2.50. Take lunch. Priority will be given to members who haven't visited this private hunting preserve before. If you plan to go call the leaders. Plan to meet at museum.  
Leaders: Dick&Helen O'Reilly, 684-2076

Feb. 16  
Saturday

Salton Sea trip cancelled due to distance involved and gas problems.

March 2  
Saturday

FILLMORE-PIRU BASIN: Leader to be announced.

Jan. 25  
Friday

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: 8 PM, Farrand Hall, Museum of Nat. History. Dave Cosby and Bill Downey will give us a slide show and talk on the Audubon Camp of the West. Dave is in charge of the education program at the Museum and Bill is a News-Press writer and storyteller of repute. A bird identification class will be held in the bird hall at 7:30 pm.

STYROFOAM POLLUTES! Please remember to bring your own cup for refreshments after the meeting. Every little bit helps and our example may set others on the right path.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

From the Audubon Leader: " A CHEERFUL THOUGHT FOR THE HOLIDAYS: DON'T LET THE ENERGY CRISIS GET YOU DOWN--THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD NEWS TO COUNTER THE BAD. ...Take highways and mass transit....In short, Americans are being forced to face up to the need for conserving energy. ...We conservationists have a lot going for us in 1974."

Our first program for the new year by our Audubon Camp of the West scholarship recipients for 1972, Florence and Dave Cosby and for 1973, Bill Downey, should be informative, educational and a fun meeting.

You will note changes in the field trip schedule. The Board decided at the last meeting to delete the long trips due to the gasoline shortage. The shorter trips are scheduled on Saturday and carpools will be encouraged.

Thanks to Auduboners and friends for their efforts in making the Santa Barbara and Sespe Christmas Bird Counts a success. Both days were sunny with clear skies. Special thanks to organizers and compilers, Sey Kinsell, Michael Fishbein and Michael Goodwin---and Minna & Smitty Smith for refreshments after the count at the museum. We owe thanks to the Forest Service personnel for their cooperation on the Sespe count.

We commend Robert Lancaster, Forest Service Supervisor of the Los Padres National Forest for his recommendation to the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to continue limitations on oil and gas drilling in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. The Condors need as much protection from human activities as possible in order to survive.

Congressman Charles Teague, who represented Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties in the House of Representatives, died on New Year's Day at the age of 64. His record was good on conservation and environmental issues, including protection of the desert, the Santa Monica Mountains, the forests, and the Santa Barbara Channel from overuse or commercial exploitation. He will be missed and Auduboners should work to assure a worthy successor.

January 28th--Fifth anniversary of Oil Well Blow-out in S.B. Channel. Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center, 1232 De la Vina at 8:00 pm. Two speakers on the Energy Crisis. Make reservations with GOO, Inc. 965-1519.

\*\*\*Keeping Posted\*\*\*

State:--AB 1254. Ventura-Los Angeles Mountains and Coastal Zone Act of 1973. Safeguard 200,000 acres of remaining open land in the Santa Monica Mountains. Next--State Senate.

--AB 594. Beverage Container Deposit. Assemblyman Edwin Z'Berg, Chmn.

Federal--Limit Oil development in SB Channel. Rep. Patsy Mink.

--S 2062. Nonreturnable Beverage Container Prohibition Act of 1973. Sen. Mark Hatfield.

--S. 399 Amendment to the Animal Welfare Act of 1970. To amend the Federal law regulating the care and treatment of animals & to broaden the categories of persons regulated under such law. To assure birds in pet stores and zoos are protected. Increase protection of all animals in transit.

Continued on next page

Keeping posted (continued)

--Bureau of Reclamation's Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota. Project for irrigation will destroy wetlands--over seven wildlife refuges.

--Request for additional wilderness acreage to protect the Idaho & Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas in Idaho. Regional Forester, Federal Bldg., Ogden, Utah 84401.

Tomi Sollen

CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS\*\*\*\*\*

SANTA BARBARA: A total of 113 observers in 34 parties participated in the count this year--the largest number ever, up from 81 in 30 parties last year. The weather was ideal, with temperatures near 70 and little wind. About 45,700 individual birds of 185 species were sighted (the national editor may question one or two-species). The number of species was down from 195 last year, although curiously almost exactly the same number of birds were seen last year.

In many instances, the count confirmed what members suspected: that many species are greatly reduced in number this year. For example, western grebes declined from 1030 to 192. The number of American coots was the lowest since 1964 (when we had only 48 observers in the field). Hermit thrushes declined from 150 to 11; cedar waxwings went from 2111 to 259; and all of our 113 observers this year together saw fewer Brewer's blackbirds (983) than 26 observers saw in 1961 (1005). Goldfinches were down: the American at its lowest since 1961, the lesser at its lowest since 1962, and Lawrence's absent entirely (last year there were 208, an unusually high number). Dark-eyed juncos and golden-crowned sparrows declined somewhat. It was obvious that last year was a very good year for montane species. The 30 pygmy nuthatches and 10 evening grosbeaks present last year were completely absent. Mountain chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, pine siskins, and fox sparrows were also much reduced.

On the positive side, we counted record numbers of mew gulls and Heermann's gulls. Our record for owls was also very good, thanks to the efforts of our indefatigable owlers, Mary Lou and Jim Hand, who began their day at 3 am and located a screech owl, 7 great horned owls and 2 pygmy owls.

Mike Fishbein

SESPE: (12/28/73) Despite the threat of rain 24 people in 7 parties recorded 92 species, down from the all-time high of 119 recorded on last year's count. Only 2 Condors were sighted...very disappointing. High points were Townsend's Solitaire, Bald Eagle, and Rough-legged Hawk. The cooperation we received from members of the US Forest Service was deeply appreciated.

Mike Goodwin

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Point Mugu-Nov. 10: About 32 members were fortunate to have gone on this trip through the generosity of Commander Baker. We were shown very good slides of the Estuary and then taken on a tour of good birding around the lagoons where we saw 41 species, including white pelican and snow geese. Helen O'Reilly

Sandyland Slough-Nov. 16: The Audubon trip to Sandyland was a success as far as birding was concerned--46 species were seen, a fine score. Unfortunately the only members to attend were Helen Solisbury, Beryl Scott, Jane Glover; Nelson Metcalf and I. Nelson came to help with the crowd!! Ruth Saul was a welcome guest.

Mr. Travers, a Sandyland resident and Audubon member, stayed long enough to demonstrate the use of his Questar to, as he said, bring the ruby eye of the Black-crowned Night Heron to arms length. He kindly left the instrument while he was at work.

Les Cook

FIELD TRIP REPORTS (cont)

Morro Bay-Montana de Oro-Nov. 17&18: Twenty-two members and guests braved wind, rain, and cold to see an even hundred varieties at Morro Bay, Montana de Oro, and Shell Beach. Early risers saw the peregrine falcon Sunday morning. Those caught in the heavy squall on the way home were treated to the very beautiful sight of a double rainbow almost close enough to touch.

Bill&June Gardner

Carrizo Plain-Dec 1&2: Twenty-five persons gathered in the rain at the proposed time and waited under cover of the Museum roof until our chartered bus arrived. It was raining so hard we could not see out the windows to look for the Kites in Carpinteria, or hawks while going over Casitas Pass. Stopping at the junction near Ojai, we took on 2 more rough and ready birders, Ruth Parker & Ruby Drapeau.

Although it was nice riding up and over Pine Mountain Summit (the rain had quieted) very few birds were seen until our arrival at the famous Reyes Station. After a visit inside the store for a look at Mrs. Reyes collection of--you name it--the newcomers just had to see the toilet facilities (yes they are still standing but barely so). After finding out we could not go into the Plain via our regular route, we started off in the direction of Taft & McKittrick. Shortly thereafter I spotted a Pigeon Hawk (Merlin) and the bus unleased, giving everyone a close look at the obliging hawk. Again we were off.

Without stopping we went through Maricopa, Taft, and McKittrick, then left on Hiway 58, over the top of the Temblor Range & down into the Carrizo Plain. The weather was quite nice in the Plain--sunshine, no more rain.

We decided to do some birding before going to the motel. We went straight across the Plains to the southwest side of Soda Lake, quite muddy and slippery in places, until we reached the other side. Suddenly, while going along the lake, many Cranes were spotted, both in the water and in the field. Everyone was able to observe them through binoculars & telescopes. Occasionally groups of cranes would fly, putting on a good show and calling. It could not have better if it were planned. Finally we turned toward the motel for the night. In only a short distance we saw our first Golden Eagle, a bird of the year--much white in the wings & 2/3 of the tail pure white. We arrived at California Valley Motel about 4 pm & checked in.

There was still a little light left so some of the more hardy souls took a ¼ mile hike down the road to a man-created pond in hopes of finding the last new species before dark. After checking a few coots and domestic geese, they returned. After a little rest we all converged on the only eating facilities in the valley.

At 7 am the next morning donuts were served in Bill Gielow's room and we were off before breakfast for some birding. Thus began a most productive day of birding this writer has experienced on the Plains in a number of years, as far as raptor species were concerned. A sight long to remember was 4 Rough-legged Hawks circling together over our heads. Everyone got to study them thoroughly. Each identifying mark was plainly observed. They then set sail in a westerly direction. Also before breakfast we were fortunate in checking a Prairie Falcon, several Ferruginous Hawks, a Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle & many American Kestrels. Beautiful Mountain Bluebirds were along the fences and several hundred Mountain Plover put on a splendid show in a nearby field & along the roadside. A typical adult Swainson's Hawk sailed past the back of the bus; it should not have been there but it was. Sometimes because of an injury or sickness a bird will stay behind, either to die or possibly recuperate during the winter.

By the time we had finished breakfast it was noon. We hurried up our checking out and got on the road. Before leaving the Plains, I thought it would be nice to once more see the fabulous cranes, as one never seems to get enough of them. They were all there, still in the area we had previously seen them. There were numerous estimates as to the number of birds in the flock, but a fairly careful count, as best I could, made me think 1500 birds were there. Most thought more, so the final figure was settled at 2000.

Continued on page five.



### CARRIZO PLAIN (cont)

It seems wherever man is about or has been, someone of them usually creates & leaves something behind. We had 2 examples of this on the Plains. In both cases it was the same, though by separate parties. We came upon a motor home parked in the road. All around it on the road were spent shot gun shells, boxes, papers, bags, beer cans galore, old food &, as if it were not enough, blood, heads, entrails, hides & you name it. It was a sickening mess. Four men were walking nearby in the fields. Between them they were carrying 17 more jack rabbits. Our tempers rose but we left without commenting to them. After another 3 or 4 miles we found the same thing. Some of our members got out and cleaned up the cans, etc. One thing is certain: true sportsmen would have disposed of the animal remains in the brush out of sight where other animals could make a few meals of it. It was a most disgusting sight which I believe none of our members will forget.

We had no more than gotten underway when, as if to remind us there is still beauty to be found, 4 Golden Eagles got up off the ground and displayed for us as we left the Plains. One more Golden Eagle, an adult, was observed on the McKittrick.

Our bus driver, who has accompanied us several times to Carrizo, is also becoming a birder. Many times he would spot & call out regarding a bird he had seen. It is so much fun in the bus with everyone together instead of spread out for miles in private cars. There was one person in particular who kept spotting birds in the sky & would call to me. I would leave what I was looking at & try to find what she was pointing out. I could never seem to locate it immediately. Finally one time when she was pointing out something on the horizon 3 miles away, I rechecked her finger to see where she was pointing. I was amazed to discover why I could never find the bird to which she was pointing--her finger had a bend in it, so if she meant to point at 12 o'clock, her finger said 9 o'clock. Next time Helen Wolfe, please use your other hand, it will make things easier!

Note: 50 species were seen on the trip, a low number. Our average has been 66 with a high of 88. Eleven species of the hawk family is a high for any of our trips.

Waldo Abbot

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The next B of D meeting will be Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 pm at the Museum's junior library. All members are welcome to attend.

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We are saddened to learn of the death of Miss H. P. Burke, of Santa Barbara.

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### SUMMER ECOLOGY CAMP

The Pomona Valley Audubon Society has accepted the chance to use Golden Trout Camp, an area located at 10,000 feet in the Sierras above Lone Pine, for an ecology camp during the first week in August, 1974. The anticipated program will consist of sessions on alpine birds, ecology, plant life, geology and possibly workshops on wilderness camping. Bill Wirtz and Larry Oglesby will lead the program.

Facilities include meals prepared by the camp staff and served in a dining hall and tents on platforms. It will be necessary to carry in (2 miles) sleeping bags and other equipment. Mules can be hired to do the job if one wishes.

Continued on page six

Golden Trout Camp (cont)

The approximate cost for the session will be \$50 per person, adult or child. PVAS would like to know how many members would be interested in attending the camp. Please contact Helen Wirtz (714) 985-1557 or Box 406, Mt. Baldy, CA 91759 if you are interested.

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SBAS BIRD of the MONTH

On display at the Santa Barbara Library and the Goleta Library are the Ring-necked Pheasant and the Band-tailed Pigeon respectively. Thanks to our committee for the excellent work.

THE NEEDED ENERGY SEARCH

Co-sponsored by the Community Environmental Council & SBCC's Continuing Education Division, 3 free meetings concerning energy will be offered to the public. The meetings are as follows:

- Jan. 16--"Hydrogen as a Fuel"--Roger Billings.
- Jan. 23--"The Development of Solar Power"--A.B. Meinel.
- Jan. 30--"The Short Term Energy Situation, How to Conserve & Survive" John Matthews.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society is happy to welcome the following new members:

Santa Barbara--Mr&Mrs Herbert Broida Steve Junak Denise Ferry & Bill Bachle Ruth P Powers Jon Clow Frederick Usher Lawrence Willson Polly Merriman Mrs. David Van Tyne Scott Maynes  
Goleta--Mr&Mrs James Dixon Mrs. William R Anderson Mr&Mrs Peter Bratt Mr&Mrs Russell Maher  
Ventura--Mrs Walter Beck  
Carpinteria--Chris Vanderkar  
Ojai--Miss Ruth E Fish  
Buellton--Erma F Eriksen

It is most important for members to notify the membership chairperson of any address changes in order to insure uninterrupted service of El Tecolote. The Post Office does not forward bulk mail. Please send any changes to Mrs. Maxim Smith, 1600 Garden St., #35, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

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AUDUBON LIBRARY

The Audubon Library is open ½ hour before each monthly meeting. It is located in the junior library. We have many interesting and useful books including many in the Bent series.

The following books have been checked out since last spring. Please return them so they may circulate.

--Exploring Our National Wildlife --Life of Birds --Bird Watchers America --Book of Bird Life --Wild Paradise --Birds of America --New Handbook of Attracting Birds Thank you. Priscilla Pearce

RDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREB

Any sightings of rare birds or out of season birds in the Santa Barbara area, should be reported to Jewell Krieger, 969-4192, so she can put it on the Rare Bird Alert. (Don't faint Jewell but I think the spelling of your name is correct...and it's about time).

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1 miniqoute:"Without the woodlands the earth would be rocks and sand and desolation, as it was in the beginning."

Hal Borland

# SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The following list includes all birds sighted on count day. Those not followed by a number were sighted once. Species or numbers that are unusual are underlined. (Some of these may be contested.)

Common Loon	5	American Kestrel	136	Pgymy Owl	6
Red-throated Loon	10	California Quail	387	Burrowing Owl	<u>2</u>
Horned Grebe	8	Mountain Quail	2	Short-eared Owl	2
Eared Grebe	48	Virginia Rail	3	Anna's Hummingbird	862
Western Grebe	192	Sora	7	<u>Allen's Hummingbird</u>	<u>5</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	123	Common Gallinule	1	Belted Kingfisher	17
Brown Pelican	9	American Coot	1890	Com. Flicker (red-sh.)	306
Double-cr. Cormorant	570	Semipalmated Plover	5	Acorn Woodpecker	425
Brandt's Cormorant	29	<u>Piping Plover</u>	<u>1</u>	Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	10
Pelagic Cormorant	18	Snowy Plover	104	Hairy Woodpecker	13
Cormorant species	12	Killdeer	772	Downy Woodpecker	20
Great Blue Heron	37	Black-bellied Plover	205	Nuttall's Woodpecker	24
Green Heron	7	Ruddy Turnstone	2	Cassin's Kingbird	1
Great Egret	21	Black Turnstone	19	Black Phoebe	64
Snowy Egret	40	Common Snipe	17	Say's Phoebe	48
Black-cr. Night Heron	33	Whimbrel	60	Horned Lark	63
American Bittern	8	Spotted Sandpiper	21	Scrub Jay	955
Canada Goose	1	Willet	231	Yellow-billed Magpie	1
<u>Snow Goose</u>	<u>1</u>	Greater Yellowlegs	12	Common Raven	1
Mallard	261	<u>Lesser Yellowlegs</u>	<u>1</u>	Common Crow	879
Gadwall	10	<u>Least Sandpiper</u>	<u>35</u>	Mountain Chickadee	10
Pintail	310	Dunlin	49	Plain Titmouse	209
Green-winged Teal	53	Short-billed Dowitcher	25	Common Bushtit	1476
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>	<u>4</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher	26	White-br. Nuthatch	28
Cinnamon Teal	26	Dowitcher species	98	Red-br. Nuthatch	12
American Wigeon	235	Western Sandpiper	26	Brown Creeper	6
N. Shoveler	129	Marbled Godwit	80	Wrentit	316
Wood Duck	<u>1</u>	Sanderling	1028	<u>Dipper</u>	<u>3</u>
Redhead	93	<u>N. Phalarope</u>	<u>15</u>	House Wren	15
Ring-necked Duck	7	Glaucous-winged Gull	11	<u>Winter Wren</u>	<u>1</u>
Canvasback	101	Western Gull	712	Bewick's Wren	38
Lesser Scaup	118	Herring Gull	3	Long-billed Marsh Wren	11
Bufflehead	22	California Gull	516	Canyon Wren	10
White-winged Scoter	6	Ring-billed Gull	887	Rock Wren	3
Surf Scoter	239	Mew Gull	619	Mockingbird	228
<u>Black Scoter</u>	<u>5</u>	Bonaparte's Gull	279	California Thrasher	81
Ruddy Duck	783	Heermann's Gull	1264	American Robin	1129
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>	<u>2</u>	Gull species	562	Varied Thrush	16
Common Merganser	2	Forster's Tern	23	Hermit Thrush	11
Red-breasted Merganser	21	Royal Tern	19	Western Bluebird	109
Turkey Vulture	3	<u>Elegant Tern</u>	<u>1</u>	Townsend's Solitaire	4
White-tailed Kite	39	<u>Caspian Tern</u>	<u>5</u>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	28
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	Common Murre	12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	375
Cooper's Hawk	13	<u>Pigeon Guillemot</u>	<u>1</u>	Water Pipit	78
Red-tailed Hawk	79	Band-tailed Pigeon	609	Cedar Waxwing	259
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Rock Dove	343	Phainopepla	3
<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>	<u>1</u>	Mourning Dove	914	Loggerhead Shrike	21
Golden Eagle	3	Spotted Dove	7	Starling	1536
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	<u>1</u>	Roadrunner	3	Hutton's Vireo	34
Marsh Hawk	5	Barn Owl	8	<u>Black-&amp;-White Warbler</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Osprey</u>	<u>1</u>	Screech Owl	7	Orange-crw. Warbler	13
Merlin	2	Great Horned Owl	13	Yellow-rmp. (Myrtle)	
				Warbler	8

Yellow-rmp. (Audubon's)		Brewer's Blackbird	983	Lark Sparrow	29
Warbler	2021	Brown-headed Cowbird	24	Rufous-crw. Sparrow	2
Townsend's Warbler	22	Rose-brt. Grosbeak	1	Sage Sparrow	1
Hermit Warbler	1	Black-h. Grosbeak	1	Dark-eyed (Oregon)	
Common Yellowthroat	76	Purple Finch	37	Junco	498
Wilson's Warbler	2	House Finch	2314	Chipping Sparrow	12
House Sparrow	135	Pine Siskin	5	White-crw. Sparrow	2553
Western Meadowlark	761	American Goldfinch	48	Golden-crw. Sparrow	231
Red-winged Blackbird	7437	Lesser Goldfinch	149	Fox Sparrow	16
Tricolored Blackbird	1507	Rufous-sided Towhee	189	Lincoln's Sparrow	12
Orchard Oriole	1	Brown Towhee	759	Song Sparrow	166
Hooded Oriole	3	Savannah Sparrow	85		

(The following were seen in Count week, but no on Count day: California Condor, Long-billed Curlew, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, White-throated Sparrow.)

Total: 185 species -- 45,700 individuals.

Michael Fishbein  
C. Seybert Kinsell

El Tecolote: Deadline for next issue: Friday, February 1, 1974.  
Mail or bring to: John Arnold, 431 Elwood Beach Dr., Apt. 1, Goleta, CA 93017.

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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