



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 13, No. 8.
November, 1975

Joy Parkinson, President
568 Beaumont Way
Goleta, California 93017
967-9371

Mary Lou Hand, Editor
2431-B Castillo Street
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93105
682-1779

MONTHLY MEETING
Friday December 5
"MEMBERS' SLIDES NIGHT"

One of our best programs of the year, 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. Any member with slides (preferably dealing with nature, not necessarily birds), please call Michael Goodwin, 963-1265 evenings, or write 1235 Salsipuedes, Santa Barbara, 93103. We need your support for this program.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

November 15
Saturday

Happy Canyon-Figueroa Mountain: Montane species and Santa Ynez Valley residents and wintering species. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Thrifty Drug Store parking lot at the Five-Points Shopping Center for carpooling, or call the leader if you wish to join the group in the valley. Bring lunch.

v

Leader - Louis Bevier, 964-1030

November 20
Thursday

Board of Directors' Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Junior Library, Museum of Natural History. All members are welcome to attend.

November 23
Sunday

Goleta & Devereaux Sloughs: Winter is an exciting time for bird-watching in these wetland areas - a great variety of ducks, marsh residents, and shorebirds. Pack a lunch, bring a spotting scope if you can, and meet at Goleta State Beach near the slough's opening to the ocean (left after park entrance) at 7:30 a.m.

Leader - Louis Bevier, 964-1030

December 5
Friday

Monthly meeting: 8 p.m., Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History. See program description at top of the page.

December 6 & 7
Saturday and
Sunday

Carrizo Plains: Our annual bus excursion to see the Sandhill Cranes, many hawks, eagles, and Mountain Plovers. Bus fare is \$12.50. Send check, payable to S.B. Audubon Society, to Minna Smith, 1600 Garden Street, No. 35, S.B., 93101. Bus fare must be in by November 27. Rooms at the California valley Motel range from \$11 to \$19 (one to four persons). Restaurant available for supper and late breakfast for bus riders. Call Minna, 966-7971, to make motel arrangements. Bus leaves Museum of Natural History promptly at 7:30 a.m., and the shopping center at intersection of 150 and 33 in Ojai at 8:20 a.m. Take lunch for 2 days.

Leaders - Joy Parkinson and Jan Hamber

December 14
Sunday

Lake Cachuma: Hundreds of ducks winter where the Santa Ynez River empties into the lake. Lunch optional, spotting scopes will be available. Some stone-hopping may be necessary so wear boots or old shoes. Car-pool from the Thrifty Drug Store parking lot in

the Five Points Shopping Center at 8 a.m. or meet at the lake overlook on Highway 154 near the river's outlet. This is a joint field trip with Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club members.

Leaders - Jim Hodgson, 967-3627
Tomi Sollen, 966-4836

President's Message

We have received a letter from Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative, in response to our contribution to the Squaw Flat purchase in the Sespe Condor Refuge: "On behalf of the National Audubon Society and especially the Western Regional Office, let me express our sincere appreciation for the donation to the Squaw Flat purchase in the amount of \$300."

". . . the members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society are to be commended for this tangible expression of concern for the Sespe Condor Refuge . . ." If any individual members would like to contribute to this purchase, please make checks payable to National Audubon Society, marked "Squaw Flat Purchase," and mail to NAS Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca. 95825.

The Conejo Valley Audubon Society is holding its Christmas Count on Saturday, December 20 and would appreciate some help from other chapters. The habitat of the count area is varied and interesting and includes Pt. Mugu State Park, Carrillo State Beach and Lake Sherwood, where a Tufted Duck has been found for the last 3 years. If you would like to join them call or write Bob Seabrook, 580 St. Charles Drive, Apt. 10, Thousand Oaks, 91360; 805-495-6735. They are also planning a pelagic trip on February 21, 1976 from Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard; and a caravan trip to S.E. Arizona for one week in May, 1976. Members of other chapters are invited to join them on both trips. Call or write Bob Seabrook for more information.

Gifts of an Eagle - Many of you have read Kent Durden's delightful book of that name, the story of Lady, the Golden Eagle which his father, Ed Durden, raised and cherished for 16 years until she returned to the wild. Some of us were privileged to meet Lady when she lived at Rosario Park, on top of San Marcos Pass. It was an unforgettable experience! A full length motion picture has been made using the magnificent footage that Ed and Kent took of Lady over the years. The film will open at seven theaters in the Tri-counties on December 3. Locally it will be shown at the Fairview Theater in Goleta, a pre-Christmas treat for the whole family.

More goodies! The Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation on Stearns Wharf is holding free weekend Open House every Saturday and Sunday during November from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Fun for the whole family. Slides, films, aquaria and displays of scientific equipment. This month features the Jacques Costeau film series.

I spent a day in "Smogsville" recently. As I looked at the dirty, yellow-gray blanket lying along the mountains and heard the natives comment on what a beautiful day it was, I was reminded that we had two smog alerts in Santa Barbara this year!! It can and is happening here. Are we, too, going to think in a few years that a day when our eyes don't smart is a "beautiful" day?

Joy Parkinson

Bird Slide Collection

As a result of our plea for help in the September issue, the Education Committee has added 41 new slides to its collection, embracing 20 of our 48 most wanted list. For these we express our thanks to the Dick Weindlings and Michael Porters. We still hope to hear from other members, as we still need good illustrations of Pintail, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser; Sora, Black-bellied Plover and Forster's Tern; Rock Dove, Roadrunner

and Barn Owl; Black and Say's Phoebes, Common Crow and Common Raven; Bushtit, Bewick's Wren and Phainopepla; Loggerhead Shrike and Baltimore Oriole; Wilson's Warbler; House, Golden-crowned and Lark Sparrows.

We now have several slides showing male and female birds where color differs, and find these particularly helpful. We also find that students are especially interested in action slides: a bird feeding its young, a duck coming in for a landing, nest building activities, bathing, etc. Those that help to clarify the differences in field marks are also very useful.

The committee would like to review more slides with the privilege of having duplicates made from those which will fill the gaps in our growing file. If you can assist, please call me at 687-2067.

Sid Tarbox

Southern California Coordinating Council

The Southern California Coordinating Council met in Santa Monica on November 11. The Los Angeles Audubon Society, host chapter, scheduled excellent and informative programs on the Desert Tortoise Preserve, Pupfish, and Butterbread Springs.

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee was established to "promote the welfare of wild tortoise populations and to develop the Desert Tortoise Preserve by collecting funds for fencing and purchase of private lands." The committee is selling tortoise pins, ceramic pendants, and T-shirts printed on front I MAY BE SLOW . . . (smiling tortoise), and on back . . . BUT I GET THERE! (naturally the rear view of the tortoise). The Desert Empire District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. are concerned about damage to the area from unauthorized motorcycle activities and sheep grazing. Beverly Steveson will present this program to our chapter soon.

Did you know those rare pupfish are found in California - in and south of Death Valley, Owens Valley, and in Nevada? That their very survival is threatened by the overdraft of the source of their water? Their ability to adapt to changes in the water - from fresh to more salty than sea water and from cold to hot water is being studied by scientists.

The Butterbread Spring group have a sticker, "Butterbread Spring is for the birds." This oasis in the desert is threatened by off road vehicle use. It is on BLM lands.

Remember the Tijuana Slough show seen last month? Now is the time to let the mayor of San Diego know how you feel about protecting the slough.

Have you seen feral parrots (Amazon or Red-crowned)? J. Froke of Humboldt State University would like more information on their spread.

For more information on the Council's activities call me, Tomi Sollen, 966-4836 or president Joy Parkinson, 967-9371.

Tomi Sollen

Rare Birds, October, 1975

There have been a tremendous number of unexpected birds reported this month. Thanks to all of the people on the Rare Bird Alert many of us have been able to add new birds to our lists. Particular thanks go to these active birders for locating this month's birds: Larry Ballard, Louis Bevier, Paul Lehman, Joan Moore, Brad Schram, Minna Smith, and Sid Tarbox.

Seen were an adult Louisiana Heron, a Black Tern, Palm Warblers, Hermit Warbler, a Blackburnian Warbler, several Blackpoll Warblers, an Orchard Oriole, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Tree Sparrow, a Harris Sparrow, 3 Tropical Kingbirds, a Least Flycatcher, Cattle Egrets, a White-faced Ibis, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and a Catbird.

(Continued on Page Five)

CHRISTMAS COUNT COMING UP

The 1975 Christmas Count days have been set - December 29 for the Sespe Count, and January 3 for the Santa Barbara Count.

There is a spot 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 feeders and of course a place for night people to census the owls.

Please fill out the forms below and return as soon as possible so we know who is available.

SANTA BARBARA COUNT

Saturday, January 3

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

ZIP

Preferred area (circle one or more)

Goleta	Santa Barbara	Camino Cielo	Ocean Boat	Hope Ranch
Owls	Feeder	Montecito	Paradise	Trails

Mail to Cherie Bratt, 6505 Camino Venturoso, Goleta 93017

SESPE COUNT

December 29, Monday

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, S.B. 93109

Rare Birds, October, 1975 (Continued)

A nice sighting at More Mesa on October 12 - two short-eared owls, one barn owl, and one burrowing owl, by Paul Lehman and Louis Bevier.

Last month's report of Black-chinned sparrows was a false alarm.

A reminder: Please send me a detailed description of any rare bird (and names of others who saw it) so that it can be included in our seasonal field notes. I need this information by December 1. Send to Gerrie Human, P.O. Box 287, Summerland, 93067, 969-4015.

Gerrie Human

The 1974 Christmas Bird Count

The report in American Birds includes 1102 North American and 19 Middle-American counts. This was the 75th annual count, and included 27,184 observers.

The Santa Barbara area count of 181 species was a tie for sixth place with the Point Reyes Peninsula count in the number of species seen. The top five were San Diego with 202, Cocoa, Fla., and Freeport, Texas with 200, Corpus Christi, Texas and Morro Bay with 182. Eight of the top 13 counts were from California.

For the twelfth consecutive year Santa Barbara placed in the top 10. Our best counts have been 202 for second place in 1971, and 194 for third place in 1970. The only counts that have been in the top 10 all of those twelve years are Freeport, Cocoa, San Diego, and Santa Barbara. These are also the only communities that have ever exceeded 200 species.

Further evidence that Santa Barbara is one of the finest birding areas in North America is shown in the "top species counts" (the number of individual birds of a species). Between 1961 and 1974 Santa Barbara has held the top species count on 97 occasions, including 38 different species. We have had the top count of Anna's Hummingbird for 8 of the 14 years, Snowy Plover, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit for 6 years, Black-headed Grosbeak 5 years, and Western Gull 4 years.

In our Sespe area count, started in 1966, we have been the only area ever to report the California Condor. These annual reports have varied from 2 to 13 Condors.

We need your help to make this year's counts the most successful ever. So that the Christmas Count Committee can plan their "attack" please fill in and mail the coupons on page 4, telling us which area you'd like to count.

Nelson Metcalf

Cedar Breaks National Monument

On our way to Boulder, Colorado, we took a side trip to the Cedar Breaks National Monument, 23 miles from Cedar City, Utah. Cedar Breaks is a gigantic multicolored amphitheater scooped from the western edge of a rolling green alpine meadow atop southern Utah's high country, at 10,000 feet. Small stands of Bristlecone Pines grow on the rim of the amphitheater, but are only 2,000 years old. Birds of special interest include Golden Eagles, Blue Grouse, and our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. A bird list is available, containing 82 recorded species.

Cedar City, which is reached by Route 15, the main route to Las Vegas, contains many fine, reasonably priced motels and good eating places. Zion National Park is 79 miles away, and Bryce Canyon is 65 miles. The travel season extends from early June to late October, depending on the weather. At other times, check road condition before driving to the monument. A park ranger is on duty at the visitors center to answer your questions. A campground and picnic area near Point Supreme have water and sanitary facilities, but groceries and gas must be bought in Cedar City.

Minna E. Smith

El Tecolote

Deadline for the December issue is December 1, 1975. Please mail your contributions to Mary Lou Hand, 2431-B Castillo Street, Santa Barbara 93105, 682-1779.

Please send address changes to the Membership Secretary, Barbara Greene, 4512 Via Huerto, Santa Barbara 93110.

El Tecolote
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Post Office Box 2067
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93102

Non-profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, Ca.
Permit Number 125

MISS BLANCHE BALZARETTE
1121 A N MILPAS
SANTA BARBARA CA93103