



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- October 12
Sunday
Tucker's Grove and Goleta Migration Hot Spots: Good for many migrating warblers, with recent sightings including the American Redstart and Blackburnian Warbler. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Tucker's Grove parking lot at Cathedral Oaks and Turnpike. Should last until about noon.
Leader - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
- October 18
Saturday
Sandyland Slough: Waterfowl, marsh, and shore birds. A rare opportunity for access to the slough. Meet at the Santa Claus Lane exit off Highway 101 at 8:30 a.m.
Leader - Virginia Puddicombe, 969-1702
- October 21
Tuesday
Board of Directors' Meeting: 7:30 p.m. in the back room of the Education Department, Museum of Natural History. Enter through the side door near Farrand Hall. All interested members are welcome.
- October 24
Friday
Membership Meeting: 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. A slide program on the Tijuana River Estuary, assembled by the San Diego Audubon Society in conjunction with the Southern California Coordinating Council of Audubon Societies. Be sure to bring a cup for refreshments - styrofoam does pollute!
- October 26
Sunday
McMenemy - San Ysidro Trails: A rigorous, steep morning hike in the mountains that back-drop Montecito. Chaparral birds; fine views. Drive towards the mountains on Park Lane off East Valley Road, bear left onto Park Lane West to end of paving. Meet at 8 a.m., and bring lunch, jacket, and water.
Leader - John Arnold, 968-7487
- November 1,2
Sat. - Sun.
Morro Bay- Montana de Oro: Meet at the museum at Morro Bay State Park at 10 a.m. Saturday. Allow 2 hours driving time from Santa Barbara. Either camp at the park or make your own reservations at one of the local motels. A good change to observe wintering waterfowl and shorebirds, and some inland species. Take lunch for two days. Please call the leaders if you plan to go.
Leaders - Bill & June Gardener, 962-0152
Jim Hand, 966-2937

November 15 Happy Canyon - Figueroa Mountain: Montane species and Santa
Saturday Ynez Valley residents and wintering species. Meet at the
Thrifty Drug Store parking lot at the 5-Points Shopping Center,
or if you wish to join the group in the valley, call the leader.
Bring lunch.

Leader - Louis Bevier, 964-1030

President's Message

One of the most important holdings in the Sespe Condor Refuge, the 160 acre Squaw Flat property, is being purchased by the National Audubon Society for \$39,000. In turn, the property will be sold to the U.S. Forest Service for \$32,800, because that is all the money they have available for the purchase. This leaves a balance of \$6,200 which NAS must raise. Santa Barbara Audubon Society has contributed \$300 to help cover the difference between the selling and purchase prices of the property.

NAS is retaining the mineral rights on the property (there is oil under it) to protect the condors. It is felt that if the federal government held the rights it might come under greater pressure than Audubon to allow oil production if the energy crisis worsens.

Regular monthly meeting - At our last meeting the members voted 31-20 to hold our monthly meeting on the fourth Friday of the month. A number of people expressed no preference. We received two responses to the questionnaire in the September bulletin - both in favor of Friday. As there are other groups meeting at the museum on Thursdays (it is the busiest evening of the week), SBAS will continue to meet on the Fourth Friday until we receive more information from the membership. If we do change our meeting date it will probably have to be to a day other than Thursday.

Sierra Club Invitation - SBAS members have been invited by the Santa Barbara group of the Los Padres Chapter to attend a special showing of the film "Only One Road" on November 11. This program is worthy of the attention of everyone who drives a car or rides a bicycle, which includes most of us. Details are on page four of this bulletin.

Point to Ponder - At the NAS convention in New Orleans last April, J. Burton Angelle, Director, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, stated: "Mineral industries are of enormous economic value to the citizens of Louisiana, bringing in millions of dollars annually." However, I read the other day that Louisiana officials estimate that last year oil development actually cost the state \$35 million more than it received in oil royalties for increased services, roads, housing, schools, police and fire protection, etc. As Russell W. Peterson, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality said: "There is no free pollution."

Coming Attraction

Our annual trip to see the wintering Sandhill Cranes at Carrizo Plains will be Saturday and Sunday December 6 and 7. The bus cost is \$12.50 per person, with room for 39 people. Room rates at the California Valley Motel range from \$11 for a single to \$13 to \$19 for a double. Send check for bus to Minna Smith, 1600 Garden Street, #35, Santa Barbara, 93101, 966-7931. Make check payable to the Santa Barbara Audubon Society. You may pay for your room at the motel with the same check. More details later, but reserve now to ensure a delightful weekend of birding.

Minna Smith

California Least Terns nest at Point Mugu

A nesting site of this endangered species has been reported for the first time from the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu. The Least Tern nesting site was discovered by Commander Robert O. Baker and Mr. Elmer Colley in mid-August. Located at the extreme eastern end of the Navy base, the site is occupied by 26 terns and 14 nests. A total of 21 eggs was counted in the area of the beach covering a zone about 25 yards wide and 300 yards long. Naval authorities and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the discovery, and the entire site posted and placed off limits. A series of color photographs were taken by Commander Baker and his daughter, Annette, from a blind constructed about 25 feet from several of the nests. Young chicks have been spotted. Behavioral notes were made by Miss Baker who is majoring in wildlife management and following in the footsteps of her father as he nears the end of his PhD studies in biology at UCSB. Least Terns have been reported from Mugu by the commander for the last three years but this is the first recorded nesting at the base.

An Osprey was also identified by Commander Baker at Point Mugu in August. This is the third sighting of this species during the last four years.

Commander Robert O. Baker

Improvements at the Bird Refuge Coming Soon

The City Park Department has now completed a master plan for the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. Copies of the plan will be presented for approval to our Audubon Board of Directors and to the Child's Estate Board. The plan will then be ready for final approval by the City Council sometime in October. At last our long neglected Bird Refuge will begin to be a more inviting spot for both birds and birders.

Dorothy Martone

Pelagic Field Trip Report

Forty-five members and friends left Ventura Harbor at 7:45 a.m. September 14th for a day of pelagic birding, with the highlight being a two hour stop on Anacapa Island. Vagrant warblers should be looked for on the islands and isolated coastal habitats at this time of year, and it was our hope that we would find some on Anacapa.

On our way out we saw Parasitic and numerous Pomarine Jaegers which gave us excellent views. The ubiquitous Sooty Shearwaters' ranks were frequently augmented by Pinkfoots, and Black Petrels were occasionally seen winging across the bow, always close to the water's calm surface. Reaching Anacapa we cruised down the north side toward the east island, seeing many Black Oystercatchers and an occasional Wandering Tattler on the rocky coast. On the north slope of the central island we were treated to a view of a Pelican rookery, now serving as a roosting area of scores of mature and sub-adult birds.

We landed at the jetty beneath the Anacapa light house and climbed the 150 steps to the undulating top of this easternmost island in the Anacapa chain. We has a reception relatively barren of birds, a Kestrel chasing some red-winged blackbirds the most obvious activity. Soon our ears - between foghorn blasts from the lighthouse - attuned themselves to the sound of numerous Savannah Sparrows "tseep"ing in the island Coreopsis and grasses. On reaching the west end of the island birding definitely picked up. Migrating birds were heading down the chain of islands, and their first landfall on East Island was the flat,

Pelagic Field Trip Report (Continued)

Coreopsis-studded cliff top on which we stood. When some of us walked up, an American Redstart and a Tennessee Warbler had already been seen, and the Redstart put on quite a show for everyone. There was considerable discussion focusing on another small greenish-yellow bird with an eyestripe, gray crown, and no wingbars, with many attempts at identification, each one being discarded for various reasons, until it dawned on us that it was a Philadelphia Vireo! This was the eighth state record, a rare bird for California. It gave everyone who was interested an excellent view as it flitted between and into the Coreopsis. A detailed description is being forwarded to the rare bird committee of the quarterly journal, Western Birds. While awaiting the return shuttles to the boat we were treated to the comical sight of a lost Red-breasted Nuthatch foraging among the barnacles below high tide line on the rocks which comprise the walls of the cove.

Cruising along the south slope of West Anacapa, we slowed down to observe a rocky inlet's possibilities when, as if on cue from stage left, in flew an American Oystercatcher, landing on a rock immediately off the bow. The bird postured for us until we had our fill and left, but not before anyone interested could photograph this spectacular bird. Other birds of interest seen on the trip were: a glimpse of a New Zealand Shearwater, one Common Murre (the only Alcid seen), Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Willow Flycatcher, a lost Black-throated (Desert) Sparrow, an early White-crowned Sparrow, Lark Sparrows, Western Tanagers, a North Oriole (Bullock's), an immature Red-tailed Hawk, an Osprey cruising along the island's cliffs, Vaux's and White-throated Swifts, and a flock of Cinnamon Teal winging over the rocks between Middle and East Anacapa Islands.

After returning to the marina, a dozen of us went to McGrath Beach State Park nearby and found the Northern Waterthrush which Larry Ballard had reported seeing there the day before. Also of interest nearby were three Baird's Sandpipers, a Knot, and five Wilson's Phalaropes.

Brad Schram

Library News

Are you aware of our birding files full of checklists, maps, and field information for planning your next vacation trip? New additions - Minna Smith's material from Alaska, Joy Parkinson's info from the convention in New Orleans, and Nelson Metcalf's notes on birding in the Delaware marshes and the Cape May coast, one of the best birding spots in the country he claims! So please use this information in planning your next birding journeys and collect more for us to have complete up to date files.

New books - we have a signed copy of Arnold Small's The Birds of California, a great new book for broadening knowledge of local birds. If you travel around and read to a companion as Michael and I do you might enjoy American Wildlife and Plants, a guide to the food habitats of our wildlife, and plant/animal relationships.

Familiarize yourself with the classics - John James Audubon's Birds of America, copies of the drawings that made our founder famous. You don't have to have time to read this one - relax and enjoy this collection of art. Welty's The Life of Birds is the most comprehensive text of bird biology - find out why birds fly! If you are interested in bird logos or exploring ancient motifs, The Folklore of Birds is your book.

Donnis Goodwin

Sierra Club Special Program

On Tuesday November 11 the Sierra Club regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at La Colina Junior High auditorium will feature a stimulating program of interest to all who drive a motor vehicle or ride a bicycle. A thought provoking 25 minute sound, color documentary film "Only One Road" recently produced by the National Automobile Club. A discussion period will follow. All Audubon Society members and friends are invited to attend.

Sue Higman, 687-0687

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society's Board of Directors met Tuesday, Sept. 23, presided over by the president, Joy Parkinson. Some of the items discussed or approved included the following:

The board voted to purchase a slide projector and related equipment for SBAS use in meetings and educational functions;

Joy Parkinson told of her tour of the east end of Lake Cachuma for signs of pollution and wildlife destruction. She suggested that SBAS and the Natural History Museum do a biological survey jointly of this area in the winter and spring. Dr. Power and Waldo Abbot will make the arrangements for the study with the Powers family, who own the property, and the Lake Cachuma staff;

The board voted to purchase ten memberships in the Natural History Museum at a cost of \$125. It was suggested to donate tickets associated with the memberships to a retirement home; and,

Joy reported that the Community Environmental Council (CEC) will provide an answering service for SBAS beginning October 1. CEC will take Audubon calls, answer routine questions, and refer other questions to the appropriate Audubon member.

Rare Birds

September has been an exciting month for local birders. Unusual birds found this month were: a Black and White Warbler, a Blackpoll Warbler, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds, a Northern Waterthrush, a male American Redstart, five or six Black-chinned Sparrows, a flock of Bobolinks, a male Blackburnian Warbler, a female Yellow-headed Blackbird, and seven California Condors off Highway 5 below Mount Pinos. Also, two male Summer Tanagers.

Many thanks to Brooks and Tony Allen, Larry Ballard, Jean and Paul Johnson, Nelson Metcalf, Joan Moore, Elizabeth Russell, Brad Schram, and Sid and Mary Tarbox for sharing their discoveries with us.

Gerrie Human, 969-4015

How to Bird Southeast Arizona

Certainly the southeastern portion of Arizona must be rated one of the great birding spots in the United States; in fact, Madera Canyon will be listed among the top twelve in a forthcoming book in the Peterson series. This area, from the Tucson-Nogales highway eastward to the New Mexico border, contains good examples of the Sonora and Chihuahuan Deserts, as well as the southern tip of the Rockies and the northern portions of Mexico's Sierra Madres, including the Santa Ritas, the Patagonias, the Huachucas, and the Chiricahuas. One explores a range of habitats from low desert to Canadian zone forests at 9,000 feet.

James A. Lane (A Birder's Guide to Southern Arizona), the perfect companion for birding in the area, recommends the summer period from early May through mid-September. We found the first of May a bit early and would suggest mid-May to as late in summer as you can stand the desert heat. By all means buy or borrow a copy of Lane's book and study it well in advance. He offers good maps and current, accurate information on roads, accommodations, campsites, etc. He even suggests in which tree you may expect to find a certain nest and on what section of a trail

How to Bird Southeast Arizona (Continued)

you are most likely to find some rare species.

I suggest you stay in Tucson long enough to make a swing to Mount Lemon northeast of the city, then work your way eastward from the west side of the Santa Ritas to the east side of the Chiricahuas. Good campsites and interesting resorts are available all the way, but make resort reservations early, for they cater to birders and are very popular in season. We recommend Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon, Mile-Hi Ranch in Ramsay Canyon, and Cave Creek Ranch in the Chiricahuas. All offer cabins that look out onto streams, well stocked bird feeders, interested managers, and the company of other birders. They advertise in Audubon.

If you can spend a week or longer in this great country, it will reward you richly. We were there only a bit over a week and listed more than 150 species. Our Audubon library has good material on this area, including Lane's book. Donnis Goodwin will gladly lend it, if you are contemplating a trip.

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