



# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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SEPTEMBER 1975

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

September 20  
Saturday

Botanical Gardens: A morning walk featuring plants and woodland birds. An especially good trip for beginning birders. Meet at the garden bookshop at 8 a.m.

Leader - Les Cook, 963-4501

September 21  
Sunday

Hollister Ranch: This is only the second time that we have been able to schedule a trip to this beautiful, undeveloped north county ranch located on the coast near Gaviota. Attendance is limited to 30 people in 6 cars. Call Jim or Mary Lou Hand, 682-1779, to sign up and receive details of when and where to meet.

Leader - Brooks Allen

September 23  
Tuesday

Board of Directors Meeting: Junior Library of Natural History Museum, 8 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

September 25  
Thursday

Membership Meeting: 8 p.m., Farrand Hall, Museum of Natural History. Features a talk by our president, Joy Parkinson, on the most recent National Audubon Society convention, in New Orleans last April.

September 27  
Saturday

Santa Clara River Estuary: An excellent assortment of birds - many shorebirds, terns, and gulls. Meet at the Episcopal Church parking lot on San Ysidro Road in Montecito at 8 a.m. or at the Seaward Avenue off-ramp Standard Station at 8:30. Take lunch. Call Minna Smith, 966-7971, for details. Super-enthusiastic birders may want to start at 7 a.m. at Sycamore Canyon on their own and join the group at the River Estuary at 8:30.

Leader - Ruth Parker

October 4  
Sunday

Toro Canyon: A good opportunity to view resident and migrating woodland birds. Proceeding south on 101 to Montecito, take the Padaro Lane offramp away from the ocean. Make an immediate right on Via Real, then left on Toro Canyon Road. Meet at the Toro Canyon parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

Leader - Tomi Sollen, 966-4836

October 12  
Sunday

Tucker's Grove Park and Goleta hotspots: Good for migrating warblers, often turns up a real rarity. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Tucker's Grove parking lot, Cathedral Oaks and Turnpike.

Leader - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627

### CALENDAR (Continued)

October 18 Sandyland Slough: Waterfowl, marsh and shorebirds. Meet at the  
Saturday Santa Claus Lane exit off Highway 101 at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader - Virginia Puddicombe, 969-1702

October 26      McMenemy Trail: A vigorous hike into the Montecito foothills.  
Sunday      Details in the next El Tecolote.  
                                         Leader - Bill Gielow



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earl Quinliven, DECAL program coordinator for the California Department of Fish and Game, called and informed me that the SBAS check for \$250 is the largest single contribution received to date. Mr. Quinliven stated that the program is receiving more support from Audubon societies than from any other conservation group. He also said DECAL has received a number of individual contributions from SBAS members and expressed his appreciation. If you intend to make a contribution but have not yet done so, please use the coupon provided in the August El Tecolote, or mail \$5.00 or more to DECAL, Box DFG, Sacramento, Ca. 95801. Mention that you are a member of SBAS. DFG is very interested in learning who is supporting this program.

One reason ~~we~~ are able to make sizeable contributions to worthy causes is that we keep our administrative costs as low as possible. Our El Tecolote has been produced by volunteers since the beginning. Until a couple of years ago even the mailout was done by members, but, as our membership grew, it became necessary to use a professional mailing service.

The Editor not only compiles all information for the bulletin but also types all the stencils. These are run off on our machine at the Museum. Mabel Rett has been doing this for us for years. However, when Mabel is on vacation, or away for any reason, we have a problem. Last month Tomi Sollen and I ran off the bulletin. We would be grateful for some standby help. The mimeograph machine is not difficult to operate and anyone interested can learn in a very short time. It is quicker and more fun if two people work together. If you would like to help, please call me. This is an important way in which you can aid in our conservation work. If we have to turn to professional printing there will be much less of our Audubon dollar available for the Audubon cause.

After the bulletin is run a group of volunteers, headed by Polly Thomas, meets at the Museum to collate and staple the copies. They are then taken to the mailing service for labeling and mailing.

Our sincerest thanks to John Arnold for serving as Editor for the past two years. He spent many hours every month producing an excellent newsletter, and we are grateful. Welcome to our new editors, Jim and Mary Lou Hand. We appreciate your taking over this important assignment.

Thanks, also, to Jewel Kriger for serving as our Audubon Answering Service and as Rare Bird Alert chairperson. Jewel has resigned from these positions. The Community Environmental Council has agreed to take our telephone calls for referral, and Gerrie Human is our new "Rare Bird." Thank you, Gerrie.

If you have ever felt that your individual effort may not be worth much because you are so often on the losing side, you might enjoy a saying I heard recently: "The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground." Hang in there!!

Joy Parkinson

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Harbor, Bird Refuge and Rocky Nook Park, August 30, 1975. Our first scheduled birdwalk for the 1975-76 season found clear and balmy weather. The breakwater is closed for repair for the rest of the year, but we explored the beach in front of the Yacht Club. Saw Willets, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderlings, Spotted Sandpiper, Western, California and Ring-billed Gulls, 5 immature Brown Pelicans, Godwits, Whimbrels and a Long-billed Curlew. At the Bird Refuge we found Black-crowned Night Herons, Green Herons, a Double-crested Cormorant, Least and Western Sandpipers, Coots, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, Kestrels, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Bushtits, a Lesser Yellowlegs and a Western Kingbird. Some of us had lunch at Rocky Nook Park where we saw several woodland species, including an early Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Total count - 49 species.

Minna E. Smith

## Mountain Lion Cub Released at Hollister Ranch (From the Santa Barbara Newspress)

A starving mountain lion cub picked up on the Hollister Ranch west of Santa Barbara last February is believed to be the first captured mountain lion to be successfully returned to the wild.

The achievement was the result of combined efforts of the state Fish and Game Department and the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum in Walnut Creek. The museum specializes in trying to return ailing or wayward wildlife back to its normal habitat.

When the animal was released July 28, back on the Hollister Ranch, it wore a radio-telemetry collar that enabled the Fish and Game Department to track it. The lion restricted itself for the first two weeks to a 300 acre area, then extended its range to a 15 square mile area. Thirty-one days after the release, it had returned to the point of its release, the Fish and Game Department said.

## Botanic Garden Day

Saturday, October 4, 1975, will be "Botanic Garden Day," an open house for the public as well as members, running from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Through tours, lectures and demonstrations we hope to show the community what the Garden is and what it does.

All activities will be free including a shuttle service. Visitors will be able to park at the First Presbyterian Church at Anacapa and Constance and then enjoy a rare ride on a double-deck London bus through Mission Canyon to the Botanic Gardens.

## Rare Bird Alert

The person to call if you see a rare or out-of-season bird is Gerrie Human, 969-4015. When reporting a rarity, these facts are important: date and time of day of the sighting, names and phone numbers of other observers, exact location, number of birds seen, and their sex if readily distinguishable. Gerrie may ask you to write a detailed description of the bird, including the above information, to be included in our Field Notes report to American Birds.

If you believe you saw a rare bird but it needs verification, call Gerrie. She may be able to get someone over there to confirm its identification. Also, if you are interested in seeing rare birds, call Gerrie to add your name to the alert; you will then be called when a sighting is reported.

## On What Night Should the Membership Meeting Be Held?

Please vote your preference as to meeting night. We want to please you!!!

Either: Fourth Thursday or Fourth Friday

Mail to Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Box 2067, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93102, or bring to monthly meeting, Thursday, September 25, 1975.

## Alaskan Adventures

On June 12 we flew to Anchorage from Santa Barbara. The next morning we went for a tour to the Alyeska Ski Resort and the Portage Glacier. On the way to the Glacier we were fortunate to see three Bald Eagles simultaneously fishing in the icy waters of Cook Inlet. We also saw an Arctic Tern on the marshy shore.

The next birding area was Mt. McKinley, where there were flocks of Mew Gulls and Herring Gulls. On the eight hour wildlife tour we saw the Willow Ptarmigan (the state bird), and a Long-tailed Jaeger hovering over its nest on the tundra, as well as Dall Sheep, Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats, Caribou and many Moose. Next we went to Fairbanks, which had an abundance of Ravens, and nothing else! In one day I saw over a hundred Ravens.

The most fruitful and thrilling area was Glacier Bay, where rangers boarded our boat and lectured all day on the sights. We saw Black-legged Kittiwakes, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Mew Gulls, Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants and Common Murres. The greatest thrill was to see my first Horned Puffin, considered a rarity for this region.

In Ketchikan (which means Eagles' Roost) I spent the morning at the local cemetery. There were Cooper's Hawks, Ravens, and seven Bald Eagles roosting on the cliff above. I also saw Robins, Goldfinches, Cliff Swallows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Yellow Warblers, Hermit Warblers, and a Boreal Chickadee.

Minna Smith

## Help Needed to Build Bird Slide Collection

During the past year the Education Committee has drawn on our slide collection to illustrate talks before over 600 school children. A bigger program of talks is planned for 1975-76. Can you help us by lending good slides from which we can have duplicates made?

We are in particular need of slides that illustrate nesting and feeding habits, as well as those that will assist in bird identification. At present we especially want slides of:

Western and Pied-billed Grebes  
Common Egret, showing bill color  
Canada Goose  
Mallard, Pintail, American Widgeon  
Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, and  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle  
Sora  
Black-bellied Plover (winter plumage)  
Herring Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Rock Dove  
Roadrunner  
Barn and Burrowing Owls  
Black and Say's Phoebes

Western and Olive-sided Flycatchers  
Barn and Rough-winged Swallows  
Common Crow and Common Raven  
Titmouse, Bushtit and Wrentit  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
House and Bewick's Wrens  
Robin, Cedar Waxwing, and Phainopepla  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers  
Western Meadowlark  
Bullock's Oriole  
Purple Finch and Lesser Goldfinch  
English Sparrow  
Lark and Golden-crowned Sparrows  
Dark-eyed Junco

When the male and female of a species are distinctly different in coloration, slides depicting these differences would be helpful. Slides that clearly show the critical field marks are most useful.

If you can lend slides for reproduction, please call Sid Tarbox at 687-2067 shortly, as our slide talks begin soon. We prefer using local slides to purchasing from a commercial source whenever possible.



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SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND CHAIRPERSONSOfficers

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Birding Hotspots

Probably the single most productive birding spot in Canada is Point Pelee National Provincial Park in the province of Ontario. Point Pelee is located on the northern shore of Lake Erie, about 80 miles southeast of Detroit. The entire point is a park which attracts spectacular numbers and varieties of migrants, especially warblers, each spring. Recent unusual spring sightings include Lake Bunting, Black-Headed, Ivory and Little Gulls, Lesser Nighthawk, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Virginia's, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, Henslow's Sparrow, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and King Eider. It seems to produce unusually large numbers of birds not normally found that far north or east.

Point Pelee is primarily a birder's park, with up to hundreds of people scouring the park each weekend. At the park office a master board is maintained listing all possible birds and showing which were seen anywhere in the park on a day-by-day basis. Cars are not allowed further out on the point than the park headquarters, but an electric train gives rides out to the end each half hour, for free, with a special birder's early trip scheduled for 7 a.m. when there is sufficient demand.

Birding Hotspots (Continued)

There are additional areas to bird not too far from Point Pelee which also produce large quantities of migrants, especially Rondeau Provincial Park and Long Point Provincial Park, both to the east, and Pelee Island, below Point Pelee in Lake Erie. The map shows that boats from Seaclyffe and Kingsville regularly go to Pelee Island, and one can no doubt inquire locally for specifics.

By far the best time to go to Point Pelee is in the spring, especially the last two weeks of May, and most especially immediately following a change in the weather. Lodging is difficult to find within the park, but there a few private cabins for rent. Both camping and motel lodging may be found outside of the park. Entrance fee to the park is \$2.00 per day.

I know of no spot with a greater concentration of both birds and birders than Point Pelee is the spring.

Jim Hand

Bird Check List Available

Santa Barbara Audubon has available for purchase at 5¢ each a new bird list of our local birds, good for recording five days of bird trips. In addition there are 149 Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Condor patches available, at \$1.75 each. Both items may be bought at the membership meetings, the next one of which is September 25.

El Tecolote Deadline

The deadline for the October issue will be the first day of October. Mail your contributions to Jim and Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo, Santa Barbara, 93105.

EL TECOLOTE  
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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