



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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March 1974

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"Our reduction of the multifarious parts of the landscape means a reduction in revelation for ourselves. Surely we are in need of all the variousness earth can show us."

John Hay

CALANDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- March 16 Sat. POINT MUGU: Commander Robert O. Baker will conduct a tour of the lagoon. Sign up prior to March 13...members only. Meet at Gate 1, security building parking lot (not Gate 2 as previously reported) off of Hwy 1 @ 9am. Take lunch and boots.
Arrangements: Bill Gielow 687-3466
- March 20 Wed. HARBOR-BIRD REFUGE: Meet at the Bird Refuge parking lot @ 8:30am for a morning's walk. Shorebirds, waterfowl.
Leader: Virginia Puddicombe
- March 22 Friday REGULAR MEETING: Fleischmann Aud., 8pm, Nat. Hist. Museum. We will see a film "Waddensea, Bird's Paradise." Waddensea is the shallow water area just off the northern coast of Holland which attracts many waterfowl and marsh birds. A series of islands protects this area and talk of connecting them with a series of dikes has arisen. The film is an eloquent plea for preserving the area in its original state. Bird ID class at 7:30pm. Please bring your own cup to reduce styrofoam use.
- March 27 Wed. GOLETA SLOUGH & BEACH: Meet at foot of Goleta pier @ 8am. Shorebirds, marsh residents, migrants.
Leader: John Arnold
- April 6 Sat. DEVEREAUX POINT TIDE POOLS: An opportunity to study the plant and animal life in the tide pools at low tide. Margaret Gabil, who teaches a tide pool class for Adult Education, will lead this trip. Plan on seeing limpets, sea urchins, sea anemones, and possibly some beautiful nudibranchs. Meet at the Devereaux end of Del Playa in Isla Vista at 2pm. Walk to the beach from there. Low tide is at 3pm. Trip should last 2 hrs.
- April 7 Sunday RATTLESNAKE CANYON-SCOFIELD PARK: Meet in the parking lot of Scofield Park @ 8am for a leisurely hike up the canyon. Return for lunch and birdwatching in the park. Resident and migrants.
Leader: Sid Tarbox, 687-2067
- April 10 Wed. LAKE LOS CARNEROS: Meet on Calle Real near the lake @5pm. Marsh birds.
Leader: Bill Gielow 687-3466

CALENDAR CONTINUED:

- April 13 Wm COOPER RANCH: Elizabeth Russell reports that Mr. & Mrs.
Sat Wm Cooper would be glad to host an outing at their ranch west
of Buellton. Meet for car pooling @ the museum @ 8am.
Driver donation \$1.50. Leader to be announced.
Arrangements: Bill Gielow 687-3466
- April 16 BOTANIC GARDENS: Meet at the shop @ 8:30am for a morning walk
Tues. along the paths amid the native flowers, shrubs and trees.
Leader: Florence Sanchez 687-9785
- April 20 REFUGIO PASS: A drive through the Santa Ynez Valley will
Sat. culminate in a birdwatching field trip on the valley side of
Refugio Pass. Meet at the Thrifty parking lot in 5-Points
Shopping Center near State St. & 101 @ 8am for car pooling.
Take lunch. Driver donation: \$1.50.
Leaders: Mary Lou and Jim Hand 966-2896
- April 23 SAN JOSE CREEK: Details in April El Tecolote.
Tues. Leader: Alice Kladnik 967-5209

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NEWS FLASH!!

I have just received word that Commander Baker was in an automobile accident and received a broken arm. He may not lead the tour now, but the tour is still scheduled for March 16.

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TOMI'S MESSAGE:

The February Board meeting was a lively one. You are always welcome to join us. The following items were discussed: Bird Refuge, Southern California Coordinating Council, Community Environmental Council's new location plans, Goleta Slough, Zaca Lake Environmental Report by Dames & Moore for the county, Nominating committee, Lee Waian presented his project proposal, Jim Mills reported on the activities of the Citizens committee for the Malduke-Big Pines Wilderness Area, and \$200 will be sent to Western Audubon for Starr Ranch. Starr Ranch is now open for camping as well as for day visits. Contact Paul W. Colburn, President of the Laguna Hills chapter, if interested.

Our membership continues to increase in number, yet member participation remains about the same. Board members and I would like to know you, what you feel about Audubon activities and how you can become involved. Right now we need help with a WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS INITIATIVE--450,000 registered voters signatures are needed statewide to SAVE THE STANISLAUS RIVER. Even now the Corps of Engineers are working on the New Melones Dam, but the Friends of the Stanislaus believe the people of the state can stop the building of the excessively large dam.

If you like to keep records, Nelson Metcalf would like to turn over his records on birds of this area and those sighted on our many field trips. This will also include the field notes written in El Tecolote.

The Bird Exhibit Committee meets every Thursday at 1:30 pm at the Museum of Natural History. They continue to place excellent exhibits at the SB and Goleta Public Library. Ethyl Lyans also expressed a need for any wildlife magazines for the use of the museum personnel--Audubon, Nat. Geographic, Smithsonian, Natural History, Zoo magazines, etc.

TOMI'S MESSAGE continued

BILLS

California--The Tijuana Refuge Bill (S1564 & HR 9018) sets 1500 acres of the Tijuana Estuary as a preserve. This is the last estuary next to the Mexican border and deserves preserving (as do all estuaries). James A. Haley, Chairman, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

Texas--The Big Thicket National Preserve in East Texas (HR 1156) sets 80,000 to 100,000 acres for the preserve. We prefer the larger acreage. Senators Cranston and Tunney are interested.

North Dakota--Garrison Diversion Project. This porkbarrel project will flood the many wildlife refuges in that area...an essential flyway. Your congressmen will be interested as well as Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and the president.

Federal news--Continue supporting the ban on predator poisoning and on the use of DDT. Inform your senators, congressmen and Secretary Morton.

Book of Interest: The Salton Sea, A Tour of the Geology and Biology of an Accidental Desert Lake, by Oglesby & Wirtz. Published in Feb. 1973. The book is available for 25¢ plus postage from Dr. Oglesby or Dr. Wirtz at Pomona College, Zoology Department, Claremont, CA 91711.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Ventura County Game Preserve-Feb. 2: Ever see a peregrine catch a coot? How about a vermillion flycatcher on the California coast? Some of the lucky 36 birders who made the trip had those exciting experiences.

After successfully carpooling 32 people into 8 cars for the trip down, we were joined by 4 Ventura Audubonites at the Preserve. Everyone dashed off to view the cattle egrets in the field across from the headquarters, then reassembled in the parking lot. To keep the numbers small we divided into 3 groups, each taking a different direction along the pond dikes. An immature PEREGRINE FALCON attracted a great deal of attention as she flew into a bare tree. For many, this was their first sight of the rare falcon. She obliged by returning to the branch several times so that everyone was able to observe the field marks through the telescopes. The Preserve was a great spot for watching birds of prey. Redtails circled overhead; a marsh hawk coursed over the low stubble; a Cooper's hawk dashed into the brush and a rough-legged hawk and merlin were seen as well as the more common turkey vulture and kestrel. Only the usually seen short-eared owl was missing.

The ponds provided a potpourri of waterfowl and shorebirds. Perhaps the most notable for most birders were the white-faced ibis, American avocet and black-necked stilt. After lunch a small group decided to re-walk the area. It was on that trip that the bright red flash of a male VERMILLION FLYCATCHER was seen. Fortunately for all, he returned fly-catcher fashion to the same wire so all could feast their eyes on the wanderer. The grand total for the trip was 81 species. Jan Hamber

Dunes Lake-Feb. 9: Twenty-two Audubon members had a perfect day of birding where 70 species were sighted. Our thanks to Mr. Churchword for making this trip and area available to us.

Dick&Helen O'Reilly

Field trip reports continued on
next page.

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Lake Cachuma-Feb. 24: Over 40 people joined Gordon Fish for a beautiful day of birding along the shore. Many ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks, and teal were seen at the upper end of the lake in the shallows. Near Bradbury Dam were Western, eared, and pied-billed grebes and a large concentration of lesser scaups. The balance of the day was spent in an area not normally accessible to the public. An excellent view of an Osprey overhead, white-tailed kite, common mergansers, and common goldeneyes were highlights before a leisurely picnic in the miner's lettuce on the shore. Thanks to County Parks Director Pahos and Supt. Lanford for lakeside access. In all, 52 species were seen.

Bill Gielow

Salton Sea: Even though the Salton Sea trip was cancelled a small group went Feb. 23-25. Because the group was small, all birding was done from one vehicle. This was advantageous because everyone knew what we were stopping for and could get good views. Also, it didn't seem to disturb the birds as much.

The first day we saw hundreds of eared grebes, snow geese and Canada geese. Also seen in great numbers were pintail and shovelers. A number of roadrunners, verdin, phainopepla and yellow-headed blackbirds were sighted. Close to 100 species were identified. The highlight was a very good look at a dark phase Ferruginous hawk circling overhead.

Mike Goodwin

NOT SO NICE NEWS

"The Interior Department will seek an additional \$1 million from Congress to aid Western farmers and ranchers in controlling predators, says Sen. Wallace F. Bennett (R-Utah). SB News-Press 2/27/74

BIRDS OF SOUTHEAST ARIZONA 14-20 MAY

A nature experience with four outstanding naturalists: Rich Stallcup, Bill Clow, Peter Warshall and Arthur Earle in one of the best birding areas of the country: Tucson, Madera Canyon, Patagonia, Mile High and the Chiricahua Mountains. May species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals encountered can be found nowhere else in the United States.

For information write Point Reyes Bird Observatory, PO Box 442, Bolinas, California 94924.

NO TRESPASSING: PEREGRINE FALCONS

The National Audubon Society and the Defenders of Wildlife provided the funds to enable the California Dept. of Fish and Game to place an electronic detector system on Morro Rock Ecological Preserve, northwest of Santa Barbara, to protect this historic nesting site of Peregrine falcons. Now anyone climbing the rock can easily be detected and will be subject to immediate arrest, heavy fines and possible imprisonment.

From the Audubon Leader.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

National Geographic (March 74) "Feathered Fury: The Cooper's Hawk"
Scientific American (Feb 74) Tells how to make a simple bird song recording device.

THE BLUE LIST for 1974

From American Birds, Dec. 1973

It should be emphasized that inclusion on the list does not necessarily mean that a species is declining throughout its range. The list includes those species reported as declining in number (by 23 Regional Editors), whether in a restricted area or throughout.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Red-throated Loon | 24. Sage Grouse |
| 2. Red-necked Grebe | 25. Limpkin |
| 3. Western Grebe | 26. American Oystercatcher |
| 4. Fork-tailed Petrel | 27. Piping Plover |
| 5. White Pelican | 28. Snowy Plover |
| 6. Double-crested Cormorant | 29. Franklin's Gull |
| 7. Black-crowned Night Heron | 30. Gull-billed Tern |
| 8. Wood Stork | 31. Least Tern |
| 9. White-faced Ibis | 32. Ancient Murrelet |
| 10. White Ibis | 33. Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| 11. Fulvous Tree Duck | 34. Barn Owl |
| 12. Sharp-shinned Hawk | 35. Burrowing Owl |
| 13. Cooper's Hawk | 36. Florida Scrub Jay |
| 14. Red-shouldered Hawk | 37. Bewick's Wren |
| 15. Swainson's Hawk | 38. Loggerhead Shrike |
| 16. Ferruginous Hawk | 39. Bell's Vireo |
| 17. Harris' Hawk | 40. Gray Vireo |
| 18. Marsh Hawk | 41. Yellow Warbler |
| 19. Osprey | 42. Common Yellowthroat |
| 20. Caracara | 43. Bachman's Sparrow |
| 21. Prairie Falcon | 44. Grasshopper Sparrow |
| 22. Merlin | 45. Henslow's Sparrow |
| 23. American Kestrel | |

All observers are asked to pay special attention to the Blue-Listed species and report all observations to their Regional Editors, so that more accurate evaluations of their status may be made.

The southern California Regional Editor is:

Guy McCaskie
1310 14th Street
Imperial Beach, California 92032

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Santa Barbara

Mr&Mrs Ben Alexander William Lunt
Mr&Mrs L.A. Curtis, Sr.
Sue A Bradbury Loren A. Ground
W.T. Pinney, Jr. Jo Ann Hooker
Miss Theresa Tehan
Mr&Mrs David Elliot Phillip Nolden
Mr&Mrs Mervin Laue Michael Connors
Karen F. & William A Bunker
Rebecca Gazzaniga Ronald Williams
Mr&Mrs Clay Dunaway Richard Amsel
Mr Peter A Harms

Ventura

Bruce Tegner J.E. Adams
Mrs Wallace Bassett Roberta Meyer
Mr&Mrs J.C. Biller Herbert Keaton
Goleta-Lori Burnett James W Farmer
Joe&Judy Gartland Juergen Schrenk
Lompoc-John A Bullock
W Russell Hull Starr L Powell
Los Olivos-Mr&Mrs Nicholas Thacher
Santa Ynez-M&G Wesson
Solvang-Erma F Eriksen

New Members continued.

According to National headquarters, we were 622 members strong as of Jan. 1, 1972 and 869 as of Jan. 1, 1974!!!

We'll soon join the 32 other chapters having 1000 members or more. Please come and get acquainted and join in our many enjoyable activities. We'll be glad to see you.

Minna E. Smith

RARE BIRD ALERT

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. If you were on the alert you would have been informed of the Glaucous Gull reported near Devereaux Point by Nelson Metcalf on Saturday, March 2. Contact Jewell for details of the Alert.

EL TECOLOTE

Deadline for next issue: Saturday, March 30, 1974. Mail or bring to John Arnold, 431 Elwood Beach Drive #1, Goleta, California 93017.

Thanks to Sharon Arnold for her drawing of the Wild Cucumber. If you are hiking any these days keep your eyes open for this beautiful native vine with its delicate white flowers.

EL TECOLOTE
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