



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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November-December, 1974

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"If nature is more than just a background for human thought and endeavor, then it requires a special commitment, a stepping down, a silent, respectful approach. Otherwise we are liable to hear ourselves first, and be put off."

John Hay

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- November 24  
Sunday  
GIBRALTOR DAM-SANTA YNEZ RIVER-- Meet in Thrifty's parking lot in 5-Points shopping center near 101 and State St. @ 7:15am (or if you're coming from the other side of the mountains, at Red Rock Campground @ 8:00am). Scopes will be useful. Take a lunch and water. Hike to dam, picnic near reservoir. Canyon residents, streamside birding, raptors.  
Leader: Mike Fishbein, 966-6954
- November 30  
Saturday  
LAKE LOS CARNEROS--Meet near Calle Real on La Patera in Goleta @ 7am for a morning's walk around this large marshy pond. Sora, ducks, marsh residents. End with a picnic lunch on Stowe House lawn.  
Leader: Bill Gielow, 687-3466
- December 6  
Friday  
REGULAR MEETING--Member's Slide Night. Choose some of your favorite slides of your favorite subjects and share them with other members. From 10-15 slides should be adequate and they may reflect your summer vacation or backyard birding or anything! Submit the slides to Mike Goodwin no later than Sunday, December 1st so that he can properly arrange them. Mike's number is 963-1265.
- December 7-8  
Sat-Sun  
CARRIZO PLAIN--Ancestral wintering ground of the Sandhill Cranes. Excellent area for seeing eagles, hawks, mountain plovers, as well as some mammals. As last year, Don Coulter, our helpful driver, will transport our group in a charter bus(Fare: still \$11). Please make checks payable to SB Audubon Society and mail them to Bill Gielow, 3043 Hermosa Road, SB 93105 by Dec. 2. We have deposited \$100 to hold 12 rooms at the California Valley Lodge (restaurant available). Room rates vary from \$8.40 for a single to \$16.80 for a room for 4.  
IMPORTANT---You can pay for your room at the lodge but we must know how many are going so that unfilled rooms can be released. Write or call Bill (687-3466) by Nov. 24 if you plan to go. The bus will leave the Museum of Natural History promptly @ 7:30am; and, for Ojai-Ventura area members, from the shopping center at the intersection of 150 and 33 in Ojai at 8:20am. Take lunch for 2 days. Donuts and juice provided Sunday am.  
Leader: Waldo Abbott, 962-1308  
Arrangements: Bill Gielow, 687-3466

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Pelagic Trip, September 8th\* Forty birders enjoyed excellent weather and birding in this fall's pelagic trip. Well led by Richard Webster, we saw Craverri's Murrelet, many Arctic Terns, Red Phalarope, American Oystercatcher, New Zealand Shearwater, and 6 Red-billed Tropicbirds. With no seasickness and warm weather, this trip was the most outstanding in many years. Mary Lou Hand

Morro Bay-Montana de Oro\* Perfect weather and excellent birding rewarded the 26 persons who made the trip. Among unusual and exciting birds seen were many Golden-crowned Kinglets, Tennessee and Virginia's Warblers, and American Redstarts. Perhaps best of all--everyone had the opportunity to view and leisurely study a pair of Peregrine Falcons. A total of 118 species were observed. Bill & June Gardner

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LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS COUNT

Santa Barbara---Saturday, December 14

Sespe---Friday, December 27

There is a place for everyone in the count--advanced birders to lead parties, average birders to help spot, beginners to record and learn; a place for people who like to hike all day, as well as for people who want to stay by their feeder and for night persons to census the owls.

Please let the chairmen know that you're available by filling in and returning the following form(s).

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SANTA BARBARA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred area (circle one or more);

GOLETA      SANTA BARBARA      CAMINO CIELO      OCEAN BOAT      OWLS      FEEDER

HOPE RANCH      MONTECITO      PARADISE VALLEY      TRAILS

☐ I can lead a party      ☐ I wish to serve as a recorder.

(Return to Michael Fishbein, 1432 Harbor View Drive, SB 93103)

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SESPE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Level of hiking desired (circle one): STRENUOUS      MODERATE      LIGHT

☐ I can lead a party.      ☐ I wish to serve as a recorder.

(Return to Mike Goodwin, 514 West Gutierrez Street, SB 93109)

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PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

I would like to introduce you to our new publicity chairperson, but I cannot do so...we don't have one! Such a position would require only a little time and it would involve notifying the various media of Audubon meetings, field trips, and so on. Won't you please volunteer to fill this much needed position and help to further the cause of our society? Call Virginia Puddicombe today and I'll introduce you in the next issue of El Tecolote.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Thursday, December 5 at 7:30pm in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History. Members are always welcome at these meetings.

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### HERE WE GO AGAIN

The Standard Oil Co. of California has announced plans for construction of an oil unloading monobouy 14,000 feet from shore on Estero Bay. Their plans also include construction of 9 storage tanks with a capacity of 500,000 berrels each in a valley adjacent to the coast. Estero Bay is on the coast between Morro Bay and Cayucos. The final part of their plan is a 300 mile pipeline to their refinery in Richmond, California.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, after an exhaustive study in 1973 of possible deepwater ports on the Pacific Coast, suggested 8 sites in California as suitable locations for a national deepwater port available to all oil companies. The corps did not list Estero Bay as a site which met the necessary conditions for selection, and yet Standard Oil is pushing for construction of their own monobouy in Estero Bay.

The following is a summary of reasons for opposing the construction of this facility, from a letter by Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative for National Audubon Society, to the Army Corps of Engineers:

- 1) Morro Bay has been relatively protected from the effects of man. The construction of the proposed facilities could endanger the continued use of the bay and estuary area as a critical feeding and nesting habitat for thousands of birds.
- 2) An oil spill could virtually destroy the fishing industry and increased waste water discharge could devastate the salt marsh, a vital nursery ground.
- 3) A coordinated effort to develop a program for super tankers and related facilities, since this nation seems to be depending more and more on these huge ships, is necessary. Helter-skelter development is wasteful and unnecessary and each company should not be allowed to choose its own location for these facilities.
- 4) The construction of such a facility could, with the accompanying tank farms and pipelines to Richmond, result in massive pollution in the event of a natural disaster. In fact, the pipeline would probably cross three major faults, as well as several others. If this be the case, it is imperative that Standard Oil be required to pay 100% of any clean up bills.

In order to halt this corporate boondoggle, letters of protest are required. Mail your protesting letters to John V. Foley, COL, CE, District Engineer, Dept. of the Army, Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers, PO Box 2711, LA, 90053.

Don't hesitate to write and constructively criticize this project; if we can't stop this one we'll be telling our grandchildren (or our children) how nice Morro Bay was before the disaster.

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### BUMPER STICKER OF THE MONTH

On the back of a Santa Maria Electric Co. Truck was the following sticker:

ECOLOGY KOOKS  
LET THEM FREEZE IN THE DARK

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### MARBLED MURRELET NEST

On August 8th a tree trimmer in Big Basin State Park discovered a nest of a Marbled Murrelet high in a redwood tree. This was a very exciting discovery because the existence of just such a nest had been sought by hundreds of ornithologists for years, according to Dr. Robert T. Orr, of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

## AUDUBON LIBRARY

We are trying to create a meaningful collection of books to be checked out each meeting for our Audubon Library. We would like your suggestions for what you would like to see in the collection, and we would welcome books you may wish to contribute. A good Christmas gift would be to donate a book in a friend's name for many members to enjoy: this is an important form of recycling. We are also interested in collecting pamphlets, bird lists and other information and guides about areas you visit in your travels. Let's build a meaningful and working reference library for all our members!

Donnis Goodwin, 963-1265 and Birdie Angus

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## BIRD REFUGE

The Bird Refuge Committee, consisting of Tomi Sollen, Marjorie Cappiello, Mike Fishbein, Rod Barrette and Dorothy Martone, submitted the following letter to the Park Department in August. Also a copy was read before the City Council by Alice Rypins, Councilwoman and Chairwoman of the Finance Committee:

It is appropriate that the funds to beautify the Bird Refuge should come from the oil companies responsible for the death of so many birds at the time of the oil spill. The following measures would serve to attract once again numbers of migrating birds allowing tourists, children, students and citizens to enjoy them in a unique natural setting at the entrance to the city.

---1. A Master Plan for the entire Bird Refuge should be made immediately, either by the city staff or by a private landscape architect to be paid by the city.

---2. There should be developed a program to monitor the quality of water in the Refuge, and to explore aeration, artificial water circulation, and the control of algae and bacteria.

---3. A program for financing and administering the Master Plan and Water Quality Program should be developed.

The Audubon Society would like the following items considered in the Master Development Plan:

---a. A paved parking lot for approximately 30 cars with access and exit on Los Patos Way.

---b. A walkway/bikeway along the North shore wide enough to serve as a maintenance road. Benches will be placed in viewing areas for individual and group use.

---c. Plans for plantings and a sprinkler system should be made for the area between the railroad and the shore. It will be necessary to obtain a Beautification Lease from the S.P. Railroad. The landscaping should include plants native to California and also plants which will provide an attractive and suitable habitat (shelter and food) for birds.

---d. The elimination of domestic ducks from the Refuge.

---e. No structures or commercial enterprises will be permitted at the Refuge as a part of Mrs. Clark's deed restrictions.

The Audubon Society stands ready with ornithological advice. Every effort will be made to instruct the public regarding the birds to be seen at the Refuge. We will cooperate fully with any other organization with similar aims.

/s/ Dorothy Martone

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The City Council voted October 8th to give the Park Department permission to make a Master Plan for the Bird Refuge. The thought was expressed then that the points of dispute between the Child's Estate and the Audubon Society could be resolved.

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AUDUBON members are urged to see the display "Santa Barbara-Options for Tomorrow" at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Of particular interest to us is the expansion of Palm Park, the waterfront development and the proposals for the Mission Creek area. Be informed.

The publications "Santa Barbara Central City - Choices for the Future" by the SB Redevelopment Team and "Santa Barbara the Impact of Growth" by the Planning Task Force may be borrowed from Dorothy Martone or purchased from the City Clerk.

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#### 1975 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Board of Directors, at its November 7th meeting, selected Joy Parkinson as a delegate to the National Convention in New Orleans in April, 1975. The Board is certain that Joy will more than adequately represent the Santa Barbara Chapter at the Convention and is pleased to have her represent us there. Should Joy for any reason be unable to attend the Convention, Michael Fishbein was selected as an alternate, another individual well able to represent our chapter.

#### AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

Also at the November 7th meeting, the Board selected me, John Arnold, to attend the Audubon Camp of the West in western Wyoming in the summer of 1975. I cannot adequately describe my appreciation to the Society for selecting me for this very wonderful and exciting honor. I have for years wanted to attend this camp and the Society can rest assured that their investment in me shall not be in vain for I shall strive to utilize the knowledge acquired from the camp for the benefit of not only myself but also all of Santa Barbara. Thank you, thank you, thank you! (I can't thank you enough).

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#### CONEJO VALLEY CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Conejo Valley Audubon Society needs help for their 1974 Christmas Bird Count. This years count will only be their second and they would appreciate a helping hand from we Santa Barbarans. The count will be on Saturday, December 21. Anyone interested can contact Bob Seabrook in Thousand Oaks, 495-6135.

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#### NUMBER PLEASE

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has a very useful device for informing its members, as well as others, of any unusual bird sightings in the area. It is a taped telephone message which operates 24 hours a day. On the message are reports of rare birds and where to see them, as well as upcoming bird walks, etc. The number to call in LA is (213) 874-1388. The Santa Barbara chapter has been invited to submit information concerning the nature of the tape to Jean Brand, (213) 788-5188, and she will include it, when prudent, on the recorded message. If you plan to visit the LA area, it would behoove you to call the number and learn of the rare ones... you may see something you never thought you would. Thanks to Sid Tarbox for this info.

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#### ECOLOGY CENTER LIBRARY

The Community Environmental Council has an Ecology Center Library which has material available to the public and checked out for 2 weeks. The Library has been in existence for more than 2½ years and has amassed more than 1,000 titles. The Council is located at 15 West Anapamu and is open Monday-Friday from 10am to 5pm. The Library also features a petition table, wall calendar and free literature table focusing on current local and national environmental issues. Stop in and see what they have to offer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are most happy to welcome the following new members:

Venture--John Aspell--Terence Berger--John Pinkerton--Mr&Mrs Phil Powers--  
Susan Porteus  
Solvang--Josefina Seiler Santa Paula--Mrs. Loren Ayers  
Carpinteria--D. McCaskey II--Jean Zakarian  
Goleta--Thomas Dudley--Elliot Harris--Rosemary Ray--David Edwards--  
Dr. John Gustafson--Mrs. Elsie Thompson  
Santa Barbara--Sally Camp--Franklin French--Mrs. JH Freidman--George  
Hall and Family--Robert Hamilton--Louise Holcombe--Dr. Edward Jahnke--Sandra Lachman--  
William Madsen--Mrs. ER Noble--Estelle Stray--Sally Warner--Judy Reid--D Sainz--  
Katherine&Henry Schewel--Mrs. EW Schram--Ron Smith--VM Smith--Claude Stephens--  
WL Taylor--Laurie Zimmer.

Have you asked a friend to join the Audubon Society? Consider giving a membership to the National Audubon Society (and the Santa Barbara Chapter) as a truly valuable Christmas gift.

ART NOTICE\*\*\*

Maxim Smith will again exhibit four new needlepoint rugs in the Art & Music Room of the SB Public Library during the month of January.

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BIRD EXHIBIT

The Educational Center of the Museum of Natural History would greatly appreciate any volunteer help in the repair and refurbishment of their mounted bird collection. These specimens are loaned to schools on request, but have become so bedraggled and worn over the years that they are dangerously close to being taken out of circulation. Anyone willing to help should call David Cosby at 966-5520. In addition to actual bird repair, we could use someone with cabinetry and carpentry skills to construct cases for the specimens.

EL TECOLOTE

Deadline for the next issue of El Tecolote will be the first Friday of January. Mail your contributions to John Arnold, 170 Old Mill Road #20, Santa Barbara, 93110.

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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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