



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 13, No. 3
March 1975

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"The concept of conservation is a far truer sign of civilization than that spoilation of a continent which we once confused with progress. Today, very late, we are coming to accept the fact that the harvest of renewable resources must be controlled. Forests, soil, water, and wildlife are mutually interdependent, and the ruin of one element will mean, in the end, the ruin of them all."

Peter Matthiessen

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

NOTE: RAIN MAY CAUSE CANCELLATION OF SOME TRIPS. CALL LEADERS IF IN DOUBT

March 16
Sunday

VANDENBURG-LA PURISIMA MISSION--Meet for car pooling in SB at the Thrifty's parking lot at 5-Points at 7:30am. Meet at the Mission near Lompoc at 8:30am. Take a lunch or buy one at the snack bar. Driver donation: \$1.50.

Leaders: Russ and Mary Spowart 733-1525
In SB: Bill Gielow 687-3466

March 22
Saturday

SAN ROQUE CANYON--Meet in Steven's Park at 8am for an easy 3 mile hike along the creek. Winter visitor's, canyon residents. Take a lunch if you wish to linger in the area.

Leader: Jim Hodgson 967-3627

March 28
Friday

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING--Fungi: A slide show by local award-winning photographer Alice Palmer will be held in Fleischmann Auditorium of the Museum of Natural History at 8pm. Fungi are a diverse and colorful plant life that include mushrooms as well as sac fungi, jelly fungi and some species that have the appearance of sea coral.

April 3
Thursday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-- The Board will meet at 7:30pm in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History. All members are welcome to attend the meetings.

April 5
Saturday

HOLLISTER RANCH--A bird-watching tour of this scenic and historic area is planned for 30 SB Audubon Society members only in a maximum of 6 cars. Car pooling at 5-Points (Thrifty's) at 7:45am. Members from Lompoc or the valley meet at Gaviota State Park at 8:30am sharp. Dress warmly, pack a lunch. Driving with some walking at selected spots on the ranch. Driver donation: \$1.50.

Reservations: Brooks Allen 969-0912 (after 3)

April 12
Saturday

SYCAMORE CANYON--A beautiful natural area in the Santa Monica Mtns. Meet at the Episcopal Church parking lot (going so. on 101, exit at San Ysidro Rd, turn right to Eucalyptus Lane: lot soon on right) for car pooling at 7:45am. Ventura Co. members meet at Mugu Rock at 9am. Latecomers proceed directly to the canyon park. Chance of a small fee at park entrance. Migrant and resident species.

Leader: Ruth Parker 643-5711 (Ventura)
SB Info: Bill Gielow 687-3466

April 26
Saturday

REFUGIO PASS--NOJOQUI PARK--Details in April newsletter.
Leader: Alice Kladnik

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VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS

The SBAS now has a tekephone listing! If you ask information for the Audubon Society, you will be given Jewel Kriger's phone number, 969-4192 as reference. We hope this will aid visitors and residents who do not know how to get in touch with the Audubon Society. This is also our bird alert number.

Miss Pearl Chase has been remembered by Mrs. Priscilla Alden Denet Ramsey, member of a Foundation in Chicago, with a \$1,000 donation to the Greenwich, Conn. Audubon organization. Miss Chase is an Honary Director of the Litchfield, Conn. chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Our membership is growing. We have calls from parents and young people for youth leadership. Anyone who wishes to lead a few birding trips for young people (grade and Jr. High School ages) please call me and we'll schedule some outings on Saturdays around SB during the Spring migration.

If you've lead field trips and would care to aid some visiting Canadians on a birding tour of our area on any of the following dates, please call me. (969-1702)

Mar. 17 (Mon) Goleta Slough (am), Museum of Natural History (pm)

Mar. 18 (Tues) Tucker's Grove, San Marcos Pass, Lake Cachuma, Nojoqui Falls.

Mar. 20 (Thur) La Purisima Mission, Lompoc, and Buellton.

All of these days are outings beginning at the El Patio Hotel; they are with Burke's World Wide Travel.

We wish to thank Doris Hughes for serving as our Mailing Chairperson for El Tecolote. Polly Thomas has consented to take over the job and hopes to have cooperation from the membership in assembling El Tecolote, as per usual on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Museum of Natural History.

Virginia Puddicombe

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Dune Lakes: The beautiful setting of Dune Lakes was the sight of our Feb. 15 field trip. Twenty-three people saw 72 species that ranged from waterfowl (12 species including Gadwall) to land birds--sparrows, thrashers, etc. and swallows (Violet-green and Tree) and White-throated Swifts.

Mike and Donnis Goodwin

Harbor-Bird Refuge: Fourteen people enjoyed good weather and birding at the Harbor sandspit and the Bird Refuge. Only 3 early birds were fooled by the time change the night before but the avian early birds didn't seem to be affected by the artificial adjustment of the clocks: 53 species were sighted. The Parasitic Jaegers failed to make a showing but a Common Loon was seen at the Refuge. Also seen at the refuge were numerous painted turtles basking in the warmth of the noonday sun. While viewing the turtles, everyone received an excellent view of a Sora casually walking among the reeds.

John Arnold

OOPS!!

In my report on Lake Los Carneros County Park last month I omitted the fact that one-third of the property was donated by the Boise-Cascade Corporation. The total value of the property was \$1.8 million. State and federal funds provided \$1.2 million. My apologies to Boise-Cascade for my oversight.

Joy Parkinson

AID TO BIRDWATCHERS...WHERE TO FIND THE BIRDS

For recorded, 24-hour message, dial: Bay Area (415) 843-2211; Golden Gate AS. Southern California (213) 874-1318; Los Angeles AS.

It is with regret that we report the death of Victor Esmond (Vic) Garwood, a long-time member. We extend our sympathy to Viola Garwood.

BOOK REVIEW

The Book of Owls by Lewis Wayne Walker. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. N.Y. 1974. 254pp. \$12.50

A guide to 13 N. American species. The author reflects his 50 year love affair with owls. As a youngster he spent 96 consecutive nights in the belfrey of the 1st Congregational Church of Flushing, Long Island watching a pair of nesting Barn Owls raise a family of owlets, feed them, teach them to fly and hunt.

For each kind of owl, he gives details on nesting methods, hours of activity, calls and food habits. The 94 photographs are excellent. They show why owls are difficult to spot; one shows the author being attacked by the parents of an owlet he is holding.

He concludes with a Potpourri of Facts in which he discusses the following: eyesight--fixed eyeballs, lens have independent diaphragm; eyelids--drop up; hearing--structure of ear with large cover on wide sides of head; sense of smell--eat striped skunks but not the smaller spotted skunks (which emit a stronger odor); ear tufts--protective form; talons--locked when bent and when straightened tendon lock weakens; sex differences--female larger, look alike except the Snowy Owl, adult female has polka dot appearance and the male is almost pure white; pellets--eggs; nesting sites; juvenile cannibalism; snapping mandibles--beak snapping; fight, courtship display; transportation of food--light items carried in beak, heavy items by talons; owl migration; owls as decoy; longevity--Horned 25 years, Barn, 15 years, Elf, 17 years and Burrowing, 10 years; and breeding in captivity.

Tom Sollen

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OLD MAGAZINES

If you have any back issues of Audubon Magazine that you are wondering what to do with, consider giving them to the Museum of Natural History. The Museum can always use the back issues and will welcome your contribution.

NEW VANDENBERG WETLANDS HABITAT

With current urban development causing losses to the wetlands habitat it is refreshing to hear that Vandenberg AFB is developing 45 acres of new wetlands habitat. The new ponds are being developed specifically for migrating waterfowl reststops, but of course will be a welcome addition to the habitat available to all waterfowl and shore birds.

After basic preparation by USAF personnel the project will be completed by Seabees from Port Hueneme.

The VAFB Environmental Control Program operates under the Federal Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act that requires equal consideration for outdoor recreation, water sheds, timber growth, grazing, and wildlife protection.

Russ Spowart

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CONDOR NATURALIST

John Borneman, Condor Naturalist for the National Audubon Society, has an office in Ventura. If you desire information concerning the Condors or have friends or relatives who might seek Condor information, John should be contacted. His office is at 1973 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93003.

BROWN PELICANS

The Brown Pelican which suffered a dramatic decline during the 1950's and 1960's now appears to be raising fledglings with increasing success. The discontinued use of DDT and other persistent pesticides is thought to be primarily responsible for the fledgling success observed during the past few years.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society:

SANTA BARBARA--Capt&Mrs C Adair Wayne Dreyer Susan Engfer Dr Otto Grob Mrs HP Jensen
Dayton Jones Kerry Kieding Ms Meier-Oster Mrs Henry Miller Mr&mrs A Power
Mrs Don Richling Mr&Mrs N Stevens William Winn William Wise Mrs WH Yule

GOLETA--Doris Blewthrow Mrs PL Brady Andrew Mills Mrs F Minten Mrs H Smothermon
Mrs JW Still, Jr L Bookout, Jr

OJAI--Mary Sandefur LOMPOC--Nanvy Hoffman VENTURA--WG Verdery
SANTA YNES--Tami Hamilton CARPINTERIA--K Conrad BF MacNeil

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CALIFORNIA CONDOR SANCTUARY

Mr. George Porter, Vice President-Controller of the National Audubon Society, sends word that a contribution of \$2,703.91 has been received for the California Condor Sanctuary. The contribution is from the Ora L. Leeper Fund and has been directed to the Society through the California Community Foundation. The contribution is greatly appreciated and will be of tangible help in our effort to protect the California Condor.

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WHALE RESOLUTION

The California State Legislature has adopted a joint resolution urging the Federal government to continue to press for a 10-year moratorium on all whaling, the U.S. backed proposal that failed to pass at the International Whaling Commission's meeting last June. In view of California's proximity to Japan and the importance of Japanese-U.S. trade, the Legislature's strong stand on conserving the whales is particularly significant.

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WINDOW ON THE BAY

The Morro Coast Audubon Society is now the proud possessor of a beautiful Overlook Bird Observation Station...their "Window on the Bay". Located in Morro Bay where Fourth Street meets the Bay in Baywood Park, the area is open to visitors. The window is complete with a resident Kingfisher to greet you as you arrive.

EL TECOLOTE

Deadline for the April issue is the first Friday of April. Mail your contributions to John Arnold, 170 Old Mill Road #20, Santa Barbara 93110.

EL TECOLOTE

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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